

The second consideration¹ is, as regards Wordsworth's statesmanship, of incalculable importance. He early in life had obtained an intimate and first-hand knowledge of the French people which was certainly not possessed even by the few English statesmen who had lived much on the continent of Europe. This peculiar knowledge of France and her people is in several aspects of such importance that it is fully considered in the next chapter.

¹ See p. 12, *ante*.