

almost entirely to the novel field of social and economic problems. But against this there was a young growth of ideas springing up in the poetic literature of the nation. It is the freshness of individual thought as clothed in the poetic language of Shelley and Wordsworth, maturing and deepening in the works of Tennyson and Browning, which strikes us as the most original phase of English thought in this century, whether we compare it with Continental thought of the same period, or with English thought of the previous age.

26.  
Goethe's  
'Faust' re-  
presenta-  
tive of the  
thought of  
the century.

And lastly, we might be tempted to make the great work of the greatest mind of the early part of our period, Goethe's 'Faust,' the centre and beginning of our survey, singling it out as a comprehensive embodiment, as the classical expression of nineteenth-century doubts and aspirations, leading us—if we try to understand it—now into the bewildering labyrinth of philosophy, now into the cheerful expanse of natural science, and again into the hidden depths of individual life, of religious faith with its mysteries of sin and redemption.

27.  
A period  
not of re-  
pose but of  
ferment.

But from whatsoever point we may start on our journey, from whatsoever easily reached eminence we may cast a first eager glance across the wide country which we wish to explore, there is one feature which impresses itself alike upon our minds from the very beginning. It is not a country of repose and restfulness, of healthy industry and quiet work, of gradual development, of ripening crops, of sowing or ingathering; it does not present the aspect of a happy division of labour, of successful co-operation, of peaceful regulation of employment. It looks more like a land which has lately been disturbed by