

**TENNYSON'S LIFE AND
POETRY: AND MISTAKES
CONCERNING TENNYSON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649197019

Tennyson's life and poetry: and mistakes concerning Tennyson by Eugene Parsons

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

EUGENE PARSONS

**TENNYSON'S LIFE AND
POETRY: AND MISTAKES
CONCERNING TENNYSON**

217
12

Tennyson's Life and Poetry: and Mistakes Concerning Tennyson



By EUGENE PARSONS.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTORY NOTE,	5
TENNYSON'S LIFE AND POETRY,	8
MISTAKES CONCERNING TENNYSON,	22
TRANSLATIONS OF TENNYSON'S WORKS,	31

COPYRIGHT, 1892, 1893, By EUGENE PARSONS.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Printed by THE CRAIG PRESS, Chicago.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

There is already an extensive Tennyson literature. Of books relating to the scenes connected with his life and works, are Walters' *In Tennyson Land*; Brooks' *Out of Doors with Tennyson*; also Church's *Laureate's Country*, and Napier's *Homes and Haunts of Lord Tennyson*. There is a mass of material, both critical and biographical, in Shepherd's *Tennysonianana*; Wace's *Life and Works of Tennyson*; Tainsh's *Study of the Works of Tennyson*; Jennings' *Sketch of Lord Tennyson*; and Van Dyke's *Poetry of Tennyson*. Besides these may be mentioned Brightwell's *Tennyson Concordance*; Irving's *Tennyson*; Lester's *Lord Tennyson and the Bible*; also Collins' *Illustrations of Tennyson*.

Valuable help for understanding and appreciating *In Memoriam* is afforded by the volumes on that poem written by Robertson, Gatty, Genung, Chapman and Davidson. Much interesting information is given in Dawson's *Study of "The Princess"*; Mann's *Tennyson's "Maud" Vindicated*; Elsdale's *Studies in the Idyls*; and Nutt's *Studies on the Legend of the Holy Grail*. A collection of Tennyson's songs, set to music by various composers, has been issued by Stanley Lucas and by Harper & Bros.

Several volumes of selections from Tennyson's writings have appeared as follows: *Ausgewählte Gedichte*, with notes (in German) by Fischer, Salzwedel, 1878; *Lyrical Poems of Alfred Tennyson*, with notes (in Italian) by T. C. Cann, Florence, 1887; *Lyrical Poems of Lord Tennyson*, annotated by F. T. Palgrave; *Select Poems of Tennyson*, and *Young People's Tennyson*, both edited by W. J. Rolfe; *Tennyson Selections*, with notes by F. J. Rowe and W. T. Webb; and *Tennyson for the Young*, edited by Alfred Ainger.

Among school editions of Tennyson's poems, are *The Princess*, with notes by Rolfe, also by Wallace; *Enoch Arden*, with notes by Rolfe, by Webb, and by Blaisdel; *Enoch Arden*, with notes (in

German) by Hamann, Leipzig, 1890; *Enoch Arden*, with notes (in French) by Courtois, Paris, 1891; *Enoch Arden*, with notes (in French) by Beljame, Paris, 1891; *Les Idylles du roi*, *Enoch Arden*, with notes (in French) by Baret, Paris, 1886; *Enoch Arden*, *les Idylles du roi*, with notes (in French) by Sevette, Paris, 1887; *Aylmer's Field*, annotated by Webb; *The Two Voices* and *A Dream of Fair Women*, by Corson; *The Coming of Arthur* and *The Passing of Arthur*, by Rowe; *In Memoriam* and other poems, by Kellogg.

Innumerable papers on Tennyson and his poetry have been published in newspapers and periodicals. A large number of these reviews and some descriptive articles are contained in the following volumes: Horne's *Spirit of the Age*; Howitt's *Homes and Haunts of British Poets*; Hamilton's *Poets-Laureate of England*; Robertson's *Lectures*; Kingsley's *Miscellanies*; Bagehot's *Literary Studies*; Japp's *Three Great Teachers*; Buchanan's *Master Spirits*; Austin's *Poets of the Period*; Forman's *Our Living Poets*; Friswell's *Modern Men of Letters*; Haweis' *Poets in the Pulpit*; McCrie's *Religion of Our Literature*; Devay's *Comparative Estimate of English Poets*; Gladstone's *Gleanings of Past Years*; Archer's *English Dramatists of To-Day*; Stedman's *Victorian Poets*; Cooke's *Poets and Problems*; Fraser's *Chaucer to Longfellow*; Dawson's *Makers of Modern English*; Egan's *Lectures on English Literature*; and Ritchie's *Light-Bearers*.

For favorable or unfavorable estimates of Tennyson, the reader is referred to the lectures of Dowden and Ingram in the *Dublin Afternoon Lectures on Literature and Art*, and to the collected essays of Brimley, Bayne, Hadley, Masson, Stirling, Roscoe, Hayward, Hutton, Swinburne, Galton, Noel, Heywood, Bayard Taylor and others.

Some side-lights are thrown on the Laureate in Ruskin's *Modern Painters*; Hamerton's *Thoughts on Art*; Masson's *Recent British Philosophy*; and Arnold's *Lectures on Translating Homer*. Stray glimpses of the man in his personal relations are found in the *Carlyle and Emerson Correspondence*; Fanny Kemble's *Records of a Girlhood*; Caroline Fox's *Memories of Old Friends*; Reid's *Life of Lord Houghton*; and in the *Letters and Literary Remains of Edward Fitzgerald*.

But with all that has been written concerning Tennyson, no monograph, so far as I am aware, has hitherto appeared which is at once comprehensive and accurate. Mrs. Ritchie's beautiful portraiture of the Laureate, with its touch of hero-worship, lacks a great deal of being a survey of his literary career. No biography of Al-

fred Tennyson has been published which is worthy the name. For many years students and lovers of the poet encountered difficulty in obtaining full and exact information on the chief events of his life. I undertook to supply this want in the essay entitled "Tennyson's Life and Poetry."

In the preparation of this paper, I had occasion to consult various periodicals and works of reference. With scarcely an exception, I found the articles on Tennyson in cyclopedias and biographical dictionaries faulty in many particulars. Even the sketches in recent compilations and journals are full of misleading and conflicting statements. I became impressed with the thought that these errors ought to be exposed and corrected. The result was the critique—"Mistakes concerning Tennyson." I gathered my materials from a variety of sources, and always aimed to disengage the truth. I depended largely on Rev. Alfred Gatty, Mrs. Ritchie, Mr. Gosse, Prof. Palgrave, Prof. Church, Mr. C. J. Caswell, and Dr. Van Dyke as the most trustworthy authorities.

My thanks are due Dr. W. F. Poole, of the Newberry Library, for placing at my disposal an immense collection of bibliographies, catalogues and bulletins of foreign books. I desire also to express my obligations to Dr. Henry van Dyke, of New York City, for aiding me in my researches.

EUGENE PARSONS.

3612 Stanton Ave., Chicago,
April, 1892.

TENNYSON'S LIFE AND POETRY.

I.

Alfred Tennyson was born August 6, 1809, in Somersby, a wooded hamlet of Lincolnshire, England. "The native village of Tennyson," says Howitt, who visited it many years ago, "is not situated in the fens, but in a pretty pastoral district of softly sloping hills and large ash trees. It is not based on bogs, but on a clean sandstone. There is a little glen in the neighborhood, called by the old monkish name of Holywell." There he was brought up amid the lovely idyllic scenes which he has made famous in the "Ode to Memory" and other poems. The picturesque "Glen," with its tangled underwood and purling brook, was a favorite haunt of the poet in childhood. On one of the stones in this ravine he inscribed the words—BYRON IS DEAD—ere he was fifteen.

Alfred was the fourth son of the Rev. George Clayton Tennyson, LL.D., rector of Somersby and other neighboring parishes. His father, the oldest son of George Tennyson, Esq., of Bayons and Usselby Hall, was a man of uncommon talents and attainments, who had tried his hand, with fair success, at architecture, painting, music and poetry. His mother was a sweet, gentle soul, and exceptionally sensitive. The poet-laureate seems to have inherited from her his refined, shrinking nature.

Dr. Tennyson married Miss Elizabeth Fytche, August 6, 1805. Their first child, George, died in infancy. According to the parish registers, the Tennyson family consisted of eleven children, viz.: Frederick, Charles, Alfred, Mary, Emily, Edward, Arthur, Septimus, Matilda, Cecilia and Horatio. They formed a joyous, lively household—amusements being agreeably mingled with their daily tasks. They were all handsome and gifted, with marked mental traits and imaginative temperaments. They were especially fond of reading and story-telling. At least four of the boys were addicted to verse-writing—a habit they kept up through life, though Alfred