

BERNARD O'DOWD

By E. M. Howard.

God puts the poet in the man
To make of him a spiritual—
Mere Man, who speaks the seer's word,
Mind vitalised; in person dual.

The Dreamer and the Practical
As one, with power to achieve
World fame by beautifying truths,
That men may readily believe.

Australia, hearing clear and loud,
His songs of prophecy and praise,
Must recognise her son, O'Dowd,
As understanding all her ways—

Her towns, her bush, her people's soul;
He, spokesman of their inner thoughts,
Their hopes, their worth, their future role,
Which he to patriotism exhorts.

O'Dowd, the Unitarian,
Cries his belief in that God-Power
Who holds the world together yet,
However frayed in this fierce hour.

This poet's faith is strong that man
Shall, in the ultimate, emerge
A being true to God's deep plan,
Obedient to his spirit's urge.

With faith in life-that-follows-life,
Thro' lengthening years he, fearless, spake,
And strode along that safe, sure way
His conscience ordered him to take.

His pulsing lines proclaim his worth;
Though, pen laid down, he rests from strife
His thoughts will ever fresh thought give—
He, they, have everlasting life.
