

He does most for his fellow men who gives them the strongest faith in the highest,—in God.

And surely Tennyson is a poet of faith-creating power. His perception of law and its operation is very clear and complete. He is called the poet of law and order. Much will be gained:

“When the kindly earth shall slumber, left in universal law.”

But after all has been said, he sees there must be a law given if there is a law:

“God is law say the wise; O soul and let us rejoice,
For if He thunder by law, the thunder is yet His voice.”

For him there is a personal relation to a personal being with whom his soul communes:

“Speak to Him, thou, for He hears, and spirit with spirit can meet,
Closer is He than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet.”

His view of law makes a place for the law of prayer written on men's hearts. He makes King Arthur say to his last faithful Knight:

“Pray for my soul. More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of.

For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.”

And in his most personal poem, “the greatest elegiac poem in the world,” he bows at the very beginning to the:—

“Strong son of God! immortal Love!”

We scarcely needed his last great confession:

“I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.”

In all the great elements of advanced ethical and spiritual life our poet by the emphasis of his own testimony and by his unequalled, and inimitable forms of expression, has set the standard of life in advance of the past. And as if to make attainment possible for us, with all his deep sympathies that compass ours he takes us with him to the Mount and shares with us the vision of:

“That God, which ever lives and loves,
One God, one law, one element,
And one far-off divine event,
To which the whole creation moves.”

E. M. K.,