

£500, together with his own slight resources, sufficed amply for all his needs.

His marriage was of the happiest, and brought him three sons and two daughters. In 1839 he received the degree of D.C.L. from Oxford. In 1842 he resigned his post which was given to his second son, Thomas, whilst the poet received a retiring pension of £300 a year. In 1843 he succeeded Southey as Poet Laureate; and he died in 1850, on the 23rd of April, the anniversary of the birth and death of Shakespeare. Wordsworth's character as a man and as a poet is written in his works. A purer, truer, and more spiritual man could hardly have lived. He loved nature, and he loved it as a living thing. To those who are indifferent to nature and disinclined for meditation Wordsworth is a sealed book. What his contemporaries thought of him we can still read on his tombstone* in Grasmere Churchyard, and the words are guilty of no exaggeration.

* See next page.