

never revealed to Ellen, and she used to camouflage her real involvement in the affair, and to make reference to it only in the most general way. Throughout her entire correspondence with Ellen, Charlotte maintained a reserve which speaks volumes but which will always leave us with doubts. Even at the time of her great success as Currer Bell, the author of the best-selling *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte coolly affirms that she has been engaged upon some writing, and it is not until very late in the letter that she revealed to Ellen that she was indeed the author of the book.



*A view of Conway Castle, from the pencil sketch by Charlotte.*

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