This is the first full-length study of Byron’s influence on Victorian writers, concentrating on Carlyle, Emily Brontë, Tennyson, Bulwer Lytton, Disraeli, and Wilde. Rather than treating influence in terms of source study or of intersubjective struggle, it demonstrates how institutions of cultural production mediate the access that later writers have to earlier ones. These institutions produced a ritual of the Victorian authorial career in which writers repeatedly defined themselves against what they understood Byron to represent. In many cases, they did not reject him outright. Instead, they created fictions of personal development away from values associated with Byron towards those associated with themselves as mature Victorian writers.
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BYRON AND THE VICTORIANS

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# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acknowledgments</th>
<th>page viii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviations</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note on the text</td>
<td>xi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Introduction: on influence

1 Byron and the secret self 13
2 The creation of Byronism 47
3 Carlyle, Byronism, and the professional intellectual 90
4 Byron at the margins: Emily Brontë and the fate of Milo 126
5 The flight from vulgarity: Tennyson and Byron 169
6 The shady side of the sword: Bulwer Lytton, Disraeli, Wilde, and Byron’s homosexuality 206

Afterword 247

Notes 251
Index 280
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viii
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Abbreviations


Note on the text

All quotations of Byron’s poetry are from the Complete Poetical Works, eds. Jerome McGann and Barry Weller, 7 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon, 1980–1993). Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage and Don Juan are cited by canto and stanza number; the verse dramas by act, scene, and line number; and other poems by canto and line number or by line number alone as appropriate.