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A. L. French
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by A. L. FRENCH

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To
MY MOTHER
AND THE MEMORY OF MY FATHER

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For the errors of fact, taste, and judgment which no doubt remain, I alone am responsible.

A. L. FRENCH

Note on texts

Hamlet, *King Lear* and *Antony and Cleopatra* are quoted from the current New Cambridge editions. *Measure for Measure*, *Othello* and *The Winter's Tale* are quoted from the New Arden editions. All other quotations from Shakespeare plays are taken from *The Complete Works*, edited by Peter Alexander.

When [Mr Casaubon] said “Does this interest you, Dorothea? Shall we stay a little longer? I am ready to stay if you wish it,” – it seemed to her as if going or staying were alike dreary. Or, “Should you like to go to the Farnesina, Dorothea? It contains celebrated frescoes designed or painted by Raphael, which most persons think it worth while to visit.”

“But do you care about them?” was always Dorothea’s question.

“They are, I believe, highly esteemed. . . . if you like these wall-paintings we can easily drive thither; and you will then, I think, have seen the chief works of Raphael, any of which it were a pity to omit in a visit to Rome. He is the painter who has been held to combine the most complete grace of form with sublimity of expression. Such at least I have gathered to be the opinion of conosciuti.”

– George Eliot, *Middlemarch*, chapter xx