

above the literary horizon more evidently announced."

In 1795 the Poet took up his residence with his sister Dora at Racedown in Dorsetshire; and whilst there he wrote "Guilt and Sorrow" and the "Borderers," a tragedy, neither of which was published until many years afterwards, except a portion of "Guilt and Sorrow," which was put forth under the title of "The Female Vagrant," in 1798. It is generally agreed that the tragedy proved conclusively Wordsworth's lack of dramatic power; but the "Lines left upon a Seat in a Yew-tree," written about the same time and published in 1798, contain within them the promise of true poetic greatness. The "Ruined Cottage," which is now a part of Book I. of "The Excursion," the story of Margaret, was written about the same time, and is declared by Coleridge to be "superior to anything in our language which in any way resembles it."

It was at this time that Wordsworth made the acquaintance of Coleridge; and in order to be near him, he removed, in 1797, to Alfoxden, in Somersetshire, under the shadow of the Quantock Hills. In the same year the two poets, together with Wordsworth's sister, took a pedestrian tour through the west of England, which resulted in the publication of the "Lyrical Ballads" in 1798, followed by a second and enlarged edition in 1800. It was the joint production of Coleridge and Wordsworth, the former of whom wrote four of the poems, and the latter eighteen. The volume began with Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner," and ended with Wordsworth's "Tintern Abbey." Among the other poems included in this collection were Coleridge's "Foster Mother's Tale," and "The