

THE WORK PROMETHEAN

OTHER BOOKS
ON ENGLISH LITERATURE
BY JAMES H. COUSINS

New Ways in English Literature.

Footsteps of Freedom.

Modern English Poetry: Its

Characteristics and Tendencies.

PUBLISHED BY GANESH & CO.

THE WORK PROMETHEAN

INTERPRETATIONS
AND
APPLICATIONS
OF
SHELLEY'S POETRY

BY
JAMES H. COUSINS, D.LIT.

*We will take our plan
From the new world of man,
And our work shall be called the Promethean.*

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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

SRI AUROBINDO GHOSE, reviewing Dr. Cousins' first contribution to literary criticism after his arrival in India in 1915, said: "It is not often that literary criticism of the first order is published in India. 'New Ways in English Literature' is pre-eminently of this kind." Later came "Modern English Poetry, its Characteristics and Tendencies," lectures delivered by Dr. Cousins in Keiogijuku University, Tokyo, in 1919, which afterwards, when published by us, was accepted, along with "New Ways in English Literature," as a thesis by the University. On the strength of this literary work, backed by Dr. Cousins' long experience as an educationist in Ireland and India, his year in the University as Professor of Modern English Poetry, and his reputation as one of the pioneer poets and dramatists of the Irish Literary Revival headed by W. B. Yeats and AE, the Japanese Imperial Ministry of Education, on the recommendation of the University, conferred on him the unique distinction of being the first foreigner to receive the degree of *Bungaku Hakushi* (Doctor of Literature). "The

Work Promethean" carries Dr. Cousins' literary criticism from the general survey of the first two volumes to the study of the works of a single poet whom he has pondered and lectured on for many years in three continents. We are happy to publish it to mark his return to India after three years' absence, in which he has twice crossed Europe and the United States of America as travelling lecturer, and acted for a year as Professor of Poetry in The College of the City of New York. He has returned to India to take up the Principalship of Madanapalle College, Madras Presidency, where he acted in various offices, including that of Principal, from 1916 to 1921, excepting his year in Japan, 1919-1920. Into this handy volume Dr. Cousins has gathered Shelley's ideas on religion, the arts, philosophy, and life, and made a new and challenging interpretation of "Prometheus Unbound". Written in dignified style, with numerous quotations and references and passages of lively literary controversy, the book should become a favourite with students of literature in the Colleges of India and elsewhere and a joy to lovers of the best things in poetry and criticism.

G. & Co.

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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SHELLEY