

easily trace the steps by which the poet leads up to that new and better theology which so influenced him. Here we see God as a practical God, a God who heals and blesses and not one who damns and curses. Nor is man so very bad after all. Man is moving on from good to better, but on earth can never reach best. It is here that we recognize in Tennyson the literary son of Wordsworth, but the son outshines the father. The steps we trace in "In Memoriam" are three. First, we see the emphasis laid on the living friend and the dead body. In the second place we see the duality of life emphasized. There are brought before us the living friend and the living spirit, and the question that comes to us is, "Can they commune with one another?" In the third place we see the poet broaden out beyond the individual, and the emphasis is laid on mankind in general. This is the point in which he approaches Wordsworth. To him life is simply a variety of sensations. Man passes on from good to better, growing continually. Just at what stage he is we cannot tell, but growth does not stop with death. Death does not end all. Perfection can come only after this mortal change, and so the poem which begins with a minor note of despair ends with a note of hope and triumph.

Tennyson's first period was one apparently calm and peaceful and serene. Men thought him a dilettant. Compared with the poetry of those who preceded him, the poetry of Tennyson has been likened to a lovely summer evening when the outlines of the land-

scape are the same as in the day-time, but the dazzling splendor has been softened and dulled, and the flowers with their vigor restored, lift themselves up and all is refreshing. To this period belong his portraits of women, and it was these that first attracted people. Tennyson was deeply interested in woman, and his interest continued to live. We see it beautifully brought out in "The Princess," where he teaches that woman is the helpmeet and companion of man. These early portraits of women may be said to form a sort of picture gallery. Here is the frolicsome, child-like, flirting, little, "airy, fairy Lilian," there the beautiful and chaste Isabel who makes a model wife; here is Adeline the thoughtful, the dreaming, the spiritual, there is the "ever varying Madeline," at one time smiling, at another frowning, and still again uncertain whether to smile or frown. It is said that Adeline, Lilian, Eleanore and the May Queen were keep-sake characters.

Fame came quickly to Tennyson. At thirty he found himself already famous, and in 1850, being then forty-one he was made Laureate by the Queen who thus justified the public estimate of his powers. He lived in the country, chiefly in the Isle of Wight, amongst his books and his flowers, free from the annoyances of society. His life was outwardly so calm that men imagined it to be nothing but a beautiful dream. But though apparently a mere dreamer, he was more than a dilettant. Under the smooth surface burned the fire of passion. He feels too acutely to be at