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Jane Eyre: Gender, Passion, and Rationality

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Jane Eyre: Gender, Passion, and Rationality



By Jordin Billings

Boston Medical & Surgical Journal



HIPPOCRATES IN TEMPLO ÆSCULAPII TABULAS VOTIVAS EXSCRIBENS.

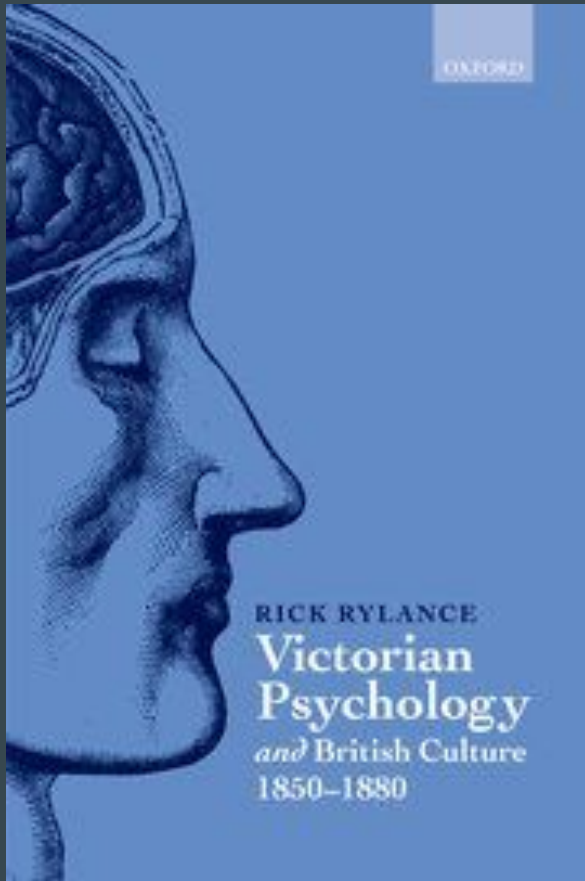
VOL. VIII.]

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1833.

[NO. 17.

<https://museumofhealthcare.wordpress.com/2015/10/30/a-mere-appendix/>

“Insanity. . .the operation of the feelings and passions depends upon the physical system no less than the understanding. . .The senses often become false guides, the perceptions are mistaken, and the judgment becomes false and impaired. Is it not well known that the passions and propensities are even more affected by disease than the mental powers? Is it unphilosophical or irrational to suppose, that these faculties can be subject to such impairment, as to be beyond the control of the reasoning powers and the judgement?” (“Moral Insanity” 1838)



Victorian Psychology

“Four strands of psychological argument can be identified . . . the discourse of the soul, the discourse of philosophy, the discourse of physiology in general biology, and the discourse of medicine” (Rylance 2002)

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/victorian-psychology-and-british-culture-1850-1880-9780198122838?cc=us&lang=en&>

Bertha

“Bertha Mason is mad; and she came from a mad family: –idiots and maniacs through three generations! Her mother, the Creole, was both a mad woman and a drunkard!” (Brontë 1847)

- **Bertha Antoinetta Mason** is a fictional character. In [Charlotte Brontë](#)'s 1847 novel [Jane Eyre](#) she is the violently insane first wife of Edward Rochester, moved to [Thornfield Hall](#) and locked in the attic.



Jane Eyre

“Be seated somewhere; and until you can speak with pleasantness, remain silent” (Brontë 1847)

“He bullied and punished me--not two or three times in the week, nor once or twice in the day, but continually: every nerve I had feared him, and every morsel of flesh on my bones shrunk when he came near” (Brontë 1847)



Jane Eyre

“I resisted all the way: a new thing for me, and a circumstance which greatly strengthened the bad opinion Bessie and Miss Abbot were disposed to entertain of me... I was conscious that a moment’s mutiny had already rendered me liable to strange penalties, and like any other rebel slave, I felt resolved in my desperation to go all lengths”(Brontë 1847)

“...then she and Miss Abbot stood with folded arms, looking darkly and doubtfully on my face, as incredulous of my sanity” **END QUOTE** (Brontë 1847)



Jane Eyre

“demoniac laugh—low, suppressed, and deep”

(Brontë 1847)

“He had almost as much as declared his conviction
of her criminality last night” (Brontë 1847)



F. Walker A.R.A. del.

Walker & Bonallion sculp.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Life and Works of the Sisters Bronte - Rochester and Jane Eyre.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Life_and_Works_of_the_Sisters_Bronte_-_Rochester_and_Jane_Eyre.jpg)

Jane & Mr. Rochester

“I will keep the law given by God; sanctioned by man. I will hold to the principles received by me when I was sane, and not mad—as I am now. . . They have a worth—so I have always believed; and if I cannot believe it now, it is because I am insane—quite insane: with my veins running fire, and my heart beating faster than I can count its throbs” (Brontë 1847)

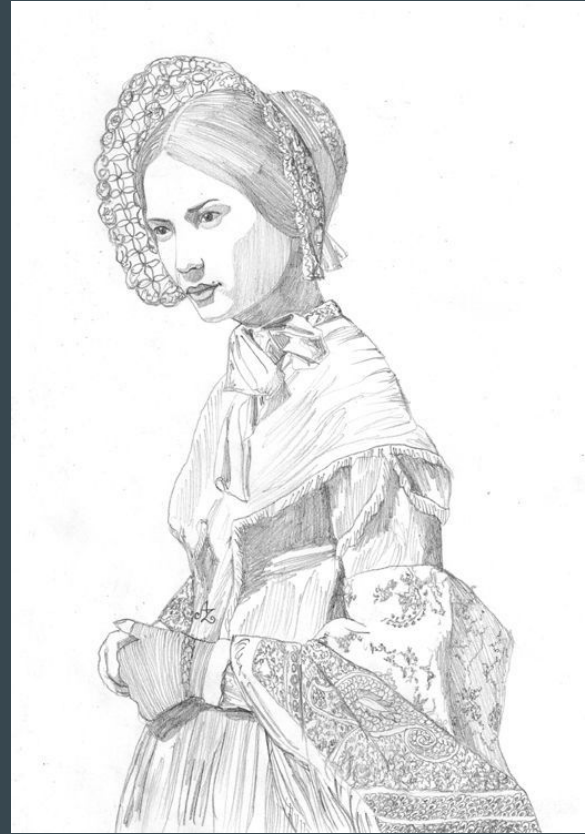


https://classic-literature.fandom.com/wiki/Mr._Rochester

Jane Eyre

“Ere I had finished this reply my began to expand, to exult, with the strangest sense of freedom, of triumph, I ever felt. It seemed as if an invisible bond had burst, and that I had struggled out into unhoped-for liberty” (Brontë 1847)

“But you are passionate, Jane: that you must allow” (Brontë 1847)



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/449867450269506406/>

Jane Eyre

By Charlotte Brontë

