

1850: The Year Of Diversified Magnificence In Literature Reflected Through The Abundant Publication Of Hugely Acclaimed Texts.

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Abstract-

The year 1850 emerged as a watershed moment in the annals of literature, characterized by a prolific outpouring of diverse and acclaimed texts that have left an indelible mark on the literary landscape. This paper encapsulates an exploration of the multifaceted literary scene of 1850, encompassing a wide array of genres, styles, and themes. From the heights of romanticism to the emergence of realism, writers around the globe embarked on a quest to capture the essence of their time and place through their works. Through a comprehensive examination of notable publications from this period, this study seeks to unravel the complexities of the literary landscape of 1850 and shed light on the enduring significance of these texts in shaping our understanding of literature and society. This piece of research is designed to show the sociopolitical conditions through the lens of literature of the particular year and objectifies this year as a special one. Join us on a journey through the literary riches of 1850 as we uncover the themes, techniques, and innovations that continue to inspire and resonate with readers to this day.

Key words- Literature, victorian, age, social, political, poems, British, American, notable.

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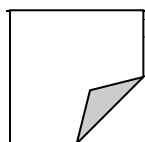
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I. Introduction

The year 1850 stands as a pivotal moment in the landscape of literature, marked by a flourishing of diverse and acclaimed texts that have left an indelible mark on literary history. As the 19th century unfolded, the world was amid profound social, cultural, and political transformations, and literature emerged as a powerful medium through which to explore and engage with the complexities of the era. In this introduction, we embark on a journey through the literary landscape of 1850, delving into the rich tapestry of texts that captivated audiences and critics alike. During this period, the literary scene was characterized by an unprecedented proliferation of voices, genres, and styles, reflecting the diverse range of human experiences and perspectives. From the heights of romanticism to the depths of realism, writers across the globe sought to capture the essence of their time and place through their works, offering readers a window into the complexities of the human condition.

The year 1850 comes within a period of the most powerful and successful regime of Queen Victoria in which England was moving steadily in the direction of becoming Europe's most stable and prosperous country. People had seen the industrial revolution, steam engines, railway, factories and many more. This time period saw rapid development and innovation in the forms of inventions, literature and scientific revelations. With a rapidly expanding economy and innovations, England was progressing to become the most powerful force of the world. But despite the promise of a better life, the rate of poverty increased tremendously. Many people saw their dreams becoming nightmares and they struggled to maintain the bare minimum. 'The Victorian Compromise' is one way of seeing this dilemma. It implies a kind of double standard between national success and the exploitation of lower class workers at home and of colonies overseas; a compromise between philanthropy and tolerance and repression. These contradictory situations in a single society gave birth to people with diversified opinions. Diverse opinions became the theme of different pieces of literature. The literature of the period reflects the concerns, criticism of the government, political unrests and social dilemmas.

The literature of the year 1850 also flourished with American writers contributing significantly to its diversity and magnificence. Authors such as Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville exemplified this influence, shaping the literary canon and showcasing the depth and complexity of American storytelling. Their



works not only captivated audiences at home but also garnered international acclaim, solidifying American literature's place on the global stage.

In the following paper, we will explore some of the most notable publications of 1850, from groundbreaking novels and stirring poetry collections to influential essays and thought-provoking plays. Through a close examination of these texts, we will uncover the themes, techniques, and innovations that defined the literary landscape of the era, shedding light on the enduring significance of these works in shaping our understanding of literature and society. As we delve into the literary riches of 1850, we invite you to join us on a journey of discovery and exploration, as we unravel the tapestry of texts that continue to inspire and resonate with readers around the world.

II. Literature Review

POETRY-

The year 1850 has seen some of the finest works of poetry. Some of them are as follows:-

(i) *The Prelude by William Wordsworth*- As we all know that the great Romantic period comes to end with this remarkable autobiographical work by Wordsworth, This posthumous poem by him got published in 1850 inspite of being completed in 1820. The poem centres on Wordsworth's childhood memory in the Lake District where he steals a boat and rows it into the middle of a lake. A mountain by the lake grows far bigger than he thought it. He realises the monumental nature of the mountain and hurries back to shore, claiming that the experience has changed how he sees nature. The poem can be regarded as an epic biography poem where Wordsworth intended the adventure to not be his physical actions but his spiritual growth and journey to becoming a poet, including his awakening to nature's power and his own insignificance, these providing the epic factor to the poem. His use of iambic pentameter, motif, enjambment, personification, repetition, parallelism and cylindrical structure make this a masterpiece in its own.

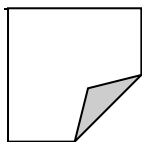
(ii) *In Memoriam A. H. H. by Alfred Lord Tennyson*- Probably the most celebrated poem of the Victorian era and the greatest work of Tennyson, In Memoriam comprises poems that Tennyson wrote over a period of more than 15 years. It is considered as one of the greatest elegies of English literature. They were not intended as a single elegy, a single sequence that would aim from the start to develop and change in the course of its unfolding (see, for example, George Meredith's Modern Love). Tennyson's laments are the laments of the moment, and the poem presents more a journal than a narrative of the experience of mourning and working one's way through grief. "A.H.H." is Arthur Henry Hallam—Alfred, Lord Tennyson's closest friend for about five years and almost certainly, whether as a presence or an absence, the most important figure in Tennyson's life. This biographical background indicates something unique about In Memoriam as an elegy: Unlike the other great English elegies mentioned above, Tennyson's elegy comes out of extreme and desperate personal feeling.

(iii) *Sonnets from Portuguese by Elizabeth Barrett Browning*- Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Sonnets to the Portuguese are widely considered among the greatest cycle of sonnets in the English language. A female poet depicts the progression of her romance with a male poet, from the first tentative stages of courtship to the fulfillment of commitment. This collection of love poems was written between 1845-46 to fellow poet and her soon-to-be husband, Robert Browning. Originally, Browning had no intention of publishing the poetry owing to its deeply personal subject matter, but her husband convinced her to publish them in the 1850 edition of her Poems.

(iv) *Christmas eve And Easter-day by Robert Browning*- Christmas-Eve and Easter-Day, a poem by Robert Browning which is saved as two poems rather than a solitary poem separated into two parts. It was the greatest new work of Robert Browning published by Chapman & Hall in the year 1850. Christmas Eve' is an elongated, intermittently rhymed, octosyllabic poem in two folds, the poem is fictional mingling visionary and honest rudiments. In this the narrator is taken to a Nonconformist church, to St. Peter's in Rome, to a sermon theatre where the Christian myth was dispirited by a general practitioner of the more important criticism. Easter Day' on the other side is a way of communication traversing the troubles of maintaining the trust of the Christian and disputes that doubt is essential to trust. 'Easter Day' is primarily a dialectic of Christian and a sceptic the nature of faith.

FICTION:-

(i) *David Copperfield by Charles Dickens*- Originally published in serial form from May 1849 through November 1850, David Copperfield is the first of Dickens's novels written entirely in the first person. Converting his autobiographical impulse into fiction allowed Dickens to explore uncomfortable truths about his life. David Copperfield's time at Murdstone and Grinby's warehouse, his schooling at Salem House, and his relationship with Dora all have their bases in Dickens's own life. But, it may be Dickens's most autobiographical novel, David Copperfield is a work of fiction. Given the intimate connection between the lives of Copperfield and his author, it is little wonder that Dickens considered this book his "favourite child." And it is little wonder, given its vast array



of memorable characters and its brilliant treatment of the quest for self-knowledge, that *Copperfield* is Dickens's best loved and most quoted novel.

(ii) ***Pendennis* by William Makepeace Thackeray**-Written immediately after *Vanity Fair*, *Pendennis* has a similar atmosphere of brooding disillusion, tempered by the most jovial of wits. But here Thackeray plunders his own past to create the character of *Pendennis* and the world in which he lives: from miserable schoolboy to striving journalist, from carefree Oxbridge to the high (and low) life of London. The result is a superbly panoramic blend of people, action and background. The true ebb and flow of life is caught and the credibility of *Pen*, his worldly uncle, the Major, and many of the other characters, extends far beyond the pages of the novel. Held together by Thackeray's flowing, confident prose, with its conversational ease of tone, *Pendennis* is as rich a portrait of England in the 1830s and 40s as it is a thorough and thoroughly entertaining self-portrait

(iii) ***The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne**-The short list of great American novels is often topped by Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. This classic novel from the cannon of American Literature exemplifies the genre of Dark Romanticism. In this story, the consequences of Hester Prynne's adulterous affair with the reverend Arthur Dimmesdale are borne out as she gives birth to their child and is forced to wear a Scarlet Letter A, embroidered on her bosom, as a sign of her adultery. Hawthorne is at his best as he treats with the complexities of sin and redemption as the story progresses and carries Hester Prynne, Arthur Dimmesdale and Pearl toward their respective destinies. *The Scarlet Letter* is a true masterpiece of American Literature and a must-read for every student of literature.

(iv) ***White Jacket* by Herman Melville**-A brutally incisive account of the darkest aspects of seafaring life. Informed by his own seafaring experiences, and those of the sailor's he knew, *White-Jacket* traces the voyages of a naval Man-of-War. Melville's most politically charged work, it is bitterly critical of perceived brutality and inhumanity aboard sailing vessels, particular cruel punishments such as flogging. It is a uniquely powerful work among Melville's canon.

NON-FICTION:-

(i) ***Latter-day pamphlets* by Thomas Carlyle**-*Latter-Day Pamphlets* (1850) is a collection of journalism and political pamphlets from 1850. It is dominated by Carlyle's negative responses to 1848, the year of revolutions. Carlyle's book covers democracy, prisons, bureaucratic overreach, the overweening state, public conduct, observing civic and moral standards – and see those subverted – all of which are vital issues today.

(ii) ***Representative Man* by Ralph Waldo Emerson**-In 1845 Ralph Waldo Emerson began a series of lectures and writings in which he limned six figures who embodied the principles and aspirations of a still-young American republic. Emerson offers timeless meditations on the value of individual greatness, reconnecting readers with the everyday virtues of his "Representative Men": Plato, in whose writings are contained "the culture of nations"; Emanuel Swedenborg, a "rich discoverer" who strove to unite the scientific and spiritual planes; Michel de Montaigne, "the frankest and honestest of all writers"; William Shakespeare, who "wrote the text of modern life"; Napoleon Bonaparte, who had the "virtues and vices" of common men writ large; and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, who "in conversation, in calamity... finds new materials."

(iii) ***Mohamet And His Successors* by Washington Irving**-*Mahomet and His Successors*, published in two volumes in 1849-50, was well-received in both American and Europe, providing as it did an excellent introductory study of the life of the Prophet and the founding of Islam.

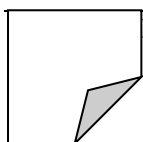
A short-lived periodical subtitled "**Thoughts towards Nature in Poetry, Literature and Art,**" *The Germ* was established by the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. The title is not taken from the notion of a germ as bacteria, but rather from the image of seed germ - as in "the germ of an idea" suggesting the growth and flourishing of the human imagination. The *Germ* had a very short run: only four issues appeared, from January through May 1850, each selling less than 100 copies. Yet these four issues maintained an influence over many artists and writers of the nineteenth-century, and the journal continues to be read, imitated, and reprinted. *The Germ* thus became a self-consciously foundational part of the Pre-Raphaelite legacy.

Along with all these highly acclaimed works, a number of plays were also published. May not be extremely popular as of above, but still has an endearing impact on the readers.

All the above remarkable works mentioned are still termed as classics and most successful works of English literature. All of them are followed and analysed by every literature student all over the world. They have made their distinctive place in the history of English literature because of their universal impact and evergreen appeal. These are so special pieces of art which are irreplaceable and have that overpowering excellence.

III. Conclusion

The literary landscape of 1850 stands as a testament to the vibrancy and richness of human creativity, as writers from diverse backgrounds and traditions unleashed a torrent of imaginative brilliance upon the world. As



we conclude our exploration of this seminal year in literature, we are reminded of the profound impact that these texts continue to exert on our collective imagination and understanding.

Through our journey across the literary terrain of 1850, we have encountered a kaleidoscope of voices, genres, and themes, each contributing to the tapestry of human experience in its unique way. From the romantic reveries of poets to the stark realism of novelists, from the probing insights of essayists to the stirring drama of playwrights, the works of 1850 spanned the spectrum of human emotion and thought.

Yet beyond their aesthetic achievements, these texts serve as windows into the social, cultural, and political currents of their time, offering valuable insights into the hopes, fears, and aspirations of the people who lived through this transformative era. Whether grappling with the complexities of love and loss, the injustices of society, or the mysteries of the human psyche, the writers of 1850 sought to illuminate the human condition with clarity and compassion.

As we experienced the literary riches of 1850, we are left with a profound appreciation for the enduring power of literature to transcend time and space, provoke thought and inspire action, and connect us with the shared humanity that binds us together. May the legacy of these texts continue to inspire and enrich readers for generations to come, reminding us of the timeless truths and enduring beauty that lie at the heart of the literary enterprise.

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