

## Some Opinions of "Mordred."

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Miss Louise Imogen Guiney, the exquisite American lyric poet, and a scholarly critic, wrote of "Mordred":

"It is literary and it is human. I do not think it a common occurrence that a poet should be, on the face of it, thoroughly poetic and plainly of the only lineage, the Elizabethan, and at the same time not artificial in feeling, not set upon exploiting himself, not removed from the great fountains of simplicity and life at first hand."

Thomas Wentworth Higginson, the last of the great New England group of literary men, wrote of "Mordred":

"Your treatment of the Arthurian legend at first repelled me a little, to tell the truth, as Shelley's 'Cenci' does, but with every reading this has diminished, and I feel its power more and more. Compared to it, the treatment of your Lancelot in 'A Dread Voyage and other Poems,' is smooth and Tennysonian, though that, too, is most pathetic. This ('Mordred') is grim and unflinching, but very strong. I think that 'Mordred' is a wholly new creation, and his final yielding a most daring and touching outcome: it was impossible to foresee what you would do with him. The other characters are also touched with much vigor of characterization. You certainly have the dramatic quality in a high degree."

The Editor of *Walsh's Magazine*, in a review of "Mordred," said:

"Unless I am greatly mistaken, the tragedy 'Mordred,' the first of those in this work, is by long odds the greatest work yet accomplished by any Canadian poet. . . . While the part of Mordred is maintained in fitting strength throughout, it should not be overlooked that the minor parts are fashioned by the hand of a master. . . . We have here a work of very uncommon merit. Not the least of its literary beauties is the steadfast adherence to the plain Saxon forms of speech . . . which gives us a new taste of the delights of the Elizabethan dramatists, namely, those crystal clear expressions which, in Shakespeare and his contemporaries, gather the perfect thought into the perfect line."