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ALFRED TENNYSON.

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It is not easy to write in a critical way about Mr. Tennyson, for the same reason that it is not easy to criticize a lady with whom one is in love. He is too much a part of our mental life; he touches the chords of our deepest emotions too intimately and with too much skill. A lover's criticism might be very interesting, but it would be difficult to believe it impartial. And there are thousands of people to whose intellectual and spiritual life Mr. Tennyson has so greatly ministered, that they regard not his books only, but himself with profound affection.

Tennyson was born in 1810, so that he is now seventy-three years old. It is a pity we cannot put back the hands on the clock of time so as to make him young again. But never mind; his works are young and always will be. He comes from Somersby, in Lincolnshire; his father was the clergyman there. You do not know Lincolnshire, probably; if you did, you would all the better understand many of the poems of Tennyson. He speaks of the "long grey wolds" of his native county; he means flat plains of grass, divided by dykes, with here and there a row

* For the admirable portrait of Tennyson, which accompanies this article, we are indebted to the courtesy of Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, the sole authorized American publishers of his works. The following is a partial list of the numerous handsome editions of his poems which they issue.—ED.

Tennyson's Poems—*Shawmut Ed.* Illustrated. Cr. 8vo, \$1; full gilt, \$1.50.

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