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Richard Robert Madden
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The Literary Life and Correspondence of the Countess of Blessington

The famous beauty Marguerite, Countess of Blessington (1789–1849), following her advantageous second marriage, presided over one of London's most glittering salons, variously attended by Thomas Moore, Disraeli, Bulwer Lytton, and Dickens. After her husband's death in 1829, she augmented her income by writing, most notably her *Conversations with Lord Byron*, which recounted her acquaintance with the poet in Genoa. Despite considerable success, her debt-ridden establishment collapsed in 1849 and Lady Blessington fled to Paris, where she died. This 1855 biography and letters, in three volumes was edited by R.R. Madden (1798–1886), colonial administrator and Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, who had first met the Blessingtons in Naples in 1821. It illuminates the intriguing social role of the salon hostess and its many financial and emotional pressures. Volume 3 contains further brief biographies of her various correspondents, followed by their letters.

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VOLUME 3

RICHARD ROBERT MADDEN



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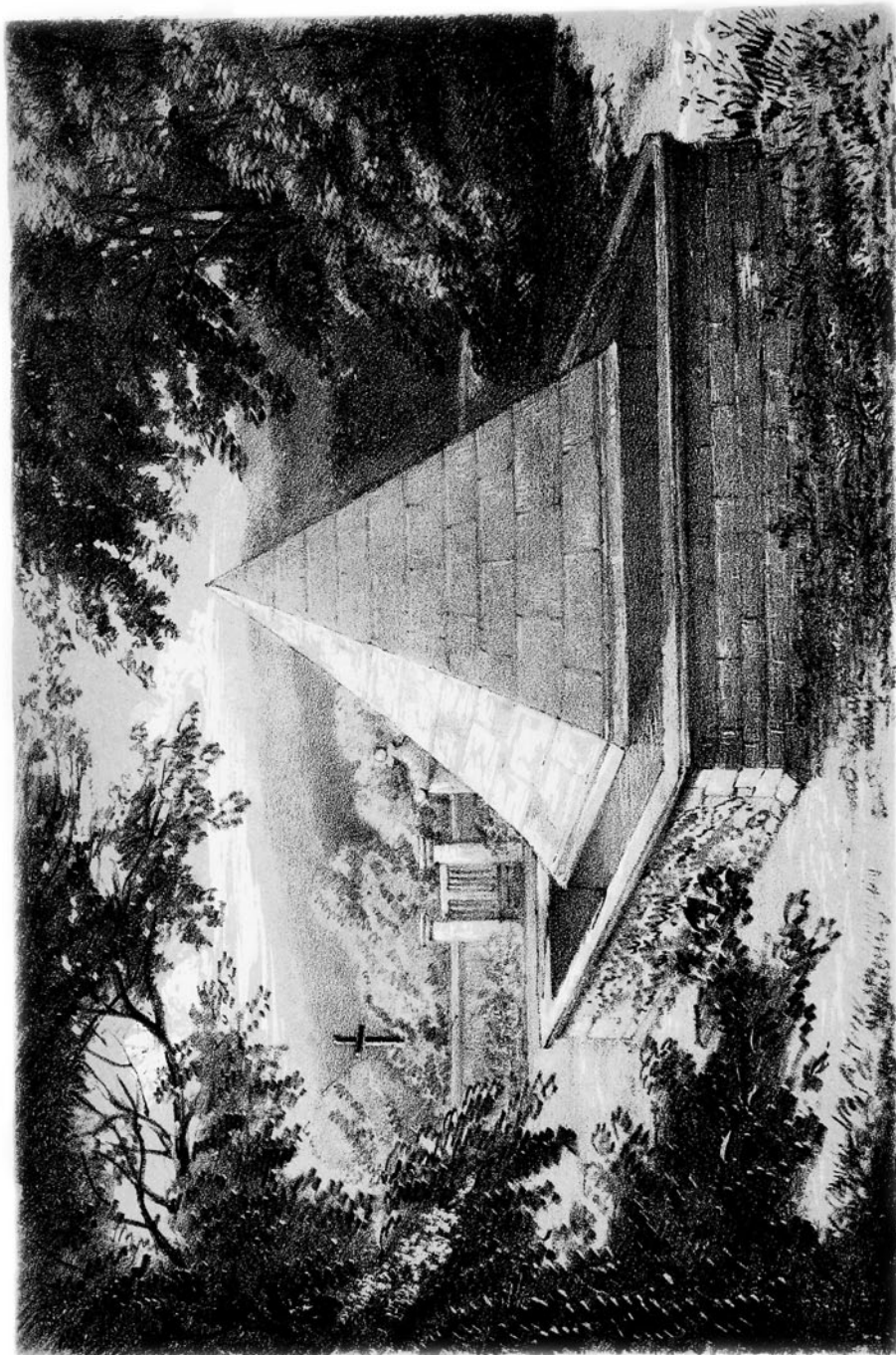
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From a Photograph by Count D'Orsey.

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THE

LITERARY LIFE AND CORRESPONDENCE

OF

THE COUNTESS OF BLESSINGTON.

BY

R. R. M A D D E N, M.R.I.A.

AUTHOR OF

"TRAVELS IN THE EAST," "INFIRMITIES OF GENIUS," "THE MUSSULMAN,"
"SHRINES AND SEPULCHRES," "THE LIFE OF SAVONAROLA," ETC.

"L'homme marche vers le tombeau, trainant apres lui, la chaine de ses expériences
trompées."

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