The Achievement of Christina Rossetti

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IN MEMORIAM CATHERINE MUSELLO CANTALUPO

Alike in the love poems and in the religious poems, there is a certain asceticism, passion itself speaking a chastened language, the language, generally, of sorrowful but absolute renunciation. This motive, passion remembered and repressed, condemned to eternal memory and eternal sorrow, is the motive of much of her finest work.

Arthur Symons, Studies in Two Literatures