

contains selections ranging from Addison to Blake. The division is made naturally at this point, as Blake is the forerunner of Wordsworth. Vol. IV begins with Wordsworth and ends with the death of Sidney Dobell, in 1874. These two volumes, therefore, cover the whole range of English poetry from Addison to our own time—not comprehending, of course, the poems of living authors. The selections are made on a rule of strictness which will, of course, deprive readers of much which they would be glad to find. Such examination as we have been able to give the work convinces us that these selections have been made with intelligence and judgment, and that they may be taken as exhibiting in every case the forms which, in the view of the accomplished editor, illustrate better than others the author's characteristic qualities and his position in the history of English poetry. The critical introductions to the selections of each poet are the marked feature of the book, and, so far as we can see, are done exceedingly well. They give a striking illustration both of what literary criticism has grown to be in our day and of its vast elevation above the petty treatment of a subject which once passed for criticism. A *resumé* of biographic facts in the poet's personal history is prefixed in every case to the critical introduction, which is thus left clear for the freer treatment of the author and his poems. Several different schools of criticism are represented among the writers of these introductory notices; so that it may be said that, while the volumes represent the schools of poetry from Addison to the present time, the introductions represent all shades and varieties of contemporaneous opinion about them. Among these writers we observe that Dean of St. Paul's has given the article on Wordsworth, and Dean Stanley those on Charles Wesley and John Keble. The treatment of Lord Byron falls to the competent hands of S. A. Symonds, who has done it well. Of course, no other than Lord Houghton would be thought of for Walter Savage Landor. Professor Dowden contributes a number of fine criticisms on fine subjects—Hartley, Coleridge, Charles Lamb, Leigh Hunt, and Oliver Goldsmith being among those of whom he writes. Mark Pattison has done the introduction to Alexander Pope, and we need not say that it could not have been done better. Both Goldwin Smith and Matthew Arnold appear among these writers. Dr. Service contributes a large amount of work, in particular the introduction on Burns. Naturally, the editor does more than his proportionate share, which is not to be regretted, considering the character of his work. Mr. Swinburne has a characteristic introduction to the selections from William Collins. The value of this edition of selections lies largely in the critical introductions, and we are able to say that our examination of the volumes leads us to believe that the editor has done his work well and collected not only poems which represent the course of English song from Addison to the present time, but he has also brought within the reach of non-professional readers the essence of modern criticism and opinion about these authors and their works in all its variety, not to say diversity.

....There is a large amount of the best kind of critical work in Vols. III and IV of *Ward's English Poets* (Macmillan & Co.). Volume III