

Work, however, and not repining he had discovered to be the best specific for grief, and some of his most vigorous poems appeared in rapid succession. To 1871 belong *Balaustion's Adventure* and *Prince Hohenstiel-Schwangau*; to 1872 *Fifine at the Fair*; to 1873 *Red Cotton Nightcap Country*; to 1875 the *Inn Album*; to 1876 *Pacchiarotto*; to 1877 the translation of the *Agamemnon* of Æschylus; to 1878 *La Saisiaz* and *The Two Poets of Croisic*; to 1879 and 1880 the *Dramatic Idyls*; to 1883 *Jocoseria*; to 1884 *Ferishtah's Fancies*; to 1887 *Parleyings with Certain People of Importance in their Day*, and to 1889 *Asolando*, which, by a pathetic coincidence, actually saw the light on the very day he died, on December 12th, in his son's house, the Palazzo Rezzonico, in Venice. Whether we regard the variety of subject or the sustained excellence of treatment, this was an extraordinary output for a man who was verging on sixty years of age when it began. He was buried in the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey on December 31st, 1889.

Robert Browning was long in coming into his kingdom, but his supremacy is now unchallenged and unassailable. Ashamed of their indifference to his unique versatility, commanding genius and astonishing virility, learned societies made haste to atone for their neglect. In 1868 he was invited to assume the Lord Rectorship of St. Andrews University in succession to John Stuart Mill, and on two other occasions (1877 and 1884) this honour was pressed upon him, as also was the Lord Rectorship of Glasgow University. But he could not see his way to undertake the responsibilities of either post. In 1868 he was made Honorary M.A. of Oxford and Honorary Fellow of Balliol College. Three years later he was elected Life Governor of University College, London, and but for a technical but insuperable difficulty—that he had not graduated M.A. in the ordinary course—he would have been appointed Professor of Poetry at Oxford—an office which he would have filled with quite exceptional distinction. In 1884 he received from Edinburgh the degree of LL.D., and, in 1886, became Foreign Correspondent to the Royal Academy. One singular compliment was paid to him in 1881, when the Browning Society was founded at the instigation of Dr. Frederick James Furnivall. The project tickled the ears of the groundlings, but it evinced the eagerness for the thorough exposition of his writings and demonstrated his growing popularity. The elucidation of an author's text in all its bearings is a work of necessity and not of grace, and students of Browning, like those of Shakespeare, could not fail to benefit by it. His character could not be better expressed than in his own noble pen-portrait—

One who never turned his back, but marched breast forward,
Never doubted clouds would break,
Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph,
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,
Sleep to wake.

Similarly, his optimism and faith were summed up in the whole-hearted avowal—

God's in His heaven—
All's right with the world!

JAMES A. MANSON.