

THE VAMPYRE

JOHN WILLIAM POLIDORI



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Table of contents

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GENEVA.

INTRODUCTION.

THE VAMPYRE.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER, CONTAINING AN
ACCOUNT OF LORD BYRON'S RESIDENCE IN THE
ISLAND OF MITYLENE.

COLOPHON

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GENEVA.



"I breathe freely in the neighbourhood of this lake; the ground upon which I tread has been subdued from the earliest ages; the principal objects which immediately strike my eye, bring to my recollection scenes, in which man acted the hero and was the chief object of interest. Not to look back to earlier times of battles and sieges, here is the bust of Rousseau—here is a house with an inscription denoting that the Genevan philosopher first drew breath under its roof. A little out of the town is Ferney, the residence of Voltaire; where that wonderful, though certainly in many respects contemptible, character, received, like the hermits of old, the visits of pilgrims, not only from his own nation, but from the farthest boundaries of Europe. Here too is Bonnet's abode, and, a few steps beyond, the house of that astonishing woman Madame de Stael: perhaps the first of her sex, who has really proved its often claimed equality with, the nobler man. We have before had women who