

truly said that he kept in unsullied purity that great instrument, the English language; that he used it always and used it only as a noble vehicle of noble thoughts. Two full generations of Englishmen have found in his verse refinement, solace, inspiration, and when to-morrow he is laid at rest in the great Abbey, the whole English-speaking race, without distinction of latitude or of allegiance, will recognize that in our time our language has been spoken by no more stately and not more melodious voice.' "

—Mr. Asquith, by J. P. Alderson: Methuen & Co., 1905).

Secondly: Patriotism glows through all his poems, and it was patriotism broad, deep and permanent, not blown up by prejudice or ignorance, but based upon knowledge and sincere love of his country.

"Love thou thy land with love far-brought
From out the storied past, and used
Within the present, but transfused
Through future time by power of thought.

True love, turn'd round on fixed poles;
Love, that endures not sordid ends,
For English natures, freeman, friends,
Thy brothers, and immortal souls."

Let me give his ideas as to patriotism in his own prose: "True patriotism is rare, the love of country which makes a man defend his landmarks, that we all have, and the Anglo-Saxon more than most other races; but the patriotism that declines to link itself with the small fry of the passing hour for political advantage—that is rare, I say. The Duke of Wellington had both kinds of patriotism."

Some may say that this patriotism of Tennyson was insular. In a sense it was—he had never visited Canada or Australia or India. He inspired Britishers at home with patriotism, with independent thinking, with high moral living, and as they crossed the seas they helped to spread these ideas through the Empire.

I can close these remarks about patriotism by no finer quotation than the revised version of Tennyson's poem of 1851, "To the Queen." It appears in the introduction to the "Life of Tennyson":