

Thought in this country during the nineteenth century. This defect would have been remedied had I been permitted to write the third section. No country has such an extensive and brilliant general literature to glory in as England during the nineteenth century. The changes in the general aspect of Thought exhibited in Poetry and Fiction, in the discussion of questions of Art and Religion, have been much greater in this country than abroad.

Against the long array of philosophical poets—beginning with Wordsworth and Coleridge, and ending with Browning—who have gained or are now gaining great influence outside of their native country, Germany has to set only one name of the very first order, that of Goethe, and this belongs in considerable part to the former century.

Though France has certainly continued in the first rank in the domain of fiction and literary criticism, England has created in fiction more than one style of its own, and its influence on polite literature abroad has been, if not greater, certainly quite as great as that of France.

The great works of this country in Poetry and Fiction have also been permeated by a religious spirit and characterised by a purity of moral feeling which contrasts favourably with the materialism and flippancy which we find in much of the best writing in modern foreign literature and also in the English literature of the eighteenth century. Thus this country would have stood foremost in an attempted portraiture of that region of spontaneous Thought