

## MRS. SOUTHWORTH IS DEAD.

She Was the Most Voluminous Producer of Fiction in the Literary History of This Country.

WASHINGTON, June 30.—Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth, the novelist, died at her residence, in this city, at 8:30 o'clock tonight.

Mrs. Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth, more commonly known by the word formed by her initials, which was taken by her as a name—"Eden" Southworth—was born in Washington, Dec. 26, 1819. She was the most voluminous producer of fiction in the literary history of this country, having been the author of more than sixty novels and stories. For more than half a century she was a familiar and beloved figure in the eyes of the general reading public. Her novels were generally of the highly sensational and sentimentally romantic type, appealing to a wide circle of readers, not only in her own country, but throughout the world.

Mrs. Southworth began the production of stories while she was a teacher in the public schools of Washington. At that time she had to support herself and her two children, and undertook to add something to her small salary as teacher. She began by contributing short stories to *The Visitor*, a paper published in Baltimore by Dr. Snodgrass. This was as early as 1843, seven years before the appearance of "*The Scarlet Letter*," and it is a sufficient indication of her long and laborious career of novel making.

After writing a number of short stories, she started on a novelette, which was, however, to turn out a long novel, and to lay the foundation for that stupendous pile of fiction that she afterward reared upon it. It was in 1844 that she wrote "*Retribution*." This tale grew in her fecund mind until it exceeded the lengths of a novelette, and was made into a long story. In the meanwhile *The Visitor* changed hands, and became merged in *The National Era* of Washington, which thus had the distinction of publishing the first serial story ever printed in a paper in this country.

Mrs. Southworth's first novel proved a great success, both as a serial and when it was published in book form by the Harpers, in 1849. This encouraged the author, and she set herself to the task of composing novels as a profession. She wrote with unusual rapidity, and in the next twenty-five years published more than forty-two novels. For her first short stories and first serial she received no pay. Her first remuneration for writing came from *The Saturday Evening Post* of Philadelphia, to which she contributed a number of short stories and novels. It is said that her writings increased the weekly sales of that paper from 1,200 to 30,000.

After this she became associated with *The New York Ledger*, and continued contributing to it until Mr. Bonner turned the paper over to his sons. Mrs. Southworth then ceased her contributions, and, indeed, her active work in the field of fiction. Most of her numerous stories were contributed to the columns of *The Ledger*, although all were afterward published in book form, and many of her best-known works were translated into French and German. Her first work in *The Ledger* was paid for at the rate of \$10 a column.

Mrs. Southworth's novels deal principally with Southern life and customs, and much of her writing is characterized by faithfulness to her subjects and is marked by some fine description, with occasionally effective bits of dramatic work. Her most successful novel was "*The Hidden Hand*," which has been dramatized and widely republished and translated. Her own opinion was, however, that "*Ishmael*" was her best work. "*The Hidden Hand*" was published in 1859, ten years after the appearance in book form of "*Retribution*." Among her other best-known stories are "*Gloria*," "*Red Hill Tragedy*," "*The Lost Hair of Linlithgow*," "*Unknown*," "*The Trail of the Serpent*," "*Nearest and Dearest*," and "*The Bridal Eye*."

In 1840 she married Frederick H. Southworth of Utica, N. Y. She settled in a villa on the Potomac Heights, Washington, in 1853, where she lived until 1876, when she removed for a time to Yonkers, in this State. For some time before her death she had lived in Prospect Cottage, Georgetown, near Washington. It overlooked the Potomac, to which her birth on its banks and her long associations had firmly attached her.