

the Arthurian poetic heritage as a whole. Phases of the Arthurian theme have been presented also by his contemporaries and successors at home and abroad,—by William Wordsworth, Lord Lytton, Robert Stephen Hawker, Matthew Arnold, William Morris, Algernon Charles Swinburne, in England; Edgar Quinet in France; Wilhelm Hertz, L. Schneegans, F. Roeder, in Germany; Richard Hovey in America. There have been many other approved variations on Arthurian themes, such as James Russell Lowell's 'Vision of Sir Launfal' and Richard Wagner's operas 'Lohengrin,' 'Tristan and Isolde,' and 'Parsifal.' Of still later versions we may mention the 'King Arthur' of J. Comyns Carr, which has been presented on the stage by Sir Henry Irving; and 'Under King Constantine,' by Katrina Trask, whose hero is the king whom tradition names as the successor of the heroic Arthur. *Imperator Dux Bellorum.*"

Among Catholic writers the Arthurian epic has employed the pens of Father Faber and Condé B. Pallen in beautiful poems on the life and death of Sir Lancelot.

The British war leader and his chieftains undergo a remarkable transformation in the Anglo-French romances. Complete suits of armor, such as the chivalry of the period wore, replace the slight bronze breastplates and sweeping saffron robes of the Celtic clansmen. King Arthur and his knights, sheathed in iron, ride through the dim twilight of enchanted forests, slaying dragons and giants, rescuing distressed maidens from the toils of enchanters and other evil-minded characters. The war-chief of the Britons has become a world-famous monarch, who, after quelling rival sovereigns at home, conquers both Scotland and Ireland, overruns Denmark and Norway and crushes the Roman power in a great battle in the heart of Gaul. Arthur enters Rome in triumph at the head of his knights to receive the Papal benediction, like Charlemagne in later centuries. Thence he hastens back to Britain to quell the revolt which, during his absence, has been gathering headway among the tributary princes.

Then one by one King Arthur's knighthood fall away from the noble companionship of the Round Table, some, like Lancelot and Tristram, to follow the guidance of their own wayward passions,