

will always afford abundant charm to the student. It matters not what may be the spiritual significance of "Lancelot and Elaine." The pathetic story of Elaine, the knightly courtesy of Lancelot, and the passionate love of Guinevere will always touch a tender chord in our hearts. Other features will commend themselves to the student, — the brilliancy of style, the rapidity of movement, the swift changes of scene, the striking contrasts, — all contributing to the "poetry of action" which should lead to the study of the sentimental and reflective in Tennyson. These all appeal to a more general study of this epic in our schools.

In studying the poetry of Tennyson certain books should be available to the pupils for reference, and a list of these is given in part in this volume. The editor desires to call attention, also, to the accompanying life of the poet, the History of the Arthurian Romances, and the Introduction to the "Idylls," all of which he believes will conduce to a better understanding of "Lancelot and Elaine" and "The Passing of Arthur." Malory's "Morte Darthur" will be found useful, to show how closely the poet has followed the original narrative. Lest the book should not be at hand in all schools, the editor has made frequent quotations from Malory's work, in the notes. The glossary at the end of the book, containing the archaic and obsolete terms used by Tennyson, together with their meanings, will be found valuable to the pupil. The editor hopes that the present volume may stimulate the student to a more extended study of Tennyson and his poetry.

J. E. T.

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BOOKS OF REFERENCE.

The following books, among many, are recommended as being helpful to those who desire a more intimate knowledge of Tennyson and his works:—

- Poetic and Dramatic Works of Tennyson. Houghton, Mifflin & Company's Edition.
Alfred Lord Tennyson, A Memoir, by his son.
Alfred Lord Tennyson, A Study of his Life and Works, by Arthur Waugh.
The Poetry of Tennyson, by Henry Van Dyke.
Victorian Poets, by E. C. Stedman.
Tennyson, His Art and Relation to Modern Life, by Stopford A. Brooke.
The Teaching of Tennyson, by John Oates.
Studies in the Idylls, by Henry Elsdale.
Essays on Lord Tennyson's Idylls, by Bishop Littledale.
A Study of the Works of Tennyson, by E. E. Tainsh.
The Growth of the Idylls of the King, by Richard Jones.
Illustrations of Tennyson, by J. Churton Collins.
The Arthurian Epic, by S. H. Gurteen.

INTRODUCTION.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

Birth of Tennyson.—Halfway between Horncastle and Spilsby in Lincolnshire, a land of quiet villages, large fields, and gray hillsides, on the lower slope of one of those wolds so common to that part of England, nestles the hamlet of Somersby. Here, August 6, 1809, was born, in the Somersby Rectory, Alfred Tennyson, the fourth of twelve children. His father, Dr. George Clayton Tennyson, held this living in connection with that of Great Grimsby. His mother was Elizabeth Fytche, daughter of Rev. Stephen Fytche, Vicar of Louth. The country around was not at all such as one associates with the fens. It was not flat or prosaic, with dreary waters and low-lying fens, but was diversified by hills and valleys, and full of the sights and sounds of country life, rich in flowery hollows and patches of meadow land; a fit birthplace for a great poet.

Early Life.—When seven years of age the boy was asked, "Will you go to sea or to school?" "To school," he replied. Accordingly he was sent to the Louth Grammar School, near which his maternal grandmother lived. "How I did hate that school!" said Tennyson, many years later. The terms that he spent there seem to have brought very