

the poems; the romance of the poet's homage to Anne Boleyn is discussed, and the rhyme-order and other internal evidences of the date of the poems are examined. A tabulation follows, based upon the naturally successive phases of sentiment, and the varieties of verse-forms. The volume is well indexed.

A few points for criticism are presented in the treatment of Sir Thomas Wyatt's relations to Italian poetry. For instance, some of the supposed metrical irregularities will appear such no longer, if we remember that Wyatt was familiar with the laws of Italian prosody, which were already established, while those of English prosody were yet unfixed. In the verse of Milton also may be found strange groupings of accent, defensible under Italian rules of verbal harmony. In the case of Wyatt's translation of the sonnet of Petrarca—which Mr. Simonds calls the 19th, but which, at least in the edition (Sebastiano Nistri,—Pisa, 1817) which happens to be at hand for reference, is numbered XVIII, Vol. I—it seems that the author would have done well to make an exception, to his rule—"to follow Tottel's reading and ignore, as far as possible, the text given by Dr. Nott." It is not easy to understand Mr. Simonds' criticism upon the two versions. He writes:

Tottel's version is more exact in its expression. . . "*Given* you my heart is far more forcible than *proffered*." "If *you* it chase, that it in you can find," better serves the unity of the poem than the repetition of the idea of a two-sided persecution implied in "If *I* then it chase," etc.

For convenience may be here inserted a literal prose rendering of the Italian sonnet:

"A thousand times, O my sweet warrior, In order to have peace with your beautiful eyes, I have proffered you my heart; but it does not please you To look so low with a haughty mind, And if perchance some other woman hopes for it, She lives in weak and fallacious hope. Mine, because I disdain that which displeases you, It never can be, as it was. And if I drive it away and it finds in you No succor in unhappy exile, And can neither stay alone nor go where others call it, It may lose its natural course; That would be a grave fault in both of us, And the more yours the more it (the heart) loves you."

*Proffered*, then, seems the more accurate expression, since *to give* almost implies the relative acceptance, while the point of the sonnet, and peril of the heart concerned, lie precisely in the "two-sided persecution" indicated in the phrase, "If I it chase, nor it in you can find." The last line of the sonnet, alike in both texts of Wyatt's poem,

"And yours the loss, and mine the deadly pain."

has, by the way, nothing to do with Petrarca's fourteenth line. Mr. Simonds is again misled, this time by Dr. Nott's comment upon the sonnet "Avising the bright beams," where Dr. Nott perhaps confounded *avvisare* with *avvistare*.

Naturally, specialists in the department of early English verse will find matter for discussion in some of Mr. Simonds' conclusions; but none can fail to admire his painstaking, orderly, and acute scholarship.

### SIR THOMAS WYATT.\*

THIS interesting and scholarly monograph won for its author, Mr. W. E. Simonds of Cornell University, the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Kaiser Wilhelm's University at Strasburg. It is a compact essay upon the life and poems of Wyatt—whom Mr. Simonds calls "practically the first of the modern English poets"—and represents much patient labor according to the approved modern methods of comparison of texts. The biographical section gives a fine portrait of Wyatt, noble, brave, and energetic; an examination is made of the texts and interpretations of

\*Sir Thomas Wyatt and his Poems. By W. E. Simonds. D. C. Heath & Co. 95c.