

ford, near Freshwater in the Isle of Wight, a residence subsequently purchased with the proceeds of *Maud*, published in 1855. This poem had a somewhat mixed reception, being received in some quarters with unstinted abuse, and in others with the warmest praise. In the year that *Maud* was given to the world, Tennyson received the honorary degree of D.C.L., from Oxford. In 1859 was published the first four of the *Idylls of the King*, followed in 1864 by *Enoch Arden*, and *Other Poems*. In 1865 his mother died. In 1869 he purchased Aldworth, an almost inaccessible residence in Surrey, near London, in order to escape during the summer the annoyance of visitors to the Isle of Wight, who insisted on invading his privacy.

From 1870 to 1880 Tennyson was engaged principally on his dramas, — *Queen Mary*, *Harold*, and *Becket*, — but, with the exception of the last, these did not prove particularly successful on the stage. In 1880 *Ballads and Poems* was published, an astonishing volume from one so advanced in years. In 1882 the *Promise of May* was produced in public, but was soon withdrawn. In 1884 Tennyson was raised to the peerage as Baron Tennyson of Aldworth and Farringford, after having on two previous occasions refused a baronetcy. In 1885 *Tiresias and Other Poems* was published. This volume contained *Balin and Balan*, thus completing the *Idylls of the King*, which now assumed their permanent order and form. *Demeter and Other Poems* followed in 1889. In 1892, on October 6, the poet died at Aldworth, "with the moonlight upon his bed and an open Shakespeare by his side." A few days later he was buried in Westminster Abbey, by the side of Robert Browning, his friend and contemporary, who had preceded him by only a few years.