

**ALFRED  
TENNYSON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649043569

Alfred Tennyson by Arthur Christopher Benson

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Cover @ 2017

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**ARTHUR CHRISTOPHER BENSON**

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TENNYSON

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ALFRED TENNYSON  
(ABOUT 1860)

*From a photograph by Rejlander*



# ALFRED TENNYSON

BY

ARTHUR CHRISTOPHER BENSON

WITH EIGHT ILLUSTRATIONS

METHUEN & CO.  
36 ESSEX STREET W.C.  
LONDON

*New and Cheaper Issue*



*First Published . . . February 1904*  
*New and Cheaper Issue 1905*

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## PREFACE

THE object of this little book is threefold ; I have tried (1) to give a simple narrative of the life of Tennyson, with a sketch of his temperament, character, ideals and beliefs ; (2) I have tried from his own words and writings to indicate what I believe to have been his view of the poetical life and character ; (3) I have attempted to touch the chief characteristics of his art from the technical point of view, here again as far as possible using his own recorded words.

My aim has been not to deal largely in quotation, but to take for granted a knowledge of the works, and if possible to send a reader back to them.

I am, of course, deeply indebted to the present Lord Tennyson's great *Memoir*, which, for all its tender simplicity of form, is a perfect mine of interest and pleasure ; and I here acknowledge very gratefully the kind permission which Lord Tennyson readily gave me to make use of his book,<sup>1</sup> and even

<sup>1</sup> I may here also record my obligation to my sister, Miss Margaret Benson, to Mr. Edmund Gosse, and to Mr. F. E. B. Duff for valuable assistance, criticism and advice.

03-27-30  
Edmund Gosse

to reproduce certain of the illustrations. I have read and re-read the poems; I have studied several critical volumes; I have talked with friends of the Poet; with himself to my eternal regret I never exchanged a word. *Virgilium vidi tantum!*

It will thus be seen that I claim neither novelty of view nor elaborate apparatus of learning; but my work is based on admiration and reverent love, and the desire to share with others an inheritance of pure and deep delight.

A. C. B.