

CHAPTER XIX

THE INFINITE IN THE FINITE

ROBERT Browning, who had the highest good fortune in love, must be counted among its great interpreters. He saw it in its widest relations, in its deepest significance, in its highest reaches of joy and attainment. To him, as to Dante, Shakespeare, and the other masters of life and art, the secret of life lies deeper than the intellect, and has its seat in the soul. Below the action of the mind, consciously directed to ends consciously selected, there lie the deeps of being, out of which rise the great impulses, the master passions, the inspirations and enthusi-