

but no man, however great his wisdom and experience, can escape altogether from the influence, and therefore from the errors, of his time. We should like to consult the true prophets of an era resembling, but not identical with, the present age. No man for our purpose more nearly meets our wants than Wordsworth, and even he exhibits more of true prophetic inspiration in his patriotic sonnets than elsewhere. His celebrated *Tract* indeed contains, as I hope to have shown, much wisdom and statesmanship which is applicable to the present day. But it is in part occupied with transitory matters which have lost most of their importance. The patriotic sonnets are written with the absolute confidence of inspired certainty. They reprove Englishmen for their English faults; they contain much less about the vices of England's enemies than about the errors, the crimes it may be, which have hindered England's success in war. They appeal to the inherited and the historical virtues handed down to us by men of heroic mould whom it is our duty to follow. There is not in Wordsworth's patriotic admonitions, and even in his sublime trust that the victory of England's cause is certain because it is the cause of righteousness, a line which even the most perverse ingenuity can treat as flattering the self-love of his countrymen. If England is praised it is not the England of Wordsworth's day. He never lets the men he addresses forget that they have often fallen below the high standard of patriotism set them by their ancestors. He gives new strength to Englishmen by recalling to them two things which in time of misfortune men are too apt to forget. The one is the paramount duty of cherishing a noble hopefulness, the other is the terrible thought—a thought none of