

his mood is changed, Love merges into Patriotism, and he goes forth with a loyal people rejoicing that a war has arisen in defence of the right, and with his farewell voice breathes back the noble words:

"It is better to fight for the good, than to rail at the ill."

The tone of the poem is gloomy throughout: the views of life are jaundiced and pessimistic in the extreme. The actor is a veritable *denigreur*, touching only to blacken. This tone of gloomy distrust is almost universal in the poem and darkens with its haunting shadows even his brightest carols, when his heart is

" . . . more blest than heart can tell,  
Blest but for some dark undercurrent woe,"

while the darker parts of the poem are steeped in a sullen suspicious hate which renders almost pertinent his half doubtful question:

"What! am I raging alone as my father raged in his mood?"

It is generally conceded that in poetry the form of verse should accord with the sentiment expressed. Every writer recognizes this principle, but few if any have dared, even if they have had the power, to mould the form of verse so intimately to the tone of thought as Tennyson. In *Maud* the sentiment is varied so often and so strikingly that it affords great scope for the exhibition of this phase of his genius. In the opening lines the feeling of horror is greatly intensified by the harsh and rugged metre employed:

"I hate the dreadful hollow behind the little wood,  
Its lips in the field above are dabbled in blood-red heath,  
The red-ribbed ledges drip with a silent horror of blood,  
And Echo, there, whatever is asked of her, answers 'Death!'"

Turning to the other extreme what a transition is seen in the musical cadences of the exquisite lyric commencing "Come into the garden, Maud!" How greatly is the beauty of the piece enhanced when to the thought of the poet is so sweetly wedded the music of the verse!

"For a breeze of the morning moves,  
And the planet of love is on high,  
Beginning to faint in the light that she loves,  
On a bed of daffodil sky;  
To faint in the light of the sun she loves,  
To faint in his light and die."