

**GREAT WRITERS.
LIFE OF
LORD BYRON**

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Great Writers. Life of Lord Byron by Roden Noel

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RODEN NOEL

**GREAT WRITERS.
LIFE OF
LORD BYRON**

"Great Writers."

EDITED BY

PROFESSOR ERIC S. ROBERTSON, M.A.

LORD BYRON.

LIFE
OF
LORD BYRON

BY *Berkeley Wriothersley*
THE HONBLE. RODEN, NOEL.

LONDON
WALTER SCOTT, 24 WARWICK LANE

1890

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PREFATORY NOTE.

ALL available authorities known to me have been consulted for this little book. Moreover, I have conversed with persons likely to be able to throw new light upon the facts; and to their courtesy I am indebted, although they elect, for reasons, to keep back the main part of their special information at present. My thanks are due to Mr. S. McCalmont Hill for kind permission to publish a hitherto unpublished MS. poem in his possession, called "The Monk of Athos," by Lord Byron. It is a fragment only, is in the poet's hand-writing, and descended to Mr. Hill from his great-grandfather, Mr. Robert Dallas, to whom Lord Byron gave it. Only three stanzas of this have I printed, however, because the rest of the poem seemed hardly worthy of Byron's reputation; and when an author has presumed to lay aside a work as unworthy of publication, it appears to me scarcely decent for another person to publish it, merely on account of the celebrity of that author's name. Concerning the date and occasion of this unfinished piece I find no record. The stanzas here given have, I think, a certain fine, characteristic, rhetorical roll of descriptive verse.

I have ventured also to reprint a poem at the end of the volume from my own "Songs of the Heights and Deeps," which was written after a pilgrimage to Newstead and Hucknall, since this condenses my general impression and feeling concerning the great Anglo-European poet so much better than I can do it in prose.

Certain grave charges against Byron one might not have cared to touch upon here, had they not already been publicly discussed all over the world, so that no biography of him, however brief in compass, could now pretend to be fair and full without some sifting of the evidence relating to them.

R. N.

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