

Jean Ingelow

1830-

English Poetess

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Jean Ingelow, whose "High Tide of the Coast of Lincolnshire" everyone was quoting during our recent storm that sent the tide up into all manner of unexpected places, lives in an old-fashioned, cream-colored, stone house in Kensington, set in the midst of extensive grounds, with handsome trees and many beautiful flowers and shrubs. At least, this is her home in Summer time; her lungs are not very strong, and in Winter she occupies a little cottage in the South of France, on the shores of the Mediterranean, covered with vines and smothered with flowers. She is nearly 60 now, but does not look half her age, her eyes are so bright and her cheeks as rosy and rounded as a girl's. Of late years she has written very little.

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But a few moments' ride from London is the Kensington home of Jean Ingelow, whose poetry is so familiar to American readers. The house is an odd one, of cream colored stone and one scarcely knows whether it has two or three stories. Liberal grounds surround the house and even in winter show a gardener's care. In summer the entire lawn is bordered and dotted with flowers, for the poet is a pronounced horticulturist. During the cold weather a spacious conservatory attached to the house shelters the flowers, and in this hot-house of palms and buds she is often found by her friends, reading or writing. Flowers bloom, too, in almost every room in the house, on centre tables, mantels and in the bay windows. Jean Ingelow's home is that of a poet, with books on every hand and always within reach wherever you may chance to sit down. The poet is now in middle life, but her face shows not the slightest trace of years. Her manner is most friendly, her conversation charming and in a most musical voice. She has a remarkably correct knowledge of American literature, the titles of all the latest American books being spoken by her with wonderful fluency. Her character is eminently practical without a touch of sentimentality. All her literary writing is done in the forenoon; her pen is never put to paper by gaslight. She composes slowly, and her verses are often kept by her for months before they are allowed to go out for publication. She shuns society, and the most severe part of the winter is spent in the South of France.

Jean Engelow

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JEAN INGELOW.

"GENTLE JEAN INGELOW," as she was lovingly called by those who could claim the distinction of her friendship, was probably the most popular woman-poet of her day. In her own country her books ran through a twenty-third edition, and in the United States were sold in excess of 200,000 volumes. Among her intimate friends were the most famous men of her times: Ruskin, Tennyson, Rossetti, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and James Russell Lowell. Her first book of poems was published when she was forty-three years old, anonymously at her own expense.

6, HOLLAND VILLAS ROAD,
KENSINGTON, W.

Autograph
Jean Ingelow
Kensington
14. 1889



Howard's Magazine

Jean Ingelow.

ENGLISH POET.

110. JEAN INGELOW.

Jean Ingelow, English poet and novelist; born at Boston, Lincolnshire, in 1830. Her poems are of an elevated style, evincing much tender feeling and great sympathy with nature. Her novels "Off the Skiffles," "Dot and John," and "Sarah de Borence," are very popular, and she has written, also, very charmingly for children.

