Matthew Arnold and William Morris

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5

Quaderni di Filologia e critica;

Arthurian poetsMatthew Arnold and William Morris

Notes: Includes bibliographical references. This edition was published in 1990



Filesize: 23.99 MB

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Arthurian Poets

She seems a little more human in some ways than most of those cloud-Junos of the poets, the heroines of sonnet-sequence and song-string. Then after a refreshing bath of Paris, he goes to Strasbourg, and Time—Time the Humourist as well as the Avenger and Consoler—makes him commit himself dreadfully.

Victorian thinkers: Carlyle, Ruskin, Arnold, Morris in SearchWorks catalog

Mill as the main speaker. The author brought himself in by name as a simple inhabitant of Grub Street, victimised, bullied, or compassionately looked down upon by everybody; and by this well-known device took licence for pretty familiar treatment of other people. Page 47 It cannot therefore but be suspected that in including them Mr Arnold, unconsciously perhaps, but more probably with some consciousness, was feeling his way towards that wide extension of the province of the critic, that resurrection of the general Socratic attitude, which he afterwards adventured.

Matthew Arnold eBook

And there was the yet further stimulus of redressing wrongs. But it is a good piece of special pleading, an excellent piece of writing, and one of the very best and most consummate literary causeries in English. The things that ought to happen do not happen, and the things that do happen have to be awkwardly explained away or hazardously ignored His almost pettish disgust for the historic estimate in literature itself may have either caused Page 82 or been caused by this more general dislike, and the dislike itself explains the leniency with which he always regarded the sheer guesswork of the Biblical critics.

Victorian thinkers: Carlyle, Ruskin, Arnold, Morris in SearchWorks catalog

Does his model of the state work better for education than for some other aspects of social control? If machinery is impossible or ineffectual, how can culture prevail? It is not unnoteworthy that the batch of poems called in the later collected editions Switzerland, and completed at last by the piece called On the Terrace at Berne, appeared originally piecemeal, and with no indication of connection. At this date he was a man of forty-five—an age at which the poetical impulse has been supposed to run low, but perhaps with no sufficient reason. Not even by summarily banishing this not inconsiderable host can he face the rest comfortably; and he has to resort to the strangest reasons of defence, to the most eccentric invitation of

reinforcements from afar.

Matthew Arnold

In this period the accepted forms of literature, art and music had undergone a radical change. A man may be not very fond of sweets, and yet think a good puff now and then, a puff with its three corners just hot from Page 89 the oven, full of jam, light, artistically frothed, to be a very pleasing thing.

Arthurian Poets

What does it mean to say that if aristocrats behave in uncharacteristic ways, they destroy their aristocracy? What Victorian thinkers might have disagreed with him? From the moment of its appearance to the present day, this piece has been an unceasing joy to all who love literature with a sane devotion. Page 13 The smaller pieces, however, could have saved the volume had their larger companions been very much weaker. But it is poetry for all that, and whatever there is in it of weakness is redeemed, though not quite so poetically, by The Last Word.

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Again, the literary quality of the bard of the Elegy was exactly of the kind which stimulates critics most. But with the majority of its readers it was sure rather to send them to these earlier things than to remind them thereof, and its own attractions were abundant, various, and strong,

Arthurian Poets

The comparison with Pater might indeed be pressed further, and yet too far.

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