

133.56
Mrs Stowe desires gratefully to
acknowledge Mr Owens kindness
in presenting her with the volume
which has just reached her.

To Professor Owens

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STOWE, Mrs. Harriet Elizabeth Beecher, a modern American authoress, who was one of the twelve children of the Rev. Lyman Beecher, an eminent Presbyterian preacher of the United States. At an early age she assisted her sister Catherine Esther Beecher in teaching a school which had been opened by the latter at Hartford; but, upon the removal of her family to Cincinnati, in 1832, she became acquainted with, and married, her father's colleague, the Rev. Professor Calvin E. Stowe, well known, both in England and America, as a writer upon theological subjects. Her first efforts in literature took the shape of tales and essays, written for a charitable purpose, and inserted in the magazines and newspapers of her native country. Both her husband and father had long taken a warm interest in the "peculiar institution" which forms the great question of the American republic, and both had enrolled themselves among the most energetic members of the Abolition Convention. Their hearty denunciations of slavery proved so distasteful to the people of Cincinnati, that both the reverend gentlemen were at length compelled to resign their appointments there. In 1850 Professor Stowe accepted the chair of Biblical Literature in the Theological College of Andover, Massachusetts; and it was while a resident there that Mrs. Stowe wrote her famous tale of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which at first appeared in the "Washington National Era." Upon its republication it attained a circulation of 200,000 copies in the United States; and this great success was but the forerunner of a still

more extraordinary one, obtained in England and elsewhere. The work was translated into every language, and literally went the round of the globe. Its statements naturally evoked much hostile criticism in the United States, and in answer to her opponents Mrs. Stowe published, in 1853, a "Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin," in which she gave many facts and documents as the basis of her representations. Accompanied by her husband and brother, she visited England in 1853, and, after a sojourn in several places in Great Britain, as well as upon the continent, she, after her return to her native country, produced her travelling impressions, in a work entitled "Sunny Memories of Foreign Lands." In 1856 she published "Dred, a Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp;" in 1859 a work upon the social condition of the United States, entitled "The Minister's Wooing;" and contributed a tale to the pages of the "Cornhill Magazine," under the title of "Agnes of Sorrento." In addition to the works already quoted, Mrs. Stowe wrote, "The Mayflower; or Sketches of Scenes and Characters among the Descendants of the Pilgrims;" "Temperance Tales;" and a number of smaller effusions; and in 1869 published a novel called "Old Town Folk." B. at Litchfield, Connecticut, 1814.