

allots to himself during this same year we have just mentioned. We cannot fail to perceive the grace of these changes from the ordinary mode of treatment. Also, we must remark the skill displayed in having the reader "accompany" him through some portions of his narrative. With such assistance he is enabled to make many easy transitions. Thus, in opening one section, addressing the reader, he says: "Let me now request you to move onwards for about eight years." In commencing another section, he makes a similar transition, as follows: "Reader, who have accompanied me thus far, I must request your attention to a brief explanatory note on three points." And, again, in passing from the year 1813 to 1816, where you are to behold him in a quite different character, he says, "This, then, being all fully understood between us, we shall in future sail before the wind. Now, then, reader, from 1813 where all this time you have been sitting down and loitering, rise up, if you please, and walk forward about three more. Now draw up the curtain, and you shall see me in a new character." We must notice also his short transitional paragraph, in the first main division of his work, used to assist him in coming smoothly to the purpose of his visit to London, "This present, from the particular service to which it was applied, leads me naturally to speak of the purpose which had allured me up to London, etc." His narrative is full of such connective sentences. Examples of his explicit connection are abundantly furnished on every page.

What next demands our attention is his excessive use of parenthetical phrases and allusions. His composition is filled with them, and, when he cannot possibly crowd all he desires into his sentences, he sends us down, by an asterisk or dagger, to the bottom of the page, where everything is explained to his own satisfaction. Some might take this as another instance of his scrupulousness, in showing us the exact bearing of his statements, of his desire to convey to us his idea with all the precision possible; but many of them we could dispense with without any apparent loss to the meaning. Some he has introduced for humorous effect, some for no reason

at all, and others, we believe, for mere ostentation of his knowledge. These are digressions on a small scale; examples of his "discursiveness," in the employment of which he was, as he himself tells us, a privileged character. As an example of his more lengthy digressions, we may take his description of the scene that took place in his kitchen on the visit of the Malay, when, as he tells us, he was so peculiarly affected at the sight of "the group which presented itself" to him on his descent to interview the stranger. And note at the end of it, what is characteristic of De Quincey, that he assigns a reason for his digressing, commencing the next paragraph thus, "This incident I have digressed to mention, because this Malay (partly from the picturesque exhibition he assisted to frame, partly from the anxiety I connected with his image for some days), fastened afterwards upon my dream, etc."

Now, having finished an examination of this work, what are the general impressions that are left with us? What have we learned about its author? First, we must admit that we are in a manner disappointed. The title in itself has a certain attractiveness for us, and perhaps it leads us to anticipate too much. We set out in expectation of hearing a much more detailed and thrilling account of his struggles and sufferings. As a reason for this reserve, he assigns his unwillingness "to exhaust the reader's patience by such a detail of his malady" as "would be sufficient to toss and gore any column of patient readers, though drawn up sixteen deep, and constantly relieved by fresh men." This, of course, is greatly exaggerated, and if we thought the reality was indeed so horrifying, we would gladly forego the pleasure otherwise to be derived from a full confession. With a little more exertion on his part, also, we think he could have made these "Confessions" a masterpiece of literature. As it is, we must admire its author's rare powers of expressions and his great erudition. The man himself may also be studied with advantage here. Besides the traits of character that we may have accidentally noticed, his two ruling emotions, humor and sublimity, are well exemplified. His