

And again in "Apparent Failure":

It's wiser being good than bad,  
It's safer being meek than fierce.  
It's better being sane than mad.  
My own hope is a sun will pierce  
The thickest clouds earth ever stretched;  
That, after Last, returns the First,  
Though a wide compass round be fetched.  
That what began best can't end worst,  
Nor what God blessed once, prove accurst.

And in "Cleon":

I have not chanted verse like Homer, no—  
Nor swept string like Terpander, no—nor  
carved  
And painted men like Phidias and his friend;  
I am not great as they are, point by point,  
But I have entered into sympathy  
With these four, running these into one soul,  
Who, separate, ignored each other's arts.  
Say, is it nothing that I know them all?

In "The Inn Album," he says:

Better have failed in the high aim, as I,  
Than vulgarly in the low aim succeed,  
As, God be thanked, I do not.

Indeed the beauties of Browning can only be hunted at in an article of this length. And now the prophet poet is dead, leaving a new book of poems behind him. What better requiem could he have than this from his own pen:

"Must death your daylight finish?  
My sun sets to rise again."

It is a solemn moment when the slow-moving mind reaches at length the verge of its mental horizon, and, looking over, sees no more.—[Drummond.

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1890

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