

THE FREE LANCE.

*"His good blade carves the casques of men, for the Free Lance
thrusteth sure."*

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THE PERSONALITY IN THE POETRY OF EDGAR ALLEN POE.

(Prize Essay—*Free Lance* competition.)

Poetry is the outburst of an ardent passion, and the very name of poet presupposes an impressionable soul; and since such is its nature it ever bears—must ever bear—in a greater or less degree the impress of the personality of the author.

It is a salient fact in the history of the literary great that much of their success is due to a personality apparent in their writings. An author's works are so essentially the children of his thought that his own individuality insensibly creeps into them, so that they are invariably tinged with the color of his outer or inner life. This I think is to be ascribed to a tendency toward the real which is a marked feature of all professions. The artist strives to invest the canvas with that which will glow with life and rival nature herself; the actor aims to represent the passions and emotions he depicts as the genuine outburst of real feeling; the author since he combines in his word-painting the province of both is of necessity subject to a similar impulse. And since the imitation or reality is his object, what can he portray more faithfully than the experience of his own life? Byron's page is chiefly autobiographical; the pulse of his mental and physical existence throbs in every stanza he wrote. The most tender and beautiful descriptions of Dickens are but a happy rendering of emotions excited by some