

**WILLIAM WORDSWORTH:
THE STORY OF HIS LIFE,
WITH CRITICAL REMARKS
ON HIS WRITINGS**

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William Wordsworth: The Story of His Life, with Critical Remarks on His Writings by James Middleton Sutherland

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JAMES MIDDLETON SUTHERLAND

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BY

JAMES MIDDLETON SUTHERLAND.

' He gave us eyes, he gave us ears ;
And humble cares, and delicate fears ;
* * * * *
And love, and thought, and joy.'

' Blessings be with him, and eternal praise,
Who gave us nobler loves, and nobler cares—
The Poet, who on earth has made us heirs
Of truth and pure delight by heavenly lays !'

LONDON :
ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW.
1887.

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To
THE RIGHT REVEREND
JOHN WORDSWORTH, D.D.,
LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY,
AND GREAT NEPHEW OF
THE ILLUSTRIOUS SUBJECT OF THIS BIOGRAPHY,
THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS,
BY PERMISSION,
MOST RESPECTFULLY AND GRATEFULLY
Dedicated
BY THE AUTHOR.

AT THE GRAVE OF WORDSWORTH.

(November 9, 1887.)

THE world is sadly short such hearts as thine,
High Priest in Nature's temple, now at rest ;
Among thy lovers do I stand confest ;
Thy lays, a glorious legacy, are mine.
In thee I see a genius half divine,
A man that loved his fellow-men sincere ;
In purpose fixed and strong, in vision clear ;
Singer at once and sage—in feeling fine,
Tho' dead thou speakest, noble minstrel, seer ;
For thy inspiring verse no more can die
Than can thy spirit gone to God who gave.
Accept my homage as I linger here,
Between thy sacred ashes and the sky,
And humbly place this wreath upon thy grave.

PREFACE.

IN issuing this unpretending volume on William Wordsworth, I need offer but few prefatory remarks.

Whilst there are, as is well known, several indispensable hand-books on this great meditative poet, all more or less elaborate and exhaustive in their way, there is, perhaps, none that is precisely what this professes to be—a popular story of his life; and it is in the hope of supplying one, however humble, that this condensed monograph, the writing of which has indeed been a labour of love, is given to the public.

The 'Memoirs of William Wordsworth,' by the poet's nephew, the Right Rev. Christopher Wordsworth, D.D., late Lord Bishop of Lincoln, and the

'Biography,' by the late Rev. E. Paxton Hood, are daily becoming more scarce, having long been out of print, and there would appear to be little likelihood that publications of such magnitude will be re-issued; and it is believed that many will find leisure to peruse this brief sketch who would, doubtless, be deterred from reading volumes of greater length and merit.

'Poets,' it has been well said, 'are the unacknowledged legislators of the world,' and the name of Wordsworth has grown to be a power in the land that even he in his most ambitious moments never could have anticipated; whilst his influence on the spirit of the age, and on readers of all kinds—perhaps more especially on the young—is simply incalculable. To know something, therefore, of such a man, is not only essential, but desirable to a degree; and the present work, within its limited compass, contains, in general at least, accurate and comprehensive information on, at all events, the leading incidents in his prolonged and truly honourable career.

Wordsworth is not the poet of passion and senti-