

suggests Wordsworth's famous sonnet beginning:

The world is too much with us ; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our pow'rs.

To illustrate fully his attitude towards modern life would be to quote a large portion of his poetry. It appears prominently in the "Obermann" poems, where the phrase, "the hopeless tangle of our age," occurs, and also in "The Grande Chartreuse," where to the heroic dead he says, "The eternal trifler breaks your spell," and expresses the hope that

Years hence, perhaps, may dawn an age,
More fortunate, alas ! than we,
Which without hardness will be sage,
And gay without frivolity.

But this feature probably finds its best expression in "The Scholar Gipsy," a poem in which he reaches his high-water mark of melody, vigor, and imagination, from which to quote would be like transplanting a tree from a landscape. It is possibly his best poem.

His criticism of England appears in the poem entitled "Heine's Grave." Heinrich Heine could not abide the Anglo-Saxon. He regarded him as stupid, arrogant, and hypocritical. And George Eliot and Matthew Arnold agreed with him. It was Heine who said he believed God would rather hear a Frenchman curse than an Englishman pray. In "Heine's Grave" the following lines occur:

I chide thee not, that thy sharp
Upbraidings often assail'd
England, my country—for we
Heavy and sad, for her sons,
Long since, deep in our hearts,
Echo the blame of her foes.
We, too, sigh that she flags ;
We, too, say that she now—
Scarce comprehending the voice
Of her greatest, golden-mouthed sons
Of a former age any more—
Stupidly travels her round
Of mechanic business and lets
Slow die out of her life,
Glory, and genius and joy.