

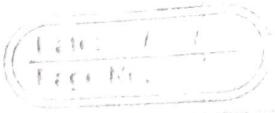
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comments Cazamian on Arnold's attitude to nature.

The second half of the poem forms the main basis. It embodies a criticism of nineteenth century life with its "sick hurry and divided aims. Its heads o'er-taxed, its palsied hearts". A note of melancholy colours the entire poem. The life of human being is one of despair:

For whom each year we see
 XVIII Breeds new beginnings, disappoints new
 who hesitate and falter life away,
 And lose tomorrow, the ground won today.

Arnold passes judgement on the life of his age, the life of his country, the lives of individual men in his elegiac poems like 'Thyrsis' and 'The Scholar Gipsy'. He is very critical of the materialistic society. Life, beset with materialistic pursuits, consists of a series of changes. People have so many aims which are not going to be fulfilled. The growing conflict between science and religion, doubt and faith is revealed —



"Thou waitest for the spark from
Heaven: and we

~~XVII~~
Light half believers of our casual creeds,
Who never deeply, felt nor clearly willed
Against the modern people, the
Scholar has only one aim, one
purpose and one impulse. His
hope is imperishable. So he cannot
have felt the passage of time.
Therefore he cannot die.

What Arnold's criticism of
life offers in this poem is a
temporary palliative, not a perma-
nent cure because the experiences
of mankind in all ages tell
us that action glorifies life
and that the aids to noble life
are not chiefly within. Indeed there
is something relaxing or enerva-
ting about the poem. There is
a balance of classical and
romantic ideals //