

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 Náme*, written by Firdausi towards the end of the tenth century. This latter poem purports to narrate the achievements of the heroes of Persia during