

**THE DIARY OF DR. JOHN
WILLIAM POLIDORI
1816, RELATING TO
BYRON, SHELLEY, ETC.**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649076185

The diary of Dr. John William Polidori 1816, relating to Byron, Shelley, etc. by William Michael Rossetti

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

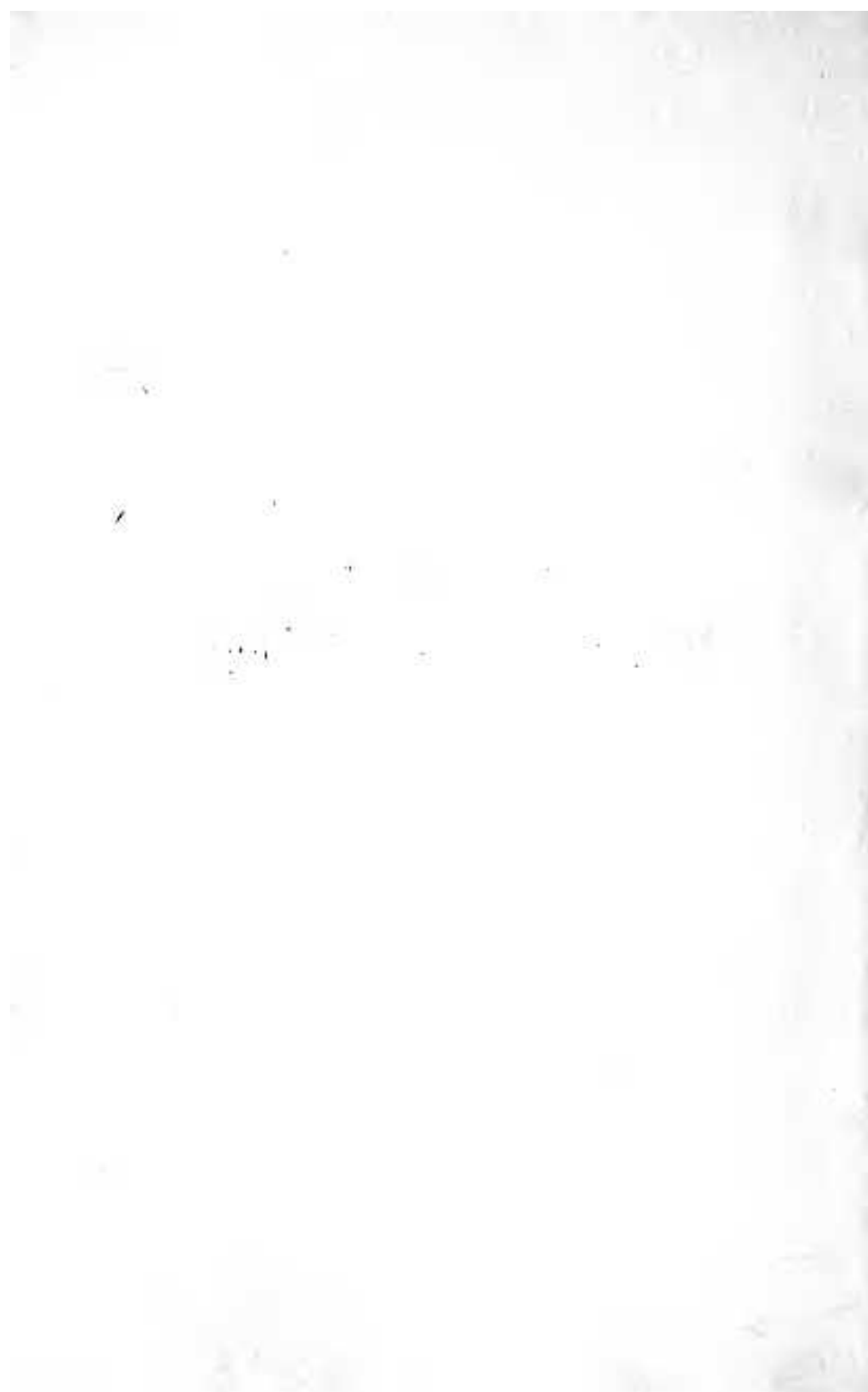
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WILLIAM MICHAEL ROSSETTI

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The Diary of
Dr. John William Polidori



The Diary of
Dr. John William Polidori
1816

Relating to Byron, Shelley, etc.

Edited and Elucidated by
William Michael Rossetti

"Mi fur mostrati gli spiriti magni
Che del vederli in me stesso n'esalto."—DANTE.

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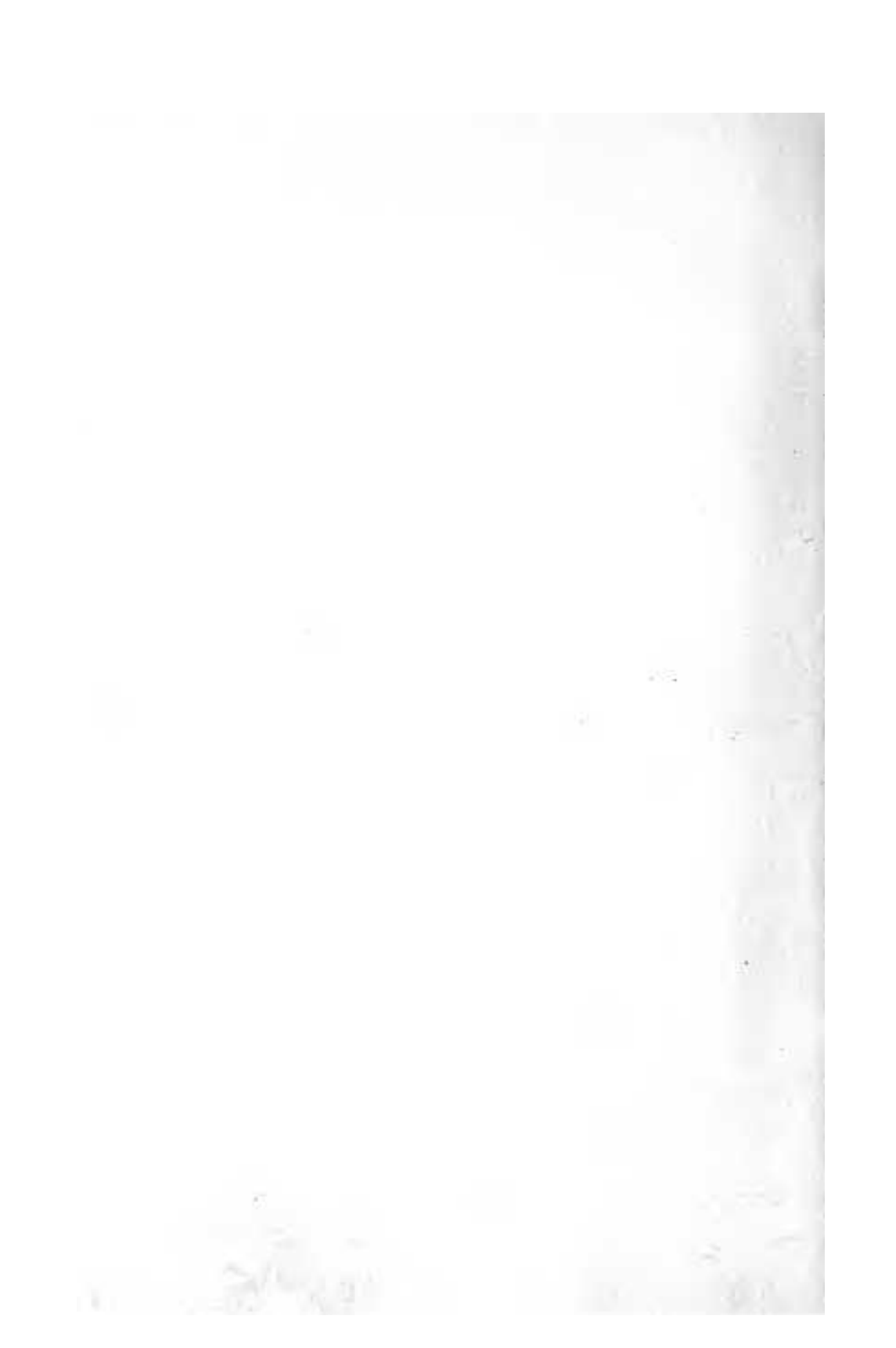
TO MY TWO DAUGHTERS

HELEN AND MARY

WHO WITH MY LITTLE GRAND-DAUGHTER INOCENE

KEEP THE HOME OF MY CLOSING YEARS

STILL IN GOOD CHEER



The Diary of Dr. John William Polidori

INTRODUCTION

A PERSON whose name finds mention in the books about Byron, and to some extent in those about Shelley, was John William Polidori, M.D.; he was Lord Byron's travelling physician in 1816, when his Lordship quitted England soon after the separation from his wife. I, who now act as Editor of his Diary, am a nephew of his, born after his death. Dr. Polidori figures not very advantageously in the books concerning Byron and Shelley. He is exhibited as overweening and petulant, too fond of putting himself forward face to face with those two heroes of our poetical literature, and too touchy when either of them declined to take him at his own estimation. I will allow that this judgment of Polidori is, so far as it goes, substantially just; and that some of the recorded anecdotes of him prove him deficient in self-knowledge, lacking prudence and reserve, and ignoring the dis-