**Major Famous Poets During the Victorian Era and Modern Era and Their Contributions in the History of English Literature**

The poetic mood of the Victorian era did not differ materially from that of the early 19th century. Victorian poets lived in a world of their day that looked to them for guidance. Democracy has introduced a new face; Science has banished God from the universe; And so the role of religion was less. So England will stand on which stage? Tennyson, Browning and Arnold came to his rescue. Each brought his own message to reassure his readers that their doubts, confusions, and fears were all right with the world. Poets also became prophets. Victorian poetry is more about life than romantic poetry. It is the voice of Victorian England.Victorian poets are also known as later nineteenth-century poets. Most of the writing of this period reflects current social, economic, and intellectual problems. The poetry of this period shows the crisis of religion and philosophy because of the development of science.

**Victorian Poets and Their Remarkable Works**

**1.Alfred Lord Tennyson**

Alfred Lord Tennyson is one of the most skilled and self conscious poet of the Victoria age.He was the most representative poet of this era.His poetry has all qualities of England’s greatest poets such as:

a)The dreamness of Spencer

b)The natural simplicity of Wordsworth

c)The fantasy of Blake and Coleridge

d)The melody of Keats and Shelly

Being a careful observer of science and philosophy he was deeply impressed by the discoveries and there lies the conflict between science and religion ,doubt and faith,materialism and spirituality in his poetry.Tennyson was an extremely emotional poet and was a great admirer of English tradition. Prof.Webb has ably summed up the qualities of Tennyson as a poet: "His poetry ,with its clearness of conception ,and noble simplicity of expression ,its discernment of the beautiful and its power of snapping it with mingled strength and harmony,has become an integral part of the literature of the world and so long as purity and loftiness of thought expressed in perfect form have power to charm,will remain a possession for lover."

Tennyson treat nature as an imaginative man of science. He makes a reference to nature in the poem song "the winds as a their hour of birth". This poem is about freedom that nature gives us.When we look at nature we feel free without any tie that blind us to live as happens in soci,because we live with rules and we have to follow them.Therefore this freedom only can be found in nature,looking at the sea and the earth with its flowers.In Tennyson poetry this polished verses seem to express the important cultural,social and religious concerns of the Victorians.

**Some of his note worthy poems are-**

a)In Memoriam

b)The Princess ,Dora

c)Ulysses

d)The Gardener Daughter

**2.Robert Browning**

Robert Browning was a leading poet of his age.He is not like so many others ,an entertaining poet.One must situp and think and be alert when reads Browning. He married to Elizabeth Barrett and both husband and wife used to write poems.Many critics compared Browning with Shakespeare. His poems expressing some strong personal emotion or describing some dramatic episodes in human life and in which the hero himself generally tells the story.The poetry of Browning embodies a rich variety of themes.He has explored life in its various facets.He has not confined himsel to a single age,a single country or a single class of people because he was a widely travelled and well-read man.Before making any subject a part of his poetry ,he made it a point to know all about it.It is thus that he never falters in the handling of his themes. Browning has portrayed artists,poets,painterd and lovers.God,Nature na Man figure prominently in his poetry. Religion ,crime and philosophy are the other ingredients of Browning's poetry. Browning's understanding of life was very deep.He portrayed not only the normal human beings but the abnormal ones also with equal success. In speaks of the depth of perception and vividness of observation with which he looked at life.Sometimes we notice his poetic style is very difficult. It is because of his unusual knowledge of words and his strange sentence structure. He broke the mould of conventional Victorian poetic style and thus become an especially important influence in the great moderns.He makes another reference to nature in the poem 'Fra Lippo Lippi' whose name makes reference to Italian Renaissance painter Fra Flippo Lipi.

**Some of the famous poems of Robert Browning are as follows-**

a)A Woman's Last Word

b)Men and Women

c)My Last Duchess

d)The Last Ride Together

e)A Grammarian's Funeral

**3.Elizabeth Barrett Browning**

Elizabeth Barrett Browning was wife of Robert Browning. She was an another important figure and occupies a place of her own among the poets of Victorian era.Her poetry voice important for the feminist literature because before her poetry ,there were no too much poetry about feminism.

**Some of the poems of Elizabeth Barrett are-**

a)How Do I Love Thee

b)The City of the Children

c)Case Guide Windows and Sonnets

**4.Arthur Rugh Clough**

Arthur Rugh Clough was also a great English poet and an educationalist of Victorian age.He was the friend of Matthew Arnold.

**“Across the Sea Along the Shore “**  is his famous poem.

**5.Matthew Arnold**

Matthew Arnold was one of the greatest poet of Victorian age but he has considered more a critic than a poet.He belongs to the group of the reflective thoughtful and intellectual poets of Victorian age.The poems of Matthew Arnold can be classified into narrative ,dramatic,elegiac and lyrical poems.His poetry is characterized by doubt and melancholy. He felt the collapse of traditional faith and the breaking of bond between man and God and between man and nature. He is a great humanist and a lover of Greek art and Literature. He was a classicist and his classic spirit reveals itself in the lucid style ,in the restraint of passion and expression. His romantic spirit is expressed in his discontent with his generation and sadness that runs through all his poems.

**His famous poems which are world famous -**

a)Dover Beach

b)Thyrsis

c)The Scholar Gipsy

Besides there above poets,Victorian era also produced a large number of poets who also contributed lots for the development of the Victorian poetry in English literature. They are- Dante Gabriel Rossetti ,George Meredith , William Morris,Alegernon Charles Swinburne and many minor poets. English literature is no doubt highly indebted to the Victoriam poets and their poetry.

**Modern Poets and Their Notable Works**

Modern poetry in English Literature begins after the Victorian Age.Modern poets they try to focus the barranness streility,fragmentation,alienation,boredom and indecisiveness of modern man.There are many modern poets who have left a marks of modern poetry for ever.The major modern poets who has contributed precisely to modern English literature are W.B Yeats, John Minsfield, Walter Delamare, Wilfred Owen, Gerland Manley Hopkince, T.S Eliot, W.H Auden, Robert Frost, Dylan Thomas etc.Here I will discuss some of the poets and their famous works elaborately.

**1.William Butler Yeats**

William Butler Yeats was the most famous Irish metaphysical poet.He was regards as initiator of 20th century poetry. He was a leading figure of modern era who became a bridge between Victorian Age and Modern Age.He was also a Nobel Prize winner in 1923.

**Some of his notable works are as follows-**

a)The Second Coming

b)Michael Robartes and the Dancer.

c)The Lake Isle of Innisfree

d)Easter 1916

**2.T.S.Eliot**

T.S.Eliot was representative of modern age.He was a great poet,critic,philosopher and traditional rooted in classicism. He was an innovator of a new style of poetry. He was different from the Neo-classicists of 18th century. He was also regarder as the leader of the modernist movement. He left a great influence on Anglo-American culture. He won a Nobel Prize in 1948.He was probably the most educated poet of the English language of his time.His very first masterpiece of modernism was "The Love Song of J.Alfred Prufrock "(1915).It was perhaps the beginning of the poetic revolution of the 20th century. In 1919,he published his another poem "Gerontion".He earned an International reputation and world wide recognition with the publication of "The Waste Land "

**3.W.H.Auden**

Auden was accepted as a leading poet whose influence was felt in much contemporary verse.

**Some of his major poems are-**

a)Lifting Political Ideology

b)The Unknown Citizen

c)Musees des Beaus Arts.

**4.Robert Frost**

Robert Frost is an American poet but we all know that Robert Frost as a modern poet and he is known as the “Poet of New England”. His contribution in English literature are really good. He is famous for his poetry which give him the Pulitzer Prize in poetry four times. His language is the simple, natural speech of New England farm people. Robert Frost writing style is easy direct and pithy.Most of the Frost poetries are remarkable for the realism view point of human life.

**His famous poems are-**

a)The Death of the Hired Man

b) Mending Wall

c)Stopping by Woods in a Snowy Evening.

By the above ,we may conclude that modern poetry takes it place of pride in the kingdom of poetry produced from the times of Chaucer to the modern times.It is the reflection of modern life.