

FRANCESCA DA RIMINI, A TRAGEDY

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Francesca da Rimini, a tragedy by Silvio Pellico & Joel Foote Bingham

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SILVIO PELLICO & JOEL FOOTE BINGHAM

**FRANCESCA DA
RIMINI, A TRAGEDY**



SILVIO PELLICO.

PORTRAIT FROM WHICH IS COPIED THE STATUE IN THE PIAZZA AND THE BAS-RELIEF
ON THE MONUMENT IN THE CAMPO SANTO AT SALIZZO.

[ITALIAN GEMS. I]

FRANCESCA DA RIMINI

A Tragedy

OF SILVIO PELLICO

With Portrait and Illustrations

TRANSLATED IN ENGLISH VERSE WITH CRITICAL PREFACE AND
HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

BY

THE REV. JOEL FOOTE BINGHAM, D.D., L.H.D.

FIFTH EDITION

. . . "FRANCESCA, *your sad fate*
Even to tears my grief and pity moves"—DANTE

HENRY FROWDE
LONDON, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW
NEW YORK AND TORONTO

1905



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1905

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TO
My Young Auditors
OF
THE LECTURE-ROOM
I
DEDICATE
THIS LITTLE GLIMPSE
THROUGH AN ENGLISH ATMOSPHERE
UPON
THE GENIUS AND SENTIMENT OF ITALY
J. F. B.

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PREFACE

IN that little curious old provincial capital, *Saluzzo*, some thirty miles southeast of Turin, stands a monument to the memory of her most illustrious son—a name now as familiar as that of DANTE throughout the civilized world—SILVIO PELLICO.

Here he and a twin-sister of extraordinary beauty were born on the 21st of June, 1789. The mother was a *Tournier* (name famous in the manufacture of silk) of Chambéry, the ancient capital of Savoy, then as now, after several alternations, a province of France, and always an important intellectual center, as well as a leader in silk manufactures. *Mademoiselle Tournier* had relations also in the silk trade in Lyons. So prized or so important was the name regarded, that she retained it after her marriage, and is always spoken of as *La Signora Pellico-Tournier*.

PREFACE

The father and mother of SILVIO were cultivated and religious people. The father was also a poet of some fame, and formerly held an important civil office in the government. During the political overturnings of the stormy times which ushered in this century in Europe, he lost his civil function and engaged in the manufacture of silk.

The children, of whom there were six, three boys and three girls, alternating with each other in the order of their birth, were educated with the aid of tutors at home—which home was changed, first to Turin, and finally to Milan, where the father had been restored to a place in the civil government.

This education of the children under the devoted care of these excellent people, in an atmosphere of religion, learning, and the purest domestic love, told with beautiful effect on both the mind and heart of SILVIO and left a distinct impress on his whole life and work.

His adored twin-sister he always speaks of as