

poems runs a vein more Pagan than Christian, beauty of literary form being more conspicuous than nobility of sentiment. The tragic trilogy on the strange fortunes of Mary Stuart has the distinction of exceeding in length any other dramatic work in the language, occupying nearly 400 pages of this volume. We judge that his delineation of the character of the fair, false queen is that which will be sustained by history. The rugged Knox appears among the silken courtiers like Elijah at the court of Ahab. As he wrings the proud queen's heart, we think of the stern prophet rebuking the sin of Jezebel.

In his ballads Swinburne is, we think, at his best, though he has not the broad humanity of Tennyson, nor the elevating spirituality of Longfellow. In his imitations of the mediæval masques and miracle plays he catches their archaic manner exactly, as also in the quaint refrains of many of his ballads. He uses chiefly strong nervous Saxon words, and in his more elevated strains he exhibits the perhaps unconscious influence of Biblical phraseology. The following lines on "The North Sea," show his remarkable facility for alliteration and musical assonances :

A land that is lonelier than ruin ;
A sea that is stranger than death ;
Far fields that a rose never blew in ;
Wan waste where the wind lacks
breath.
Far flickers the flight of the swallows,
Far flutters the weft of the grass ;
Spun dense over desolate hollows,
More pale than the clouds when they
pass.

Swinburne is an enthusiastic hater of tyranny, and exults, with a lyrical rapture akin to Mrs. Browning's, at the emancipation and unification of Italy. The Pope he vigorously terms "the herdsman of the Gadarean swine." His songs of freedom ring like clarions.

This is his stirring appeal to England on behalf of Mazzini and the Italian patriots :

"Be not as a tyrant or slave,
England ; be not as these,
Thou that were other than they,

Stretch out thy hand but to save ;
Put forth thy strength and release ;
Lest there arise, if thou slay
Thy shame as a ghost from the grave."

"O Cromwell's mother, O breast
That suckled Milton ! Thy name
That was beautiful then, that was
blest,
Is it wholly disrowned and deprest,
Trodden under by sloth into
shame?"

Life and Labour in the Far, Far West: Being Notes of a Tour in the Western States, British Columbia, Manitoba and the North-West Territory. By W. HENRY BARNEBY, 8vo, pp. 432. Cassell & Co., London, Paris, and New York. Toronto : William Briggs. Price \$2.25.

This is the latest contribution, and one of the most, valuable to the literature on the Canadian North-West. The tour of 18,279 miles here described was made in the summer of 1883. Mr. Barneby, after an extensive tour in the United States and British Columbia, by invitation of our friend, George Cox, Esq., of Peterboro', President of the Midland Railway, and Mr. Jaffray, of Toronto, one of its directors, travelled in the official car of the company on a tour of inspection of the Canada Pacific to the end of the track, and thus had special facilities for obtaining information on all matters pertaining to the country. He made excursions in many directions, questioning the settlers, and gives tabular statements of the yield of the crops in an exceedingly business-like style. Mr. Barneby is a typical Englishman, maintaining his right to grumble at whatever does not meet his views, but enthusiastically commending the many attractions of our great inheritance in the North-West, and recognizing its vast possibilities in the near future. The great need, he says, is capital and good farming on the improved methods taught by modern science. He is an extensive landed proprietor in England, having also large investments in the North-West, and is a thorough judge of land and its value. He gives a very