

The sweetness of memory and the soothing of faith have dispelled bitterness from his soul. "It is a song of victory and life, arising out of defeat and death; of peace, which has forgotten doubt; of joy, whose mother was sorrow, but who has turned his mother's heart into delight."

It forms a most interesting study to note how Tennyson's sorrow passes from the particular to the universal. Dr. King in his work points out the various steps very clearly. The grief of the individual for the beloved Hallam becomes representative of the sorrow of the whole world. The poet felt the loss of his friend, then later, he learned to sympathize with all mankind bowed in sorrow. "This was Tennyson's first step into manhood as a poet; and the slow, sustained and yet impassioned march by which his character forced him to advance made it but natural for him to take seventeen years to realize and embody his progress in a work which is worthy of the time given to it," and which remains the mightiest in thought, the best in form, the most varied in feeling and the most finished of all Tennyson's longer poems.

Dr. King in dealing with the various cantos refers continually to the poet's habit of making the elements harmonize with his mood at the time of writing. Picture after picture of nature is presented in expressive and forcible language. What more beautiful than

Sweet after showers, ambrosial air
That rollest from the gorgeous gloom
Of evening—

or the poem beginning,

Sad Hesper o'er the buried sun
And ready, thou, to die with him—

the most finished piece of artistic composition in the whole poem? Again, we often find two poems placed side by side in direct contrast to each other. Calmness set over against gloom and sadness (XI and XV). Cantos LXXXIX and CI, like

so many others, bear testimony to Tennyson's close observation of and intense sympathy with nature. He shows himself a true master of poetic expression by the skilful manner in which he paints word pictures descriptive of natural scenery, filling in the details with all the deftness of the poet's art.

"In Memoriam" is subjective and distinctly theological. It deals with subjects of universal human interest—life, death, origin, nature, destiny, religion, science, social questions—all of which are touched upon by Dr. King in his criticism. Yet discussion and argument are of little avail, Tennyson has found, in consoling the broken heart. There must be sympathy and love within us if we wish to be happy in this life. "I see our labor useful and lovely when it is for others," the poet sings. The conclusion of the poem is a prayer that the whole world may conquer, as he himself has conquered, the powers of sorrow.

Judging from a hasty perusal of Dr. King's book, we conclude that it is not one that the casual reader would choose when seeking something to divert his thoughts. It is rather a commentary on the poem intended for students who desire a clearer insight into the workings of the great mind of the poet Tennyson. Taken as a whole, the work is a genuine and noteworthy contribution to Canadian literature, which is destined to take a high place not only as a literary text book, but as a volume that will be valued by all who are admirers of the late Poet Laureate.

ELLA BOWES.

On Sunday, March 5th, since the above notice was written, Dr. King ended a long and useful life. His death had been expected for some time, and now that it has come, Canada can hardly as yet appreciate her loss. For a good account of Dr. King's life, see *The Westminster*.