

26. To Arthur Hugh Clough

[London? about 1 March 1849]

Dear Clough

...

- It is true about form: something of the same sort is in my letter which crossed yours on the road. On the other hand, there are two offices of Poetry - one to add to one's store of thoughts & feelings - another to compose & elevate the mind by a sustained tone, numerous allusions, and a grand style. What other process is Milton's than this last, in *Comus* for instance. There is no fruitful analysis of character: but a great effect is produced. What is Keats? A style & form seeker, & this with an impetuosity that heightens the effect of his style almost painfully. Nay in Sophocles what is valuable is not so much his contributions to psychology & the anatomy of sentiment, as the grand moral effects produced by *style*. For the style is the expression of the nobility of the poet's character, as the matter is the expression of the richness of his mind: but on men character produces as great an effect as mind.

...

Yours,

M. A.