

"The portion then published," he remarks, "belongs to the second part of a long and laborious work which is to consist of three parts." He would have preferred to publish these parts in their natural order; but "as the second division of the work was designed to refer more to passing events, and to an existing state of things, than the others were meant to do, more continuous exertion was naturally bestowed upon it, and greater progress made here than in the rest of the poem," and so he had complied with the earnest request of friends to give that portion of his work to the public.

The general title intended to be given to the work, "The Recluse," was derived more particularly from the first part, known as "The Prelude." Intending the whole poem to be the principal monument of his genius, "a literary book that might live," he thought it "a reasonable thing to take a review of his own mind and examine how far Nature and Education had qualified him for such employment. . . . That work, addressed to a dear Friend [S. T. Coleridge], most distinguished for his knowledge and genius, and to whom the author's intellect is deeply indebted, has been long finished. . . . The preparatory poem is biographical, and conducts the history of the author's mind to the point when he was emboldened to hope that his faculties were sufficiently matured for entering upon the arduous labour which he had proposed to himself." This portion, as we have said, was published in 1850, under the title of "The Prelude, or, Growth of a Poet's Mind; an Autobiographical Poem." Coleridge, who had seen the Prelude in MS., described it as