

THE POETRY OF THE PERIOD

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The Poetry of the Period by Alfred Austin

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ALFRED AUSTIN

**THE POETRY
OF THE PERIOD**

THE
POETRY OF THE PERIOD.

BY
ALFRED AUSTIN,

AUTHOR OF
"THE REASON: A SATIRE," "THE HUMAN TRAGEDY," ETC.



LONDON:
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1870.

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UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

TO

E. D. FORGUES,

ONE OF A BRILLIANT BAND OF LIVING FRENCH CRITICS,

TO WHOM, ALAS! WE POSSESS NO PARALLEL,

This Volume is Dedicated,

WITH

EVERY EXPRESSION OF ADMIRATION

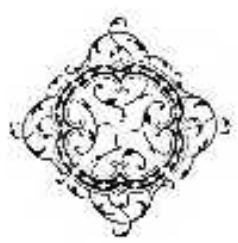
AND

FRIENDLY REGARD.

ROME, *February*, 1870.

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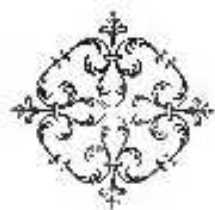
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MEMBERS OF THE



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THE POETRY OF THE PERIOD.

Mr. Tennyson.

IF one were to enter a modern drawing-room filled with the average polite society of the day, and then and there were to pluck up courage to declare that Mr. Tennyson has no sound pretensions to be called a great poet, and will of a certainty not be esteemed such by an unbiassed posterity, I suppose he would not create more astonishment, or be regarded more unanimously as a heretic, than would another who in a company of *savans* expressed his doubts as to the law of gravitation, or a third who, before a committee of orthodox divines, exposed his utter disbelief in the inspiration of the Scriptures. Yet that, and nothing less, is the opinion to be