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B.A. Part I (English Honours)

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## Autobiographical Novels

Total history of a man's life since his birth to the time of writing by the man himself is known as autobiography. In such descriptions the writer is directly present throughout and there is no ambiguity about his identification. There is no suggestive way, there is no indirect method of putting things which point towards the presence of the writer and there is no effort on the part of the reader to relate the incidents described in the book with his personal settings in the diary and the intimate talks with his relatives or his friends in order to find out the man. For example there are 'Autobiography' by Jawahar Lal Nehru, 'Autobiography of a yogi' by Paramhans yoganand, Bertrand Russell's 'Autobiography', 'Autobiography' of Dr. Hariwanish Rai Bachchan etc. These writings faithful accounts of the writer's life, either complete or in parts. These writings may reflect

ion to the philosophical thought of his Age, as had been propounded by Balingbroke. 'The proper study of mankind is man' and it is no use delving deep into the mysteries of creation and the works of the 'Divine Being'. Pope writes for the materialistic people of his times to whom the mysticism of Blake and the subtleties of Berkeley were incomprehensible things. In the 'Dunciad' Pope let loose the floodgates of scurrilous satire presenting the political strife of the times and the low moral standards to which the wits had fallen in those days.

Like Pope, Tennyson was equally the mouth piece of the Victorian Society and represented the ideals, traditions, hopes and aspirations of the people. He reflected the fancies and sentiments of Victorian England. To quote W.J. Long, "For nearly half a century Tennyson was not a man and a poet, he was a

voice, the voice of a whole people expressing in exquisite melody, their doubts and their faith, their griefs and their triumphs? In 'The Princess' the poet undertook to grapple with one of the rising questions of the day, that is the higher education of women and their place in the fast changing conditions of society. His Locksley Hall of 1842 is full of the restless spirit of 'young England' and of its faith in science, commerce and trade, while its sequel, Locksley Hall sixty years after 1886 shows ~~the~~ the reversion of feeling which had occurred in many minds when the rapid development of science seemed to threaten the very foundations of religion and commerce was filling the world with the sordid greed of gain. In 'The Palace of Art' the poet describes and condemns the spirit of aestheticism and Pre-Raphaelitism, whose sole religion

had endorsed this judgement by the mouths of its greatest poets and critics and it is safe to say that Chaucer's fame has never stood higher than it is today.

" To Chaucer's name eternal trophies raise  
And load the antique stone with wreaths  
of bays  
Father of verse, who  
in immortal song  
first taught the muse  
to speak the English  
tongue!"

Freshness and simplicity of style, gentle humour, quaint fun, hearty praise of what is good and true, kindly ridicule of weakness and foibles and earnest denunciation of injustice and oppression are among his most marked characteristics.

The end. //

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