

land, and instead of returning to Vienna he devoted himself henceforth to the Prussian governmental service. During the years from 1816 to 1831 he acted in different capacities in the administrative service of the provinces in Breslau, Danzig and Königsberg and became in 1831 a member in the ministry for Catholic church and school affairs in Berlin. But in consequence of the troubles between the Catholic church and the government he retired from public service in 1844, as he was a devout Catholic and too conscientious to remain a member of a government whose course he did not approve. After his resignation Eichendorff spent most of his time at his country-seat among the mountains of Moravia, but returned for long intervals to Berlin and Vienna, drawn thither by the magnificent libraries and his desire to meet his friends in a literary centre. Besides he often indulged still his fervent love of travelling at home and abroad. He died on the 3d of December in the year 1857 at the home of his son-in-law near Neisse in his native province.

Eichendorff is generally classified among the so-called Romantics in German literature. The name *Romantiker*, *Romanticists*, was given to those literary spirits who, in the first three decades of the present century, continued the opposition to the rationalistic tendencies in social and literary life, and, disgusted with their dismal present, turned back to past ages for comfort, or constructed for themselves a world out of romance and fancy differing completely from the sober reality around them.

We may call Eichendorff the lyric poet of the Romantic school, because in this field lies his greatest strength and popularity. Many of his lyric poems have been set to music by eminent composers as Mendelssohn, Schubert and Abt, and are now sung everywhere. Only few poets have ever succeeded in striking such popular chords as Eichendorff. Almost