

ELIZABETH FRY

ELIZABETH
FRY

LIFE AND
LABORS

EDWARD RYDER

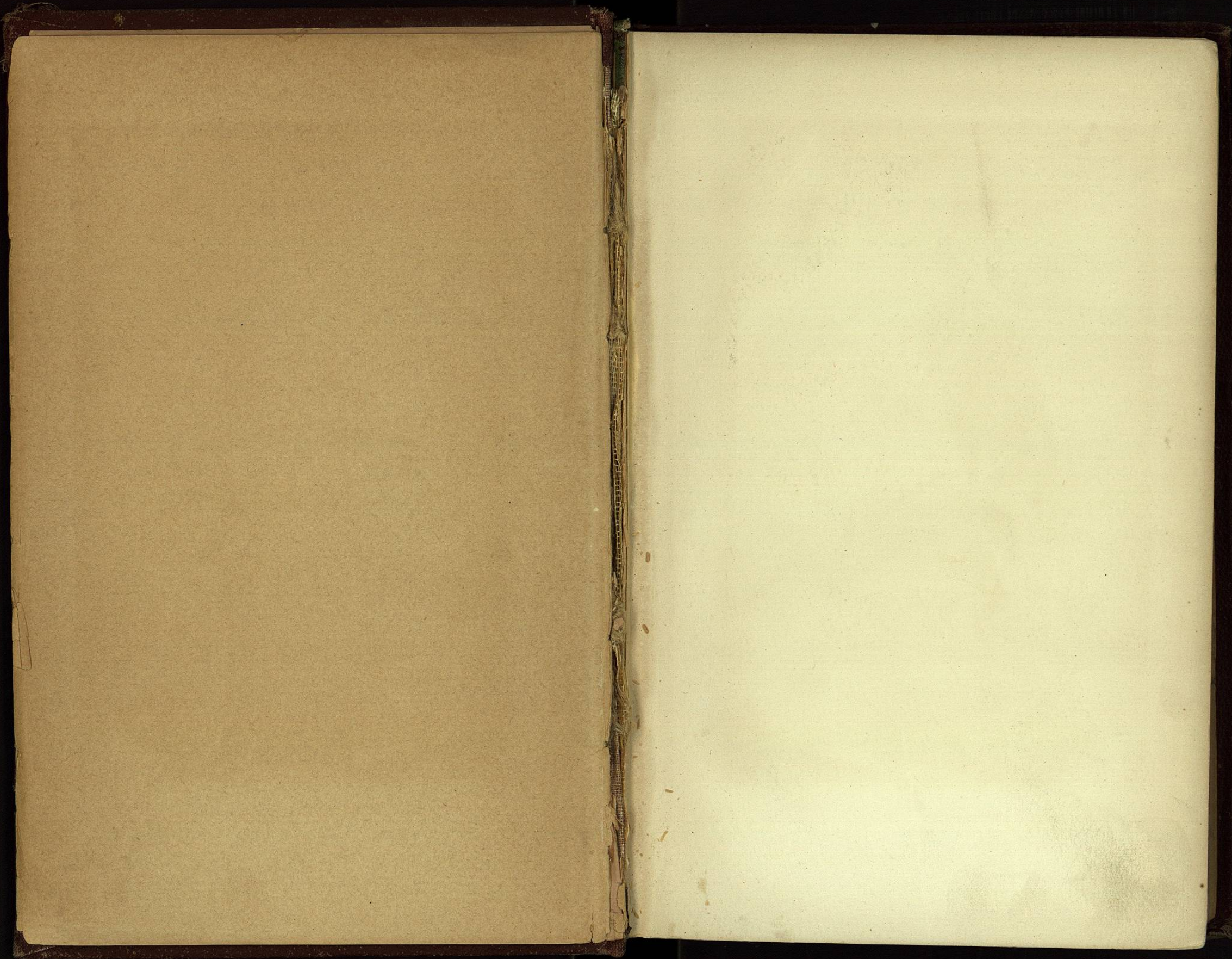
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Richmond.

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ELIZABETH FRY.

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LIFE AND LABORS

OF THE

Eminent Quakeress, Prisoner and Prison
Reformer.

COLLECTED FROM HER JOURNALS BY

EDWARD RYDER.

Whoever this gospel shall be
preached shall also this which this
is the seed of her.

Matt. 26. 13.

NEW YORK
PUBLISHED BY
1841

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Richardson.

Engraved by H. H. S. N. Y.

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LIFE AND LABORS

OF THE

Eminent Philanthropist, Preacher, and Prison Reformer.

COMPILED FROM HER JOURNAL AND OTHER SOURCES,

BY EDWARD RYDER.

“Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this which this woman hath done be told for a memorial of her.”

—Matt., 26, 13.

NEW YORK:
E. WALKER'S SON,
(14, Dey St.)
1883.

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“Mr. Harvey, two days ago I saw the greatest curiosity in London—aye and in England too, sir,—compared to which Westminster Abbey, the Tower, Somerset House, the British Museum, nay Parliament itself, sink into utter insignificance! I have seen, sir, Elizabeth Fry in Newgate, and have witnessed miraculous effects of true Christianity upon the most depraved of human beings.”

—*John Randolph.*

“We shall not look upon her like again! and must try to preserve the impression of her majesty of goodness which it is a great privilege to have beheld.”

—*Baroness Bunsen.*

“To see her was to love her; to hear her was to feel as if a guardian angel had bid you follow that teaching which could alone subdue the temptations and evils of this life, and secure a redeemer’s love in eternity.”

—*Captain K. B. Martin.*

“May you continue, my dear madam, to be the honored instrument of great and rare benefits to almost the most pitiable of your fellow-creatures.”

—*William Wilberforce.*

“Of all my contemporaries none has exercised a like influence on my heart and life.”

—*Thomas Friedner.*

"Though faithful to her duty as a wife and mother, into the night of the prison Elizabeth Fry brings the radiance of love, brings comfort to the sufferer, dries the tear of repentance, and causes a ray of hope to descend into the heart of the sinner. She teaches her that has strayed again to find the path of virtue, comes as an angel of God into the abode of crime, and preserves for Jesus' kingdom that which appeared to be lost."

—German "*Almanac for the Beautiful and Good.*"

"Your name has long been to us 'A Word of Beauty.'"
—German Pastor.

"TO MRS. FRY.

Presented by HANNAH MORE
As a token of veneration,
Of her heroic zeal,
Christian charity,
And persevering kindness
To the most forlorn
Of human beings.
They were naked and she
Clothed them;
In prison and she visited them;
Ignorant and she taught them,
For *His* sake,
In *His* name, and by *His* word
Who went about doing good."

—H. More, in copy of "*Practical Piety.*"

PREFACE.

My aim has been not to preserve everything she said and did, but to present a Life Portrait of Elizabeth Fry and her unique career. This can best be done by letting herself be the chief speaker, since she has spoken so admirably:—next those who knew her well. Of the latter we have many witnesses, but the principal are her two daughters, Katherine Fry and Rachel E. Cresswell, both still living at this date, who in 1847, two years after her death, published a "Memoir of the Life of Elizabeth Fry," in two octavo volumes of 525 and 552 pages. This was extensively read at that time, when the name of Elizabeth Fry was in all mouths; but it necessarily contained much of transitory interest to the rapidly changing world of men, who are too busy to dwell long on what does not closely concern them. The work was not reprinted and has long been out of the market, and only to be found among those who purchased at the time of its publication. An abridgement of it was afterwards published, with some additional notes and recollections by Susanna Corder, a teacher of Friends' schools, who was well acquainted with Mrs. Fry, and a member of the same religious Society.

This work of 667 pages is still to be obtained at Friends book stores, and seems to have been undertaken partly with a view to furnishing members of that Society with a "Life of Elizabeth Fry," relieved of both a portion of matter passing from public interest, and of the unquakerly style in which the original Memoir was written—one of the daughters, Mrs. Cresswell, and apparently the larger writer, having become a member of the Episcopal church, and not conforming to the peculiarities of her mother. Mrs. Fry, also left on record some observations looking toward greater liberty than her Society were then ready to adopt, though they are now approaching the standard to which her catholic spirit and wide experience at length brought her sympathetic mind.

In reading first this Abridgement, obtained for a circulating library in a community partly made up of Friends, I was struck with the large number of highly interesting facts and incidents it contained, as well as with the delightful spirit which it exhibited—a spirit which I felt ought to bring a contagion of heavenly-mindedness into the soul of each reader—and I found a regret arising that such choice seed of the Kingdom of Heaven was not scattered broadcast through all lands. I therefore resolved, as I trust under the inspiration of Him whose eyes run to and fro in the earth, seeking where good may be accomplished and His children made happy, to undertake a further pruning of decaying branches from this noble olive tree, leaving only such as will bear fruit for all times and places, and then to essay its introduction not only into the parks of those who are rich in knowledge and spiritual wisdom, but also in the

little gardens of the poor where Elizabeth Fry was so fond of sowing seeds of kindness and love, hoping they might spring up unto everlasting life.

The part I have had to perform is mainly that of an artisan whose material is already furnished to his hand, requiring only careful selection and judicious arrangement to give effect to the simple beauty which the subject itself contains. I have ventured to add the connecting thread of a few observations in passing, and occasional comments on portions which seemed to invite further illustration, or criticism.

Pawling, Dutchess County, N. Y.

E. RYDER.

Feb. 1, 1883.

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