

(Harper), and with each volume there will be incorporated, in the form of an introduction, such passages from his letters, journals, and sketch-books as relate to the history of the novel in question, and to the private life of the novelist at the time concerned. Three of the volumes have thus far been issued; and as each of them contains about forty pages of this introductory matter, much of which has never before been published, a simple calculation will show that we may expect from them all a biography, however fragmentary and incoherent, amounting in the aggregate to some five hundred pages. That this will prove a boon to the student of literary history is quite evident, and the name of Mrs. Ritchie guarantees performance of the delicate task in a manner that will be at once tactful and trustworthy.

*Biographical
edition of
Thackeray.*

Thackeray's request that he should not be made the subject of a formal biography is well-known, and has hitherto kept the material remaining in the possession of his family from being used in a life of the great novelist. Such sketches of his career as have been produced have been drawn from unofficial sources, and have proved meagre and unsatisfactory. But during the thirty-five years that have elapsed since his death, a considerable amount of his correspondence has been made public, and the outline, at least, of his life-history has gradually shaped itself in the minds of interested students of his work. So many misconceptions have arisen, both concerning his private life and his artistic endeavor, that it becomes a delicate question of ethics to determine whether his family have acted wisely in their literal compliance with his expressed wish. At all events, Mrs. Ritchie, the daughter from whose pen the biography, if ever decided upon, should properly come, has so far relaxed her original resolution as to take part in the production of a "biographical edition" of his writings that will serve, to a considerable extent, as a substitute for the more formal "life" for which many students have not ceased to hope. In any case, this new publication presents the work of Thackeray to his readers in a highly acceptable form, and seems likely to supersede all its predecessors in popular favor and become the standard library edition of his novels. There are to be thirteen stout volumes in all, published monthly