

peculiar sort, with less character in it, more satire—like the curious learned sort of which Ben Jonson was fond. It is remarkable that the tales told by the Wife of Bath and the Pardoner are both in a different way from their discourses about themselves.

Without *Troilus and Criseyde* the work of Chaucer would be an immense variety of romance and sentiment, humour and observation, expressed in poetical language that has never been equalled for truth and liveliness. But it is only in *Troilus* that Chaucer uses his full powers together in harmony. All the world, it might be said, is reflected in this poem; various poems of Chaucer; *Troilus* is the poem which brings it all into a single picture. In the history of English poetry it is the crown of the Middle Ages.