



Marion Reid nee Kirkland 1817-1902

Anti-slavery campaigner & women's rights campaigner

Marion was born in Scotland, in 1839 she married Hugo Reid a progressive educationalist. In 1840 Marion had attended the World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London where she made friends with the American, Lucretia Mott. In 1843 she wrote 'A Plea for Women' which was published in Edinburgh and had considerable influence on the thinking of women on both sides of the Atlantic going into several editions. In America its title was 'Woman, her Education and Influence'. *A Plea for Women* is most likely the first work in Britain or the USA that gave importance to gaining both civil and political rights for women. The book was especially significant in the early years of the women's suffrage movement in the USA. In 1847 her husband Hugo became Head of People's College and they came to live in Park Side. Marion and her sister, Helen Kirkland, set up a boarding school on Park Street though by 1849 Helen Kirkland was the head of the girls' school at People's College. Marion is credited with introducing Nottingham people to the work of Harriet Beecher Stowe when 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' appeared in serial form in an American newspaper. She was certain that the story would have a great influence. By 1851 they moved to London.