

**THE MOST GORGEOUS
LADY BLESSINGTON,
PP. 1-205**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649652433

The Most Gorgeous Lady Blessington, pp. 1-205 by J. Fitzgerald Molloy

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

J. FITZGERALD MOLLOY

**THE MOST GORGEOUS
LADY BLESSINGTON,
PP. 1-205**

Downey & Co.'s New Books.

- The Life of William Carleton:** Being his Autobiography and Correspondence; and an Account of his Life from the point at which his Autobiography breaks off. By D. J. O'DONOGHUE. With an Introduction by Mrs CARTEL HOLY. 2 vol., with two Portraits, 25s.
- The Life of Laurence Sterne.** By PERCY FITZGERALD. 2 vol., foolscap 8vo, with a Portrait, 10s. nett.
- King Stork and King Log:** A Study of Modern Russia. By STEFNAK. 2 vol., crown 8vo, 15s.
- Hyde Park from Domesday Book to Date.** By JOHN ASHTON. Demy 8vo, with 22 Illustrations, 12s. 6d.
- London Town:** Sketches of London Life and Character. By MARCUS FALL. Crown 8vo, 5s.
- Bohemian Life** (*La Vie de Bohème*). By HENRI MURGER. 3s. 6d.
- Historic Churches of Paris.** By WALTER LONERGAN. Illustrated by B. S. LE FANU, and from Photographs. Fcap. 4to.
- The Reminiscences of an Old Bohemian.** By G. L. M. STRAUSS. Crown 8vo, 3s. 6d.
- Boz-Land: Dickens' Places and People.** By PERCY FITZGERALD. With a Portrait of 'Boz' by G. CRUICKSHANK. Crown 8vo, 6s.
- Hibernia Pacata: or, the Wars in Ireland** during the Reign of Queen Elizabeth. Edited, and with an Introduction and copious Notes, by STANDISH O'GRADY. 2 vol., medium 8vo, with Portraits (some hitherto unpublished), Maps, &c.

12 YORK STREET, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON

**THE MOST GORGEOUS
LADY BLESSINGTON**



THE COUNTESS OF BLESSINGTON

From the Portrait by Sir Thomas Lawrence

THE MOST GORGEOUS 70707
LADY BLESSINGTON

^{Joseph} BY
J. FITZGERALD MOLLOY

AUTHOR OF

'COURT LIFE BELOW STAIRS,' 'THE LIFE
AND ADVENTURES OF PEG WOFFINGTON,' 'THE LIFE
AND ADVENTURES OF EDMUND KEAN,' 'ROYALTY RESTORED,
OR LONDON UNDER CHARLES II.,' 'FAMOUS PLAYS,' 'THE FAITHS
OF THE PEOPLES,' ETC.

WITH A PORTRAIT OF LADY BLESSINGTON

IN TWO VOLUMES

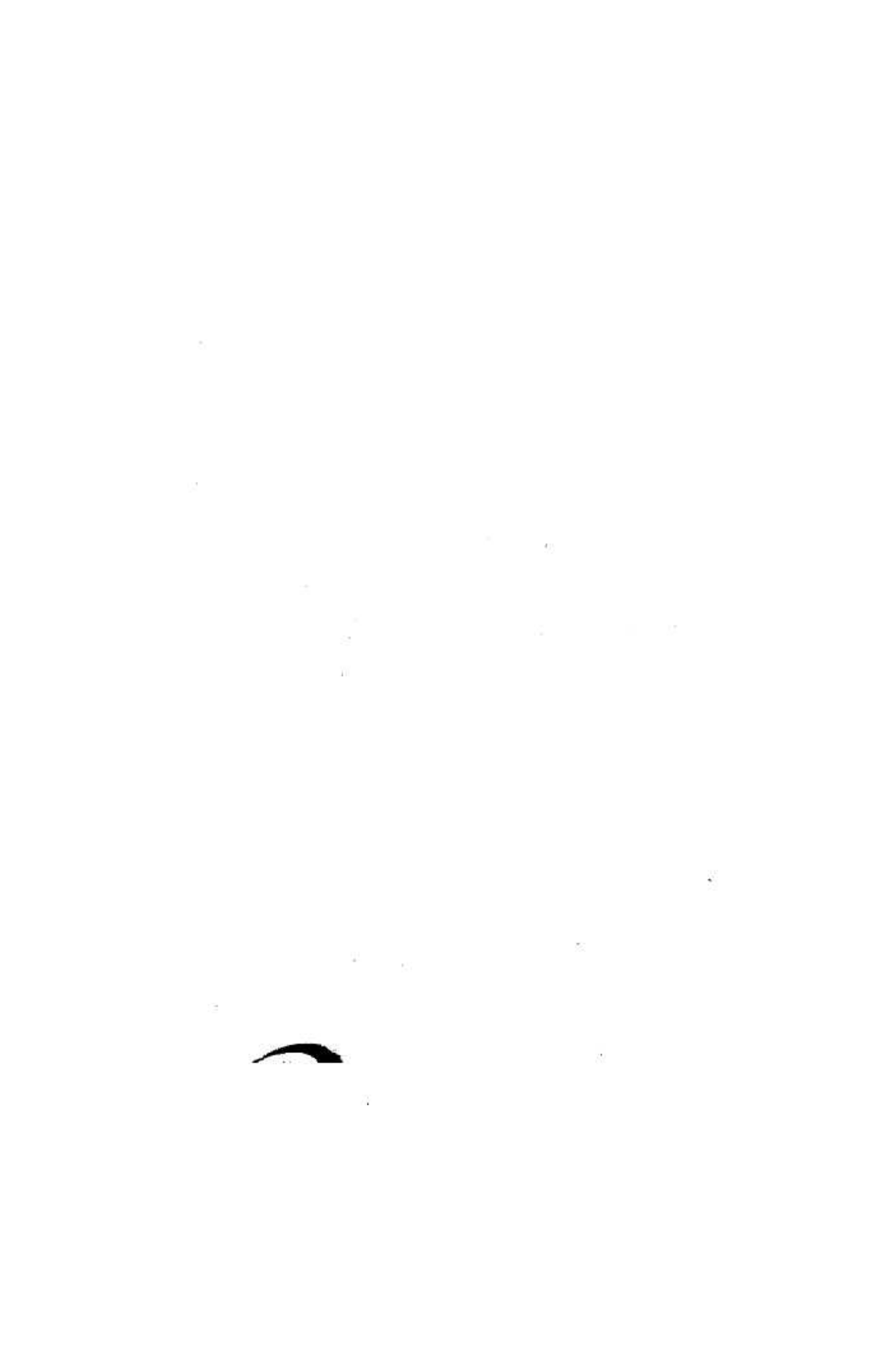
VOL. I.

THIRD EDITION

DOWNEY & CO.

12 YORK STREET, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON

1896



CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

- An Irish Squireen—A Sensitive Child—The Joy of being Understood—Dreams—The Desmonds Themselves—Wild Times—Rebel Hunting—Tragedy—A Domestic Tyrant—Suitors Twain—Proposals—Forced to Marry—Misery—Frenzy—Escape—The Prelude of Her Life page 1

CHAPTER II

- An Unprotected Wife—An Unhappy House—A Hateful Position—Lord Blessington appears upon the Scene—A Tragedy in the Fleet—Freedom and Marriage—An Irish Welcome—The Mansion in St James's Square 22

CHAPTER III

- Lord Byron—A Hero of Romance and an Object of Hatred—Storm in the Social Atmosphere—In Venice—The Rosiest Romance of His Life—A Bride of Sixteen—Inexorable Fate—In Ravenna—A Poet's Love-Letter—A Philosophic Husband—Count Guiccioli becomes Uncivil—Strife and Separation—Byron is summoned—A Common Disturber—In Pisa—A Ghost-Haunted Palace—Banishment—A New Residence sought—The Villa at Albaro—Lady Blessington's Hopes—Lines written in Her Diary 49

CONTENTS

CHAPTER IV

Lord Blessington visits Byron—The Poet and the Countess—First Impressions—Personal Appearance—His English Visitors—Reference to His Child—A Pleasant Talk—Flippant Manner—Count D'Orsay's Diary—Dining with the Blessingtons—His Desire to grow Thin—Death of Lord Blessington's Heir—Lord Byron's Sympathy—His Expedition to Greece—Melancholy Presentiments—His Superstitions—Impromptu Lines—Farewell . . . page 67

CHAPTER V

First Sight of Naples—The City Crowds—A Magnificent Palace—Entertaining—Sir William Gell—My Lord's Extravagance—The Building of a Fairy Palace—Lord Blessington returns to Italy—Travelling in Former Times—The Inn at Borghetto—Life in the Palazzo Belvedere—Young Mathews as a Mimic—Amateur Theatricals—Above the Bay . . . 96

CHAPTER VI

Byron starts for Greece—An Inauspicious Day—Storm and Danger—A Desolate Place—In Missolonghi—Byron's Illness and Death—Tidings reach the Palazzo Belvedere—Leaving Naples—Residence in Florence—Lamartine and Landor—An Original Character—An Eventful Life—Landor's Friendship with Lady Blessington—Mutual Admiration . . . 121

CHAPTER VII

Landor and Lord Blessington sail for Naples—Landor's Delight in the Bay—His Impetuosity—The Blessingtons leave Florence—The Palazzo Negroni at Rome—Attending a Bal Masque—Fallen Kings