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TENNYSON.

“**H**APPY is he whom good report encompasseth.” If this be true, then ample indeed would be the joy of the poet who has so lately passed away, could he hear of the good report that doth so encompass him. And his renown is of such a kind that no noble heart could desire better fame. Tennyson’s greatness is largely due to his being a deeply religious and Christian man; for if he was concerned about anything in life it was about his Maker. He knew that it was “meet for a man to speak honourably concerning God;” and it was his loyalty to Him that was the cause of the generous recognition at his death. When one endowed with the highest gifts of genius joins with his fellow-men in upholding the religion so dear to most, it is natural that humble-hearted men should manifest their pleasure at the gain made to the ranks of a leader who will fight by their side. It is like an additional prop to our faith when the great of the earth believe; and the moral support of a prominent man, although it be merely nominal, is of value. But Tennyson was not a Christian in name only, he was in addition a preacher; for his poems are like sermons, adding greatly to the devotional literature of our time. A sermon aims at making an impression on the soul—an impression of goodness, nobility, and God; and judged by this standard what more impressive sermons on these themes could there be than the “Idylls of the King”—those incentives to a higher life. It is not the pure beauty of the “flower of song” that has attracted admirers to Tennyson; for