

MICHAEL FIELD

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Michael Field by Mary Sturgeon

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MARY STURGEON

MICHAEL FIELD

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FIELD ❧ ❧

BY MARY STURGEON

AUTHOR OF "STUDIES OF CONTEMPORARY
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PREFACE

SOME years ago the writer of this book discovered to herself the work of Michael Field, with fresh delight at every step of her adventure through the lyrics, the tragedies, and later devotional poems. But she was amazed to find that no one seemed to have heard about this large body of fine poetry; and she longed to spread the news, even before the further knowledge was gained that the life of Michael Field had itself been epical in romance and heroism. Then the theme was irresistible.

But although it has been a joy to try to retrieve something of this life and work from the limbo into which it appeared to be slipping, the matter may wear anything but a joyful aspect to all the long-suffering ones who were ruthlessly laid under tribute. The author remembers guiltily the many friends of the poets whom she has harried, and kindly library staffs (in particular at the Bodleian) who gave generous and patient help. To each one she offers sincere gratitude; and though it is impossible to name them all, she desires especially to record her debt to Mr Sturge Moore and Miss Fortey; Father Vincent McNabb, Mrs Berenson, and Mr Charles Ricketts; Dr Grenfell, Sir Herbert Warren, and Mr and Mrs Algernon

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Warren; Miss S. J. Tanner, Mr Havelock Ellis and Miss Louie Ellis; the Misses Sturge; Professor F. Brooks and the Rev. C. L. Bradley; Professor and Mrs William Rothenstein; Mr Gordon Bottomley and Mr Arthur Symons—who will all understand her regret that this book is so unworthy a tribute to their friend and that the scheme of it, designed primarily to introduce the poetry of Michael Field, rendered impossible a fuller use of the material for a Life which they supplied.

To the courtesy of Mr Sydney C. Cockerell, the Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, the author owes the copy of Edith Cooper's portrait. This portrait is a miniature set in a jewelled pendant (both drawing and setting the work of Mr Charles Ricketts) which was bequeathed to the Fitzwilliam Museum on the death of Katharine Bradley.

Warm thanks are also tendered to the publishers who have kindly given permission to use extracts from the poets' works, including Messrs G. Bell and Sons, the Vale Press, the Poetry Bookshop (for *Borgia*, *Queen Mariamne*, *Deirdre*, and *In the Name of Time*); to Mr T. Fisher Unwin, Messrs Sands and Company, and Mr Eveleigh Nash; and to

P R E F A C E

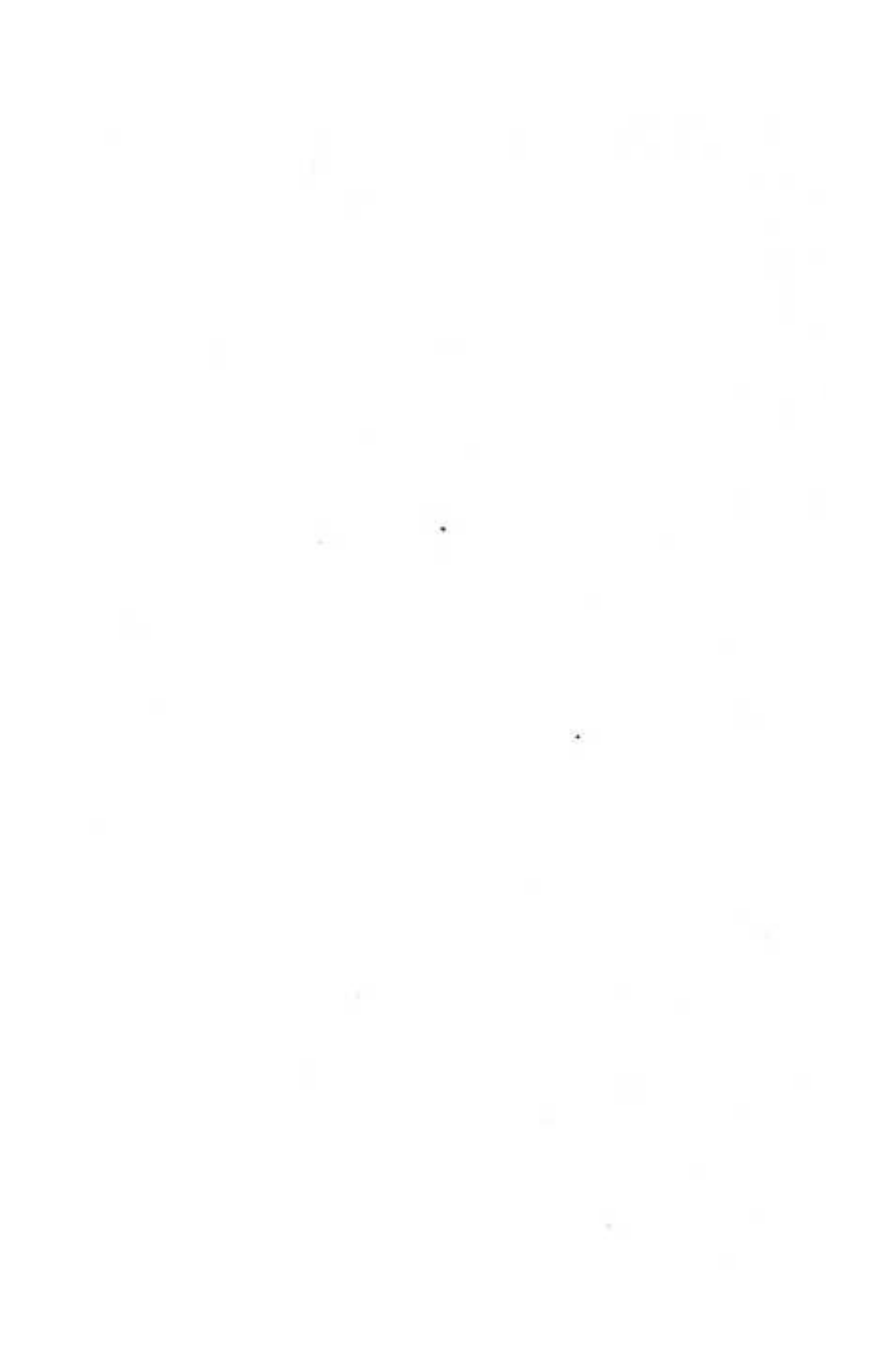
Mr Heinemann for Mr Arthur Symons's poem
At Fontainebleau.

A Bibliography is appended of all the
Michael Field books which have been pub-
lished to date; but there still remain some
unpublished MSS.

MARY STURGEON

OXFORD

November 1921



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