

pushed aside. And though "perplexed in faith," he grappled with them, emerging at length from the bitter struggle with a stronger faith and a firmer mind. "In Memoriam" is the story of the conflict, and from it we learn that the first question which demanded solution was the immortality of the soul. "Is there no hope in dust?" The answer is given by Love, and is unimistakeable.

" If death were seen
At first as Death, Love had not been,
Or been in narrowest working shut,

Mere fellowship of sluggish moods,
Or in his coarsest Satyr-shape,
Had bruised the herb and crushed the grape,
And bask'd and batten'd in the woods."

Spiritual love, such as that which bound him to his friend, could have no existence, if Death were the end of all; and the strongest proof that it has an existence is that he felt it himself and feels it yet though that friend no longer lives on earth. Besides, "His own dim life" teaches him "that life shall live for evermore," for in this revealed truth of immortality he finds his only comfort. His triumphant answer to the Voice that advises him to give up the bootless struggle of life and cease to be is one that is based on the experience of every human being, and is, therefore, valid and incontestable :

" Whatever crazy Sorrow saith,
No life that breathes with human breath
Has ever truly longed for death.

'Tis life whereof our nerves are scant,
Oh life, not death, for which we pant,
More life, and fuller, that I want."

This question settled, there pass in review a host of others, all intimately connected with it. Is there progress in the world of spirits? If so, it must be greater than it is here, the soul being freed from the encumbering flesh, and when we join the loved ones who have gone before we shall not be