

jealousy, rage and madness;" and yet he seemed to Shakespeare a suitable person to take the chief part in his drama and awaken love in the breast of the peerless Juliet, when the perfect Paris had failed to do so. As far as I know, Mr. W. H. Mallock is the only critic who has perceived the real significance of *Maud*, to which Mr. Van Dyke, in his furious tilt at hysterics is utterly blind. This much abused age of ours, this imitative, so-called faithless, groping age, has one excellence no other age possessed. *Maud* is a revelation of how a mere modern can love; it is the revelation of a purer, more beautiful, more tender, more strong, and more consuming passion than any former time dreamed of. The reverence for the beloved woman is holier than ever before. And *Maud* illustrates this, for whatever may be said of the lover's character, nothing can be brought against the character of his love: not the shadow of an impure thought crosses his mind. The presence of such a love in a diseased nature, is only an accident; it is only stronger in a sturdy nature, such as that of the gallant young Highlander in *Macleod of Dare*. Why the utterances of Maud's lover should be called sentimental I do not understand, unless it is because all lovers are sentimental. The use of "babyisms and dear diminutives" does not prove a man weak. No one would call Dean Swift hysterical or sentimental, at least not to his face. And yet look at the baby talk of the *Journal of Stella* "the purr of the tiger," as Mr. Gosse calls it.

The slap at the Tory politics of the poem is pardonable. An American could hardly be expected to sympathize with England in the part she played in the Crimean War. But her action is not so unjustifiable as our critic seems to imagine. Protection to the Danubian provinces was Russia's side of the "question at issue," the other side was whether Sclavic barbarism should make a fresh inroad upon Western civilization. To Ruskin, for instance, the Crimea was another Thermopylæ; the fallen will be remembered as "those who held the breach and kept the gate of Europe against the North,