

**LETTERS FROM GEORGE  
ELIOT TO ELMA  
STUART: 1872-1880**

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Letters from George Eliot to Elma Stuart: 1872-1880 by George Eliot & Roland Stuart

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**GEORGE ELIOT & ROLAND STUART**

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ELIOT TO ELMA  
STUART: 1872-1880**





Eliza Stuart.

1780-1840  
1780-1840  
1780-1840

LETTERS  
FROM  
GEORGE ELIOT  
TO  
ELMA STUART

1872-1880

EDITED BY  
ROLAND STUART



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SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT, & CO., LTD.

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To  
Mother

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## INTRODUCTION

ELMA STUART was the youngest daughter of William James Fraser of Ladhope by his wife May Anne Cumming of Logie, and was born about 1837.

I have often heard my mother say it was the misfortune of their lives that their father died while she and her brother and sisters were still quite young: from all accounts he was a man of fine character, devoted to his children, and absorbed in their welfare. Soon after her husband's death his widow married again, and the children were allowed to grow up much as they pleased. My mother, who was of an affectionate and loving disposition, was not understood by her parents, and her childhood was far from being a happy one.

## viii GEORGE ELIOT LETTERS

In the year 1860 my mother married an officer in the Black Watch, and my father dying shortly after, she was left with a small pittance on which to live and educate her son. Hitherto my mother had had but little happiness in her life, and it will therefore be the more readily understood, when, in later years she met with the tender love and deep understanding sympathy which she found in George Eliot and her writings, how the long pent-up stream of her affection overflowed its banks, carrying all before it to the feet of her "Spiritual Mother."

It was about 1870 that my mother, who then lived in Brittany, fell in with the writings of George Eliot, which made such a deep impression upon her that she determined to make something with her own hands to present to George Eliot as a token of gratitude for the solace and comfort her writings had been to her.

The terrible struggle between France and Prussia was just at its height, and some of the wood-carvers from Paris came to our out-of-the-way corner of Brittany, seeking a