

MASTER PAINTERS: D. G. ROSSETTI

turned to his old love, poetry, and in 1870 published his first volume of original poems, a curious fact, when we remember that the "Bleed Damozel" was written in 1847—and that shortly afterwards it was only on the serious monstration of his father that he set aside poetry and turned to painting as the serious work of his life.

He at once sprang into the first rank of contemporary poets, but in the following year a violent attack was made on him in the *Contemporary Review*, under the heading, "The Fleshy School of Poetry."

Rossetti replied with moderation and dignity, but the incident preyed on his mind. About the same time, too, he had begun to be afflicted with insomnia, and probably in ignorance of its baneful influence, took to combating it by the use of chloral. The use of this drug and gradually declining health clouded his later years.

Towards the end of his life, too, he developed a habit of retouching and altering his earlier works, often with unhappy results. In spite of these drawbacks, however, many of his important works, both in poetry and in painting, belong