

**LAST DAYS OF MARIE  
ANTOINETTE: AN  
HISTORICAL SKETCH**

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Last Days of Marie Antoinette: An Historical Sketch by Ronald Gower

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**RONALD GOWER**

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*AN HISTORICAL SKETCH.*

BY  
LORD RONALD GOWER.

*WITH PORTRAIT AND FACSIMILES.*



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1885.



## PREFACE.



THERE is nothing new relating to the last days of Marie Antoinette in the following sketch. At one time I had intended writing the whole story of her life; but this I have relinquished.

The Queen's life becomes chiefly interesting as it approaches its end, and is chiefly remarkable by showing how a woman, whose

early years were trifled thoughtlessly away, and who in later life, most unfortunately for her family, herself, and her adopted country, mixed herself in politics, where women are ever mischievous, was raised through suffering to an heroic level.

As the clouds of adversity gathered around, Marie Antoinette displayed a patience and a courage in unparalleled sufferings such as few saints and martyrs have equalled.

The pure ore of her nature was but hidden under the dross of worldliness ; and the scorching fire of suffering revealed one of the tenderest hearts and one of the bravest natures that history records. To this is owing, I believe, the universal interest felt in her life and in her misfortunes.



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Among a crowd of others, my authorities for the following pages have been Campardon's "Marie Antoinette à la Conciergerie" and Saint Amand's work on the same subject.





LAST DAYS  
OF  
MARIE ANTOINETTE.

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ON the 2d of August 1793, the widow of Louis XVI., Queen of France and Navarre, and Archduchess of Austria, the once brilliant sovereign of Versailles, now a prisoner, torn from her children and treated like a common felon, was removed from the prison of the Temple to that of the Conciergerie, there to linger until her release from human barbarity on the 16th of October.