

the mountains at once invigorating and subduing. No passion, no excitement is there, and the poet who reveals to us the solemn grandeur of his hills sheds over our hearts their calm and repose.

To those who study intelligently Wordsworth he will create in them a sympathy with loftiness of character and purity of soul. In these days of hurry and high pressure man's nature is apt to become hardened and his finer feelings obliterated, and we need to study such a man as Wordsworth to prevent or tone down our grossness. He presents to us life in its complete conception of a moral reality, struggling with difficulties and beset by temptations, but victorious by principle. In our pleasant thoughts he tones us down by sad thoughts, but in our sorrow he gives us joy and in our despondency, hope. He is ever true to the highest instincts of humanity—seeking its worthiest inspiration and most touching pictures in the common life we all live—in the darkness and the light to be found in all human hearts, in the joys and griefs, the struggles and heroisms that are everywhere around us. His pictures, if we study them, come home to us—moving us with a holier tenderness for suffering, a higher admiration of those simple virtues of gentleness and love and affection which more than all heroic deeds beautify and ennoble life. John Stuart Mill, a philosopher of a very different school from Wordsworth, says, in his *Autobiography*: "What made Wordsworth's poems a medicine for my state of mind was that they expressed not mere outward beauty, but states of feeling and of thought coloured by feeling under the excitement of beauty. They seemed to be the very culture of the feelings which I was in quest of. In them I seemed to draw from a source of inward joy, or sympathetic and imaginative pleasure, which could be shared in by all human beings which had no connection with struggle or imperfection, but would be made richer by every improvement in the physical or social condition of mankind. From them I seemed to learn what would