

A GUIDE TO THE
LADY BLESSINGTON

MANUSCRIPT MATERIAL

IN THE PFORZHEIMER COLLECTION:

BEING A COMPLETE AND ANNOTATED LIST
OF ALL THE HANDWRITTEN LETTERS, APHORISMS, POEMS,

&c. &c. &c.,

BY BLESSINGTON HERSELF,

HELD BY THAT REPOSITORY.

COMPILED BY

CHARLES CUYKENDALL CARTER,

Bibliographer of the Pforzheimer Collection.

*"As the tortoise turns its head
Towards its native ocean bed,
Howsoever far it be
From its own beloved sea,
Thus, proud Albion, evermore
Do we turn, to seek thy shore!"*
– Lady Blessington



The New York Public Library

THE CARL H. PFORZHEIMER COLLECTION
OF SHELLEY AND HIS CIRCLE

2008

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A Guide to the Lady Blessington Manuscript Material in the Pforzheimer Collection

Main entry:	Blessington, Marguerite, Countess of, 1789-1849.
Title:	Lady Blessington Manuscript Material
Size:	92 items
Date range:	1820—1849
Abstract:	Marguerite Gardiner, countess of Blessington, Irish-born writer and literary hostess. Active in London's literary circles of the first half of the nineteenth century, she is best remembered for her <i>Journal of Conversations with Lord Byron</i> .
Access:	Admission to the Pforzheimer Collection is granted through application to the Office of Special Collections.
Preferred citation:	The Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle – The New York Public Library – Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

Last updated: 14 Jul 2011 — C³.

Biographical sketch



Marguerite Gardiner, countess of Blessington, was born Margaret Power near Clonmel, County Tipperary, Ireland in 1789. At age fourteen, her parents forced her to marry Captain Maurice St Leger Farmer, an officer stationed at Clonmel. The marriage was unhappy, and Margaret returned to her parents after three months.

Margaret moved around Ireland, and eventually to England, developing a reputation for charm and wit. Her beauty became so well known that her portrait was painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence. She eventually met Charles John Gardiner, second Viscount Mountjoy and first earl of Blessington. They married in 1818 – the estranged Captain Farmer had died in debtor’s prison the year before – and when Margaret became the Countess of Blessington, she changed her given name to Marguerite. The couple settled in London, where they entertained some of the most influential British writers and artists of the time.

In 1823, while on an extended stay in Italy, Lady Blessington met Lord Byron and visited frequently with the famous poet over the course of two months. Nearly a decade later she would publish *Journal of Conversations with Lord Byron* – her most famous book, and a major 19th century source for later Byron biographers. Lady Blessington and her husband remained in Italy for over eight years, and were joined at some point by the amateur artist and dandy Count D’Orsay. D’Orsay married Harriet Gardiner, Lord Blessington’s only daughter by a former wife, in 1827. He soon separated from her, however, and upon Lord Blessington’s death in 1829, Count D’Orsay lived with Lady Blessington for the rest of her life.

When Lady Blessington returned to London, she turned to writing to supplement her income. She produced several novels in quick succession, including *The Repealers* (1833), *The Victims of Society* (1837), *The Governess* (1839), and *Strathern, or, Life at Home or Abroad*, which first appeared as a serial in the *Sunday Times*. Her two most popular works of nonfiction were travel accounts: *Idler in Italy* (1839–40) and *Idler in France* (1841). She also became editor of two successful literary magazines, *The Keepsake* and *The Book of Beauty*.

The home of Lady Blessington– first at Seamore Place, and later at Gore House, Kensington – again became a regular site for the fashionable literary and artistic society. Benjamin D’Israeli wrote *Venetia* (1837), a fictional treatment of Byron, Shelley and Caroline Lamb, while staying there. By 1849, however, financial difficulties had set in. Count D’Orsay fled to Paris to escape his creditors, and Lady Blessington’s Gore House furniture and decorations were sold at public auction.¹ Lady Blessington joined Count D’Orsay in Paris in June, where she died, aged fifty-nine, from an apoplectic seizure complicated by heart disease.

ABOVE: From an engraving by H. Wright Smith.

¹ See *Catalogue of the Costly & Elegant Effects of Gore House, the Property of the Right Honourable the Countess of Blessington*. [S.l.: s.n., 1849].

The Pforzheimer Collection

The Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle is one of the world's leading repositories for the study of British Romanticism. Comprised of over 20,000 items, the collection is conceptually centered on the life and works of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley and his friends, relatives, and contemporaries. Formerly a part of the much larger and now dispersed Pforzheimer Library, the Pforzheimer Collection came to The New York Public Library in 1986.

Holdings and provenance

This guide lists and describes the manuscript materials held by the Pforzheimer Collection that were created by Lady Blessington. These materials have been acquired throughout the history of the Collection. The first major acquisition of Lady Blessington manuscripts was in 1919, when the Collection acquired a six-album collection known as *The Blessington Papers*. Consisting chiefly of correspondence addressed to Lady Blessington, the volumes were purchased from the sale of the autograph collections of Alfred Morrison.² Included among the correspondence are letters from some of the most prominent figures of the day, including the poet Walter Savage Landor and British prime minister and author Benjamin Disraeli. Also included are a handful of letters and over thirty poems and prose pieces by Lady Blessington. The entirety of the correspondence in The Blessington Papers albums was published in 1895 in Alfred Morrison's catalogue series, but Blessington's literary manuscripts were neglected in that publication. Other Lady Blessington manuscript materials in the Pforzheimer Collection were purchased individually, item by item. They are sleeved in acid-free envelopes, or tipped into books or albums. Because the Pforzheimer Collection collects actively, its holdings in Lady Blessington manuscript material may grow in the future as items become available for purchase.

² Alfred Morrison (1821–1897), autograph and art collector. See item number 2740 in the Sotheby catalogues for the Alfred Morrison autograph collection sale.

Related materials

In addition to manuscript material created by Lady Blessington, the Pforzheimer Collection holds considerable manuscript correspondence addressed to Lady Blessington, most of which among the six-album collection of Blessington Papers. Also held are about twenty printed monographs by Lady Blessington, over a decade's run of *The Keepsake* and several issues of *The Book of Beauty*, and several engraved portraits of Lady Blessington from unidentified 19th century sources.

Additional Lady Blessington manuscript material at the New York Public Library can be found in the Manuscripts and Archives Division, and in The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature.

Scope and content

The manuscript material by Lady Blessington in the Pforzheimer Collection consists of writings and correspondence. The writings include poems in English and French, notebooks filled with Lady Blessington's aphorisms, and essay and story pieces. The bulk of the correspondence is from 1835-1840, and discusses her work on the literary magazines, publishing, and friend and family matters. Correspondents include: William Beattie, physician and poet; William Jerdan, journalist; Richard Robert Madden, her biographer; Anne Jackson Mathews, wife of comedian Charles Mathews; and over two dozen others.

Arrangement

This guide considers the manuscript material in two series: Series I, Writings; and Series II, Correspondence.

Series descriptions

Series I : Writings. Listed chronologically by date of creation.

Series II: Correspondence. Listed alphabetically and chronologically, by recipient.

Series I: Writings

- Holograph poem, "To Mrs. S. C. Hall" : 3 Feb 1836 : (MISC 1810) : 1 p; in ink; twelve lines celebrating Anna Maria Hall [née Fielding]; begins, "What shall I write thee? Shall I say / What thou must hear, or read, each day?" On the verso is an epigraph and dedication fragment in another hand, dated "June 28th 1839."
- Holograph poem, "Lines on Solitude" : 20 Nov 1846 : (MISC 1877) : from Gore House : 1 p; in ink; begins, "O! Solitude thou Muse of Heav'n born thought..."
- Holograph story, "Remorse, a Fragment" : [ca. 1830] : (S'ANA 1074j) : 12 p. (6 leaves) : epigraph, "No weapon can such deadly wounds impart / As conscience roused, inflicts upon the heart." Story begins, "Postilion, cried a feeble but sweet voice ..." Within the manuscript album of *Original Manuscripts of the Contents of The Keepsake, 1831*. Shelved as *Pforz BT (Shelley, M. 02).
- Holograph document, "Pedigree of the Sheehy Family" : [between 1836 and 1849] : (BLES 1.008a) : 4 p.; begins, "This ancient family possessed a large Estate on the banks of the River Deel in the County of Limerick ..." Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.
- Holograph poem, "The Serenade" : [ca. 1836?] : (BLES 1.013) : 2 p.; in ink, with many pencil annotations; begins, "~~Hush hush~~ Hark Hark – ~~He sings~~ beneath – that voice I know / How melting sweet its murmurs flow!" Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.
- Holograph poem, "The Bull Fight" : [no date] : (BLES 1.014) : 2 p.; in ink, with many pencil annotations; begins, "There's not a maid in all Castile / But might be might be proud at such a fête ..." Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.
- Holograph poem, "The Siesta" : [no date] : (BLES 1.015) : 2 p.; in ink, with pencil annotations; begins, "In Iberia's Sunny land / 'Neath the sultry noon-tide day..." Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.
- Holograph poem, "The Confession" : [no date] : (BLES 1.016) : 1 p.; in ink, with pencil annotations; begins, "Father I love – even now this tortured heart / Throbs with a passion far mightier than life ..." Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.
- Holograph poem, "The Parting" : [no date] : (BLES 1.017) : 1 p.; in ink; begins, "Why tremble dearest? All are blessed in sleep / None see us save the stars, the eyes of

Heaven ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph poem, “The Prado” : [no date] : (BLES 1.018a) : 2 p., in ink, with pencil annotations; begins, “Hast thou seen him, said he aught / Of me? Is he jealous still?” On the same four-page letter sheet as “The Dejected.” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph poem, “The Dejected” : [no date] : (BLES 1.018b) : 1 p., in ink, with pencil annotations; begins, “He used to praise these tresses, and methinks / They have lost ~~naught~~ nothing of their ~~rich~~ ebon hue ...” On the same four-page letter sheet as “The Prado.” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph poem, “The Masquerade” : [no date] : (BLES 1.019a) : 2 p.; in ink, with pencil annotations; begins, “He follows – yes ‘tis ~~him~~ he – quick let’s away / Where others cannot hear what he ~~may~~ shall say ...” On the same four-page letter sheet as “The Guitar.” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph poem, “The Guitar” : [no date] : (BLES 1.019b) : 2 p.; in ink, with pencil annotations; begins, “Sing me that air he used to love so well / Bust ~~sing~~ it softly, let its tone some stealing ...” On the same four-page letter sheet as “The Masquerade.” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph poem, “The Signal” : [no date] : (BLES 1.020a) : 1 p.; in ink, with pencil annotations; begins, “What have I caught thee, artful Girl / O! shame a signal to unfurl ...” On the same four-page letter sheet as “A Spanish ballad.” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph poem, “A Spanish ballad” : [no date] : (BLES 1.020b) : 1 p; in ink, with pencil annotations; begins, “~~And~~ When the knight to battle went / Saving her he loved so well ...” On the same four-page letter sheet as “The Signal.” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph notebook, “Aphorisms. Lady Blessington. Autographs” : [no date] : (BLES 1.021) : 10 leaves within marbled paper covers; 16 manuscript pages in pencil, with notes and calculations (including “Amounts of bills”) on the interior covers; in English and French; including the poem, “Friends,” which begins, “We have no friends save those who sleep in death ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph notebook, “Aphorisms. Lady Blessington. Autographs” : [no date] : (BLES 1.022) : 9 leaves within marbled paper covers; 17 manuscript pages in pencil and ink; with

calculations on the rear interior cover; including poem fragments, and a prose entry on “Mexican Reptiles,” beginning, “The Vinagrillo resembles a large cricket, and its presence is quickly discovered by a strong smell of vinegar ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph notebook, “Several Pieces of Verse By Lady Blessington. 1. Confessions of a Beauty 2. The Bride and the expected King. Aphorisms. Autographs” : [no date] : (BLES 1.023) : 18 leaves within marbled paper covers; 35 manuscript pages in pencil and ink, some entries initialed “M B”; with notes and calculations on the interior covers; in French and English. Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph poem signed, “On the Death of L. E. L.” : [ca. 1838] : (BLES 1.024a) : 2 p.; in ink; begins, “O! Thou with brilliant mind and generous heart / Who late from Britains shore we saw depart ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph poem signed, “Lines on O’Connell” : [no date] : (BLES 1.024b) : 1 p.; in ink; begins, “O Blarney is olde Ireland’s Pride / Not tongue like his can speak his ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph poem, “The Idol of each Courtly scene” : [no date] : (BLES 1.025) : 1 p.; in ink; begins, “The Idol of each Courtly scene / Yet artless as thou near [hath?] been ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph poem, “To his ungrateful Country” : [no date] : (BLES 1.026) : 1 p.; in ink; begins, “—Say, why points / The mother to a Roman galley scene ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph poem, “Ye bright Creations of a Master’s Mind” : [no date] : (BLES 1.027) : 1 p.; in ink; begins, “Ye bright Creations of a Master’s Mind / Such as to Mortals rarely has been given ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph essay (fragment), “Fiction” : [no date] : (BLES 1.028) : 4 p.; in ink; begins, “Imagination which is the Eldorado of the poet, and the mine of the novel writer often proves the most pernicious gift ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph poem, “There’s a spark upon thy fair hair” : [no date] : (BLES 1.029) : 1 p.; in ink; heavily marked up and revised in the poet’s hand; begins, “There’s a spark upon thy fair hair / Though a coronet thou don’t wear ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph poem, “And wilt thou go with me e’en to the trial?” : [no date] : (BLES 1.030) : 4 p.; in ink and pencil, with many corrections; begins, “And wilt thou go with me e’en to the trial? / Bethink thee Dearest of the churlish looks ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph poem, “Behold the sea when Tempests cease” : [no date] : (BLES 1.031a) : 1 p.; in ink, begins, “Behold the sea when Tempests cease / How smooth its glassy surface shows ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph poem, “Our Tully resembles great Tully of Old” : [no date] : (BLES 1.031b) : 1 p.; in ink; begins, “Our Tully resembles great Tully of Old / When his Wife he resigns to his friend...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph poem, “Think not tho’ you see me smile” : [no date] : (BLES 1.032) : 1 p.; in ink; begins, “Think not tho’ you see me smile / That this heart hath known no care ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph poem, “Oh! Marvel not that sadness shrouds my brow” : [no date] : (BLES 1.033) : 2 p.; in ink; begins, “Oh! Marvel not that sadness shrouds my brow / For could you see my heart you’d find that there / Hope buried lies ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph poem, “And years, long weary years have rotted away” : [no date] : (BLES 1.034) : 2 p. [on four-page letter sheet]; in pencil; begins, “And years, long weary years have rotted away / Since youth with all its sunny smiles has fled ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph poem, “Ye happy Children of an Ancient Race” : [no date] : (BLES 1.035) : 1 p.; in ink and pencil; begins, “Ye happy Children of an Ancient Race / Rich in each charm of youth; each artless grace ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph biographical notice of Captain Charles Hesse : [no date] : (BLES 1.036) : 9 p.; in pencil; begins with an epigraph from William Cowper (“There is in souls a sympathy with sounds ...”); notice begins with an ink description, perhaps in another hand, “Biographical notice of Capt. Hesse, of notoriety on account of his amatory correspondence with Princess Charlotte.” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph poem, “O! dear, how very queer I feel” : [no date] : (BLES 1.037) : 2 p.; in pencil; begins, “O! dear, how very queer I feel / And now my head does ache ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph poem, “How coldly glanced her eyes” : [no date] : (BLES 1.038) : 2 p.; in pencil; begins, “How coldly glanced her eyes oer the fair gents ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph aphorisms : [no date] : (BLES 1.039) : 4 p.; in ink and pencil; each piece initialed “M B”; including the aphorism, “A true lover sees with his heart, a pretended one with his eyes”; along with some aphorisms in French, in Blessington’s hand, some credited to “Marianna.” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph aphorisms and poems : [no date] : (BLES 1.040) : 4 p.; in pencil; along with some pieces some copied from French writers; each piece by Blessington initialed “M B”; including the aphorism, “The conversational talent of a superior man can only be elicited into brilliancy by contact with similar minds to his own, as diamonds can only be shaped by the friction of other diamonds.” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph aphorisms : [no date] : (BLES 1.041) : 4 p.; in pencil; including aphorisms on “Listeners and Talkers,” “Marriage,” “Modesty” “Bigots,” and “Adversity.” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph aphorisms : [no date] : (BLES 1.042) : 4 p.; in pencil; including aphorisms on “Bon Vivants,” “Pedants and Plagiarists,” “Friends,” and “Self-Knowledge.” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph aphorisms : [no date] : (BLES 1.043) : 2 p.; in pencil; including aphorisms on “l’Esprit,” “Critics,” “Merit,” and “Fashion.” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph poem, “Pardon O Lord if this too sinful heart” : [watermark = 1824] : (BLES 1.044) : 2 p.; in pencil; begins, “Pardon O Lord if this too sinful heart ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph “Fragment of a Neopolitan Story” : [watermark = 1832] : (BLES 1.045) : 4 p.; in ink; begins, “...her elastic step, and graceful carriage, giving a dignity to the humble reception ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- Holograph introductory notice to *The Magic Lantern*, second edition : [no date] : (BLES 1.046) : 4 p.; in ink; first page partially crosswritten; begins, “A second eition of the Bagatelle being called for, it again appears before the public ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· Holograph poem, "A more deliberate reply to the impromptu" : [1839] : (BLES 6.472) : 1
p. : in ink; begins, "No! not the chains which erst he broke / Does Blessington impose ...";
addressed on p. 4 of the folded lettersheet to "James Smith, Esq. / Craven Street."

Series II: Correspondence

· To **Maria Abdy**, poet :

- 1 autograph letter third person : 19 Apr 1840 : (MISC 2118) : from Gore House : on printed stationery with embossed, gilt and colored seal in upper left corner reading “Sunday”; informing her that “it was only this day that the contributions addressed to the Editor of the Book of Beauty ... reached Lady B. ...”

· To **William Beattie**, physician and poet :

- 1 autograph letter signed : 11 Jan 1835 : (MISC 1780) : from Gore House : introducing Thomas Miller; begins, “The Bearer is Mr. Miller, the Poet, (and Basket Maker)” ...”
- 1 autograph letter signed : “Monday Morning” [ca. 1848] : (MISC 1779) : from Gore House : on her difficulties in bringing out the next volume of *The Keepsake*, and requesting a contribution; begins, “Your kind letter of Saturday fond me in the hour of need ...”
- 1 autograph letter signed : 7 Mar 1849 : (MISC 1973) : from Gore House : begins, “I was much annoyed to have been absent from home when you called yesterday ...”

· To **Lady Charlotte Bury**, novelist :

- 1 autograph letter third person : 16 Aug [ca. 1831-1835] : (MISC 2094) : from Leamore Place, May Fair : in reply to Bury’s recommendation of a Mr. Wm. Perry for “Upper Servant” in Blessington’s household.

· To **Robert Calder Campbell**, army officer in the East India Company and writer :

- 1 autograph letter third person : 15 Mar [no year; early 1840’s?] : (MISC 3589) : from Gore House : on mourning stationery; declining for publication some poetry he has submitted “as its length [*sic*] precludes its in either of her Annuals ...”

· To **John Wilson Croker** [?], politician and writer :

- 1 autograph letter signed : 24 Jun 1820 : (MISC 2226) : from St. James's Square : lettersheet stamped with embossed "BATH" seal; begins, "I am extremely anxious to send a few things to my Brother³ at St. Helena ..."
- To **Louisa Fairlie**, née Purves, her niece :
 - 1 autograph letter signed : 30 Nov [no year] : (MISC 1969) : from Gore House : begins, "I quite enjoy the penny postage as the facility it affords encourages so idle a correspondent as yourself to write more frequently." Tipped in to the Pforzheimer copy of *Catalogue of the Costly & Elegant Effects of Gore House* (1849). Shelved as *Pforz BT (Blessington, M.) o1.
- To a **Mr. Federman** [?] :
 - 1 letter third person : 30 Jun 1840 : (MISC 1804) : from Gore House : in the hand of an amanuensis, possibly her sister, Mary Anne Power; regretting to inform him that "the Persian translation" was "too late for insertion in *The Book of Beauty* ..."; with the envelope.
- To **James Fraser**, publisher :
 - 1 autograph letter third person : "Wednesday Evening" [ca. March 1833] : (MISC 1827) : [no place] : thanking him "for the number of the Magazine⁴ she has just received. The notice is as flattering as the Portrait ..."
- To **Sir Francis Freeling** [?], postal administrator and book collector :
 - 1 autograph letter signed : 4 Feb 1835 : (MISC 3747) : from Leamore Place : addressed to "My dear Sir Francis"; asking a favor on behalf of Nathaniel Parker Willis; begins, "A young American Poet of great genius, and admirable mind, who has been here for some months, has applied to me to ask a favor from you." Along with the letter cover, in another hand, addressed to N. P. Willis, care of Mr. Miller, bookseller; with many additional annotations.
 - 1 autograph letter signed : 4 Feb 1835 : (MISC 3747) : from Leamore Place : addressed to "My dear Sir Francis"; asking a favor on behalf of Nathaniel Parker Willis; begins, "A young American Poet of great genius, and admirable mind, who has been here for some months, has applied to me to ask a favor from you." Along with the letter cover, in another hand, addressed to N. P. Willis, care of Mr. Miller, bookseller; with many additional annotations.

³ Blessington's brother's wife was expecting a child in October.

⁴ *Fraser's Magazine for Town and Country*, vol. VII, no. 39, of March 1833, which contained no. XXXIV in a "Gallery of Literary Characters."

- 1 autograph letter signed : “Wednesday Night” [ca. 1838] : (MISC 1776) : [no place] : on distribution and publicity for *Confessions of an Elderly Lady*; begins, “I yesterday left five Poems with Mr. Mayer to save time ...”
- To **John Abraham Heraud**, writer :
 - 1 autograph letter third person : 23 May [1845?] : (MISC 2242) : from Gore House; lettersheet stamped with embossed seal reading, “STOCKEN | 53 REGENT STREET”; thanking him “for the volume he has been kind enough to send her”, likely his *Salvator, the Poor Man of Naples* (1845).
- To **Charles Hervey**, writer :
 - 1 autograph letter signed : 9 Jun 1845 : (MISC 2233) : from Gore House : offering to find a bookseller who will give him a good price for his writings; begins, “I think so highly of your talents ...”
- To **Anne Roper Williams Howard**, widow of novelist Edward Howard⁵ :
 - 1 autograph letter signed : 13 Apr 1842 : (MISC 1805) : upon the death of Mr. Howard; begins, “Although I have hitherto refrained from offering you the expression of my sincere sympathy in your affliction, be assured that I have taken a [lively?] part in it.”
- To **William Jerdan**, journalist :
 - 1 autograph letter signed : 20 Oct 1835 : (MISC 1547) : begins, “It is quite true, that Lord Wm. Lennox is to appear in “The Book of Beauty.”
 - 1 autograph letter signed : 28 Nov 1837 : (MISC 1777) : from Gore House : on meeting a Mr. Lilly on Jerdan’s request and allowing him to copy a portrait for Jerdan; begins, “I reply to your note of yesterday, which reached me today ...”
- To “the Proprietors of the *Lady’s Newspaper*” :
 - 1 autograph letter third person : 1 Jul 1848 : (MISC 1976) : from Gore House : on proofs which were corrected by her but not by the printer; perhaps regarding her *Country Quarters*.
- To **Richard Robert Madden**, author and colonial administrator :
 - 1 autograph letter signed : 6 Mar 1828 : (BLES 1.008b) : from Rome : begins, “I

⁵ Mrs. Howard later married the writer Octavian Blewitt.

shall have great pleasure in forwarding your views, & I think it may be in my power on my return to England to recommend you to some person about travel." Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

- 1 autograph letter signed : 7 Oct [between 1830 and 1835] : (BLES 1.009a) : from Seamore Place : begins, "I inclose you a letter of introduction to Lord Morpeth⁶, which I trust may be of use." Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.
- 1 autograph letter signed : 12 Mar 1834 : (BLES 1.010) : from Seamore Place : begins, "I was truly sorry to find that Jamaica has not answered your expectations, and only wish I could have procured you a situation in a less objectionable climate." Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.
- 1 autograph letter signed : 10 Jul 1835 : (MISC 3590) : from Seamore Place : begins, "A multiplicity of tiresome occupations prevented my reading your very amusing, and clever book ..."
- 1 autograph letter signed : 21 Jul 1835 : (BLES 1.009b) : [no place] : begins, "I hope you are disengaged for Monday the next 27th ..." Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.
- 1 autograph letter signed : 27 Dec 1839 : (BLES 1.011a) : from Gore House : begins, "I was very sorry not to have been home when you called ..." Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.
- 1 autograph letter signed : 19 Dec 1840 : (BLES 1.011b) : from Gore House : including, "It would give me a melancholy satisfaction to learn every particular you can find out relative to poor L.E.L.⁷ ...I should like exceedingly to have a plain, simple marble slab placed on her grave ..."; begins, "I regret exceedingly not to have seen you and Mrs. Madden before your departure." Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.
- 1 autograph letter signed : 28 Dec 1842 : (BLES 1.012a) : from Gore House : begins, "Indisposition has prevented me from sooner answering your letter." Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

⁶ George William Frederick, Viscount Morpeth, afterwards 7th Earl of Carlisle, 1802-1864, a statesman and diplomat.

⁷ Letitia Elizabeth Landon, the poet.

- 1 autograph letter signed : 19 Oct 1843 : (BLES 1.012c) : from Gore House : begins, “Those who imagine that you will descend one step in life by accepting the occupation you are about to fill in Portugal, entertain a very different opinion from me.” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.
- 1 autograph letter signed : [no date] : (BLES 1.007) : from Gore House : enclosing the Sheehy family pedigree [see (BLES 1.008a)] : begins, “I have read with great interest the books &c. which you confided to me ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.
- To **Captain Frederick Marryat**, novelist :
 - 1 autograph letter signed : 19 Jul 1843 : (BLES 1.012b) : from Gore House : begins, “I have seldom been more annoyed than on receiving the inclosed half an hour ago. I had thought that, with the omission of the objectionable word, the story, which is full of racy humor, would have been a real treasure for the book, but the ridiculous prudery of a pack of fools compels me to abandon it ...” Mounted in v. 1 of the Blessington Papers. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.
- To **Anne Jackson Mathews**, wife of comedian Charles Mathews :
 - 1 autograph letter signed : 6 Jul 1825 : (MISC 1989) : from Villa Gallo : first page crosswritten; begins, “It is true, my dearest Mrs. Mathews, that I wish to hear from you more frequently ...”
 - 1 autograph letter signed : [no date; ca. 29 Sep 1835?] : (MISC 1773) : [no place] : begins, “You could hardly have felt more pleasure at dear Charles’s success⁸ than I did and do ...”
 - 1 autograph letter signed (draft fragment) : [no date] : (MISC 3494) : [no place] : asking Mrs. Mathews to write “coeur ouvert” on some serious subject⁹, promising that the reply will be burned, cautioning “I have been so often deceived that I am become doubtful ...”; begins, “...advise also, as my health is so indifferent. She has grown more kind, and invites me to [] pray write and tell me if this seeming affection be real ...”
- To **Elizabeth Reed Pettigrew**, wife of Thomas Joseph Pettigrew, surgeon :
 - 1 autograph letter signed : 8 Feb 1837 : (MISC 1775) : from Gore House :

⁸ Likely referring to Charles Mathews’s debut of *Mandrin* at the Adelphi on 28 Sep 1835.

⁹ Perhaps relating to Blessington’s niece, Louisa.

thanking the Pettigrews for their “gift from India” and promising to pass Mr. Pettigrew’s “Lectures” to all her friends; begins, “I have been intending to write to you ...”

· To **John Philippart**, military writer :

- 1 autograph letter third person : 12 Jul 1841 : (MISC 1822) : from Gore House : thanking him “for the kind notice of ‘The Idler in France.’”

· To a **Monsieur Rio** [?] :

- 1 autograph letter signed : 13 Jun 1838 : (MISC 2095) : from Gore House : mentioning Count D’Orsay’s introduction on behalf of her correspondent to the Marquis of Hastings; begins, “I have this evening heard from the Duke of Wellington who will receive you any day you will call on him ...”

· To **Lord Stuart de Rothesay**, diplomat :

- 1 autograph letter signed : 4 Jul 1836 : (MISC 1506) : from Gore House : begins, “Mr. [William] Jerdan the Editor of the Literary Gazette , a clever, and excellent man, is anxious to have to honor of a few minutes conversation with you ...”

· To **Peter Campbell Scarlett**, diplomat :

- 1 autograph letter signed : 4 Mar 1837 : (MISC 3949) : from Gore House : praising his book¹⁰ and assuring him it will be a success. The letter likely refers to his *South America and the Pacific*. Mounted in the Agatha Hogsbottom autograph album. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· To **J. B. Torr**, editor of *The Court Gazette* :

- 1 autograph letter third person : 11 Nov 1839 : (MISC 1801) : from Gore House : thanking him “for the paper so obligingly sent, and the notice it contained ...”; also asking for a subscription.

· To **Mrs. Ward** :

- 1 autograph letter signed : [no date; watermark = 1840] : (MISC 1941) : from Gore House : begins, “Believe me I most sincerely lament & feel for yr. sad disappointment; Heaven grant that yr. brother may yet be spared to you & his family ...”

¹⁰ Likely referring to his *South America and the Pacific* (1838).

- To Richard Westmacott, Jun., sculptor :
 - 1 autograph letter signed : [no date; ca. 1840?] : (MISC 3463) : [no place] : begins, “I have a thousand apologies, and not one good excuse to make for not having kept my promise of returning your book ...”
- To a Mr. Wood :
 - 1 autograph letter third person : 20 June 1839 : (MISC 1508) : from Gore House : thanking him for sending a book, and offering “good wishes for the success of his praiseworthy object in coming to England...”
- To unidentified recipients :
 - 1 autograph letter signed, to “Dear Sir” : 14 Aug 1835 : (MISC 3390) : [no place] : begins, “I sent you the M.SS. for the ‘Book of Beauty’ with the order in which I wish them to be printed ...”
 - 1 autograph letter signed, to “Dear Sir” : 27 Mar 1837 : (MISC 1774) : from Gore House, Kensington : asking for help in securing Lord Carrington’s vote in favor of L.E.L.’s brother, Whittington Henry Landon, for the Secretaryship of the Royal Literary Fund¹¹; begins, “I have many apologies to make for troubling you ...”
 - 1 autograph letter signed, to “Dear Sir” : 1 Nov 1837 : (MISC 1501) : from Gore House : thanking him for the flattering notice of her *Gems of Beauty* in *The Court Journal*¹²; also recommending Louisa Fairlie’s *Children of the Nobility* to his attention.
 - 1 autograph letter signed, to “Dear Sir” : 8 Dec 1837 : (MISC 1778) : from Gore House : begins, “I beg to offer you my best thanks, for the interesting vol you have sent me ...”; also asking him to send her a sonnet for publication in an annual.
 - 1 autograph letter signed, to “Dear Sir” : 30 Mar 1843 : (MISC 1803) : from Cheverley Park Newmarket : mentioning the dangerous illness of Louisa Fairlie; begins, “I regret exceedingly that my absence from London will deprive me of the gratification of seeing your Pictures ...”
 - 1 autograph letter signed, to “My dear Sir” : 8 Jul 1844 : (MISC 1802) : from

¹¹ The election took place on 3 May, and Blessington’s efforts were rewarded.

¹² The editor of the *Journal* in 1837 was Laman Blanchard, but Blessington’s reference to her correspondent’s lumbago implies that he was older than Blanchard.

Gore House : begins, "Many thanks for your story, which is excellent. I was sorry to hear that you had sustained a loss ..."

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 (BLES 1.009b) ALS to R. R. Madden, 21 Jul 1835
 (BLES 1.010) ALS to R. R. Madden, 12 Mar 1834
 (BLES 1.011a) ALS to R. R. Madden, 27 Dec 1839
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