

**OF "FIFINE AT THE FAIR",
"CHRISTMAS EVE AND
EASTER-DAY" AND OTHER
OF MR. BROWNING'S POEMS**

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Of "Fifine at the Fair", "Christmas Eve and Easter-Day" and Other of Mr. Browning's Poems by
Jeanie Morison

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BY

JEANIE MORISON ^{R.}

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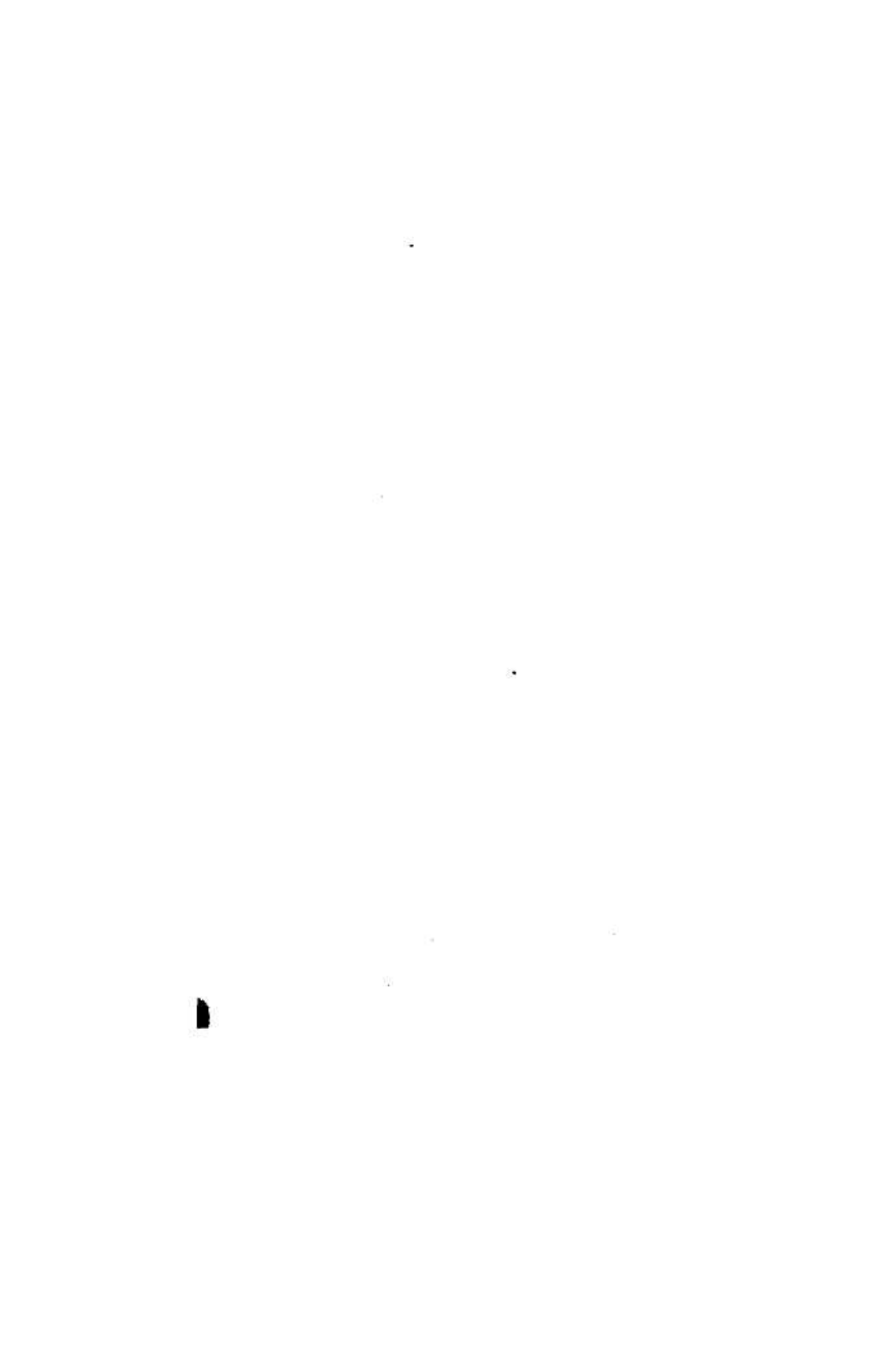
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Review - July 8, 51

INSCRIBED,
WITH TRUE LOVE,
TO
MISS BROWNING.



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"All partial beauty was a pledge
Of beauty in its plenitude."

"Highest truth man e'er supplied,
Was ever fable on outside."

—*Easter-Day.*

OF "FIFINE AT THE FAIR."

WHILE no poem of Mr Browning's has been so *un-*understood as "Sordello," it is almost equally true that no poem of his has been more hopelessly *mis-*understood than "Fifine at the Fair." This is owing in part, I think, to the motto which is prefixed to it, in which the name "Don Juan" suggests a life of licence, and to the verisimilitude to the idea suggested by the motto, of the allegorical form in which, as in so many of his poems, Mr Browning has used an earthly and tangible similitude to bring out a metaphysical and eternal verity. It is throughout one of the leading characteristics of Mr Browning's teaching, that, like a greater Teacher still, he teaches almost invariably in parables. To him the open book of the world in which we live, with its men and women, its human interests and passions, its gloom and its glory, its shadow and its sunshine, was after all but the vestibule of the