

example of what Matthew Arnold held to be the true function of poetry—"the criticism of life"—"the powerful and beautiful application of ideas to life"; it is not didactic in tone, it does not preach; it quickens the moral nature by the contagion of noble enthusiasm, by the power of insight and of truth.

172. 37, 38. Even the very young know something of this weight in holiday times, when there has been, during a prolonged period, an absence of fixed employments, and of calls which must be attended to.

"O LYRIC LOVE."

The extraordinarily beautiful, though very obscure, passage is a sort of dedication by the poet of his great work, the *Ring and the Book*, to his dead wife, Elizabeth Barret Browning. The attempt to construe and interpret these lines is an excellent literary discipline, but no one need be ashamed to confess himself, in some parts, baffled.

IN MEMORIAM, CXIV.

174. 12. Pallas. A name of Athene (Minerva), the Goddess of Wisdom who, according to the myth, came into existence by springing fully armed from her father Zeno's head.

175. 25. The poet again addresses his dead friend Hallam.

THE POET.

175. 13. There is a reference to the blowing of small poisoned arrows from a tube by certain tribes of Indians.

175. 15. Calpe. One of the pillars of Hercules, identified with Gibraltar which was considered the Western boundary of the ancient world; as was Caucasus the Eastern.

CALLICLES' SONG.

177. 5. not here. i.e., not on Etna.

177. 7. Helicon. A mountain in Boeotia, sacred to Apollo and the Muses, running down to the Gulf of Corinth.

177. 11. Thisbe. A town in the valley to the south of Helicon.

178. 30. The Nine. The nine Muses.

178. 38. On Mount Helicon were two famous fountains sacred to the Muses—Aganippe and Hippocrene.
