More About the Byron Business-The Vilest Medley yet Published-The Story of Medora Leigh, and Her "Abnormal Propensities."

A new chapter in the horrible Byron scan.la? has been given to the world in a work just paslished in England under the title of "Medora Leigh: a History and an Autobiography." The book is issued by Bentley, and Is edited by Dr. Charles Mackay. The New York Tribune, of Saturday, gives the following review of the book from advance sheets, and the story as it is thus epitiomised will be as much as our readers will eare to know of this mess of filth:-

In "The True Story of Lady Byron's Life," Mrs. Stowe wrote:—"There was an unfortunate child of sin born with the curse upon her, over whose wayward nature Lady Byron watched with a mother's tenderness. She was the one who could have pittience when the patience of every one else failed; and though the task was a difficult one, from the strange, abnormal pro-pensities to evil in the subject of it, yet Lady Byron never faltered, and never gave over till death took the responsibility from her hands."
Many have supposed that this child, like the crime of which the child was assumed to be the fruit, was only the phantom of a disordered brain; but the writer of the article in the last Quarterly Review, in a note on the passage we have quoted, made the following significant remark:-"As the child was not what the context may suggest, and has nothing to do with the story, this paragraph is to the last degree wanton and cruel, as every one who knows what that child was must feel."

What that child was the book to which Dr. Charles Mackay has lent his name professes to reveal. Incidentally it also undertakes to show that Lady Byron's accusation against her husband was unfounded, and to explain how that accusation came to be made. We may warn our readers at the start, 1st, that, supposing the narrative to be authentic, it proves nothing as to the truth or untruth of the charge in controversy, though it opens some curious conjectures; and 2d. that no evidence is offered of its authenticity. while several circumstances connected with the while several circumstances connected with the publication are suspicious. Dr. Mackay informs us that he received the autobiography from "a friend," among whose papers it had lain unheeded for 26 years. He does not say who his friend is; he does not distinctly inform us where his friend obtained the MS. For the present, he says, we must be content to know that the friend is a Mr. S.—, and that he came into possession of the papers while he was endeavoring to bring about a reconciliation between Lady Byron and the unfortunate person whose story they relate. This is about as unsatisfactory as anything could well be; and we might reject the book at once were it not for one or two circumstances which indirectly and imperfectly vouch for it. It is clear, for instance, both from Mrs. Stowe's account and the comment of the wellinformed writer in the *Quarterly*, that there was a child of Mrs. Leigh's upon whom some sort of mystery rested; and in the narrative here presented correspondence is mentioned or quoted with various members of the Byron family and other well-known persons—corres pondence which would be at once repudiated if the story were a mere book-maker's fraud. Passing over the shameful language which the editor permits himself to use towards Mrs. Stowe in the introductory chapter, the calculations are in the introductory chapter; the calumnious and utterly uncalled for remarks about American "nigger-worshippers," ultra-Republicans, and grim Puritans, who plotted to destroy the Union

as a means of getting rid of slavery; and the unprofitable resume of the whole Byron controversy which fills nearly a third of the liberally padded book, we come to the history of Medora Leigh, the fourth daughter of Lord Byron's slater. In the summer of 1843, twenty-seven years after the separation of Lord and Lady Byron, and nineteen years after the poet's death, Medora Leigh, then twenty-eight years of age, came from Paris to London, accompanied by her child, a daughter cribed as good-looking, lively, and agreeable, but in bad health and without money. Her exin traveling had been defrayed by a retired English officer, Captain de B--- (another anonymous witness), whose acquaintance she had made at Hyeres, in the South of France, where she lived for some time before going to Paris. He found her destitute in the French capital; he heard her story; he learned from her lips that she was the daughter of Mrs. Leigh by Lord Byron, and until recently had been treated with great kindness and liberality by Lady Byron; and he urged her to go to London and plead her cause in person with her rich and powerful relatives, help-ing her out of his slender purse, and even rupporting her for some time after his arrival in England. In London she had an interview with Dr. Mackay's Mr. S.—, one of the partners in a law firm with which Captain de B.— had dealinge. She wrote out the painful story of her life, and convinced him of the truth of her assertions. He had several interviews with Lady Byron's legal advisers, Dr. Lushington and Sir George Stephen, with a view of bringing about a reconciation. He failed in that, he falled, also, in an effort to induce the family to refund what Captain de B— had advanced.
But before we pursue this part of the history any
further, it will be convenient to disregard
Dr. Mackay's order of narrative, and look at
the extraordinary autobiography which this
handsome woman of twenty-eight laid before her counsel:

"I am the fourth child of a family of seven. My eldest sister, Georgiana, married Mr. Henry Treva-nion, a distant cousin, in 1826, when I was eleven years old. The marriage, which had met the approyears old. The marriage, which had met the appro-bation of no one except my mother, did not turn out very happily, owing to the smallness of fortune and the uneven temper of both parties. I was frequently called in to keep them company, and in March, 1829 (after they had been married three years), it was de-cided that I should accompany them to a country nouse which had been placed at their disposal by my aunt Annabella, Lady Byron, during the time of my sister's approaching confinement. The house was in the neighborhood of Canterbury.

"My sister's timess, before her confinement, was

"My sister's itlness, before her confinement, was the occasion of my being left much alone with Mr. Trevanion. Indeed, I found myself thrown entirely upon him for society. I was with him both in doors and out, by day and by night, and was frequently sent by my sister into his bed-room on errands, after every one else in the house had retired to rest. Some every one else in the house had retired to rest. Some months passed in this manner, during which Mr. Trevanion took advantage of my youth and weakness, and effected my ruin, and I found myself likely to become a mother, by one I had ever disliked. Mr. Trevanion, when made aware of my position, impiored me to tell Georgiana the truth, and thrownim and myself upon her mercy. I did so. My misery; and my repentance appeared to move her much; and she biamed herself for having thrown me so much in Henry's (Mr. Trevanion's) way. I was so much in Henry's (Mr. Trevanion's) way. I was but fifteen years of age at this time—in the year

Mr. and Mrs. Trevanion carried the unfortu nate girl to Calais, and there she was prema-turely delivered of a child, which was left in charge of a medical man, and died at the age of three months. She went back to her mother's house, concealing what had happened, and there Trevanion seduced her again. Mrs. Leigh was now taken into her confidence, and treated her with great kindness. Mrs. Trevanion was also informed, and took her sister off to the country, where, three months afterwards, that is, in June, 1831, she was surprised by a visit from Colonei Leigh. Georgians and Trevanion had informed her that Colonei Leigh was not her father, but she did not believe them, and Mr. Leigh himsel was so far from suspecting anything of the kind that he showed more affection for Medora than for any of the other children of the family. Ignorant of her shame, but alarmed perhaps at some of the manifestations of a "wayward nature" and "strauge, abnormal propensities," to which Mrs. Stowe refers, he took her to London, and placed her in a private lunatic asylum, where she remained about a month. There Trevanion found means to communicate with her

and arrange her escape:-"One day the lady to whose care I had been in-

trusted told me that if I liked to walk out of the house trusted told me that if I liked to walk out of the house nobody would stop me, and showed me how to remove the chains affixed to the door. I did not healtate in my choice between two evils, but at once put on my bonnet, fellowed her instructions, and found frevanion outside waiting to receive me. We left the street with all possible haste and secrecy, which we might have spared ourselves, as nobody attempted to follow us. We made our way to the continent, and for two years after tals time lived together as man and wife on the coast of Normandy, under the assumed name of Monsieur and Madame Anbin."

This elopement, Medora says, was connived at by her sister, who wanted to get rid of her hus-band (and no wonder), and did in fact apply for band (and no wonder), and did in fact apply for a divorce, but it was not granted. We pass over the life of the guilty pair in France. There the daughter Marie, whom we have already men-tioned, was born—the only solace of the wretched existence of this thrice unfortunate child of sin. She corresponded with her mother, who sent her what little money she could spare—but the Leighs were always in pecuniary embarrassment. Other relatives did something for her, and in 1838 she left her paramour-if that name could be applied to a man she never loved —and went to a neighboring town. At last, in 1840, she received an affectionate letter from Lady Byron, with offers of assistance and protection, and are invitation to go with her to Paris. She accepted the offers with joy. What followed she must tell in her own words:

"At Fontainebleau, where she was detained by filness, Lady Byron informed me of the cause of the deep interest she felt, and must ever feel, for me. Her husband had been my father. She implored and sought my affection by every means, and almost exacted my confidence to the most unlimited extent. exacted my confidence to the most unlimited extent. I was willing and anxious, in any and every way I could, to prove both my gratitude and the desire I so sincerely felt to repay by my affection and devotion any pain she might have felt for circumstances connected with my birth and her separation from Lord Byron. Her only wish, she said, was to provide for me, according to Lord Byron's latentions respecting me, and according to my rank in life. She evinced much anxiety for my health and comfort, expressed indignation for all I had suffered, spoke of the comfort I would be to her, and of the necessity that I should be a devoted child to her."

She went with Lady Byron to Eugland. She

She went with Lady Byron to Eugland. She was treated by her, and by Lord and Lady Lovelace, with the greatest kindness. I was taught, she says, to regard Ada as my sister. For a while it seems as it her life must have been smooth and happy. But disagreements followed with her protectress, in which, though Medora lays the blame upon Lady Byron's temper, it is not difficult to perceive from the Autobiography traces of the wild and ungovernable nature of which evidence enough has already been shown. which evidence enough has already been shown, and something perhaps of the suspiciousness which is so characteristic of insanity. There was a law-suit for the possession of a deed of appointment executed by Mrs. Leigh and Lady Byron, by which the sum of £5000 was to be paid Medora after the death of those ladies; and this suit apparently was the main cause of the trouble. At any rate it was arranged that Medora should go with her daughter to Hyeres, accompanied by a maid and valet (husbaud and wife), to whom Lady Byron intrusted the disbursement of the sums she allowed for her niece's maintenance.

Here the autobiography becomes obscure: in some places unintelligible: in some irrational; filled with details about money-dealings, complaints of the maid and valet whom the writer be-lieves to have been Lady Byron's spies, and angry allusions to Lady Byron, Mrs. Leigh, and Mrs. Trevanion. The editor informs us that this latter part of the manuscript is not in the handwriting of Miss Leigh, but was apparently dictated to an amanuous of very imperfect education. We learn rrom it, however, that she offended Lady Byron very deeply by removing to Paris, but her ladyship afterwards offered to settle upon her £300 a year on certain conditions, which were not accepted. The deed of appointment and a box of other important papers had been left in Lady Byron's hads. Medora Leigh sent the maid to get them, purposing to raise money by selling her reversionary in-terest in the deed. Lady Byron, however, refused to deliver them except to Medora in person. Here Captain de B—— appears upon the scene; Miss Leigh goes to London, and the

autobiography closes.

What finally became of the papers is not shown. When the French maid left the house, the bex disappeared, and it was supposed that the best stellar in the left that the left t she had stolen it-not for her mistress, with whom she had quarrelled; but to be used in extorting money from the Byron family. At any rate, we making a demand of some kind of Lady Byron, and threatening to publish the story of Medora Leigh to all the world. Yet in the negotiations be ween Mr. S— and Lady Byron's represen-tatives, to which we now return, the principal condition exacted of Miss Leigh was that she should surrender that deed to the custody of trustees, the money being intended not so much for her personal use as for the benefit of her child. It was also required that she should make a "written confession of her sincere contrition for her conduct to Lady Byron," and consent to return to her seclusion in France. On these terms Sir George Stephen writes that he is confident her friends will secure for her a comfortable and permanent home. 'I person-ally know," continues Sir George, "the motive as well as the extent of the kindness that she has shown to Miss Leigh, and there are very few, certainly not more than three, who know it as well. She has deserved all that is grateful as well. She has deserved all that is grateful and all that is respectful at Miss Leigh's hands; and, therefore, till her feelings are consulted and satisfied, so far as under the present unfortunate circumstances they can be, I will never approach her, or any of her family, as an intercessor for further assistance. To the second and third stipulations Miss Leigh made no objection; but she was obstinate about the deed, and so negotiations were broken off. Mean-while she had written to several of her relatives, most of whom took no notice of her She sent to her kinsman the Duke of Leeds, an abstract of her autobiography (it is given in the book), and received no answer She went to her mother's house, and was denied admission. She wrote to her, and the letter was not acknowledged. Thereafter the unfortunate woman seems to have passed out of the know-ledge of the mysterious Mr. 8— from whom we have all these particulars; but

if Mrs. Stowe's account is correct she must have made her peace with Lady Byron at last. Mr. S.— writes under date of September 24, 1860:—"I ascertained that the so-called secret was known to very many persons besides Dr. Lushington and Sir George Stephen, and I do not know how to reconcile this fact with the 'dignified and magnanimous silence' claimed as a merit for Lady Bryon; for it she did not impart the knowledge, who else can have done so?" This agrees with the statements of Mr. John Robertson, of Brighton, and the Rev. Francis Trench, whose letters some time ago in the London papers represent Lady Byron as distributing her confidences on this subject during the latter part of her life to a great num-

ber of her relatives and friends.

The Autobiography of Medora Leigh, judged entirely by itself, would probably impress most people as the production of a disordered brain: but it should be remembered that in none of the letters here printed, in which the affairs of the poor woman are discussed by Dr. Lushington, Sir George Stephen, and Mr. S.—, is there any hint that she was considered insane, or that any of her representations were false. If Mr. 8and Captain de B- had ignorantly espoused the cause of a crazy woman, it is inconceivable that the representatives of the Byron fam should not have informed them at once of the character of the client. It must be remembered, however, on the other hand, that while there can be no doubt (if these documents are genuine that Medora Leigh was the child of Byron' daughter, there is no proof that she was Byron's daughter, nor indeed any proof that she was not the legitimate offspring of Colonel Leigh. In the negotiations for her relief the question of her paternity does not seem to have been raised, although the story of Incest was known to Dr. Lushington, Sir George Stephen, and many others, and was probably the subject of conversation with Mr. S.

So far this strange, repulsive book, with its deul's own history of infamy, is a strong confirmation of Mrs. Stowe, but after all what does it prove? Only that Lady Byron told to many persons, at least as early as 1843, the same story which she told to Mrs. Stowe in 1856; that there

was an unfortunate wayward child of Mrs. Leigh's upon whom Lady Byron, believing her to be the fruit of her husbaud's incestuous passion, lavished a mother's care; probably that this child believed Lady Byron's story of her shameful birth. This leaves the problem as far as ever from a solution, and of course does not weaken in the least the tremendons force of Lady Byron's letters to her sister-in-law which Lady Byron's letters to her sister-in-law which Lady Byron's letters to her sister-in-law which were published in The Quarterly Review, or the fact mentioned in the postscript to the same periodical that when Lord Broughton (Hobhouse) acting for Byron, met Mr. (afterward Sir Robert) Wilmot Horton, Lady Byron's representative, with a view to an amicable settlement, and questioned him upon all the charges and rumors which had been uttered against the poet as a cause for the separation. against the poet as a cause for the separation.
Mr. Horton, in the name of the lady, expressly repudiated the specific charge which has now been revived by Mrs. Stowe. Dr. Mackay's theory is that so far as Mrs. Leigh is concerned the present accusation dates from Mrs. Tre-vanion's statement to Medora about 1831 that Colonel Leigh was not her father. He believes that it was the wicked invention of an out-raged wife who wanted to get rid of her husband, after she had once discovered his infidelity. If she obtained a divorce, Tre-vanion could not marry his wife's sister, and "it was necessary to make Medora believe that she was not really Georgiana's sister—or, at all events, not the child of Georgiana's father—in order that the unfortunate girl, even at the sacrifice of her mother's good name, might delude herself with the hope that if the diverce were obtained, there would remain no real obstacle to her marriage with her seducer." Lord Byron's name, it will be observed, was not coupled with the story at this time; Medora was only told that she was the illegitimate child of her mother. It was from Lady byron, in 1840, that she learned the name of her father. Dr. Mackay believes that Lady Byron learned it from Georgiana Trevanion, and that unnatural woman either invented it altogether for the shameful purpose we have mentioned or, possibly, got it from Mrs. Charlemont. To us this theory seems incredible. It supposes a more loathsome depravity in Mrs. Trevanion, then has ever been attributed to any frevanion than has ever been attributed to any of the actors in this shocking drama. It supposes that, for no adequate reason, she would blast the reputation of her mother, and condemn her sister to a life of shame. If she wanted a divorce, she had cause already, for adultery had been committed, and proving that Medora was her half-sister would not further her plans. It her half-sister would not further her plans. It is much more likely that she never made any such revelation. We have only Medora's word for it; and that is worth very little in such a case as this. She blames her mother and her sister for exposing her to the danger which proved her ruin. She even charges the sister with virtually enticing her to sin. Probably these charges are purely fictitious, designed to soften the horrors of her narrative and stand for her excuses. Dr. Mackay argues that Lady Byron cannot

have entertained the suspicion or belief which she communicated to Medora until some time later than this supposed revelation of 1831, be-cause her account of the separation published in Moore's Life in 1830 seems inconsistent with it. But in the first place that account is not really inconsistent with a belief in the charge of incest: it is only inconsistent with a willingness to have that belief suspected. And again, even if she did not know it in 1830, it is queer logic to conclude that she cannot have known it in 1831. There is another difficulty, however, which the editor has apparently overlooked. Mr.S.—says that Dr. Lushington and others in 1843 were in possession of the "secret" which Lady Byron confided to Mrs. Stowe as the cause of the separation. Are we to infer that the "secret" which he imparted to her adviser in 1816 was different from the secret which she imparted to him later? There are obvious difficulties in believing that t was the same; there are equally obvious difficulties in believing that it was different except on the supposition that she had become upon this one point of unsound mind—a supposition in which Dr. Mackay's book upon the whole

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