

**DANTE AT
RAVENNA.
A STUDY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649097920

Dante at Ravenna. A study by Catherine Mary Phillimore

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

CATHERINE MARY PHILLIMORE

**DANTE AT
RAVENNA.
A STUDY**



DANTE ALIGHIERI.

Frontispiece.

DANTE AT RAVENNA.

A Study

BY

CATHERINE MARY PHILLIMORE,

AUTHOR OF

'STUDIES IN ITALIAN LITERATURE,' 'THE WARRIOR MEDICI,' 'FRA ANGELO,'

'SELECTIONS FROM THE SERMONS OF PADRE AGOSTINO DA

MONTEFELTRO,' ETC., ETC.



LONDON

ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

1898.

To

M. F. S. H.,

WHO ACCOMPANIED THE WRITER

THREE TIMES TO RAVENNA,

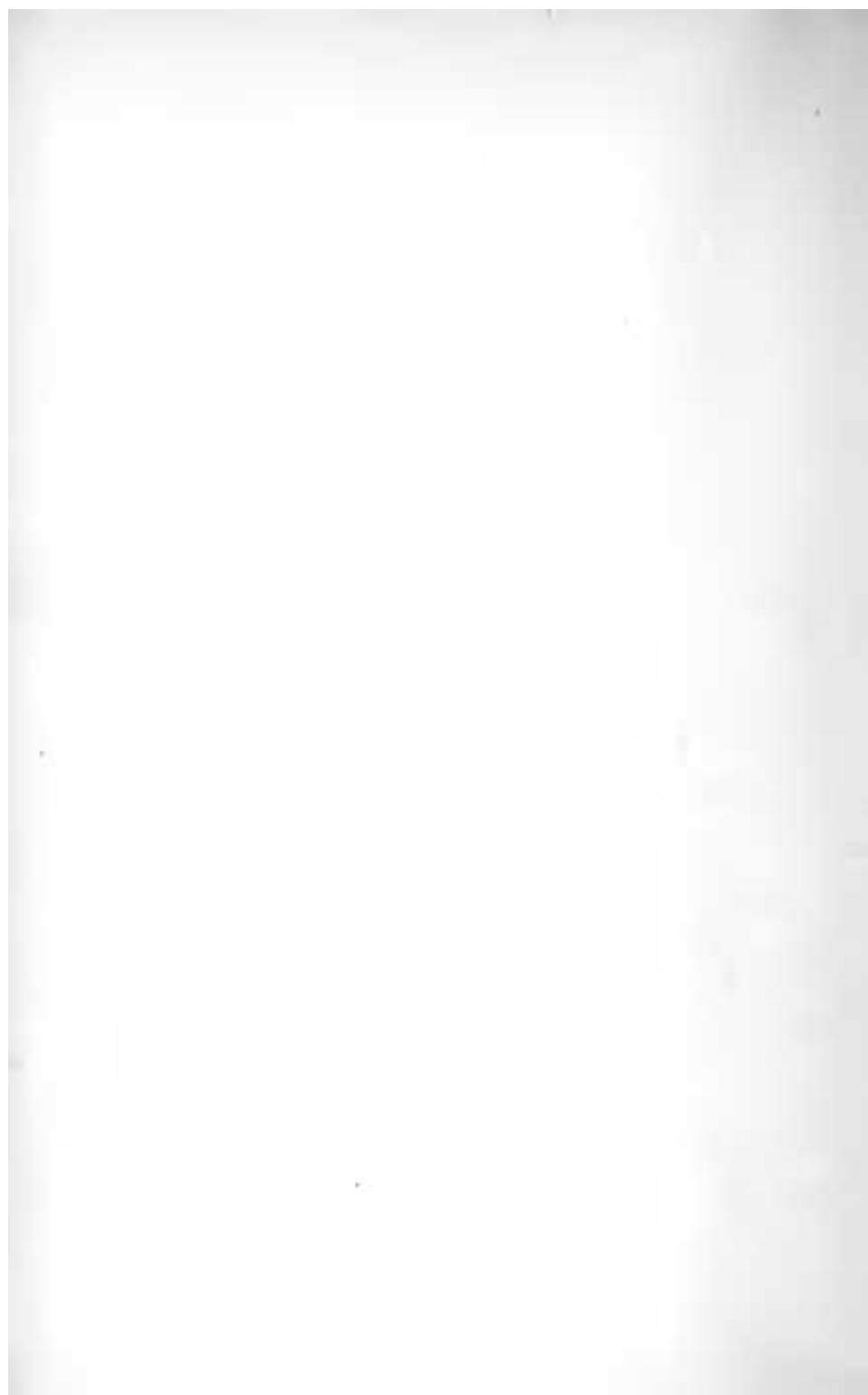
THE COMPANION OF MANY STUDIES, RESEARCHES AND TRAVELS,

THESE PAGES

ARE AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.

'E quasi amicii di partirsi pigri.'
Purg., xxxiii. 114.

632836
Italian



P R E F A C E .

THE following brief study of the closing years of the life of Dante is offered as a humble contribution to the mass of literature and research which centres in that great name.

Yet in his quiet exile at Ravenna Dante is perhaps not so well known to the student of his life and works as when a citizen of Florence in the early and more stirring periods of his life. But many a passage, both in the 'Divina Commedia' and in his minor works, tends to show how much his mind was influenced by the place of his latest sojourn upon earth.

Frequent visits to the Romagna and Ravenna have enabled the writer, while following in his footsteps, to form some idea of the charm which that part of Italy, and the ancient city itself, must have held for the poet.

Upon the last great Italian work, 'L' Ultimo Rifugio di Dante Alighieri,'¹ which leaves no part of the topography or history connected with that period unexplained or unexplored, the following study relies mainly for its facts. A similar acknowledgment is due to another work, of equal importance, though not so recent, 'Dante e il suo Secolo.'

The study of these works has been supplemented by research among such original sources of information as are to be found in the manuscripts contained in the libraries of Ravenna and Paris, the Bodleian, and the British Museum.

The writer, aware that many points still under dispute have come within the sphere of her labours, is prepared to await, with others, the resifting of all the documents relative to the life and family of Dante in the 'Codice Diplomatico Dantesco,' compiled by the Italian literary authorities, and which last year began to issue in parts from the Italian press. In view of either the ready acceptance of tradition or the negative spirit of modern criticism, the object of this work is to lay a foundation upon which the biography of Dante may securely rest.

¹ 'L' Ultimo Rifugio di Dante Alighieri.' Corrado Ricci, 1891.

'It is time' (such is the prelude of the compilers of the work) 'that under the escort of approved teachers, and following in their steps, the student of Dante should be set in a way from which there is no turning back nor divergence—on the one hand into vague affirmation, on the other into systematic doubt. Such a safe path can only be secured by a careful restatement of facts, and this course of study may be reached from three starting-points :

'1. Renewed attention to the references scattered throughout the works of the poet himself.

'2. The re-investigation of the traditional information supplied by the most reliable of the ancient biographers.

'3. The re-examination of the original documents with which history has from time to time been enriched. A comparison of these last with those cited by the early biographers will show how much is still extant of the original sources of their information. When such documents are lacking, the testimonies of the various early writers will be quoted, and criticism will determine their respective merit according as they can be proved to have written independently of each other.'¹

Such labours as these can hardly miss their mark, and although, in his greatness, Dante may

¹ 'Codice Diplomatico Dantesco: I Documenti della Vita e della Famiglia di Dante Alighieri, riprodotti in facsimile, descritti e illustrati con Monumenti d'Arte, e Figure da Guido Biagi e da G. L. Passerini con gli auspici della Società Dante-sca Italiana.'