

sometimes concealed from view certain other true aspects of Wordsworth's character and of his action, and does not directly suggest the passionate interest which he took in the public life of England¹ and his intense effort to make his countrymen march firmly towards righteousness and towards a peace grounded on the destruction of despotism. It should, moreover, be noted that if Wordsworth's statesmanship has failed (either through the misrepresentation of his opponents or through the one-sided admiration felt for his poetry and his moral doctrine by his disciples) to obtain due recognition, he has himself sometimes been his own calumniator. Take the language in which he paints a poet:

But who is He, with modest looks,
And clad in homely russet brown?
He murmurs near the running brooks
A music sweeter than their own.

He is retired as noontide dew,
Or fountain in a noon-day grove;
And you must love him, ere to you
He will seem worthy of your love.

The outward shows of sky and earth,
Of hill and valley, he has viewed;
And impulses of deeper birth
Have come to him in solitude.

In common things that round us lie
Some random truths he can impart;—
The harvest of a quiet eye
That broods and sleeps on his own heart.

¹ Wordsworth said to a friend in 1833, 'That although he was known to the world only as a poet, he had given twelve hours thought to the condition and prospects of society, for one to poetry.' See W. Hale White, *Examination of the Charge of Apostasy against Wordsworth*, p. 16, citing Works of Orville Dewey, ed. 1844, p. 622.