

The English Lake District,

In this number of SUNSHINE, we give several interesting photographs of the English Lake District. The beauty of the scenery is apparent, and our readers will also associate many of the places with Wordsworth, Southey, Coleridge, De Quincey, and others of lesser note.

The Lake District is comprised in the counties of Cumberland, Westmoreland and a small portion of Lancashire. There are sixteen lakes in the district, surrounded by numerous mountains, some rising to a height of over 3,000 feet. The district is the tourists' paradise, for perhaps nowhere can such rare scenery be found in so narrow a space.

The literary associations of the district perhaps have, to many, the greater attraction; for here a notable group of illustrious poets made it their home about the beginning of the seventeenth century. "Of these the most illustrious was Wordsworth, who has interpreted for us with marvellous fidelity and force the life—animate and inanimate alike—of the country which he knew and loved. His 'Excursion' is the best of all guide-books to the Lakes—'Wordsworthshire,' as Lowell aptly terms the district; and students of English poetry will never lose an interest in those hallowed scenes in which the modern High-priest of Nature first expounded the co-operative spiritual harmony between man and nature herself, and taught how the mute life in nature ever leads upwards to the conscious life in man and the creative force in God. He was born at Cockermouth;

he had his education at Hawkeshead school; he lived thirteen years in three houses at Grasmere, and thirty-seven at Rydal Mount; and he lies fittingly, with his wife, his children, and his gifted sister Dorothy, in Grasmere churchyard, in the midst of the scenery he has made enchanted. His first house at Grasmere, Dove Cottage or Town End, his home from December 1799, to May, 1808, and of De Quincey for more than twenty years thereafter, was bought in 1890 by public subscription for permanent preservation as a memorial of Wordsworth. His life-long friend and brother-poet, Southey, lived for forty years at Greta Hall, near Keswick, and rests in Cros-

thwaite churchyard hard by. Here also Greta Hall Coleridge lived awhile, often visiting the Wordsworths; and here his children were brought up by Southey. The hapless Hartley Coleridge lived long at Nab Cottage near Rydal Water, and is buried beside Wordsworth in Grasmere. Christopher North lived at Elleray, near Windermere. Shelley lived some time at Keswick after his marriage, and Mrs. Hemans at Dove Nest on Windermere, Harriet Martineau had her home at the Knoll, near Ambleside; and not far off is Fox How, where Dr. Arnold found rest from the strain of Rugby, and where he died. James Spedding was born at Bassenthwaite, and here was visited by Edward Fitzgerald and Tennyson; and the latter lived some time at Tent House on the east bank of Coniston Lake. At Brantwood, near Coniston Lake, Ruskin resided during the later years of his life. The poet Grey spent a fortnight in 1769 in traversing the Lake District, and his 'Journal' shows that he looked before his time in nature with 'distinctness and unaffected simplicity,' in Wordsworth's phrase. Hither came in the summer of 1802 Charles Lamb, with his sister Mary, to spend three weeks with Coleridge at Keswick."

Wordsworth wrote a description of the scenery of the Lakes in the north of England (1820) which shows the love the poet had for the place.

"Some men grow under responsibility—others merely swell."



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