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THE NOVELS AND LETTERS OF
JANE AUSTEN

Edited by

REGINALD BRIMLEY JOHNSON

with an Introduction by

WILLIAM LYON PHELPS, Ph.D.

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THE NOVELS AND LETTERS OF
JANE AUSTEN

Edited by
E. BRIMLEY JOHNSON
with an Introduction by
DORIS WOLLASTON GOSWOLD, M.A.
The Clarendon Press, Oxford

PERSUASION

25
With Coloured Illustrations by
C. E. and H. M. BUCK



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But now her father was growing distressed for money
(page 10)

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R. BRIMLEY JOHNSON
with an Introduction by
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*Lampson Professor of English Literature,
Yale University.*

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PREFACE

PERSUASION was one of the three novels written between February, 1811, and August, 1816. As the manuscript was subscribed "Finis, July 18, 1816," it is probable that it was written later than *Emma* and *Mansfield Park*. It appears from Mr. Austen-Leigh's *Memoir* that it was not finally completed in July, for in the original manuscript the re-engagement of Anne and Captain Wentworth was arranged in Admiral Croft's lodgings. This *dénouement* did not satisfy Miss Austen, and she was at first depressed about the whole book. But she afterwards wrote Chapters X and XI as we now have them, which are thus the latest, and certainly not the least brilliant, part of her works. The cancelled chapter is printed in *The Memoir*.

NORTHANGER ABBEY, and PERSUASION. By the author of "Pride and Prejudice," "Mansfield Park," &c. With a biographical notice of the author. In four volumes. London: John Murray, Albemarle Street, 1818.

[Vols. I. and II., containing NORTHANGER ABBEY, were printed by C. Roworth, Bell-yard, Temple Bar. Vols. III. and IV., containing PERSUASION, were printed by T. Davison, Lombard Street, Whitefriars, London.]

PREFACE

This edition is a reprint of the first, except that a few obvious misprints are corrected, which is indicated by the words being enclosed in square brackets.

ILLUSTRATIONS

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“Well done, Miss Anne! Lord bless me! how those little fingers of yours fly about!”	65
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Captain Wentworth exclaimed in the bitterest agony, “Oh God! her father and mother!”	157
And all that remained was to marshal themselves, and proceed into the Concert Room; and be of all the consequence in their power	263
He drew out a letter and placed it before Anne with eyes of glowing entreaty fixed on her	339

PERSUASION

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