

In 1883 the Queen conferred upon the Laureate the further honour of a peerage. Perhaps, in the light of present political conditions in England, it is interesting to note that his first vote of which there is any mention in his biography, was in 1884 for the extension of the franchise, and also his remarks about the bill: "Perhaps," he said, "it is the first step on the road to the new social condition that is surely coming on the world. Evolution has often come through revolution. In England common sense has carried the day without great upheavals, and I believe that English common sense will save us if our statesmen be not idiotic."

Tennyson's life contained few changes or startling events. It flowed on peacefully, full of congenial work, of home happiness, satisfying friendships, and honours. His marriage was ideally happy, and Lady Tennyson, a woman of great strength and beauty of character, survived him. The second great grief of his life befell him in 1886, when his second son, Lionel, died on his way home from India. The poet himself lived six years longer, and passed away peacefully at Farringford on the 6th of October, 1892. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, next to his great contemporary and friend, Robert Browning.

Tennyson's chief works appeared in the following order:—Poems, 1832. This volume contained "The Lady of Shalott," "The Miller's Daughter," "The Palace of Art," "The Dream of Fair Woman," "The Lotus Eaters."

In the opinion of many critics, he never surpassed these poems in beauty of melody and imagery. "The Princess" appeared in 1847, "In Memoriam," 1850, "Maud," 1885, "Enoch Arden," 1864, "The Idylls of the King" 1859-1885.

He was a great and finished artist, and, what by no means always follows, a truly popular poet. It has been said of him that no poet since Shakspeare has appealed both to the commonplace public and to the artistic sense of the few. "He speaks the thoughts, and speaks to the perplexities and misgivings of his own age," says a contemporary. And a friend of his youth writes: "It was easy to see that to discern the beautiful in all around us, and to reveal that beauty to others, was his special poetic vocation."

He delighted in heroic and knightly deeds, such as he relates in the "Idylls;" and he could tell most exquisitely a simple story of humble life, as

in "Dora" and "Enoch Arden." He adorns with gorgeous colouring some of the classical myths, like "Ænone" and the "Lotus Eaters." His love and accurate observation of nature are manifest in "In Memoriam" and many other poems that have an English background. He thought so highly of his art, and worked so carefully and lovingly that his expression seldom falls below a very high level, and at his best, he is a master of the music of words.

Canadians think with grateful pride of Tennyson's indignant repudiation of the expressed desire of some English statesmen that the colonies would leave the Empire. "A. burnt with indignation and shame," writes Lady Tennyson, "at one English eminent statesman saying to him, 'Would to God Canada would go!' And in the "Epilogue to the Idylls," addressed to the Queen, he pays tribute to the loyalty of "that true North," and strikes the note of true Imperialism in the well-known lines:—

The loyal to their crown
Are loyal to their own far sons, who love
One ocean empire with her boundless homes
Ever-broadening England.—

THE DESERTED VILLAGE—GRADES IX AND X

M. WINIFRED McGRAY.

1. Give a short sketch of the life of Goldsmith and explain the connection between Goldsmith, Samuel Johnson, Gibbon, Garrick, Boswell and Sir Joshua Reynolds. What famous book gives a full and accurate picture of these men and the times in which they lived?

2. Name Goldsmith's best known works. How many are read or acted today? Compare Goldsmith and Johnson in this respect.

3. Where was Goldsmith buried? Why not in Westminster Abbey? Is his memory honored in the Abbey?

4. What critical comments have been made of Goldsmith by Sir Walter Scott, Washington Irving, Goethe and Johnson?

5. Describe in your own words "Sweet Auburn! loveliest village of the plain."

6. Explain parting summer, circled in the shade, decent church, bittern, lapwing. Who said?

In the Spring a fuller crimson comes upon the robin's breast;
In the Spring the wanton lapwing gets himself another crest.