

..Th:..  
University of Ottawa  
Review

---

No. 6

FEBRUARY, 1903.

Vol. V

---

## Aubrey De Vere as an Epic Poet



MAN, we are told, constitutes a perfect epitome of the whole universe. Indeed the fact is obvious enough ; for a little reflection will suffice to show that, in man, the beauty, grandeur, and perfection of all things else are concentrated, unified, and harmonized. Hence, in the words of the poet, "Man is the noblest work of God." By a similar reasoning the epic poem, since it embodies all the grandest, and most ennobling features of the various other kinds of poetry, may with truth be termed the highest production of poetic talent. The epic is unquestionably the masterpiece of genius ; the ideal of literary excellence. This is attested by the fact that of all the world-famed literary giants,—and verily they are not a few—that have attracted the attention of mankind since the "grey beginning of days", scarcely more than a dozen have had the hardihood to attempt the creation of an epic : and by the still more significant, though equally indubitable fact, that, out of even this small quota, only a few can be said to have really succeeded: some have certainly made creditable failures ; but others have only