

**BROWNING'S MESSAGE  
TO HIS TIME: HIS  
RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY,  
AND SCIENCE, PP. 1-179**

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Browning's Message to His Time: His Religion, Philosophy, and Science, pp. 1-179 by Edward Berdoe

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FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MESSRS. ELLIOTT & FRY.

# BROWNING'S MESSAGE TO HIS TIME

*His Religion, Philosophy, and Science*

BY

EDWARD BERDOE

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"As the eyes of Lynceus were said to see through the earth, so the poet turns the world to glass, and shows us all things in their right series and procession. For, through that better perception, he stands one step nearer to things, and sees the flowing or metamorphosis. . . . The poet alone knows astronomy, chemistry, vegetation, and animation, for he does not stop at these facts, but employs them as signs."—EMERSON: *The Poet*.

SECOND EDITION

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1891

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### PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THAT a second edition of my little attempt to set forth some of the broader principles of Mr. Browning's teaching should be called for in little more than a year is a proof that my book has found readers amongst the large class of educated people who require some kind of introduction before undertaking the study of the poet for themselves. I have not written for those who know the poet, far less have I made any attempt to point out to Browning students in these pages anything new and original in the way of criticism. I have written for the casual and desultory reader who has not directed any serious study to our great thinker, and my aim has rather been to indicate the position of a vast treasure-city and to point out the greatness of its wealth than to "personally conduct" any traveller thither, still less to unlock the caskets or to show them how to possess themselves of their wealth. It is in vain to deny that Browning



remains still unread by the great mass of reading people. The great bulk of his works are, for all intents and purposes, sealed books to most people ; deterred by the thorns and prickles, the roses are unplucked. The hard shell prevents any serious attempt to reach the nut, and the popular opinion that Browning is difficult has "choked off"—to use a vulgarism—a host of people—with brains enough for anything in the way of intellectual work—from making any real attempt to read him. I have made an attempt to reach this class of readers and induce them to make such effort as may be necessary to add to their education the study of a poet unequalled since Shakespeare. Such a study to the laity will be found highly productive of fruitful thought ; to the clergy the study is indispensable.

E. B.

P.S.—The portrait which forms the frontispiece to this volume has been reproduced from a photograph by Messrs. Elliott & Fry by permission.

To  
FRANCES POWER COBBE  
IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION  
OF HER  
UNWEARYING EFFORTS  
IN THE CAUSE OF THE HIGHER HUMANITY  
SO CONSISTENTLY ADVOCATED  
BY  
ROBERT BROWNING.

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