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AUBREY DE VERE AS A SONNETEER.

(Conclusion.)

AUBREY DE VERE has, at intervals, during a long life, written a very great number of sonnets on a correspondingly great number of subjects. As I have before intimated, the form he favors is the severely classical, or Petrarchan, but he generally allows himself much freedom in the sestet, or minor system. The sonnets may be found scattered among the volumes entitled *Irish Odes, and other Poems*; *The Search after Proserpine, and Alexander the Great, and other Poems*.

To read his poems, more especially the sonnets, is to become conscious of a cooler atmosphere than we of this age of electricity and steam habitually live in, a condition to which our quick mental respiration does not readily adjust itself, and it requires effort really to appreciate the work. I make this statement deliberately fronting the fact that many of the sonnets are alight with passion, and marked with color and originality in degrees that far outstrip many of his poems in other forms. Notwithstanding these qualities that appeal to almost everyone, the proper appreciation of the De Vere sonnets calls for a distinct effort on the part of the reader. This effort once made, we are repaid fourfold for our attention. We must stretch ourselves to