

you, if it will help you to make your living after you are done with it, and will come into requisition every day. If there is nothing open to you after your course except to become a waiter, then you had better give up the idea of a college education at once. If you are to become a farmer or a mechanic, though I am ashamed to make this suggestion, your good school education will probably suffice; though if you have the time and money by all means continue at least long enough till you find that you are despising yourself for thinking of these honest employments. But do not aim at any of the learned professions unless you have a decent education. You will be called upon to mix with educated people in public, and if you have not learned that silence is golden your speech will betray you. And speech will at times be a necessity when silence would be a crime, and what then would become of you? Well, you might say, truthfully, "perhaps I would do as well as the *run* of the others," and so you would, I regret to say, and if you are content to be as good as the *run* of the others, then there is no reason you would appreciate, why you should not run as

they have run. I would propose that you win the race, however, and run as the man who comes in first. The first-class men in the learned professions are chiefly of two kinds, men who have ordinary talents joined to an extraordinary use of them, and the men of extraordinary talent, or rather the geniuses who average one in ten thousand. In my estimate the chances are a thousand to one that any given student is not a genius, and to ensure success, to run the race, he must use all his talents and know how to use them. The right use of a college education to a professional man is to teach him how to make the best use of his faculties in the mastering of the profession. In older and wealthier countries the idea that any preparatory course should even remotely point to any profession was scoffed at, regarded as utilitarian and *Scotch* and smelt of the shop, but I believe that idea is largely adopted in this country. Here you must have your *shingle* out before you are twenty-five, and indeed if the strict theory of a liberal education joined to a study of the professions were to prevail, a man might take his wife and family to see himself presented for his degree.

EDITORIAL.

COLERIDGE'S "ANCIENT MARINER."

THE publication, in Mr. Morley's admirable "English Men of Letters Series," of Mr. H. D. Traill's monograph on Coleridge once more, and we should say authoritatively, recites the circumstances under which Coleridge's immortal ballad was written. As both the *Ancient Mariner* and *Christabel* are subjects for literary study for the educational work in English for the current year, we may not be doing dis-service by relating in brief

the origin of the former of these poems, and by supplying some critical estimate of its weird character and the genius of the man who penned it.

Despite DeQuincey's objections to Wordsworth's connection with the poem, this latest biographer of Coleridge adheres to Wordsworth's own account of the circumstances under which it was written. These are briefly as follows:—the poem was intended as a "pot-boiler," to defray the expenses of a holiday ramble in the neighbourhood of Linton and the Valley of