consecrated metre, or recurrent rhythm, to the use of poetry. To our ears this is the sole essential mark of verse. But the poets have found out many embellishments—parallelism, rime, alliteration, assonance, refrain—and some of these have at different times been thought no less essential than metre itself. This was perhaps due to the imperfect state of the art, which needed these aids to reinforce the rhythm. So I have known children refuse the name of poetry to unrimed verse, 'because it did not match,' they said—did not give them, that is, the full pleasure that they ask from poetry. All these charms are woven into the spell of the best English verse, and to them it owes much of its power. Now these embellishments are all forms of recurrence, as the coloured parts which adorn a flower are all modifications of the leaf. And recurrence, we saw, is a sign of emotion—not of crude or immediate feeling, but of emotion controlled, tranquillized, beautified. To arouse such emotion is the second and chief aim of poetry.

The poet's fine ear and capacity of emotion belong to a nature unusually sensitive of impressions, and quick, under stress of feeling, to revive them in imagination. All lovers of poetry have these gifts in a measure ; the poet has them in such measure that they must find utterance in coloured and rhythmic speech. By his very name the poet is a maker, a creator ; he makes a new world to his heart's desire. True, he creates after Nature ; with her hues and forms he invests his thoughts. Yet these forms are not mere garments of poetic thought : rather they are its living flesh. The poet does not put his thoughts into images ; he thinks in images.

At first, as Cowley says, the understanding has little to do with all this. But presently the understanding too asserts its claim, and demands that these images shall be connected into an intelligible whole, that they shall, as we say, make sense. Thus poetry is distinguished from mere reverie or dream, and the greater forms of poetry from the lesser. Coleridge may have