

Lomond. During this tour Wordsworth wrote a good many poems which give evidences of the circumstances of their origin. Perhaps the most striking of these are the beautiful lines, "To a Highland Girl," written at Inversnaid, on Loch Lomond, beginning :

" Sweet Highland Girl, a very shower  
Of beauty is thy earthly dower ! "

But there are others not unworthy to hold a place beside these lines, among which may be mentioned "Stepping Westward," "The Solitary Reaper," "At the Grave of Burns," and "Yarrow Unvisited," to be followed in after years by "Yarrow Visited" and "Yarrow Revisited."

It has been said that the first or youthful period of Wordsworth's poetical life and work came to an end in 1808, his middle and mature period in 1818, the remaining years representing his decadence. Among the poems belonging to the first period special mention should be made of the noble "Ode to Duty," beginning, "Stern Daughter of the Voice of God," the ode "To the Skylark," and "The Waggoner," written in 1805, the glorious "Ode on Intimations of Immortality" (1803-1806), which has contested with "Lycidas," the honor of being the high-water mark of English poetry. We should also mention the "Song at the Feast of Brougham Castle," and "The White Doe of Rylestone," written in 1807.

During the next ten years Wordsworth produced many minor poems, such as "Laodameia" (1814), the "Lines to Haydon," beginning, "High is our calling, Friend" (1815), the "Ode to Lycius" (1817), the ode "Composed upon an Evening of Extraordinary Splendour and Beauty" (1818), beginning "Had this efful-