

The Function of Criticism.

→ Which faculty is superior : critical or creative. Wordsworth placed critical faculty on a very lower position than creative faculty. Against this view, Arnold says it's an over-stated fact, and gives the example of Dr Johnson.

Critical power tends to establish an order of ideas and make the best idea prevail. It should create the right type of intellectual atmosphere that can be used by a creative artist because : the work of the creative lit^y genius is not to discover new ideas, that is the business of philosopher.

Goethe and Byron, both had great productive power but Goethe had more endurance nourished by a great critical effort.

Romantic poets were not supreme artists like Sappho, Pindar and Shakespeare because 19th C lacked in ...

They lived in an age of current of ideas in the highest degree animating and nourishing in the creative power. Society was in the fullest measure, permeated by fresh thought, fresh and intelligent and alive.

→ The most important quality of criticism, according to Arnold, is its disinterestedness. Criticism should have nothing to do with any ulterior, political, practical consideration about ideas. The real business of criticism is to know the best that is known and thought in the world and thus to create a current of true and fresh ideas. And this is precisely this that is lacking in English criticism. Self complacency is the issue with English society unlike French journals. *Revue des Deux Mondes* (play of the mind) Edinburgh Review, Quarterly Review — party organ, polemical controversial

ARNOLD'S THEORY OF POETRY.

→

Poetic subject should be more important than poetic expression. What are the eternal objects of poetry, among all nations and among all times? They are action, human actions, possessing which most powerfully appeal to the great primary human affections, to those elementary feelings which subsist permanently in the race, beyond time.

Ancient vs Modern

Whole Parts

Expression Predominates Action Predominates.

Shakespeare was great but his expression is absolutely uncontrolled and his language becomes artificial.

According to Arnold, Ancients were the best models for they knew ① the all importance of the choice of subject.

② the necessity of accurate construction

③ the subordinate character of expression

The Grand Style:

On Translating Homer. & found in 1853's Preface

Greatness of Homer lies on four facts:

① rapidity, ② plainness of thought ③ nobility ④ plainness and directness of diction and syntax.

Homer, Milton and Dante are the grand masters of style.

Arnold's theory of poetry is a counterblast to Romantic individuality, subjectivity and contempt for authority.

Poetry as criticism of life

Definition:

Home and Foreign Review (play of mind but unsuccessful.)

- Subject matter of Criticism: It is the disinterested endeavor to learn the and propagate the best that is known and thought in the world, and thus establish a current of fresh and true ideas. A critic should literature of other countries too for the purpose.
- France and Germany's current literature is richer compared to England's mediocre literature.