

VI

A monstrous eft¹ was of old the Lord and Master
of Earth,
For him did his high sun flame, and his river billow-
ing ran,
And he felt himself in his force to be Nature's
crowning race.
135 As nine months go to the shaping an infant ripe for
his birth,
So many a million of ages have gone to the making
of man:
He now is first, but is he the last? is he not too
base?

VII

The man of science himself is fonder of glory, and
vain,
An eye well-practised in nature, a spirit bounded and
poor;
140 The passionate heart of the poet is whirl'd into folly
and vice.
I would not marvel at either, but keep a temperate
brain;
For not to desire or admire, if a man could learn it,
were more
Than to walk all day like the sultan of old in a
garden of spice.

¹ A monstrous eft. Probably the megalosaurus, a monstrous extinct reptile something like a lizard, with powerful jaws and teeth. A full-grown megalosaurus was at least thirty feet in length and weighed about three tons. It was carnivorous.