

**AN EXAMINATION OF THE NON-
DRAMATIC POEMS IN ROBERT
BROWNING'S FIRST AND SECOND
PERIODS: TO WHICH IS ADDED A
BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649418565

An Examination of the Non-Dramatic Poems in Robert Browning's First and Second Periods:
To Which Is Added a Bibliography by Thomas M. Parrott

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THOMAS M. PARROTT

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Full of 138

138

AN EXAMINATION
OF *17618*
THE NON-DRAMATIC POEMS
IN
ROBERT BROWNING'S FIRST AND SECOND
PERIODS, TO WHICH IS ADDED A BIBLIOGRAPHY
BEING PART OF A THESIS
PRESENTED
TO THE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LEIPZIG
FOR THE
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
BY
THOMAS M. PARROTT.

LEIPZIG-R.
PRINTED BY OSWALD SCHMIDT
1893.



cont. 2-10-16 RGF

TO MY PARENTS

THESE FIRST FRUITS.

PREFACE.

The following study does not pretend to be an exhaustive treatment of Browning. It is simply an attempt to discover those of his poems in which his dramatic method, which colors the great body of his work, is lacking, and from these to extract by careful examination his beliefs on the great questions of life. The theory of life which may be extracted and arranged from these does not completely correspond to Browning's, for as I have shown in this study, he prefers as a rule to teach indirectly and by means of his dramatic method. But it has the advantage over all presentations which have yet been made of being grounded solely upon poems in which the poet gives direct utterance to his beliefs, and not upon a method of miscellaneous quotation from poems dramatic or otherwise. And I believe that while certain dramatic poems add detail and color to his beliefs, they contain no essential point that will not also be found in the poems I have examined. As it is over the religious and ethical beliefs of Browning that the bitterest controversy has occurred, I have examined these with great care and, I hope, impartially; but my work throughout has been that of the student of literature rather than of theology or philosophy, and my aim has been rather to ascertain the theory of life held by a poet who was also a profound thinker, than to criticise the formulated system

of a theologian or philosopher, neither of which Browning was.

The references throughout are to the standard edition of Browning's works in 16 volumes, published 1888—1889 by Smith, Elder & Co., and to *Asolando*, 1889 by the same house. I quote by volume and page, giving where possible the stanza (st.) and paragraph (§). In quoting from the *Ring and the Book* I give book and line. I have used throughout the following abbreviations; *Para.* = *Paracelsus*, *Sord.* = *Sordello*, *B. and P.* = *Bells and Pomegranates*, *M. and W.* = *Men and Women*, *Dram. Pers.* = *Dramatis Personae*, *R. and B.* = *Ring and the Book*, *P. H. S.* = *Prince Hohenstiel Schwangau*, *R. C. N. C.* = *Red Cotton Night Cap Country*, *L. S.* = *La Sosiaz*, *Jocos.* = *Jocoseria*, *Parley.* = *Parleyings with certain People*, *Aso.* = *Asolando*. In the notes I have constantly used *B.* = Browning. In quoting from works on Browning it is my practise to give by the first reference, the full name of work, date of publication &c., by subsequent reference merely the name of the author and the page of his work. The works cited under the names of Mrs. Orr and Dr. Berdoe, in regard to which confusion might arise, are Mrs. Orr's *Life of Browning*, and Dr. Berdoe's *Browning Cyclopaedia*, unless otherwise stated. I refer to the papers of the Browning Society (London) under the abbreviation *Brown. Soc. Pap.*, quoting by part and page.

CONTENTS.

	page
<i>Introduction.</i> Browning's position in Victorian Literature and his relation to his time	9
<i>Chapter I.</i> Difficulties in the way of ascertaining Browning's theory of life—His dramatic method	21
<i>Chapter II.</i> Non-dramatic poems of Browning. Periods of his work	39
<i>Chapter III.</i> An examination of the non-dramatic poems	47
To which is added a Bibliography	80
