

Algrind, in the "Shepherd's Calendar." It was, however, the earnestness and devotion of the Puritans, and not the narrowness and bitterness of some of their number, unfairly attributed to the whole, by which Spenser was attracted. He agreed with them in their hatred of Roman rule, but not in their condemnation of the subserviency of art to religious uses and of innocent amusements.

Among the college friends of Spenser was Andrews, afterwards Bishop of Winchester, Edward Kirke, who, under the initials E. K., was literary sponsor to Spenser's first work of importance, and Gabriel Harvey, by whom he was introduced to Philip Sidney, and who is best known, perhaps, by his endeavours to suppress the English rhymed verse, and replace it by the hexameter. Harvey, apparently a little older than Spenser, although his contemporary at the university, was a scholar and a man of considerable erudition, nor without the spirit of poetry, but full of pedantry and artificiality. He was very proud of having, as he thought, led the way to the adoption of a more classical form of English poetry. "If I never deserve any better remembrance," he says, "let me be epitaphed the inventor of the English hexameter." Although he was disappointed at Spenser's attachment to what he regarded as barbarous English forms, they remained life-long friends, and he appears as Hobbinol in the "Shepherd's Calendar," Spenser representing himself under Colin Clout. We wish we had space to quote the fine sonnet which Spenser addressed to his friend from Dublin, in the year 1586. It may be found, however, in his works, the first of the sonnets printed after the Prothalamion.

For a short time after Spenser left Cambridge, he stayed with his

friends in the North, where he fell in love with the lady whom he celebrates under the name of Rosalind, the "widow's daughter of the Glen," to whom, in spite of her rejection of him and preference of another, he retained an ardent attachment for years. She seems to have exercised a considerable influence over the poet, and to have had a great appreciation of his genius. Some poetical efforts of Spenser's belong to an earlier period, but Rosalind seems to have put him on a new course. In 1579 Spenser was in London, where he had a place in the household of Sidney's uncle, the Earl of Leicester. In 1580 he is in love again, and, writing to Harvey, speaks of his sweetheart as "meum corculum" (my little heart), as "altera Rosalindula" (another little Rosalind), but she quickly disappears. About the same time, his first important venture, the "Shepherd's Calendar," is given to the world. The greater part of this poem was written in the North, and it was entered at Stationers' Hall, December 5, 1579, after his arrival in London.

This poem consists of twelve parts, called Aeglogues; but, although under the form of a pastoral, it is such only in an allegorical sense. It was founded on the model of Virgil and Theocritus, but its shepherds are the pastors of the church, and their sheep are the people committed to their charge. One of the pastors is Algrind, intended, as already remarked, for Grindal of Canterbury. Another is Morell, meaning Aylmer, Bishop of London. The poem is Puritan in tone, but by no means extreme, and the same note is not found in Spenser's later writings. This poem gave Spenser a position among the first poets of the day. In spite of its immaturity and artificiality, it was recognized