

followed, and in this, more attention was paid to the manner of expressing the thought than to the thought itself. The representative poet of this period is John Dryden. In his poems, Dryden, in exquisite verse, appeals rather to the minds of men than to their feelings. His poems are for the most part cold and formal; he wrote of philosophy, politics, natural science and religion. The loss of poetry was the gain of prose.

In Anne's day there was far less that was exciting and inspiring than in the reign of Elizabeth, and people wrote but little poetry that seems really noble and great; yet the ability to write prose had been developing, and the prose of this period is so graceful and musical, and so precise in using the right word for the thought, that even after these two hundred years it is as great a pleasure to read it as it was in Queen Anne's time. Some of the best of it is found in Addison's articles in the *Spectator*. This paper made no attempt to tell the news of the day, but presented brilliant essays that jested good-humouredly at the faults of the times, and interesting sketches of what was going on in the busy English world. Many numbers were written by Addison alone. Dean Swift, the author of "Gulliver's Travels," and Daniel Defoe, the author of "Robinson Crusoe," were among the most brilliant political writers of the day.

The works of Alexander Pope well represent the poetry of the age of Anne. His ideas were keen and sensible and well expressed, and his couplets are, therefore, so often quoted that no one can read his poems without finding many familiar lines; and yet the poetry of the time does not make us feel as if the writer was so full of lofty and



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beautiful thoughts that he could not help writing, but rather as if he had tried his best to put every thought