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Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell
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The Life of Charlotte Brontë

Published two years after the novelist's death, this two-volume work is the first and the best-known of the many biographies of the Brontë family. Written by the novelist Elizabeth Gaskell (1810–65), the book was instrumental in the creation of the Brontës' public image as a family set apart by literary genius and personal tragedy. Gaskell's chief source for the biography was some 350 letters between Charlotte and her friend Ellen Nussey, letters which Charlotte's husband had asked Nussey to destroy after his wife's death, fearing they would damage her reputation. Volume 1 consists of 14 chapters and covers the Brontë ancestry, Charlotte's time at school and as a governess, her juvenilia, the 'deplorable conduct' of her laudanum-addicted brother Branwell, and the publication of her poems, along with those of her sisters Anne and Emily, in the volume *Poems by Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell* in 1846.

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The Life of Charlotte Brontë

VOLUME 1

ELIZABETH CLEGHORN GASKELL



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*Sincerely yours
Charlotte Brontë*

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THE LIFE
OF
CHARLOTTE BRONTË,

AUTHOR OF

“JANE EYRE,” “SHIRLEY,” “VILLETTE,” &c.

BY

E. C. GASKELL,
AUTHOR OF “MARY BARTON,” “RUTH,” &c.

“Oh my God,
Thou hast knowledge, only Thou,
How dreary 'tis for women to sit still
On winter nights by solitary fires
And hear the nations praising them far off.”
AURORA LEIGH.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
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1857.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS OF VOL. I.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
Description of Keighley and its neighbourhood—Haworth Parsonage and Church—Tablets of the Brontë family	1

CHAPTER II.

Characteristics of Yorkshiremen—Manufactures of the West Riding—Descendants of the Puritans—A characteristic incident—Former state of the country—Isolated country houses—Two Yorkshire squires—Rude sports of the people—Rev. William Grimshaw, Curate of Haworth—His opinion and treatment of his parishioners—The “arvills,” or funeral feasts—Haworth Field-Kirk—Church-riots at Haworth on the appointment of Mr. Redhead as Perpetual Curate—Arrival of Mr. Brontë at Haworth	- - - - 10
---	------------

CHAPTER III.

The Rev. Patrick Brontë—His marriage with Miss Branwell of Penzance—Social customs in Penzance—The Branwell family—Letters of Miss Branwell to Mr. Brontë—Marriage of Mrs. Brontë—Thornton, the birth-place of Charlotte Brontë—Removal to Haworth—Description of the Parsonage—The people of Haworth—The Brontë family at Haworth—Early training of the little Brontës—Characteristic anecdotes of Mr. Brontë—Death of Mrs. Brontë—Village scandal—Studies of the Brontë family—Mr. Brontë’s account of his children	- - - - 34
---	------------

CHAPTER IV.

	PAGE
Miss Branwell comes to Haworth—Account of Cowan's Bridge (Lowood) School and the Rev. Carus Wilson—Originals of "Miss Scatcherd," "Helen Burns," and "Miss Temple"—Outbreak of fever in the school—Characteristics of the Brontë sisters—Deaths of Maria and Elizabeth Brontë	61

CHAPTER V.

The old servant Tabby—Patrick Branwell Brontë—Charlotte Brontë's catalogue of her juvenile productions, with specimen page—Extract from the introduction to "Tales of the Islanders"—"History of the year 1829"—Charlotte's taste for Art—Extracts from other early writings in MS.—Charlotte's mental tendencies and home duties—A strange occurrence at the Parsonage—A youthful effusion in verse	81
--	----

CHAPTER VI.

Personal description of Charlotte Brontë—Miss Wooler's school at Roe Head—Oakwell Hall and its legends—Charlotte's first appearance at school—Her youthful character and political feelings—School days at Miss Wooler's—Mr. Cartwright and the Luddites—Mr. Roberson of Heald's Hall—Chapel scenes and other characteristics of Heckmondwike and Gomersall	99
---	----

CHAPTER VII.

Charlotte Brontë leaves school, and returns home to instruct her sisters—Books at the Parsonage—A dreary winter—Letters to a friend visiting London for the first time—On the choice of books—On dancing—Character and talents of Branwell Brontë—Plans for his advancement—Prospect of separation	127
--	-----

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02050-3 - The Life of Charlotte Brontë, Volume 1

Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

vii

CHAPTER VIII.

	PAGE
Charlotte as teacher at Miss Wooler's school—Emily's home-sickness—Letters indicative of Charlotte's despondency and melancholy—The sisters at home—Winter evenings at Haworth—Charlotte writes to Southey, and Branwell to Wordsworth—Branwell's letter and verses—Prospect of losing the society of a friend—Charlotte's correspondence with Southey—Letter written in a state of despondency—Accident to the old servant, and characteristic kindness of the Brontës—Symptoms of illness in Anne Brontë—Charlotte's first proposal of marriage—Charlotte and Anne go out as governesses—Experiences of governess life—Advent of the first Curate at Haworth—A second proposal of marriage—A visit to the sea-side -	149

CHAPTER IX.

Branwell Brontë still at home—Miss Branwell and her nieces—Plan of keeping a school—Charlotte commences her first story—The Curates at Haworth—Charlotte's sentiments on marriage—She seeks and obtains a situation as governess -	204
--	-----

CHAPTER X.

Second experience of governess life—Project of a school revived, and plans for its realization—Miss Wooler's offer of her school declined -	224
---	-----

CHAPTER XI.

Mr. Brontë accompanies his daughters to Brussels—Charlotte's impressions of the place—The Pensionnat of Madame Héger and its inmates—M. Héger's method of teaching French—Charlotte's exercises in French composition—Her impressions of the Belgians—Arrangements of the Pensionnat—Charlotte's conduct as English teacher—Loss of a young friend—Death of Miss Branwell, and return to Haworth—M. Héger's letter to Mr. Brontë -	244
--	-----

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-02050-3 - The Life of Charlotte Brontë, Volume 1
 Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

viii

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XII.

	PAGE
Charlotte returns to Brussels—Her account of Carnival and Lent—Solitariness of the English teacher in the Pensionnat—Her <i>devoir</i> “Sur la nom de Napoleon”—Depression, loneliness, and home-sickness—Estrangement from Madame Héger, and return to Haworth—Traits of kindness—Emily and her dog “Keeper” - - - - -	282

CHAPTER XIII.

Plan of school-keeping revived and abandoned—Deplorable conduct of Branwell Brontë and its consequences - - -	312
---	-----

CHAPTER XIV.

Publication of the Poems of Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell—Letter to Miss Wooler—Preparation for publishing the sisters’ first fictions—Letter of advice to a young friend - - -	334
--	-----

ILLUSTRATIONS.

PORTRAIT OF CHARLOTTE BRONTË (*to face Title-page, Vol. I*).

FAC-SIMILE OF A PAGE OF MS. (*to face page 84*).

VIEW OF HAWORTH PARSONAGE AND CHURCH (*to face Title-page Vol. II*).