

What, then, is the positive teaching of those men? And now I feel the mistake of this paper. It attempts too much. Had I confined myself to one name, I might have given you a general idea of his work; but how to go over them all in the last half of a lecture to a popular audience! All that I can hope to do is to stimulate your curiosity, and provoke you to read for yourselves. For the most able and appreciative articles on Wordsworth and Coleridge, let me refer you to two articles, written I understand by Professor Shairp of St. Andrew's, in the *North British Review* of 1864 and 1865. Carlyle and Tennyson are more generally read in America, and I may therefore take for granted that they are not wholly unknown here.

Coleridge—what did he for us? Listen to a few testimonies. Wordsworth says, "I have known many men who could do wonderful things, as Cuvier, Davy, Scott: but Coleridge was the only wonderful man I have ever known." Hazlitt says of him, "He is the only person, I ever knew who answered to the idea of a man of genius. He is the only person from whom I ever learned anything." Arnold called him the greatest intellect that England had produced within his memory. John Stuart Mill though himself of an entirely opposite school, has said that "no one has contributed more to shape the opinions among younger men, who can be said to have any opinions at all." Mr. Maurice always speaks of him reverently, as the great religious teacher of these latter times. Edward Irving in the dedication of one of his works to him, acknowledges to have received more precious truths from him than from any other teacher. Similar testimonies might be given from John Wilson, De Quincy, Dr. Newman, &c. His personal influence over the thinkers of the day during the last eighteen years of his life, from 1816 to 1834, when he had found a haven of rest in Mr. Gilman's house, Highgate, near London, was almost incredible. He drew around him the ardent inquiring spirits of the age, who listened to his wondrous monologues with rapt and reverent attention: the Hares, John Sterling, Irving, and such like, each of them a centre of influence. The men who knew him and survived him, always spoke of him with an awe due rather to a demigod than a man. Charles Lamb, to the end of his life was often heard muttering, "Coleridge is dead, is dead." He once said solemnly, "I cannot think without an ineffectual reference to him." His authority on almost every subject, philosophical, or theological, on Church or State, was decisive with many. Even the *Edinburgh Review* of last year says, "when Mr. Mill quoted 'the Lay Sermon' as an authority of political opinion, in a late debate in Parliament, it must have sounded to more than one of his elder hearers as an echo of his youthful days, when a passage from 'the Aids to Reflection,' was a valuable support on either side of a religious controversy." Well, as it would be absurd in