

**BIOGRAPHY AND
POETICAL REMAINS OF
THE LATE MARGARET
MILLER DAVIDSON**

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Biography and poetical remains of the late Margaret Miller Davidson by Washington Irving

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WASHINGTON IRVING

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MILLER DAVIDSON**

BIOGRAPHY
AND
POETICAL REMAINS

OF THE LATE

MARGARET MILLER DAVIDSON.

BY WASHINGTON IRVING.

Thou wert unfit to dwell with clay,
For sin too pure, for earth too bright!
And Death, who call'd thee hence away,
Plac'd on his brow a sun of light!

MARGARET TO HER SISTER.

A New Edition, revised.

PHILADELPHIA:
LEA AND BLANCHARD.
1843.

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BIOGRAPHY
OF
MISS MARGARET DAVIDSON.

THE reading world has long set a cherishing value on the name of Lucretia Davidson, a lovely American girl, who, after giving early promise of rare poetic excellence, was snatched from existence in the seventeenth year of her age. An interesting biography of her by President Morse of the American Society of Arts, was published shortly after her death; another has since appeared from the classic pen of Miss Sedgwick, and her name has derived additional celebrity in Great Britain from an able article by Robert Southey, inserted some years since in the *London Quarterly Review*.

An intimate acquaintance in early life with some of the relatives of Miss Davidson had caused me, while in Europe, to read with great interest every thing concerning her; when, therefore, in 1833, about a year after my return to the United States, I was told, while in New York, that Mrs. Davidson, the mother of the deceased, was in the city and desirous of consulting me about a new edition of her daughter's works, I lost no time in waiting upon her. Her appearance corresponded with the interesting idea given of her in her daughter's biography; she was feeble and emaciated, and supported by pillows in an easy chair, but there were the lingerings of grace and beauty in her form and features, and her eye still gleamed with intelligence and sensibility.

While conversing with her on the subject of her daughter's works, I observed a young girl, apparently not more than eleven years of age, moving quietly about her; occasionally arranging a pillow, and at the same time listening earnestly to our conversation. There was an intellectual beauty about