

Page - (01) B.A. Part II (English Honours)
Date - 27.01.22 "The Rivals"

Question - Write a short note on Sheridan as the dramatist.

Answer - Sheridan stands today in English drama second only to Shakespeare. There were three popular plays besides those of Shakespeare which have permanent place in English dramatic literature and out of them two are by Sheridan - 'The Rivals' and 'The School for Scandal'. The third one is 'She Stoops to Conquer' by Goldsmith. There is air of naturalness about his plays. Sheridan's main object it was to provide entertainment to his audience. Although he has been placed next to Shakespeare, it is also true that he is no match for the greatest master of dramatic literature. Sheridan's dramatic genius marks the height of reaction against the sentimental drama and the most finished achievement of the English comedy of manners of the Restoration age. Although Goldsmith showed

poetry of the Latin poets like Ovid, Horace, Catullus, Martial and the Greek poet Anacreon. He does not seem to have paid much attention to Elizabethan lyricists before him. But his first guide was "Saint Ben" whose aid he invoked in his poem "Prayer to Ben Jonson".

Herrick was perfectly convinced of his immortality as a poet and therefore very assiduously he preserved each and every scrap of his writing. His only book Hesperides: or the works both Humane and Divine of Robert Herrick, Esq. which appeared in 1648 contains about twelve hundred poems few of which extend beyond a hundred lines. Most of them are of the "occasional" type or of the nature of epigrams. Herrick is a poet of moods and moments and is perhaps incapable of sustained poetic expression. But he is seldom frivolous, indelegant, or

Lead;
Secondly I shall be dead
lastly safely buried.
or, again, see the last
stanza of "To Blossoms":
But you are lovely leaves
where we
may read how soon things
have
their end, though ne'er
so brave.
And after they have shown
their pride
like you, a while, they
glide
into the grave."

But Herrick has not one but
protean moods and is equally
dextrous in the expression of
them all. "Cherry Ripe", "To
Julia" and are some of his
best known poems. He is, inde-
ed, the delight of all antholog-
ists.

The end. //

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