

**BYRON. ENGLISH
MEN OF LETTERS**

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Byron. English Men of Letters by John Nichol & John Morley

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JOHN NICHOL & JOHN MORLEY

**BYRON. ENGLISH
MEN OF LETTERS**

English Men of Letters

EDITED BY JOHN MORLEY

Byron

by

JOHN NICHOL, LL.D.

AUTHOR OF

"BACON" "AMERICAN LITERATURE"

English Men of Letters

EDITED BY

JOHN MORLEY



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BOOKS CONSULTED.

1. The Narrative of the Honourable John Byron, Commodore, in a late Expedition Round the World, &c. (Baker and Leigh) 1768
2. Voyage of H. M. S. *Blonde* to the Sandwich Islands in the years 1824-1825, the Right Hon. Lord Byron, Commander (John Murray) 1826
3. Memoirs of the Life and Writings of the Right Hon. Lord Byron (H. Colburn) 1822
4. The Life, Writings, Opinions, and Times of G. G. Noel Byron, with courtiers of the present polished and enlightened age, &c., &c., 3 vols. (M. Iley) 1825
5. Narrative of Lord Byron's last Journey to Greece, from Journal of Count Peter Gamba 1825
6. Medwin's Conversations with Lord Byron at Pisa, 2 vols. (H. Colburn). 1825
7. Leigh Hunt's Byron and His Contemporaries (H. Colburn) 1828
8. The Works of Lord Byron, with Life by Thomas Moore, 17 vols. (Murray) 1832
9. Galt's Life of Lord Byron (Harpers). 1830
10. Kennedy's Conversations on Religion (Murray) . . . 1830
11. Countess of Blessington's Conversations (Harpers) . 1834
12. Lady Morgan's Memoirs, 2 vols. (W. H. Allen) . . . 1842

13. *Recollections of the Countess Guiccioli* (Harpers) 1869
14. *Castelar's Genius and Character of Byron* (Harpers) 1870
15. *Elze's Life of Lord Byron* (Murray) 1872
16. *Trelawny's Reminiscences of Byron and Shelley* 1858
17. *Torren's Memoirs of Viscount Melbourne* (Macmillan) 1878
18. *Rev. F. Hodgson's Memoirs, 2 vols.* (Macmillan) 1879
19. *Essays and Articles, or Recorded Criticisms, by Macaulay, Scott, Shelley, Goethe, G. Brandes, Mazzini, Sainte Beuve, De Chastel, H. Taine, &c.*
20. *Burke's Knightage and Peerage* 1879

BYRON.

CHAPTER I.

ANCESTRY AND FAMILY.

BYRON'S life was passed under the fierce light that beats upon an intellectual throne. He succeeded in making himself—what he wished to be—the most notorious personality in the world of letters of our century. Almost every one who came in contact with him has left on record various impressions of intimacy or interview. Those whom he excluded or patronized, maligned; those to whom he was genial, loved him. Mr. Southey, in all sincerity, regarded him as the principle of Evil incarnate; an American writer of tracts in the form of stories is of the same opinion: to the Countess Guiccioli he is an arch-angel. Mr. Carlyle considers him to have been a mere "sulky dandy." Goethe ranks him as the first English poet after Shakespeare, and is followed by the leading critics of France, Italy, and Spain. All concur in the admission that Byron was as proud of his race as of his verse, and that in unexampled measure the good and evil of his nature were inherited and inborn. His genealogy is, therefore, a matter of no idle antiquarianism.