

**ALBERT LUNEL; OR, THE  
CHÂTEAU OF  
LANGUEDOC. IN  
THREE VOLUMES. VOL. I**

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**HENRY BROUGHAM**

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VOLUME I.

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ALBERT LUNEL;

OR,

THE CHÂTEAU OF LANGUEDOC.

*Henry Peter Bourne  
Translator*

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOLUME I.

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LONDON:  
CHARLES KNIGHT & CO., 22, LUDGATE STREET,

1844.

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to

SAMUEL ROGERS, Esq., F.R.S.,

ETC. ETC. ETC.

It is natural that the countenance of a great name, the certainty of obtaining an enlightened reader, the benefit of having a candid though severe critic, should be sought by one who has no name at all, and only desires justice and intelligence in his judge. These attributes the writer of this work found united in you, and to you he has taken the liberty of inscribing it.

Should such an accident ever happen as your indulging in any curiosity upon so trifling a matter, you will find the mystery in which your unknown admirer is wrapt impossible to pierce. Your sagacity may, from internal evidence, serve to point a conjecture towards France and her colonies, as his country,—her language, as that in which his book may have been written.

But upon one subject, no doubt must be allowed to rest. In all that relates to political events, and political characters; to the manners, the genius, the con-

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RESERVE

duct of nations; above all, to the state of society beyond the Atlantic; there is no fiction, no colouring whatever, any more than in the sacred doctrines most connected with human happiness—peace and freedom—religion, rational as well as pure—morality, uncompromising though charitable—benevolence, universal, but discriminating—which it is the design of these pages to teach.



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# THE CHÂTEAU.

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## CHAPTER I.

### THE BEGINNING.

IT was one of those truly delicious evenings of which untravelled Englishmen know scarcely five or six throughout the summer, but which in Southern France are frequent, indeed almost constant, during half the year. The sultry heats of midsummer and early autumn, extending into the night, scarcely leave its relish to that sweet season, and the exhaustion of the day hardly permits a desire for any exercise; but as August fades away, the air becomes more temperate, and nothing can be figured more truly delightful than those evenings which succeed the latest heats of the declining sun. A lively pleasure is felt in mere existence; the air is balmy;