

in the mental association with Arnold in the scenes of his existence, thus daily exposed, and in his family affections. A nature warm to its own, kindly to all, cheerful, fond of sport and fun, and always fed from pure fountains, and with it a character so founded upon the rock, so humbly serviceable, so continuing in power and grace, must wake in all the responses of happy appreciation, and leave the charm of memory."

SOHRAB AND RUSTUM

Composition and Publication. — *Sohrab and Rustum* appeared in the volume of verse published by Arnold in 1853. In a letter to Mrs. Foster, dated April, 1853, he said: —

"I am occupied with a thing that gives me more pleasure than anything I have ever done yet, which is a good sign, but whether I shall not ultimately spoil it by being obliged to strike it off in fragments instead of at one heat, I cannot quite say." In a letter to his mother, May, 1853, he wrote: "All my spare time has been spent on a poem which I have just finished, and which I think by far the best thing I have yet done, and I think it will be generally liked; though one can never be sure of this. I have had the greatest pleasure in composing it, a rare thing with me, and, as I think, a good test of the pleasure what you write is likely to afford to others."

Source of the Poem. — *Sohrab and Rustum* records an episode found in the story of the exploits of Persian kings and heroes recounted in the great Persian epic, the *Sháh Námeḥ*, written by Firdausi towards the end of the tenth century. This latter poem purports to narrate the achievements of the heroes of Persia during