Tenagro as an exponent of 19th Century literature.

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Class of '71.
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Bibliography
"History of 19th Cent. Literature."
"Stedman's Victorian Poets."
"Ward's British Poets."
In writing an introduction to a subject of this nature, it seems necessary that one give a brief history of the literature of the nineteenth Century.

The closing years of the eighteenth (18th) Century not only took from the world's store of writers, but it also added to its list. The literature of those days was very different from anything which came before or after that followed. A great change was noted in the middle decade of the 18th Century, and the writers who so wonderfully added to the world's store of knowledge in the opening years of the present Century were not what the world regarded them in after years.

In this Century a new form of Poetry was given us, and many of our beloved poets belong to this age and time. Although it was not a poetical period. Yet it came that Poetry always took precedence
of all other forms of literature. The following are some of the men who produced some of this new poetry: Wordsworth, Coleridge, Southey, Scott, Byron, Shelley, Keats, Rogers, Campbell, Tasso, and the following minor poets who were born before Thomson, Beddoes, Sir Henry Taylor, Mahrefan, and T. E. L. Hood, and Blake. This new poetry which sprang up in the nineteenth century had its foundation in the closing years of the eighteenth century. The three greatest poets of the time were Wordsworth, Scott, and Byron. Wordsworth was born in Cockermouth, England, the 7th of April 1770. He was well educated at the Hawkehead Grammar School and St. John's College, Cambridge, and took his degree (B.A.) from this latter place in 1791. A few years later it seems that he and the wonderful Coleridge, as he was called, began to combine their powers and gave to the world in 1793 the "Lyrical Ballads." The most mentioned is Sir Walter
Scott. Scott was born in Edinburgh on the 15th of August 1771. The influence of Scott is said to have been delayed for various reasons, but this too some extent is accounted for in the statement: "Critics naturally come after creators." The home life, in the many of our other poets, is said to have been quite a happy one.

Lord Byron was born in London Jan. 22nd, 1788. In some respects, Lord Byron is said to have been the most truly representative poet of this time.

It was in the early years of the century that we first come across the new fiction and it was Mrs. Burney who made her success in this style of writing with "Cecilia," afterwards wrote "Cecilia" which was also regarded, since by good critics, but it seems her fame was not a lasting one, for in 1796 she wrote "Camilla" and this was considered almost a failure, still later in 1814 came the "Wanderer" which was deemed a complete failure, and it is said that after this she
never attempted the style again.

Not only did new forms of poetry and fiction spring up in these
opening years, but there was also
the development of Periodicals
and, too, we find the Historians
of the Century represented by Hallam,
Russoe, Mitford, Colgrave, Arnold, Mr. Carlyle,
and others. After this followed
a second poetic period, of which the
well known Tennyson, Mrs. Browning, and
Matthew Arnold, the world’s well known
critic are representatives. This was
followed by the novel since 1832. Liter-
ature gives account of a group of
novelists coming into praise about the
year 1850. These were said to possess
greater talent and originality than
those who had preceded. Among the
novelists of this time were Dickens,
Thackeray, George Eliot, Miss Bronte, Thos.
Kingsley and others.

Philosophy and Theology followed the
novel and among the writers on
Philosophical subjects may be seen the
name of John Stuart Mill whose
better known to many of us as a great economic writer. Later journalism and criticism in art and letters followed. Philosophy and Theology and here is added the name of the great ethical writer, John Ruskin. After this came Scholarship and Science, this is represented with Darwin, Huxley, and a number of others whose names are less familiar.

Now it is that we are confronted with the Drama. The English Drama of the nineteenth Century is said to have displayed one obvious and distinctive characteristic, for the players as a rule, that have been good literature have never been acted, while we find those which have been successfully acted have seldom been good literature.

After reviewing the divisions of 19th Century Literature and noting the men who so successfully represented their time in their line of writing we are able to take up the life of Alfred Tennyson and see along what lines he has worked and
what he has added to literature.

Lord Alfred Tennyson, Poet Laureate, was born at Somersby, Lincolnshire, Aug. 6th 1809. The influence of Tennyson has spread far and it has been of the highest type. Even fascinating and exalted as his poetry was, it is said to have somewhat grated the public mind in those later years. And with all its sincere beauty there are those who have grown tired and Tennyson reached the point of criticism and such seemed to darken his path for a time. He wrote a little poem called "The Flower" in which are expressions of his grief. He likened this little flower to his life, he stated with the flower nothing but a common ordinary one but in time it grows into a very beautiful flower but its beauty and worth at last faded for said he: "The seed is common and men weary of a beauty too familiar."

And above all come the world at large as a lasting tribute to Tennyson. For he not only thinker of the present
days but looks beyond and thinks of the future generations how they can criticize and compare his work with contemporaries.

Tennyson, by eminence has been regarded as the representative poet of the recent era, and too, it is said of him that he not only represented his age in one particular phase but the time itself in its various relations.

Tennyson received his early education at Trinity College, Cambridge, and it was during his years at Cambridge that he met his most devoted friend, Arthur Henry Hallam. The death of this dear friend caused one of the greatest griefs of Tennyson's life.

Mr. Waugh states that literary success always requires two elements for its accomplishment: there must be genius in the author, and there must be opportunity, and there can be no doubt but Tennyson was a man of great genius, but it was not till the year 1842 that he became famous and many of his poems
which he had written in the ten
years which preceded, and had been
published, were in 1842 repeated by
nearly every tongue, and so we
would only add the few years fought
to Tennyson his opportunity.

The world, acknowledged and will
continue to do so, that Tennyson
had added much to the world's
store of writings. In a volume on
Lord Alfred Tennyson, Mr. Waugh states:
"The unique position of Tennyson, as
an influence drawing together the
poetry of the earlier and the later
years of the century, is not perhaps
sufficiently recognized. No poet has
so successfully combined the attributes
of the old and the new. With out
in any case borrowing from his
predecessors, he softened and broadened
their manner into a tone which
prepared poets for its later development,
a development to which he continually
owed the first, half-latent impulse."
As we see Tennyson has been our
great light in bringing together
the old and the new in the very best form.

Don't miss Tennyson. "In Memoriam" has brought him greater fame than any other poem he produced. It is said to be the finest elegy in the language.

It is said that Tennyson was a great unchallenged master, productive through all his years, held the critics and the public with an eye that never does not fatigue or dim.

The poems "Rosalie" and "In Memoriam" show his rich sense of colour and delicate deliberations, and too in his works are found a great variety of metre.

It is stated by Mr. Waugh that Tennyson in his closing years more intimate relation to immaterial nature than did any of his predecessors. In many of the poems of Tennyson is found a sympathetic nature.

We find the task of Tennyson to have been the lifting and combining the lesser voices of autogy.
men, to separate the truth from a mass of falsehood, and to free the many elements into one complete whole," and when this combination was effected the true spirit of the age was discovered, and to Tennyson we give the glory of discovery.

In writing of Tennyson, Elizabeth Barrett, said, "If any thing should happen Tennyson the world would go into mourning." It was at the advanced age of 83 yrs. when the last sickness of his life came upon him, and after lingering for several days, he passed quietly away on the 8th of Oct. 1892, and as Mrs. Waughe says "The world felt they had lost one of the greatest poets England had produced in the present century."

He little thought of his little poem "Crossing the Bar" being used as his epitaph. He was buried in Westminster and his tomb bears this inscription.
"Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark.

For this from out our home of Time and Place,
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my pilot face to face,
When I have crossed the bar."