

Impermanence

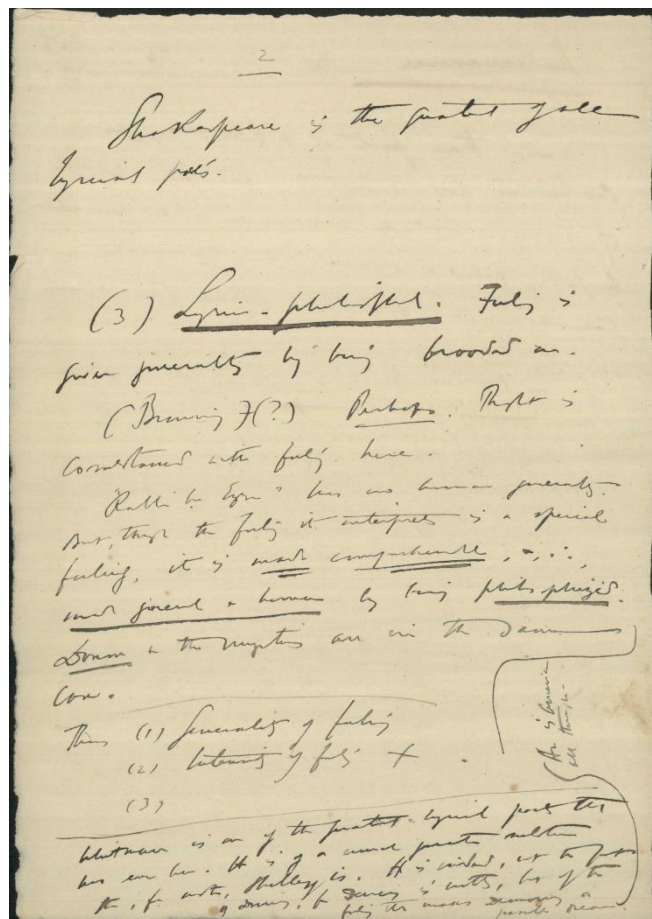
Lower than poets of intellect, not constructive but intuitive, are the poets of feeling. But, as supremacy is in generality, the poet of feeling is supreme when interpreting a generality. Now feeling can attain generality in 3 manners:

(1) *Human generality.* The intuition of the poet penetrates the psychical substance of humanity, and so creates a kind of classicism, not of intellect but of feeling. Shakespeare is the master in this order of poets.

(2) Representativeness (?)

Walt Whitman is all an age. Every moment of poetry and feeling in an age is in him.

(American understood greatness, being a secondary greatness, compels by succession to Whitman's divinely poetical greatness. Cf. Shakespeare, if in same case.)



Shakespeare is the greatest of all lyrical poets.

(3) Lyrical-philosophical. Feeling is given generality by being brooded on.

(Browning) (?) Perhaps. Thought is consubstantiated with feeling here.

"Rabbi Ben Ezra" has no human generality. But, though the feeling it interprets is a special feeling, it is *made comprehensible*, and, therefore, *made general and human* by being *philosophized*. Donne and the mystics are in the same case.

Thus

- (1) Generality of feeling
- (2) |Intensity of feeling|
- (3) {...}

Whitman is one of the greatest lyrical poets that has ever been. He is of a much greater substance than, for instance, Shelley is. He is, indeed, not the poet of Democracy, for Democracy is nothing, but of the feeling that makes Democracy a possible dream. He is American all through.

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