

H. L. V. DEROZIO

classmate

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Henry Louis Vivien Derozio is a poet who represents the first echo in India of Western ideas that had begun to take root in Indian soil. His poems have the flavour of English romantic poetry, but they constitute the first expression of Indian nationalist thought besides revealing his high sense of patriotism. His poetic output consists of sonnets, lyrics and narrative poems.

Bradley: Rint in his Introduction to a collection of Derozio's poems regards them as 'showing a remarkable command of language and beauty of expression'. According to him, Derozio's poetry shows unbounded enthusiasm, wealth of imagery and passionate resentment of wanting. The themes of Derozio's poems are death, freedom, patriotism, love and the transitoriness of life. Most of his poems are characterized by the presence of a wistful melancholy. Sometimes, Derozio is even caught in a mood of escapism as in "Evening in August". Of his narrative poems "The Fakir of Thungheera" is the best. Derozio's ardour for social reform shows itself in this poem which tells the story of a Brahmin

Widow who escapes 'sati' by being carried away by Fakir, a disguised outlaw, her former lover, only to become a widow again. The poem is full of Byronic echoes, but is yet competent narrative verse.

Derzoid uses Indian imagery, Indian mythology and Indian themes and sentiments.

But he draws inspiration from English Romantic poets. In one of his sonnets Derzoid expresses his desire to escape from "the fever and fret of life" in a romantic strain —

O! life
 Why dost thou love me so - do not hate
 Me, and why gifts accursed? - but
 there's a strife
 My soul has long engaged in - its with fate
 And in my sorrow, I am half elate
 Loathsome existence! shall I repent.

Continuing ---