

Browning teaches strongly what was taught to Peter, and, through Peter, to the Jews, that God is no respecter of persons. "All service ranks the same with God."

"So let him wait God's instant—men call years, meantime hold hard by truth and his great soul—do out the duty. Through such souls alone—God stooping, shows sufficient of His light For us i' the dark to rise by—and I rise." Yes, Browning is a religious teacher, at whose feet it will elevate anyone to sit. Righteousness, duty, sacrifice, charity are amongst his themes, but, as I said before, what runs through everything, what explains all, past, present, future—God, man, time, Eternity—is "Love."

"There shall never be one lost good—
What was shall live as before ;
The evil is null—is naught—
Is silence implying sound.
What was good shall be good,
With, for evil, so much good more
On the earth, the broken arcs
In the heaven a perfect round."

Browning never ignores wretchedness, never ignores sin, nor does he call them by other names, but deep down in the heart of the deepest human wretchedness, and the deepest human wickedness, he sees the loving touch of God, and in that is his faith, his hope, his interpretation of the world and life. Evil is part of the Divine scheme, and the whole scheme is "love." Gain is enhanced by loss, ignorance leads to higher knowledge, truth springs from error. That life here should end all would be a thought absolutely impossible to Browning, for it would mean injustice to men, and injustice with God. Soaring far beyond this earth and time, he weaved his song of hope right amid the wail and woe of wretchedness, and sin, and in the love of God found assurance that "Heaven's shall be" comes from "Earth's has been." His creed is optimism, failing perhaps in many a solution, and leaving, though greatly sweetened, many a difficulty unexplained ; but if his