

H. L. V. DERDZIO

classmate

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The same sonnet shows Derdzio's fondness for Greek mythology in its very opening line -
Where are thy waters, Lathe?

✓ Derdzio seems to have been particularly fond of the sonnet form. The series of five sonnets addressed to "Night" contain arresting lines such as -

For loneliness and thought this is the hour -
Swift as the dark eyes glance, or falcon's flight
He had an eye for Nature in its twin aspects of Beauty as well as Terror - There was a dance among the leaves and silence and rest had no existence this. In one of his sonnets, Derdzio calls Death his "best friend" he is daunted neither by death nor by fate -

O tyrant fate! Thus shall I vanquish thee
For out of suffering shall I gather pleasure.

There is, however, a certain dullness and monotony about Derdzio's verse. His poetry lacks two essential qualities of romantic poetry - Curiosa a felicitas and ideal beauty. It is the absence of these qualities coupled with a predilection for the use of the common place both in expression and in

ideas that dull the effect of Derozis poetry. His ideas and thoughts too tend to be commonplace banal and hackneyed. The sonnets "Yonick's skull" and "Dust" are full of obvious and commonplace ideas unrelieved by any striking originality of expression.

Derozis handling of Indian classical mythology is often uncertain. A typical example of this wavering attitude towards the Indian myth and its poetic use is "The Eclipse". The poet describes the moon as sickly and attributes "cold" "inconstancy" to it. In the next line, the moon is no longer "the moon but is a Chandrar whose beams bring nightly dreams of love" to maids.

These shortcomings notwithstanding, Derzio was undoubtedly the first Indian to attempt to write romantic poetry with in English. He definitely made a start to give expression to an Indian personality through the medium of English. Mr. Dater compares Derzio to Keats, for, in both men there was a passionate temperament combined with unbounded sympathy with Nature. Both died whole though powers were not yet fully developed. Derzio was, in short, the first of our inheritance of unfulfilled renown.