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Paper - I
Topic - "Puritan
Poetry"

Whereas George Herbert, Vaughan and Crashaw are best representatives of Puritan Poetry in England, we find in Andrew Marvell and John Milton representatives of Anglican Poetry. The Puritan is more conscious of sin and temptation and is more under Calvinistic influences. The Anglican is more conscious of salvation. The Puritan disregards life. The difference between Milton and Marvell is that in Milton there are influences of Renaissance, while in Marvell there are Anglican influences.

Andrew Marvell was the only Puritan among the Metaphysicals. He is a humanist, a wit and a high-minded patriot who had praised Cromwell without defaming Charles I. His verses - smell of meadows and gardens. His feeling for Nature in *The Garden* to a kind of ecstasy. His love-poems are mostly issues of conceits. Marvell was, in fact, very close to the great life of his country in the troubled days of the Commonwealth and the Restoration. He was himself on the Puritan side and his poems after Restoration are satiric and filled with bitterness. John Milton is a far greater personality than Marvell. As a poet he is far above any particular poetic coterie or creed. He has a lofty soul and lofty manner of expression. He was the only poet of England who endeavoured to blend the spirit of the Renaissance and Reformation. No other English poet was at once so profoundly religious and so much an artist. *Paradise Lost*, *Paradise Regained*, *Comus*, *Lycidas*, and *Samson Agonistes* Milton in the profundity of thought and majesty of expression. In Marvell a peculiar Puritan attitude is revealed. In *A Dialogue between the Resolved Soul and created pleasure* we find a typical Puritan note. The Puritans were dogmatic by nature. The Anglican church, which stood for compromise, was incapable of dogmatism.

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