

Though this was fair, and that was braw
 And you the toast of a' the town,
 I sighed, and said among them a',
 "Ye are na Mary Morison."

O Mary, canst thou wreck his peace
 Wha for thy sake wad glady die?
 Or canst thou break that heart of his,
 Whase only faut is loving thee?
 If love for love thou wilt na gi'e,
 At least be pity to me shown;
 A thought ungentle canna be
 The thought o' Mary Morison.

As a piece of word painting the second verse of this song has often been referred to as unique in itself, but the last verse of the three we consider the most important, as it is exclusively with the affections of the heart.

Scotland has had many great men—she has had her warriors and her statesmen, her priests and her men of science, her literary men and her inventors, but none of them have done her sons and daughters the service that has been rendered to her by her plowman bard.

He appeals to us all; whether we be rich or poor, young or old, educated or simple, he deepens our sense of humour and evokes our strongest sympathies. We know each other better through the songs of our own sweet singer.

Now we have spoken of his gentleness, of his generosity, of his disinterestedness, of his kindness to man and beast. His aphorisms enter into the warp and woof of our common speech and he lives in us even though he be dead.

His Personality

Of his personality we will let others speak who knew him while he lived.

Ramsay of Ochtertyre, who was one of the best of judges, in one of his letters says:

"I have been in the company of many men of genius, but never witnessed such flashes of intellectual brightness as from him, the impulse of the moment, sparks of celestial fire."

Lockhart also who had the report of auditors, declared that Burns' conversation was the most remarkable thing about him.

During the visit of the poet to Edinburgh, where he was fêted by the best in the land, he was brought into touch with all the great writers and thinkers of his time. Hume was just newly dead, and naturally enough his life and writings were the subject of discussion amongst the learned of that day, as indeed they have been ever since.

Adam Smith's great book on the "Wealth of Nations" was then creating an interest both deep and wide, so that when we take into account the company and the subjects about which they conversed, we get some idea of the value which is to be attached to the estimate which his contemporaries have to give of his personality and conversational powers.

Mrs. Riddell's "Sketch of Burns"

In Mrs. Riddell's "Sketch of Burns," which appeared shortly after his death, she commences with the somewhat astounding statement that poetry was not actually his forte. Of course she admitted the excellence of his songs, and also fully subscribed to his power as a poet, but she spoke of the man as she had known him, and was