

School of Poetry, we are face to face with a truth well worth observing. It is this: A poet may live a Catholic and die a Catholic, and yet put nothing of his faith into his work. Pope is certainly a case in point. Pope professed and practiced the Catholic religion, and yet you will look in vain for any evidence of it in his poetry. He seemed to be under the spell of the false philosophy of Lord Bolingbroke, his chief poem being saturated with this.

Now William Wordsworth, the head of the School of Nature and Romance, is a case in point where a poet may not profess the Catholic faith and yet teach Catholic truths—nay, give evidence in his work that the beautiful truths, teachings and dogmas of the Catholic Church may inspire at times the soul of the poet, no matter at what altar he kneels.

I remember that when I visited the Wordsworth Land in the summer of 1903 I was fortunate enough to meet a vener-