

# THE HOMILETIC REVIEW.

VOL. XXIX.—APRIL, 1895.—No. 4.

## REVIEW SECTION.

### I.—ARTHUR HUGH CLOUGH AND HIS POETRY.

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WHAT is commonly known as the Oxford Tractarian Movement left its traces as well upon the literary as on the ecclesiastical history of England. The more deeply it is studied, the more that comes to light as the biographies of its leaders and adherents are published, the more apparent become its deep-reaching and farspreading effects and influences. Names like those of Cardinal Newman and Dr. Pusey overshadow, perhaps, the names of Matthew Arnold and Arthur Hugh Clough. Yet the latter have wielded influences in the world of literature as potent as those wielded by the former in the spheres of theology or Church polity, and it is safe to say that neither Arnold nor Clough would have affected English literature in the manner they did but for their residence at Oxford during the stirring years of Tract 90 and its fellows. The writings of both these men, the poetry of Clough, the poetry and essays of Arnold, are sure to live. They have elements of classical and enduring power; they have been and still are affecting deeply many thoughtful minds; and these writings bear the traces of the mental struggles of the severance from old beliefs which marked their Oxford days. Clough and Arnold were close friends. Both were scholars of the best English type. Both were men who had the courage of their opinions. Whatever we may think of their views, we must always do homage to their intellectual honesty. To maintain it, they both sacrificed worldly position. Clough died early, and his friend Arnold has embalmed the memory of their friendship in his *Thyrsis*, which has taken its place among the four or five great elegies of English poetry.

The life of Clough was an uneventful one; but it knew some experiences which shaped all his literary work, and which must therefore be reviewed in order to understand and appreciate it. He was born at Liverpool, January 1, 1819. When not quite four years old, his father removed to Charleston, S. C. There Clough's early childhood was spent. His mother seems to have had a large share in his mental