

PREFATORY NOTE

THIS essay treats of Wordsworth's statesmanship from 1802 to 1815. A great part of it has already appeared in the form of articles on that subject in *The Nineteenth Century and After*. I take this opportunity of giving my most sincere thanks to the Editor of that periodical for his liberality in allowing me to make free use in the following pages of such articles. I acknowledge also my great obligation to Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co. for their permission to reprint at full length from the *Letters of John Stuart Mill*, published by them in 1910, Mill's account of his visit to Wordsworth in 1831. It is by far the best literary portrait of the poet, when already over sixty years of age, which I have been able to discover. Lastly, it is a pleasure to me to state that in writing this essay I have received the greatest help from the suggestions of many friends better acquainted than myself with the whole of Wordsworth's poetry, and more especially from W. P. Ker, Professor of English Literature in University College, London, and from Miss H. Darbishire, Tutor in English Literature at Somerville College, Oxford, and editor of *Wordsworth's Poems in Two Volumes of 1807*.

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