

A grave man, knowing what steps of men keep truest
to the music of Death. Gravely friended, also
showing the Erasmus profile, ^{of his own} ~~in its~~ ^{the same} that music
being heard far off it seems to me, in the ~~way~~
- or low, in the room, ^{and perhaps even} ~~in~~ by that panel of Sir Thomas More
musical of it ^{and} making the words more treatable
in the book which Erasmus reads looks upon

in the crevices there, ^{weakest} the ~~board~~ of
which the walls of Bosch & Van - the ^{weakest} board of
the wall hymn that ~~is~~ is on the lips even of Holbein's Madonna.
For among many, ^{is the Virgin} ~~that~~ ^{is} the one you had best compare
with this we have been standing before so long.

There are two ~~two~~ ^{the received tradition about these} ~~two~~ ^{the Holbein}
Holbein Madonnas ^{the interpretation is} ~~two~~ ^{Madonna}
pictures in beautiful; and I believe ^{is} true. A
father and mother have prayed to her for the life
of their sick child. She appears to them ^{her} Christ in
her arms. She sets down ^{her} Christ beside them. Takes
their child into her arms instead. He lies ^{down at her} ~~back~~ on
her bosom, and stretches his hand to them - says
farewell.

This meaning of the picture has been ~~lost~~ ^{about pictures} ~~disputed~~ -
lately with ^{as nearly} all the best ~~truths~~ ^{truths} have been
disputed. ^{chief} ~~the~~ ^{reason} for believing ^{the received} ~~the~~ ^{tradition}
tradition to be right is that I do not think the child
in the ~~ground~~ ^{world} ~~world~~. But even supposing it an
error, the ^{design} ~~picture~~ is not less characteristic of
Holbein. For that there ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{an} ~~is~~ ^{sign} of suffering in the face of the
child in the arms of the ^{Virgin} ~~Madonna~~, there ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{no} ~~is~~ ^{question}
and if this child be intended for the Christ - ^{it would not to your mind} ~~then~~ ^{then} ~~Holbein~~
alone among painters, has captured or described that
of the ^{two} ~~two~~ ^{early} ~~early ^{life} ~~life~~ ^{of the Redeemer}. Raphael sought to express
in ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{power} ~~power~~ - but Holbein his sorrow.~~

The picture is at Dresden. ^{compassioned} by the Madonna in her arms
and - so far as I know - they are the only two pictures in the world
which have ever been cut out, and faithfully & adequately engraved.
are visible enough to you here, for