

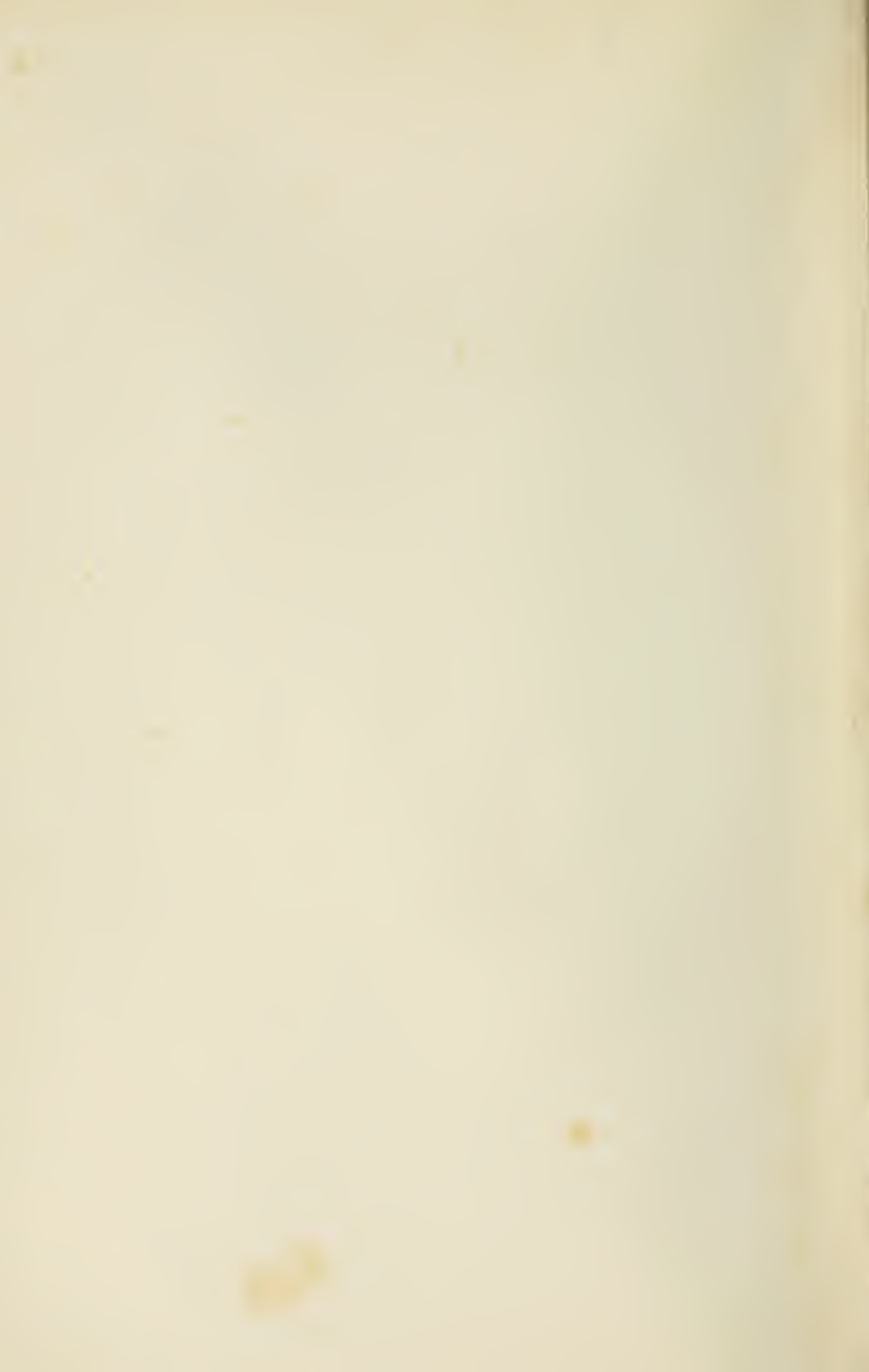


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THE WORKS
OF
ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON



Portrait of Tennyson.

Etched by William Unger.



Édition de Luxe

THE WORKS
OF
ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON
Poet Laureate

EDITED BY WILLIAM J. ROLFE, LITT. D.

IN TWELVE VOLUMES

VOL. I.



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P R E F A C E.

THE plan of this edition was formed by the publishers nearly ten years ago, and was then cordially approved by the poet and his family. More recently, when arrangements for carrying out the plan were perfected, the selection of the editor was no less heartily ratified by them. Lord Tennyson had already given me valuable aid in revising my editions of 'The Princess' and other of his poems; and in preparing the introduction and notes for this edition of his works I have been indebted to him and to his son, the present Lord Tennyson, for information and advice which no one else could give so well.

The text of the poems in this edition is that of the latest English editions, with the correction of many little typographical errors. Only a few of these are mentioned in the notes; but I have been careful to refer to every one con-

cerning which there could possibly be any doubt. The spelling and pointing of the English editions have been followed with rare exceptions, which have been explained in the notes when they did not explain themselves.

No poet ever made more textual changes in successive editions of his works than Tennyson; and many of these have been recorded, with more or less accuracy, by Mr. R. H. Shepherd in his 'Tennysonian,' the Hon. J. L. Warren in the 'Fortnightly Review,' and other critics and commentators. These changes are particularly frequent in the early poems, published in 1830 and 1832, in 'The Princess,' and in the 'Idylls of the King.' I believe that I have noted *all* the changes in the poems included in this first volume. While engaged in annotating some of these poems ten years ago, I compared the later text with that of the 1830 and 1832 volumes in the British Museum; and for my work on the rest of them for this edition I have had the loan of copies of those volumes belonging to Rev. Henry van Dyke, D.D., of New York, to whose friendly help and counsel I have been otherwise greatly indebted.

Of the textual changes in the later poems I

shall have something to say in the prefaces to the volumes in which they appear.

I am aware that Lord Tennyson more than once expressed a certain dislike for 'variorum editions;' and in a letter thanking me for my edition of 'The Princess' he said he was sorry that I had 'preserved so many chips and shavings' of his work. But, as I think I said to him later, when a man does his work out of doors in the public view we have a right to be interested in watching him. Whether an editor is justified in printing textual variations found only in an author's *manuscript* may be questioned; but what one has *printed* is public property, and an editor may use it at his discretion in writing the history of the work. If an author suppresses anything for *personal* reasons, — as Tennyson suppressed the early verses addressed to Christopher North and Bulwer Lytton, — it is doing him an injustice to reprint them without stating the fact of their withdrawal; but it is no injustice to give the history of the passage-at-arms between the two literary men, with the squibs bandied between them.

But the poet's figure is not so apt as it may seem at first sight. To record his various

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