

**THE RIVERSIDE LITERATURE
SERIES. THE RIME OF THE
ANCIENT MARINER AND OTHER
POEMS. LOCHIEL'S WARNING
AND OTHER POEMS**

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SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE & THOMAS CAMPBELL

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S. T. Coleridge

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BY

THOMAS CAMPBELL

WITH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, INTRODUCTIONS AND NOTES



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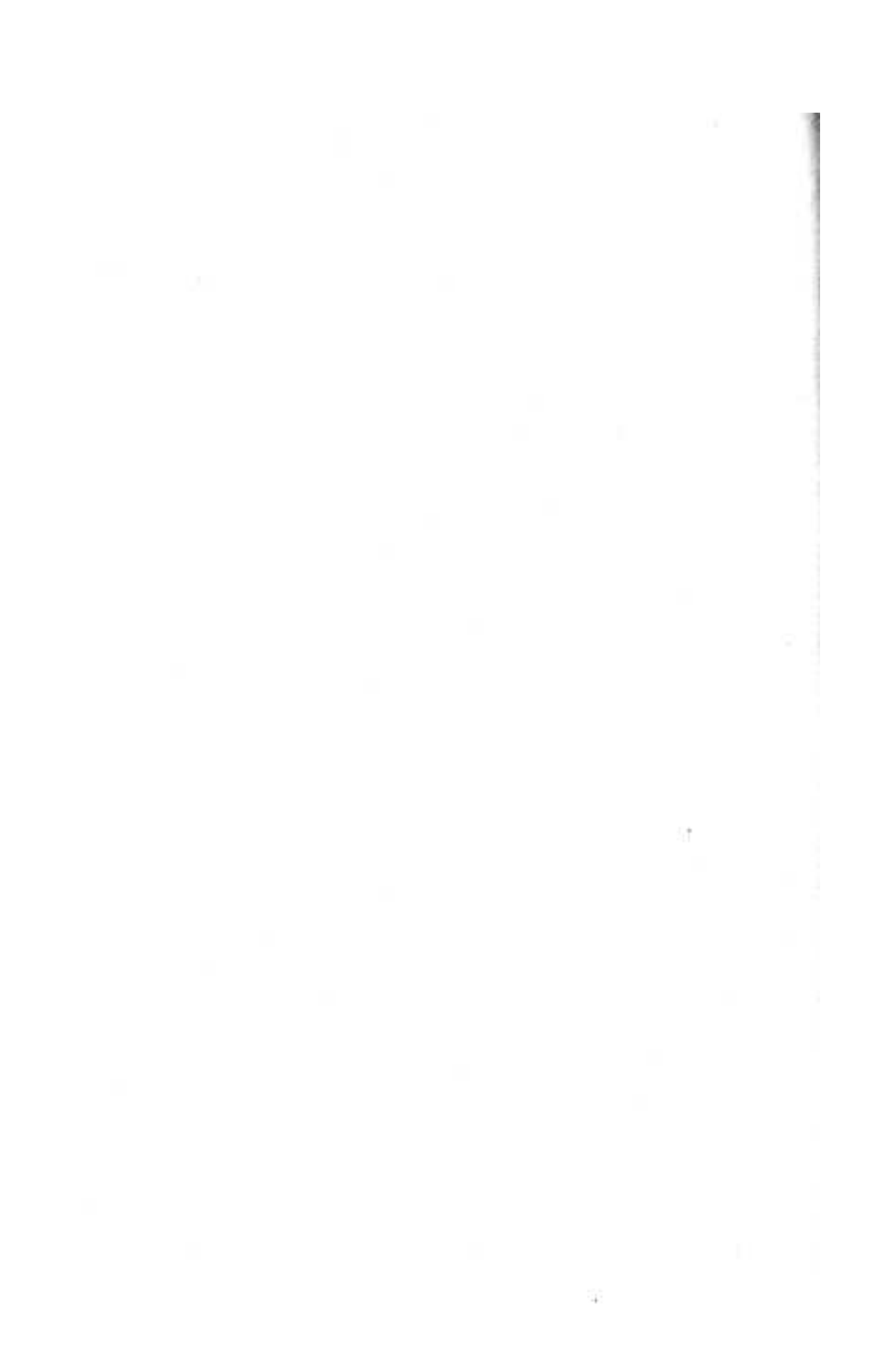
COLERIDGE.

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SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

IN his clumsily entitled *Extempore Effusion upon the Death of James Hogg*, Wordsworth has these lines, after referring to Hogg and to Walter Scott:—

“Nor has the rolling year twice measured,
From sign to sign, its steadfast course,
Since every mortal power of Coleridge
Was frozen at its marvellous source; . . .
The rapt One, of the god-like forehead,
The heaven-eyed creature sleeps in earth.”

And in his poem, *Resolution and Independence*, though he does not name Coleridge, it is almost certain that he had him in mind when he wrote:—

“My whole life I have lived in pleasant thought,
As if life's business were a summer mood;
As if all needful things would come unsought
To genial faith, still rich in genial good;
But how can he expect that others should
Build for him, sow for him, and at his call
Love him, who for himself will take no heed at all?”

When he read the news of Coleridge's death, Wordsworth's voice faltered and broke, as he said he was the most wonderful man that he had ever known.

It is always worth while to know what one poet thinks of another, especially if the two have been contemporaries, friends, intimate companions. Wordsworth and Coleridge

were such. Wordsworth was severe, cold, much given to calm judgment; Coleridge was impulsive, erring, warm-hearted: each knew the other as a great poet, but Wordsworth led a correct, diligent life; he was prudent and thrifty, a good housekeeper, a proper husband and father; Coleridge had magnificent plans and dreams; he was indolent, and, falling into the terrible habit of opium, he struggled like a drowning man against the fate which seemed to have overtaken him; he left great works incomplete, scarcely begun, indeed; he married in haste and repented at leisure; he submitted to be helped by his friends, but he gave lavishly of the best he had to his friends, and no one can read his painful biography without seeing that he so impressed himself successively on one after another, as never to want the sympathy and loving help which should carry him over difficulties.

He was born at the vicarage of Ottery St. Mary, in Devonshire, England, October 21, 1772. His father was a clergyman of the Church of England, and a schoolmaster, good-hearted, absent-minded and impractical. The poet was one of a large family, and his childhood was that of a precocious and imaginative boy, who read fairy tales and acted out the scenes in them, living much by himself and in the world which he created out of his dreams. When he was nine years old his father died, and the next year Coleridge entered the great public school of Christ's Hospital, where he was a schoolfellow of Charles Lamb. From school he went up to Cambridge, and there he made Wordsworth's acquaintance, but his college life was a broken and not very satisfactory one. Indeed, at one time, for reasons not wholly clear, he broke away and enlisted under an assumed name in a regiment of dragoons. It was an odd jump from the frying-pan into the fire, for he had a violent antipathy to soldiers and horses, as he himself confessed, and he was glad when his concealment was discovered and a way was found for the runaway to return to college.