

**THE RING AND THE
BOOK; AN
INTERPRETATION**

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The Ring and the Book; An Interpretation by Robert Browning & Francis Bickford
Hornbrooke

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ROBERT BROWNING & FRANCIS BICKFORD HORN BROOKE

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AN INTERPRETATION



UofM Francis B. Hornbroske

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BY ROBERT BROWNING

AN INTERPRETATION

BY

FRANCIS BICKFORD
HORN BROOKE, D.D.

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To
ANN FRANCES BURR
FOR MANY YEARS THE FAITHFUL AND LOYAL FRIEND OF
THE AUTHOR AND HIS WIFE
THIS BOOK
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

Ms. A. 9. 2. 1-7-28

FOREWORD

FRANCIS BICKFORD HORN BROOKE was born in Wheeling, Virginia (now West Virginia), May 7, 1849. He was just thirty-seven years younger than Robert Browning, and was always pleased that his birthday fell on the same day as that of the great poet he loved and studied so many years.

He was of mixed ancestry, being of Dutch and English extraction on his father's side and, on his mother's, of German and Scotch-Irish. The name is Dutch, and tradition says that the family came from the little town of Brœck near Amsterdam. He was the only child of Thomas Bickford and Jane (Lopeman) Hornbrooke, and was named indirectly for Sir Francis Burdett, the great English radical and a distant kinsman of the Hornbrooke family. He was most patriotically and intensely American, though he was only of the first generation in this country, his father having been born in Bristol, England. His far-off ancestor went from Holland to England in 1688 with William of Orange. William the Silent was one of his great heroes and he recalled