



Ann Gilbert 1782-1866

Poet, literary critic, Anti-slavery campaigner

Ann was born in Islington to Isaac an engraver and Ann, a writer in a family of writers -Ann wrote a book called '*The Taylors from Ongar*' about the family. Ann and her younger sister Jane were famous for their collection of poems and hymns for young children, '*Original Poems for Infant Minds*' (1805) one of the first collections aimed specifically at children. In 1813 she married Joseph Gilbert an Independent then Congregational minister and in 1825 they moved to Nottingham. Firstly, renting rooms in the Castle and then in 1830 they moved to 33 Castle Gate



from where she witnessed the reform riots from the roof and the burning down of the Castle. She had a son Joseph Henry who later published her autobiography. Her interests were wide, she was a literary critic for the Eclectic Review, was interested in atheism, prison reform, anti-slavery, and in the 1830's she set up one of the earliest refuges for 'unfortunate women'. She also set up the Nottingham Ladies Society for the Relief of Negro Slaves. As a Dissenter she had similar views to the Howitt's whom she knew and together with them in 1834 campaigned for the dissolution of the Church of England. She was a member of Bromley Subscription library and involved in the literary and intellectual life of the town. She continued to write poems and hymns and a 2 volume autobiography which her son Josiah edited. Ann is buried with her husband in a distinctive pink granite gothic tomb in the General Cemetery though the inscription to her has disappeared.