

distinguishes him alike from those illustrious poets who have been referred to as flourishing during his boyhood and youth, and from those who were his more immediate contemporaries. Let me not be misunderstood, however. I trust that no one will suppose that I ignore or lightly esteem the many noble passages, embodying the loftiest lessons of morality and religion, which are to be found in the poems, for instance, of Wordsworth and the Brownings. I do not seem to find, however, in any other poet the constant recurrence in varied forms of that trend of thought and feeling which I have indicated as being the keynote or special characteristic of Tennyson, just as the love and interpretation of nature is dominant in Wordsworth, or the analysis and development of character in Robert Browning. Nor, again, would I be supposed to imagine that there is not a very great deal in Tennyson besides the poetry of Love, even when that great word is used in its highest and widest senses. Many a golden line scattered through his poems shows how he loved Knowledge, and the deep interest which he took in the marvellous development of science in the present day. It will be noticed, however, that while he praises knowledge he has a clear view of its limitations, and of the danger that lies in the study of science unaccompanied by reverence and love. Many passages might be quoted in illustration, but one must suffice, taken from "In Memoriam," which is the great storehouse of our poet's thought:

"Who loves not Knowledge? Who shall rail
Against her beauty? May she mix
With men and prosper! Who shall fix
Her pillars? Let her work prevail."

Here we have the praise of knowledge nobly sung. Then come the limitations, which are finely and firmly marked in the remaining stanzas of the canto (CXIII.). We have only space for a few lines:

"Let her know her place;
She is the second, not the first.
A higher hand must make her mild,
If all be not in vain; and guide
Her footsteps, moving side by side
With Wisdom, like the younger child:
For she is earthly of the mind,
But wisdom heavenly of the soul."