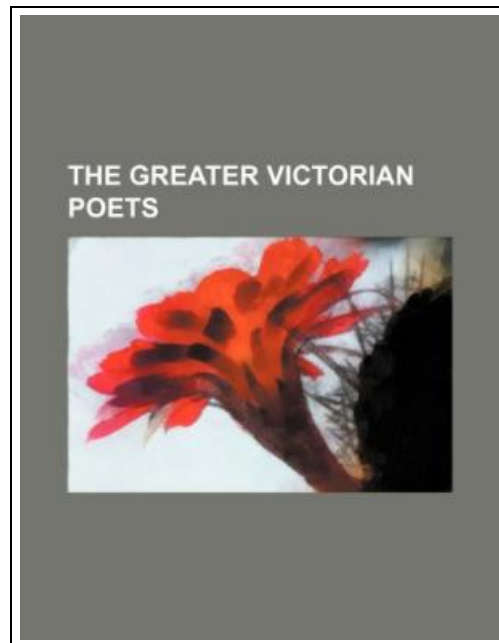


## The Greater Victorian Poets



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## THE GREATER VICTORIAN POETS



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Rarebooksclub.com, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1901 Excerpt: .of Rizpah or Fastness. Arnold s second volume, Empedocles on Etna and Other Poems, appeared in 1852, and was hastily withdrawn from circulation by the author. The reason for this appears to have been that he could not bear to contemplate the tide-piece in print. A situation, he said, in which a continuous state of mental distress is prolonged, unrelieved by incident, hope, or resistance, is in actual life painful, not tragic, and its representation in poetry is painful also. This is no doubt true, and, moreover, it must be confessed that Empedocles as a drama, even as a closet drama, is quite impossible. But the poem may be regarded in another light than as a drama, and all lovers of true poetry owe deep gratitude to Robert Browning who persuaded Arnold to reprint, in 1867, this long suppressed work. It contains in the long monologue of the hero the noblest exposition, to quote Swinburne s words, of the gospel of autarkeia, the creed of self-sufficiency, which sees for man no clearer or deeper duty than that of intellectual self-reliance, self-dependence, self-respect. Even those who reject this gospel of self-sufficiency as wholly inadequate may appreciate the dignity of its ideas and the grave beauty of the words in which they are presented. Of the lovely group of songs put into the mouth of Callicles there can be but one opinion--they are flawless gems in the crown of English lyric poetry. And their beauty is enhanced by...



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