Notes

CHAPTER ONE

1. See, for instance, in a letter to Isabella Blagden, 19 August 1865, Browning's reference to "my great venture, the murder-poem, which I do hope will strike you and all good lovers of mine," and his remark to Fields, Osgood (the American publishers), 19 July 1867, that for all its 20,000 lines "it is the shortest poem, for the stuff in it, I ever wrote" (Letters of Robert Browning, Collected by Thomas J. Wise, ed. Thurman L. Hood [New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1933], pp. 90, 114).

2. Robert Browning, The Ring and the Book, Florentine Edition, vol. 6, ed. Charlotte Porter and Helen A. Clarke (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1898), 1.34. All citations from Browning in this study, including those from Red Cotton Night-Cap Country (vol. 10), will be taken from this edition.


NOTES


CHAPTER FIVE


3. The quotation from Richer comes from the police report made on the spot, as quoted in the newspaper account of 1873. It was not found in any 1872 newspaper in the *Archives*, but since Browning deals directly with this material in his poem, it can reasonably be supposed that this report was among the "legal documents" procured for him by Milsand (for the full text of the relevant portion of this letter to Nettleship, see the Introduction, p. 16). Perhaps, however, this section of the poem is only an instance of the "guess at something equivalent" mentioned in the "Advertisement" given on p. 3), not a deliberate distortion.

4. When quoting from *Red Cotton Night-Cap Country*, for the sake of consistency I have retained the original names of the characters and places involved.

5. G. Burnel, *Notre Dame de la Dell'yvrande* (n.p., 1972), pp. 51-52. This pamphlet, giving the history of the sacred site from pagan times, was published to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the crowning of the statue of the Virgin of la Délivrande, a ceremony that figures dramatically in Browning's poem—see, for instance, 11. 423-531.


7. Charlotte Porter and Helen A. Clarke, in their notes to the Florentine Edition of Browning, 10:300.

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