

subsequent work shews all the more maturity, strength, and lasting beauty for the reticence of that long apparently unproductive period. But we are wandering from the Tennyson of the Prize Poem: this was the friend of Arthur Hallam; the prize was won in 1829 about one year after their amous friendship began. Several men of 1829 have become celebrated, we need not recount them but it may interest us to notice into what companionship the English verse medal introduced Tennyson. The prize was established by the Duke of Gloucester in 1813 and has been continued by successive chancellors. In 1814 the prize was won by Whewell whose foible was "omniscience" and afforded an illustration of his ruling passion.

We are not prepared to say that courting the muse was the cause of Whewell's missing the highest mathematical honors of all for he was second wrangler and second smith's prizeman thus missing both the blue ribands of the mathematical turf in 1816. They were won by the same man, Jacob of Caius. When Whewell saw the list he is said to have declared that his successful adversary was rightly named, for he had supplanted him twice: and an eminent mathematician of a former period is authority for the story that there was some depth in the method of the supplanting. It was said that Whewell suspected Jacob of being a dangerous opponent, but was thrown off his guard on hearing that Jacob was seen out riding a great deal, hence he concluded that Jacob was becoming "horsey" and had joined the sporting set and taken to hunting. The truth was that Jacob had taken a room in a farmhouse a few miles out of Cambridge and rode there to be quiet and to get the exercise of going to and fro. Whewell was supposed to be thrown off his guard and in any case was defeated. Everyone knows the story of the dons who tried to floor Whewell with the subject of Chinese music and who were astounded to hear the Master say,—“Why, gentlemen, I perceive you have been studying my article on ‘Chinese Music.’”

Whewell was a great man but was not free from littlenesses. On one occasion he cooled his lifelong friendship with Sedgwick by literally carrying out a rule as to the keeping of a dog in college: and after he married Lady Affleck, a baronet's widow, who was not entitled really to retain her ladyship name, he insisted on calling after a dinner party for Lady Affleck's carriage, it was to the intense satisfaction of the undergraduates that the inaccurate footman with unconscious satire called "Lord Affleck's carriage."

Whewell was the son of a carpenter in Lancaster and was first noticed by the Head Master of the school, when accompanying his father who was doing something at the school. The result of the visit was that Whewell came to the Grammar School. The next day in reading the new, big boy did not know the meaning of viz., but read it as a word of one

syllable, pronouncing it as written. He was sent by the master to ask the smallest boy in the school how to pronounce the word—the smallest boy, whose name was Richard Owen, afterwards the veteran naturalist, not long dead, accomplished the feat. The ungainly and unpolished boy developed into the leading figure of the University, the central figure of its assemblies, head and shoulders above most of his compeers both in physique and in intellectual grasp. This was the winner of the prize poem of 1814. He was equally at home in later days examining for the moral sciences Tripos or setting abstruse problems to the candidates for the Smith's prizes, an annual mathematical duty of the Master of Trinity which his successors have been glad to depute to specialists.

In 1819 and 1821 the prize winner was Thomas Babington Macaulay, whose greater literary triumphs were in prose. In the Lays of Ancient Rome he reached a certain flow and brightness and vigour, characteristic and suggestive which entitles him to rank high as a writer of verse, though it scarcely entitles him to a place amongst the poets. Another known writer of elegant verses, W. M. Praed, won the medal in 1823 and 1824. In 1825 Lytton Bulwer, the well known novelist, was the medallist: he wrote some well known comedies and wrote verse besides, but never became a poet. In 1844, 1845, 1846, E. H. Bickersteth, the present Bishop of Exeter, and author of several well known hymns, was the winner of the medal. His verse can scarcely be said to be poetry. We have seen the name of Julian Fane attached to verses that have been published; he was the medalist of 1850. After this we find the name of F. W. Farrar, author of the Life of Christ, and later of F. W. H. Myers, whose St. Paul has decided touches of poetic genius. In the main, however, the competition for prize poems does not seem to have fostered the production of poets. The Pierian spring cannot be discovered by forcing nor inspiration by pumping Thackeray, who left the University without taking a degree, as did his well known character Arthur Pendennis, was "up" about the same time as Tennyson—both writers have hit off a weakness of some of the University tutors, which Thackeray represents as pretty much the weakness of most men. Hayly of Boniface is represented as keeping a letter on his table addressed to my Lord Duke and in the Princess we hear of the Tutor of a college who was discussed as being rough to common men but honeying at the whisper of a lord, and one went so far as to say that "the Master was a rogue in grain veneered with sanctimonious theory." This reminds us of the pompous master who had been a charity boy and who became the greatest Greek scholar in the greatest college of the greatest university in the world, and who is introduced to us by Thackeray. Tennyson was made an honorary L. L. D. by the University in 1869. He has been read and loved by many generations of Cambridge men. I have