

*The Complete Journals of L.M. Montgomery: The PEI Years, 1901-1911*, by Mary Henley Rubio and Elizabeth Hillman Waterston (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2013) 319pp. Cloth \$39.95 Black-and-white illustrations, Indexed.

This volume II is a continuation of the second handwritten journal by Montgomery. Her journal entries, from April 25, 1897 to December 22, 1900, are in the first volume, *The Complete Journals of L.M. Montgomery: The P.E.I. Years, 1889-1900*. This facsimile edition reproduces the original text in its entirety, unlike the abridged edition published in 1984-1985.

The author created a full-length copy of the journals, carefully written out between 1918 and 1922. With Nora Lefurgey, she worked on a joint journal for a period in 1903, but continued to write in her private journal. In her opening entry, Montgomery expresses her enthusiasm, "This is the twentieth century!" She has written stories, and letters, reading novels, histories, and encyclopedia. She reencounters Edward Simpson at the Baptist Church, he is back from Chicago University, and she still feeling shame-faced about their breakup. In 1906, she was secretly engaged to Ewan Macdonald, a new unmarried Presbyterian Minister, who is leaving for Glasgow University. The editors take note that she misspells his name and incorrectly enters his age. (He has both "Ewen" and "Ewan" on his tombstone.) Although "a very personable young man", she fears he may become "paunchy" in later age. She also describes the role of becoming a minister's wife, in derisive, yet prescient, terms:

The life of a country minister's wife has always appeared to me as a synonym for respectable slavery—a life in which a woman of any independence in belief or character, must either be a failure, from an "official" point of view, or must cloak her real self under an assumed orthodoxy and conventionalism that must prove very stifling at times. (p. 155)

After the loss of Herman Leard, passionate romantic love: "an overmastering passion and devotion", is suspect. About marriage, the very words "for better or worse", "I will not risk it". Her loneliness (*italicized*) spurs her on, "He [Macdonald] seemed to belong (*italicized*) in her life.

In 1908, she announces, "Today has been, as *Anne* herself would say, 'an epoch in my life.' My book came out today, fresh from the publishers." (She copied this passage into "The Alpine Path".) She adds, "Not a great book at all—but *mine, mine, mine*,—something to which *I* had given birth—something which, but for me, would never have existed." (p. 191) She dedicated the title *Anne of green Gables* to her parents. While she became Mrs. Macdonald, she lovingly retained her family name of Montgomery in literature. "Somehow, I felt sorry at giving up my old name—the name of my father, the name linked with the experiences of a lifetime, the name under which I have won my success. To be sure, I will always keep it in literature. But there will be a difference." (p. 417)

She took the PWC examination in order to teach school. "I had a large—a too large school—especially in summer." (p. 278) In 1910, "I finished and sent off the MS of *Kilmeny* last week. I miss it for I cannot settle down to any work which requires concentrated thought. *Kilmeny* did not. I had merely to copy and amplify existing thoughts. I am making very poor progress with *The Storey Girl*." (p. 248) At one point, she suffers from clinical depression and thoughts of suicide. "I wanted to die and escape life!" (p. 282) She adds, "Good-bye old journal. You have been in all these long[,]hard, lonely thirteen years almost my only comfort and refuge." (p. 283) During this period, she produced *Anne of Green Gables* (1908), *Anne of Avonlea* (1909), *Kilmeny of the Orchard* (1910), and *The Story Girl* (1911).

She concludes, "Reason told me that it was no wonder that my publishers, who have made a fortune out of my books, should take some pains to please me." (p. 321) Her contract bound her to offer Page Co. first refusal on her work for five years, 10 percent royalties on the wholesale price, rather than 15 percent on the retail price (as was usual for successful authors." (note, p. 323)

*Anne Burke*