

NOTES ON BROWNING.

THE LOST LEADER.

First published in *Bells and Pomegranates*, 1845. The poet in 1875, in answer to an inquiry as to the original of the imaginary Lost Leader, wrote as follows:—"I did in my hasty youth presume to use the great and venerated personality of Wordsworth as a sort of painter's model; one from which this or the other particular feature may be selected and turned to account: had I intended more, above all, such a boldness as portraying the entire man, I should not have talked about 'handfuls of silver and bits of ribbon.' These never influenced the change of politics in the great poet; whose defection, nevertheless, accompanied as it was by a regular face-about of his special party, was to my juvenile apprehension and even to my mature consideration, an event to deplore."

2. riband. The ordinary badge of such honours as knighthood.

4. There is an ellipsis of "which" before "she."

8. purple. The colour associated with royalty, and hence with rank.

29-32. It is best that the Lost Leader should throw himself with all vigour into the new cause which he has embraced; but, at length, in another world he will learn that we were in the right, and repentant and pardoned will take the position due to his resplendent powers.

THE ITALIAN IN ENGLAND.

Originally published in *Bells and Pomegranates*, VII., 1845, where it was entitled "England in Italy."

The poem deals with an imaginary incident such as might have happened in the long struggle of Italian patriots to free themselves from Austrian domination, sometime before the middle of the 19th century.

The great Italian revolutionist Mazzini read this poem to some of his fellow exiles in England, to show how an Englishman could sympathize with them.