

**EMINENT WOMEN
SERIES. THE COUNTESS
OF ALBANY**

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Eminent Women Series. The Countess of Albany by Vernon Lee & John H. Ingram

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VERNON LEE & JOHN H. INGRAM

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Eminent Women Series

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THE COUNTESS OF ALBANY

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THE
COUNTESS OF ALBANY

BY

VERNON LEE

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"RUPRORION," ETC.

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TO THE MEMORY OF MY FRIEND

MADAME JOHN MEYER,

I DEDICATE THIS VOLUME,

SO OFTEN AND SO LATELY TALKED OVER TOGETHER,

IN GRATEFUL AND AFFECTIONATE REGRET.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in financial reporting and auditing.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and techniques used to collect and analyze data. This includes both qualitative and quantitative approaches, as well as the use of statistical tools and software to process large volumes of information.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the interpretation and presentation of the collected data. It discusses how to identify trends, patterns, and anomalies, and how to communicate these findings effectively to stakeholders through clear and concise reports.

4. The fourth part of the document addresses the challenges and limitations of data analysis. It highlights the need for careful consideration of data quality, potential biases, and the importance of using appropriate statistical methods to avoid misleading conclusions.

5. The fifth part of the document provides a summary of the key findings and conclusions drawn from the analysis. It also offers recommendations for future research and improvements in data collection and analysis processes.

6. The final part of the document includes a list of references and a glossary of key terms used throughout the document. This ensures that readers can easily find the sources of the information and understand the terminology used in the analysis.

P R E F A C E.

IN preparing this volume on the Countess of Albany (which I consider as a kind of completion of my previous studies of eighteenth-century Italy), I have availed myself largely of Baron Alfred von Reumont's large work *Die Gräfin von Albany* (published in 1862); and of the monograph, itself partially founded on the foregoing, of M. St. René Taillandier, entitled *La Comtesse d'Albany*, published in Paris in 1862. Baron von Reumont's two volumes, written twenty years ago and when the generation which had come into personal contact with the Countess of Albany had not yet entirely died out; and M. St. René Taillandier's volume, which embodied the result of his researches into the archives of the Musée Fabre at Montpellier; might naturally be expected to have exhausted all the information obtainable about the subject of their and my studies. This has proved to be the case very much less than might have been anticipated. The publication, by Jacopo Bernardi and Carlo Milanese,

of a number of letters of Alfieri to Sienese friends, has afforded me an insight into Alfieri's character and his relations with the Countess of Albany such as was unattainable to Baron von Reumont and to M. St. René Taillandier. The examination, by myself and my friend Signor Mario Pratesi, of several hundreds of MS. letters of the Countess of Albany existing in public and private archives at Siena and at Milan, has added an important amount of what I may call psychological detail, overlooked by Baron von Reumont and unguessed by M. St. René Taillandier. I have, therefore, I trust, been able to reconstruct the Countess of Albany's spiritual likeness during the period—that of her early connection with Alfieri—which my predecessors have been satisfied to despatch in comparatively few pages, counterbalancing the thinness of this portion of their biographies by a degree of detail concerning the Countess's latter years, and the friends with whom she then corresponded, which, however interesting, cannot be considered as vital to the real subject of their works.

Besides the volumes of Baron von Reumont and M. St. René Taillandier, I have depended mainly upon Alfieri's autobiography, edited by Professor Teza, and supplemented by Bernardi's and Milanese's *Lettere di Vittorio Alfieri*, published by Le Monnier in 1862. Among English books that I have put under contribution, I may mention Klose's *Memoirs of Prince Charles Edward Stuart* (Colburn, 1845), Ewald's *Life and Times of Prince Charles Stuart* (Chapman and