

Gossamer Wings

by Theodore Dalrymple (August 2013)

There are moods and times of day when one wants to read something intelligent but undemanding, and for this purpose there is nothing better than the literary essays and biographies of Sir Edmund Gosse. Once regarded as a colossus of literature, or at least of literary criticism and scholarship, he is now almost forgotten except for his memoir of his relationship with his father, *Father and Son*, which is indeed one of the most touching evocations of a highly unusual childhood known to me.