

at Cambridge, and was intended for the law or the Church, but did not enter either calling. He settled at Horton in Buckinghamshire, where he wrote his *Comus*, *L'Allegro*, *Il Penseroso*, and *Lycidas*. He took the side of the Parliament in the dispute with King Charles I. and rendered his party efficient service with his pen. About 1654 he became totally blind, and after serving the Protector as Latin Secretary for four or five years, he retired from public life in 1657. In 1665, the time of the Great Plague, he first showed the finished manuscript of his great poem, *Paradise Lost*, which was first printed in 1667, this immortal work being sold to a bookseller for £5 ! He afterwards wrote *Paradise Regained*, but it is, in all respects, quite inferior to *Paradise Lost*. He died in London, on the 8th of November, 1674.

MOORE, THOMAS, a celebrated poet, born in Dublin, May 28th, 1779, and was educated at Trinity College in that city. He studied law but never practised. He published two volumes of poems previous to the production of *Lalla Rookh*, his masterpiece, which was highly successful and was published in 1817. His works are very numerous and some of them are extremely popular, the best being *Lalla Rookh* and *Irish Melodies*. As a poet he displays grace, pathos, tenderness and imagination, but is deficient in power and naturalness. He died February 26th, 1852.

POE, EDGAR ALLAN, a distinguished American poet and prose writer, born in Baltimore in 1809. He was an entirely original figure in American literature, his temperament was melancholy, he hated restraint of every kind and he gave way to dissipation, and his life is a wretched record of poverty and suffering. But the *Bells*, *The Raven* and *Annabel Lee*, his principal poetical works, are wonderfully melodious, constructed with great ingenuity, and finished with consummate art. He wrote several weird prose tales and some critical essays. He died at Baltimore, under circumstances of great wretchedness, October 7th, 1849.

POPE, ALEXANDER, a popular English poet and critic, born in London, May 22nd, 1688. During his childhood he displayed great ability and resolved to be a poet. His *Pastorals* were written at the age of sixteen. He wrote a large number of poems, the most celebrated being the *Essay on Criticism*, *The Rape of the Lock* and the *Essay on Man*. He also published translations of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. His talent for satire is conspicuous in the *Dunciad*. He possessed little originality or creative imagination, but he had a vivid sense of the beautiful, and an exquisite taste. He owed much of his popularity to the easy harmony of his verse, the keenness of his satire, and the brilliancy of his antithesis. He has,