

lege, Cambridge, in 1787, when he was in his eighteenth year, and he took his Bachelor's degree in 1791.

During one of his Cambridge vacations Wordsworth made a pedestrian tour on the continent, in company with a Mr. Jones, an undergraduate of the same university. It was the hopeful era of the great Revolution, and the sympathies and hopes of the Poet were enlisted on its side. He tells us of his meeting with a number of deputies who had been sitting in the National Assembly at Paris :

"In this proud company
We landed—took with them our evening meal,
Guests welcome almost as the angels were
To Abraham of old. The supper done,
With flowing cups elate and happy thoughts
We rose at signal given, and formed a ring,
And, hand in hand, danced round and round the board ;
All hearts were open, every tongue was loud
With amity and glee."

It was not long before this period of sunshine was obscured by gathering clouds ; and, when Wordsworth returned to France in 1791, after taking his degree, he became involved with the Girondins, and he says himself that it was probably only through circumstances which necessitated his return to England that he escaped the guillotine.

Wordsworth's first publication was in 1793, when he put forth "Descriptive Sketches" and "An Evening Walk." The volume, if it made no great stir among the public at large, deeply impressed one who was destined to be the only potent literary influence in Wordsworth's life, and who probably received from him more than he imparted, Samuel Taylor Coleridge. "Seldom, if ever," he declares, "was the emergence of an original poetic genius