

NOTES ON TENNYSON.

SIR GALAHAD.

First published in 1842.

In Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*, Sir Galahad is the knight who lived 'a clean maiden' and in consequence saw the Holy Grail. Tennyson seizes upon this personage to embody a type of the combination of ascetic and knightly virtue—of that devotion to an ideal which led the devotee to disregard earthly ties and bodily needs, and to live in a spiritual ecstasy. This poem represents the masculine side of the same spiritual condition which is unfolded in *St. Agnes' Eve*. Sir Galahad reappears in the *Idylls of the King*, being one of the prominent personages in *The Holy Grail*.

5. **shattering.** The epithet is used to denote the broken and stunning sounds of a trumpet peal.

9. **lists.** Originally the barriers that enclosed the ground for a tournament, then the ground itself.

11-12. The lady spectators scattered flowers upon the successful combatants, from the galleries which overlooked the lists.

18. **crypt.** Underground cell.

21-22. He refers to the vision of the Holy Grail which appeared only to the pure, and to the special favour of heaven which such vision indicates.

25. **crescent.** The crescent moon.

31. **stalls.** The seats belonging to the clergy in the choir of a cathedral.

42. **the Holy Grail.** The word 'grail' or 'grail,' means originally a bowl. According to the legend found in Malory, the *Sangreal*, or holy grail was the vessel in which Jesus sacrificed the paschal lamb (or according to some versions, the cup which he used at the Last Supper). With this vessel Joseph of Arimathea caught the blood that flowed from the wound upon the Cross. Joseph brought it to Britain (see *Faery Queen*, ii., 10, 53). It could not be seen by any one who was not