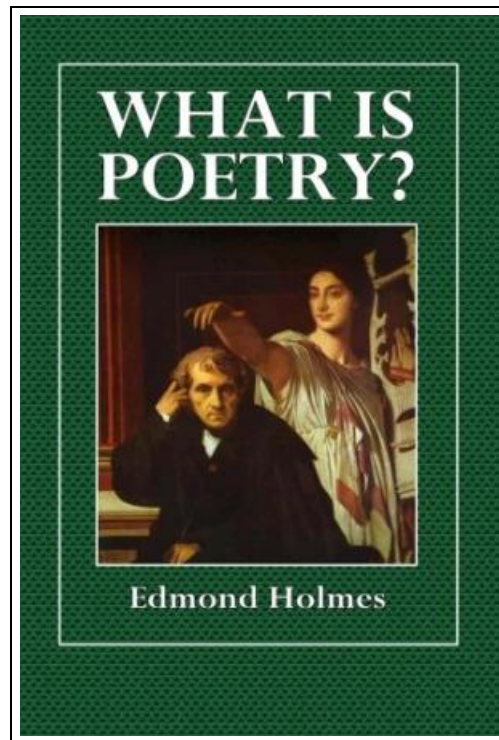


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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Mr. Edmond Holmes has set himself a greatly daring task in this very suggestive little book. From Aristotle downwards men have attempted to answer the question, What is poetry? and have met with hut indifferent success. We will not say that Mr. Holmes succeeds where they failed; but he does describe the modus operandi of poetry in a novel and stimulant way. At first sight the motto of his book, taken from Carlyle, seems to be in direct conflict with his thesis. Poetic creation, what is this but seeing the thing sufficiently? The word that will describe the thing follows of itself from such intense clear sight of it. So speaks Carlyle, as quoted by Mr. Holmes. Yet the first postulate laid down by Mr. Holmes is that Poetry is the expression of strong and deep feeling. The two appear irreconcilable, if either be laid down singly. The truth is, that neither should be laid down singly. The basis of the poetic faculty is neither intuition alone, nor emotion alone. (For, be it observed, Mr. Holmes is really investigating rather the poetic faculty than poetry itself: he is inquiring into the operation of poetry in the mind of the poet.) The basis of the poetic gift is intellectual insight, or intuition, combined with emotional sensibility. The union is so subtle, that the poet may be said in a manner to see through his sensitive nature. I see it feelingly, he might enounce with Lear. Mr. Holmes had done better to take as his postulate: Poetry is the expression of truth seen feelingly. For that, indeed, is the foundation, the modus operandi, of the poetic faculty. But, in fact, this is...

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