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English literature in Victorian era.

Abstract

The aim of the study is to bring out the role of Industrial Revolution and inventions in Victorian era Literature. This paper presents the progressive effects or adverse effect on Victorian Period Literature. It arise a question that how machines and science change the life of human being in either progressive or negative way? This paper suggests that literature of Victorian reign is also get effected and supported by Industrial Revolution. This paper advocated that Industrial Revolution also bring out changes in various sectors of society. This research paper also refer that Industrial Revolution also effect faith, belief and genre of life of people.

Key Words: - Victorian Era, Genre, Satirical, Contemporary.

Introduction.

Its quite evident from the title that Victorian literature is literature, mainly written in English, during the reign of queen Victoria (1837–1901) (the Victorian era). It was preceded by Romanticism and followed by the realism. Hence style of writing can be called as the fusion of romantic and realistic. The era was remarkable for its excellence in prose .The novel as a genre rose to entertain the rising middle class and to depict the contemporary life in a changing society.

While in the preceding Romantic period, poetry had been the conquerors, novels were the emperors of the Victorian period.[clarification needed] Charles Dickens (1812–1870) dominated the first part of Victoria's reign and most rightly can be called "The King of Victorian Literature".[citation needed] His first novel, The Pickwick Papers, was published in 1836 make him popular and recognizable but at the same time also gave chance to alter his works according to the mood and expectation of reader., and his last Our Mutual Friend between 1864–65. William Thackeray's (1811–1863)the great rival in the first half of the

era known for his satirical works most famous particularly vanity fairs in 1848. This era was along period of continuous development of economic and social welfare in Britain. Three Brontë sisters, Charlotte (1816–1855), Emily (1818–1848) and Anne (1820–1849), also published significant works within the 1840s. A major later novel was George Eliot's (1819–1880) *Middlemarch* (1872), while the major novelist of the later part of Queen Victoria's reign was Thomas Hardy (1840–1928), whose first novel, *Under the Greenwood Tree*, appeared in 1872 and his last, *Jude the Obscure*, in 1895.

Robert Browning (1812–1889) famous for dramatic poems *Pippa Passes* and Tennyson (1809–1892) were Victorian England's most famous poets, though newer taste has attended prefer the poetry of Hardy, who, though he wrote poetry throughout his life, didn't publish a set until 1898, Matthew Arnold wrote the scholar *Gipsy*, *Dover Beach* was also one of the great poet. Algernon Charles Swinburne (1837–1909) is additionally considered a crucial literary figure of the amount, especially his poems and important writings. Early poetry of W. B. Yeats was also published in Victoria's reign. With reference to the theatre it had been not until the last decades of the nineteenth century that any significant works were produced. This began with Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operas, from the 1870s, various plays of George Bernard Shaw (1856–1950) in the 1890s, and Oscar Wilde (1854–1900) was one of the prominent playwrights his easy wit insured immediate success for the brilliant series of dramas.

Types

Prose Fiction.

Like other forms of literature the Victorian novels was also informed by the spirit of realism while the prose of the romantic movement was highly imaginative written for the sole purpose of describing personal experience. Charles Dickens whom created some of the worlds best known fictional characters his works enjoyed unprecedented popularity during his lifetime.; Dickens remains one among the foremost popular and skim authors of the world. His first novel, *The Pickwick Papers* (1836–37) written when he was twenty-five, was an overnight success, and every one his subsequent works sold extremely well. The comedy of his first novel features a satirical edge and this pervades his writing. Dickens worked diligently and prolifically to supply the entertaining writing that the general public wanted, but also to supply commentary on social problems and therefore the plight of the poor and oppressed. His most important works include *Oliver Twist* (1838 is notable for its unromantic portrayal of criminals and their sordid lives.), *Nicholas Nickleby* (1838–39), *A Christmas Carol* (1843), *Dombey and Son* (1846–1848), *David Copperfield* (1849–50), *Bleak House* (1852–53), *Little Dorrit* (1855–1857), *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859), and *Great Expectations* (1860–61). There is a gradual trend in his fiction towards darker themes which

mirrors a bent in much of the writing of the 19th century. The Brontë sisters produced notable works of the period although these were not immediately appreciated by Victorian critics. Later in this period George Eliot published *The Mill on the Floss* in 1860, his most famous work was *Middlemarch*. In later decades Thomas Hardy was the important novelist, his works include *Far from the Madding Crowd* in 1874, *Under the Green Wood Tree* 1872, other significant novelists of the era were Elizabeth Gaskell 1810-1865, Anthony Trollope 1815-1882, George Meredith 1828-1909 and George Gissing 1857-1903.

Poetry.

The poetry at the time was more light hearted and humorous often whimsical nonsense. The themes were much more realistic identifying emotions such as isolation, despair and general pessimism. Some of the famous poets of the era were Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Browning conducted their romance through verse and produced many tender and passionate poems. Both Arnold and Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote poems which sit somewhere in between the exultation of nature of the romantic Poetry. Arnold's works anticipate a number of the themes of those later poets, his works include *Rugby Chapel*, *Thyrsis*, *The Scholar Gypsy* he also wrote a critical sonnet of Shakespeare. While Hopkins drew inspiration from verse sorts of Old English poetry like *Beowulf*. He was a devoutly religious man and his poetry is devotional poetry, with dense layer of imagery and metaphors He honoured Christ through his words.

The reclaiming of the past was a serious part of Victorian literature with an interest in both classical literature but also the medieval literature of England. The Victorians loved the heroic, chivalrous stories. Tennyson favoured writing about modern issues and events. His poem *Charge of the Light Brigade* dealt with the events of the Crime and War. He does not use the poem to place blame on the commander or any other individual, but rather writes about courage and intense patriotism displayed by the men of the Light Brigade. *The Princess* is the collection of his fine lyrics which shows his best musical and mysterious quality.

Drama

The theatre openly displayed and played dramas relating to social problems. Oscar Wilde was one of the prominent playwrights of the era, he wrote brilliant series of drama in early nineties. *Lady Windermere's Fan* 1892, *Salome* 1892, *A Woman of No Importance* 1893 *An Ideal Husband* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* 1895. Wilde's work has inspired many other fellow writers. In drama, farces, musical burlesques, extravaganzas and comic operas competed with Shakespeare productions and high drama by the likes of James Planché and Thomas William Robertson. In 1855, the German Reed Entertainments began a process of elevating the extent of (formerly risqué) musical theatre in Britain that culminated within the famous series of comic operas by Gilbert and Sullivan and were followed by the 1890s

with the primary Edwardian musical comedies. The first play to realize 500 consecutive performances was the London comedy *Our Boys* by H. J. Byron, opening in 1875. Its astonishing new record of 1,362 performances was bested in 1892 by *Charley's Aunt* by Brandon Thomas.[2] After W. S. Gilbert, Wilde became the leading poet and dramatist of the late Victorian period.[3] Wilde's plays, especially, stand aside from the various now forgotten plays of Victorian times. G.B Shaw wrote more than sixty plays based especially on social problems, *Arms and the Man* and *You can never tell* were his popular plays.

Childrens literature.

The Victorians are credited with 'inventing childhood', childrens books were popularized during the era partly by their efforts to stop child labour and the introduction of compulsory education. As children began to be ready to read, literature for children became an industry, with not only established writers producing works for youngsters (such as Dickens' *A Child's History of England*) but also a replacement group of dedicated children's authors. Moralistic stories written in simple English for the purpose of imparting knowledge of Bible to children from poor families. Writers like Lewis Carroll, R. M. Ballantyne and Anna Sewell wrote mainly for youngsters, although that they had an adult following. Other authors like Anthony Hope and Robert Louis Stevenson wrote mainly for adults, but their adventure novels are now generally classified as for childhood which underwent a radical reconfiguration. Other genres encompass a wide range of works including picture books and easy to read stories, fairy tales, fables folk songs many others were written exclusively for children. Poetry which required a childlike interest (e.g. Lewis Carroll). School stories flourished: Thomas Hughes' *Tom Brown's Schooldays* and Kipling's *Stalky & Co.* are classics. Rarely were these publications designed to capture a child's pleasure; however, with the rise in use of illustrations, children began to enjoy literature, and were ready to learn morals in a more entertaining way. With the newfound acceptance of reading for pleasure, fairy tales and folk tales became popular. Compiling folk tales by many authors with different topics made it possible for children to read literature by and about many various things that interested them. There were differing types of books and magazines with colourful pictures to draw young readers' attention were written. Girls' stories tended to be domestic and to specialise in family life, whereas boys' stories were more about adventures.

Science philosophy and discovery.

That era was a time of rapid scientific progress in Britain and other parts of the globe. For the first time science was seen as a profession in its own right; the very term 'scientist' was a Victorian invention, Charles Darwin's and his theories studies formed the basis of the study of natural history and evolution, affected society, throughout the Victoria era, and still does today

The Victorian era was a crucial time for the event of science and therefore the Victorians had a mission to explain and classify the whole wildlife . Much of this writing doesn't rise to the extent of being considered literature but one book especially , Charles Darwin's On the Origin of Species, remains famous. The theory of evolution contained within the work challenged many of the ideas the Victorians had about themselves and their place within the world. Although it took an extended time to be widely accepted, it might dramatically change subsequent thought and literature. Much of the work of popularizing Darwin's theories was done by his younger contemporary Thomas Henry Huxley, who wrote widely on the topic

A number of other non-fiction works of the age made their mark on the literature of the amount . The philosophical writings of John Stuart Mill covered logic, economics, liberty and utilitarianism. The large and influential histories of Thomas Carlyle: The French Revolution, A History and On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and The Heroic in History permeated political thought at the time. The writings of Thomas Babington Macaulay on English history helped codify the Whig narrative that dominated the historiography for many years. The invention of the steam engine by James watt was the drop of avalanche. The communication and link between different places were established . John Ruskin wrote variety of highly influential works on art and therefore the history of art and championed such contemporary figures as J. M. W. Turner and the Pre-Raphaelites. The religious writer John Henry Newman's Oxford movement aroused intense debate within the Church of England, exacerbated by Newman's own conversion to Catholicism, which he wrote about in his autobiography Apologia Pro Vita Sua.

A number of monumental reference works were published during this era, most notably the Oxford English Dictionary which might eventually become the foremost important historical dictionary of English language. Also published during the later Victorian era were the Dictionary of National Biography and the ninth edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Nature writing.

The Victorian era was the great age of English novel; realistic ,thickly plotted , crowded with characters.The United States, Henry David Thoreau's works and Susan Fenimore Cooper's Rural Hours (1850) were canonical influences on Victorian nature writing. In the UK, Philip Gosse and Sarah Bowdich Lee were two of the early famous nature writers within the early a part of the Victorian era.The Illustrated London News, founded in 1842, was the world's first to serve the weekly newspaper and sometimes published articles and illustrations handling nature; within the last half of the 19th century, books, articles, and illustrations on nature became widespread and popular among an increasingly middle class readers. It was the ideal form to describe the contemporary life.

Supernatural and fantastic

The Victorians were hunted by the supernaturals, by ghosts and fairies, table rapping and telepathic encounters, occult religions and ideas of reincarnation, vision of other world and reality beyond the everyday. The old Gothic tales that came out of the late 19th century are the primary samples of the style of fantastic fiction. These tales often centred on larger-than-life characters like Sherlock Holmes, famous detective of the days, Sexton Blake, Phileas Fogg, and other fictional characters of the age, such as Dracula, Edward Hyde, The Invisible Man, and lots of other fictional characters who often had exotic enemies to foil. Spanning the 18th and 19th centuries, there was a specific sort of story-writing referred to as gothic. Gothic writers use the supernatural to build suspense and create special effects for the readers. Possible features during a gothic novel are foreign monsters, ghosts, curses, hidden rooms and witchcraft. Gothic tales usually happen in locations like castles, monasteries, and cemeteries, although the gothic monsters sometimes cross over into the significant world, and participating in the cities like London.

The influence of Victorian literature

Great Britain witnessed great strides in the economy, society politics, literature science etc. during this period 1837-1901. Writers from the US and therefore the British colonies of Australia, New Zealand and Canada were influenced by the literature of England and are often classed as a neighborhood of Victorian literature, although they were gradually developing their own distinctive voices. Victorian writers of Canadian literature include Grant Allen, Susanna Moodie and Parr Traill. Australian literature has the poets Adam Lindsay Gordon and Banjo Paterson, who wrote *Waltzing Matilda*, and New Zealand literature includes Thomas Bracken and Frederick Edward Maning. From the sphere of literature of the US during this point are a number of the country's greats including: Dickinson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Hawthorne, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., James, Melville, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Henry David Thoreau, Clemens and Whitman.

The problem with the classification of "Victorian literature" is that the great difference between the first works of the amount and therefore the later works which had more in common with the writers of the Edwardian period and lots of writers straddle this divide. People such as Arthur Conan Doyle, Rudyard Kipling, H. G. Wells, Bram Stoker, H. Rider Haggard, Jerome K. Jerome and Conrad all wrote a number of their important works during Victoria's reign but the sensibility of their writing is usually considered Edwardian. Poets like Shelley, Wordsworth, Tennyson and Browning created several gems of contemporary poetry. The new inventions during the period give opportunity to emerge with new ideas. The emphasis shifted from agriculture to manufacturing companies and a new class and standard of reader.

Conclusion.

From the above discussion, an obvious conclusion that follows is that Industrial Revolution leaves its great affects on the life and living standard of people in Victorian era. The literature is best remembered for its stern morality ,tempered by an innate grace and beauty. but also the beginning of modernist movement.However,great strides were made on various fronts and the contribution of Victorian era to human history far exceeds this view.

Reference .

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