

being run-on. Her thought moves in smaller circles than the others, and is at the extreme from the Pope, whose sweeping thought demands 32 per cent. Guido and Caponsacchi take a middle place with about 30 per cent., although Guido has rather the most. These are the average number of run-on lines considered individually; but it is significant that the Pope has larger *groups* of these lines than any of the other speakers. Guido most closely resembles him in his closely-knit second monologue.

V. There is another feature of Browning's blank verse, and, indeed of all his verse, wherein he has shown great power and originality,—his *alliteration*. This has been a feature of all English verse, and has been one of the sources of the charm of it; but it may safely be said that no English poet has made use of it so consistently, not as an occasional charm merely, but as a structural principle in his verse, as has Browning. It may be classified as follows:

- (1) To fuse together the half-line, e. g.,

And *f*ly aloft, The *c*leaving of a *c*loud, *S*hy but sure.

- (2) To fuse the line, as in the Anglo Saxon poetry, e. g.,

Traverse the half-mile avenue,—a *t*erm.

*M*ere moonshine-structure meant to fade at dawn.

This careless courage as to consequence.

- (3) To fuse the latter half of the line to the succeeding line, e. g.,

... the *p*hysician here,

My father's luckey's son.

... the *f*ine

Felicity and *f*lower of wickedness.

This has the same effect as enjambement, the similarity of sound emphasizing the connection in the same manner as the lack of a pause.

- (4) To fuse together whole strophes, or periods.¹

In the following lines, an *r*-alliteration runs through them, and is reinforced by the *l*-alliteration which begins in the

¹ What Prof. Sylvester calls "Phonetic Sygzy," in his *Laws of Verse*.