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Ireland

or the

## Transformation

CHARLES BROCKDEN BROWN



FICTION

A

WIELAND

CHARLES BROCKDEN BROWN (1771-1810) became America's first professional writer. Born into a Quaker merchant family in Philadelphia, he was such a voracious reader that he came to be regarded as a literary prodigy. At the time authorship was not considered a serious profession, and Brown took up the study of law; but in 1793, just as he was about to begin practice, he gave up his law career and made the unprecedented resolve to earn his living as a writer. He took up residence in New York, where he found a place in a congenial literary circle, and in 1797 published his first complete work, a dialogue on the rights of women. During the next few years he worked furiously and produced his four most important novels: *WIELAND*, *Ormond*, *Edgar Huntly*, and *Arthur Mervyn*. Two more novels followed in 1801. But despite his output, Brown was unable to earn much money. To support himself he edited the *Monthly Magazine and North American Review*, and when the magazine failed he returned to Philadelphia and joined his brothers' mercantile firm. During his last years he continued his literary activity, abandoning fiction for historical writing and magazine work.

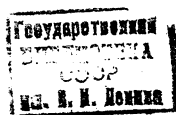
WIELAND;  
or,  
The Transformation  
*An American Tale*

CHARLES BROCKDEN BROWN

*From Virtue's blissful paths away  
The double-tongued are sure to stray;  
Good is a forth-right journey still,  
And mazy paths but lead to ill.*



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