

INTRODUCTION

justice to the splendid descriptive style of the poet who is the author of thirty-two books, of no inconsiderable dimensions. But Captain Fuller's work is not alone an introduction to the works of the poet he interprets; not merely a poet's criticism of a poet; but an extremely erudite and mystically iconoclastic study of the morals and religion of a shallow civilization by a student of psychology and of classical mythology. Original alike in its conception and execution, if not devoid of traits which an adverse critic might term blemishes, it has the singular virtue of being complete in itself, yet of making the reader long to study the original of which it is a master-study.

For this characteristic the reader will learn later to be grateful, for no revolutionist, no opponent of orthodox intrigue, and ecclesiastical and social hypocrisy, can fail to consecrate himself with renewed vigour to the cause of truth and virtue after having studied alike the prose and verse emendations of this later Victorian—or shall we say early Edwardian (?)—poet.

It may be that some of us may hardly concur in the extent of the sexual imagery employed alike by Captain Fuller and Mr. Crowley; but the essential realism of their flights cannot be questioned, and, methinks, even by way of occasioning a reaction against a sentimental regard