

were written at the very time when Wordsworth's powers had reached their full development, and his brain teemed with statesmanlike conceptions about the right relation between France and England.

My conviction then is that while Wordsworth's eminence as a poet is, in England at least, universally acknowledged, his distinction as a statesman has not received anything like due recognition. No attempt whatever is made in this essay to analyse or to form an estimate of Wordsworth's poetry. The labours of critics possessed of a literary competence and knowledge, to which no claim can be made by the present writer, have established Wordsworth's right to a high rank in the long line of English poets. This essay is written with the sole aim of establishing the remarkable character of his statesmanship. My object is to show that at the very crisis of the Great War between England and Napoleon (that is to say from 1802 to 1815) Wordsworth tendered to English politicians and to the people of England the wisest counsel expressed in the noblest language; that he by many years anticipated, thought out and announced the doctrine of Nationalism, which during at least fifty years of the nineteenth century (1820-70) governed or told upon the foreign policy of every European country; and that the policy of Wordsworth, as set forth during the war with Napoleon, suggests questions and contains lessons which vitally concern England when engaged, as at present, in a world-wide war to save the independence of the British Empire and of every other free State. My attempt to establish the insight and foresight of Wordsworth's statesmanship during the first fifteen years of the nineteenth century, has indeed been instigated by a faint hope that the thoughts and