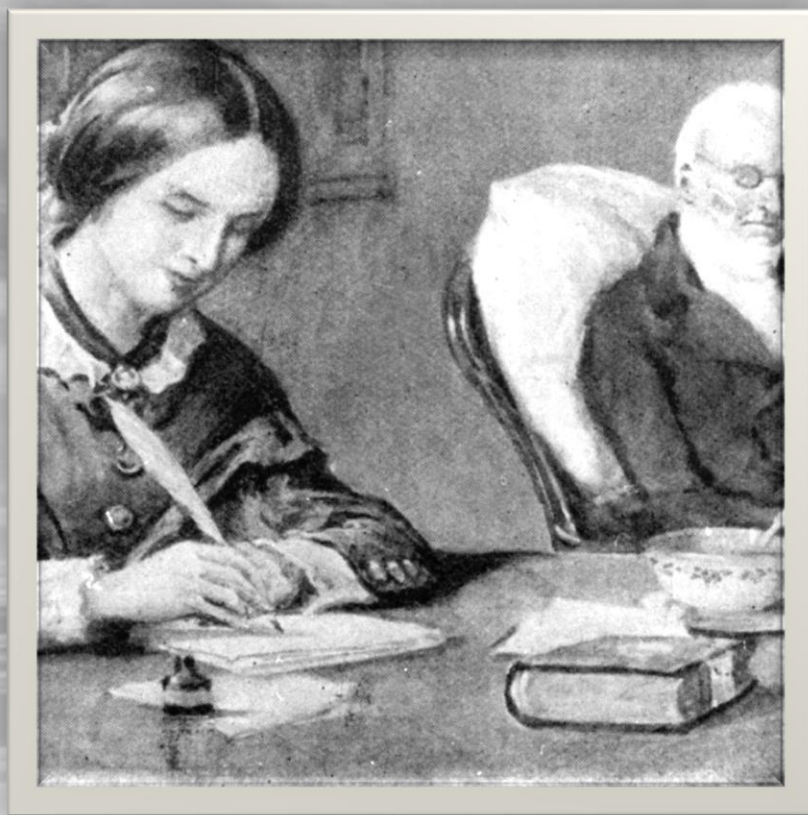
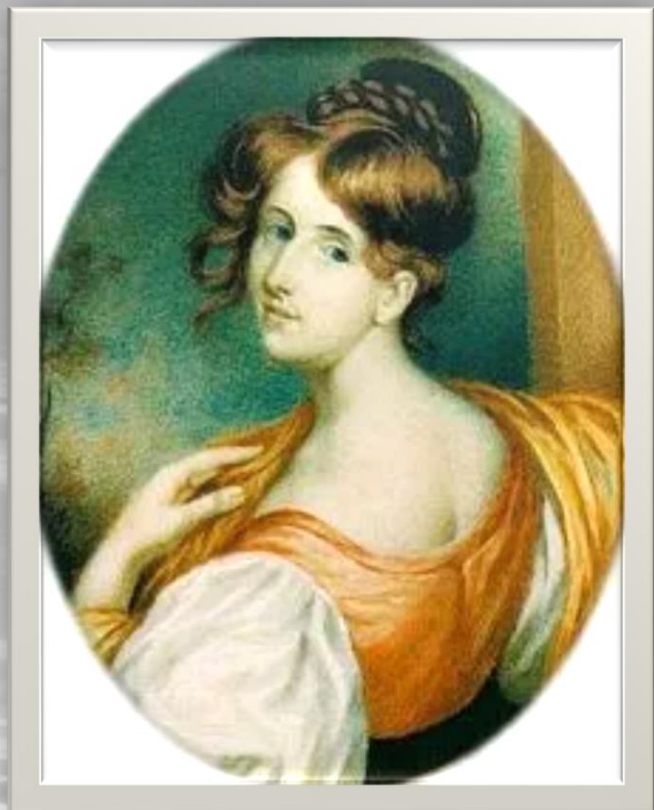


Elizabeth Gaskell





- Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell (1810-65) was born in 1810 in Lindsey Row, Chelsea
- Raised by her mother's sister, Aunt Hannah Lumb. Her father remarried.
- Married William Gaskell in 1832, he was an minister at a Unitarian Chapel.
- Settled in Manchester and taught in the Sunday School.
- Had 4 children, the boy died of scarlet fever.
- She was encouraged to write to distract her from her grief.



MANCHESTER



- The Gaskells' Manchester was a great cultural and intellectual centre
- Forefront of the new industrial age
- The rapid growth generated:
 1. much wealth,
 2. uncontrolled urban development
 3. appalling squalor.
- In 1844, **Friedrich Engels** described the homes of the factory operatives in **The Conditions of the Working Class in England**:
'The workers dwellings of Manchester are dirty, miserable and wholly lacking in comforts. In such houses only inhuman, degraded and unhealthy creatures would feel at home.'





A TALE OF MANCHESTER LIFE

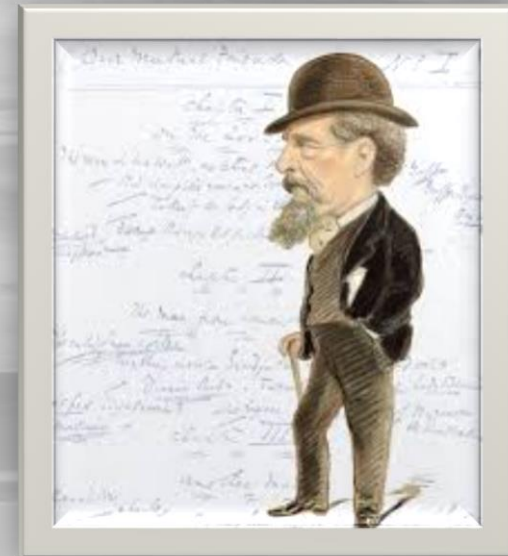
- In 1848 *Mary Barton* (subtitled *A Tale of Manchester Life*) is published anonymously.
- It had a huge impact on the reading public
- The issue of the appalling state of impoverished workers in the industrial centres of the North pricked the conscience of a nation:

‘How deep might be the romance in the lives of some of those who elbowed me daily in the busy streets of the town in which I resided. I had always felt a deep sympathy with the careworn men, who looked as if doomed to struggle through their lives in strange alternations between work and want.’



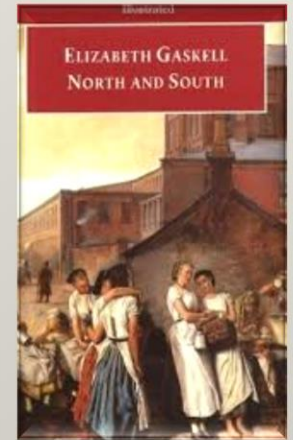
MEETING DICKENS

- *Mary Barton* attracted the attention of Charles Dickens
- It was at his invitation that much of her work was first published in the periodicals he edited: *Household Words* and *All the Year Round*.
- Elizabeth became a popular author, writing numbers of stories for Dickens.
- These stories are very varied and are quite distinct in style from her industrial fiction.
- Dickens referred to her as his ‘dear Scheherazade’.



HUMANITARIANISM

- Elizabeth was engaged in many works of charity.
- She was an active humanitarian.
- Her novels convey many messages such as the **need for social reconciliation**, for better understanding between employers and workers and between the respectable and the outcasts of society.
- Her writing was carefully researched.
- She took particular care in reproducing northern dialects accurately.



Elizabeth and Friends

- She had a wide circle of friends, which included Charlotte Brontë, John Ruskin, the Carlyles, Charles Kingsley and Florence Nightingale.
- Although they shared many artistic concerns, Elizabeth had a difficult working relationship with Charles Dickens who, as editor, often wanted to alter what she wrote.
- On one occasion, exasperated by her perceived waywardness as a contributor, he exclaimed to his sub-editor, *'Oh! Mrs Gaskell-fearful-fearful! If I were Mr G. Oh heavens how I would beat her!'*



PRODUCTION

- *Cousin Phillis* (1863)
- *Cranford* (1853)
- *Ruth* (1853)
- *North and South* (1855)
- *Sylvia's Lovers* (1863)
- *Wives and Daughters* (1866), which was never finished.

Elizabeth Gaskell died suddenly on 12 November 1865.

Wives and Daughters will be published in the *Cornhill Magazine*, a high quality literary periodical specialising in the serialisation of novels. It appeared posthumously in volume form in 1866.

