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Contributed Articles.

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

IT may be regarded as a fortunate characteristic of modern literary taste that the interest of the careful reader is excited not more by the positive beauty and attractiveness of the works of a poet than by the study of the nature from which they spring. In reviewing poetry it is easy to fall into grave critical errors; for not every one who wears the robe of Aristarchus is entitled to exercise literary censorship. Perhaps we have unduly cultivated the ability to find fault, and, forgetting that the highest task of criticism is not censure but intelligent and discriminating praise of what is worthy, have robbed ourselves of no little enjoyment and profit and lost the enthusiasm of those more simple natures, who, if they do not know quite as much as we do, felt far more, and therefore entered more deeply into the meaning of life as revealed in the works of genius. Do what we will to strike the golden mean of judgment, we are almost sure to be partial in our verdict; for, according to popular fable, has not Astræa long ago ascended to the heavens? But when we can turn from the work to a noble personality in the worker, we enter a region of more general interest, in which many former perplexities are removed, and criticism seems to lose itself in admiration. Whatever doubts we have in regard to the precise extent and significance of alleged blemishes in a poem, or the place which it will ultimately oc-