

done. Writings like hers lessen the sordid feelings of the age and give us some interest in the better and more enduring part.

Elizabeth Barret Browning is another gifted spirit—with more passion than Mrs. Norton, she is less popular because less natural. She has imbibed much of the German mysticism that infects the present school of poets. But she is a grand, bold, powerful writer—a very searcher of the soul. She plays with its most secret feelings. Wandering for a time in the wild meshes of ideality and mystery, she breaks out suddenly in burning words with some heart truth, and we start to think that she should know of the feelings and memories that most affect ourselves as individuals. 'Bertha in the Lane' is an exquisite poem—blending pathos with power and passion with tenderness, it chains us spell-bound long after we lay the book aside, and so with many others of her productions. She is a marvellously gifted woman, possessing a masculine strength of mind with the delicate perception and great tenderness of her own sex. She has much mannerism and absurdity, but she never can be tame or uninteresting. When we read her works, we know we are in communion with a superior mind, and whether we will or no, she sways us for the time by her own peculiar thoughts and ideas.

Charles McKay has written several bold and always elevating strains. He is the lyrist of the present day; but he is a very practical, matter-of-fact poet. His verses read like good plain prose turned into metre; he has little tenderness, less pathos, but a great deal of genuine honest English feeling. Patriotic and moral, he would make all who read his stanza the same. One cannot help admiring his firm, manly spirit, his determination to speak for the right. He can never be entitled to a place among our best poets, but many of his songs will last through coming time.

Charles Swain is a popular and graceful lyrist, he has not enough originality or genius to be a poet, but he is very pleasing, and appeals to the affections and sympathy tenderly and well. He has not written enough to entitle him to lengthened review, but he has afforded pleasure to many by his graceful versification and pretty allusions to things of everyday occurrence and reality.

Eliza Cook is another of the gifted sisterhood, and has written much to entitle her to high commendation. 'The Song of the Englishman' is a noble strain, which alone stamps her as a genuine poet. But she has written much more to confirm her claim to such a distinction. Some of our sweetest and most popular songs are from her pen, 'The old Arm Chair' and others, proving her to possess the right key to the feelings of the heart. We know of nothing more true and beautiful than her allusion to—

"The echoes which start
When memory plays an old tune on the heart."

And all her verses are filled with similar ideas as original as they are truthful. Her mind has a very masculine tone, and often her thoughts seem too bold and