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(page 356)

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

POETRY.

Jephthah and Other Mysteries Lyrical and Dramatic. By Alexander [sic] Crowley. London: Kegan Paul, Trübner & Co.

Jephthah and Other Mysteries Lyrical and Dramatic is the title of a volume of verse by Mr. Alexander [sic] Crowley. The book is dedicated to Mr. Swinburne, and the dedicatory lines are absurdly and fulsomely flattering. Mr. Swinburne is placed on a pedestal beside Dante, Milton, and Victor Hugo. Mr. Crowley is evidently a hero worshipper. We wish he had selected a better model than the author of *Songs before Sunrise*. The poems in the volume are, for the most part, weak imitations of Mr. Swinburne's lyrics, without their music and with all their sins against good taste superadded. *The Rape of Death* is, perhaps, the best effort in the volume. It is a wild Norse legend told in melodious three-lined verse which, by its very form, produces a weird and lurid impression.