

**COLERIDGE'S THE
RIME OF THE
ANCIENT MARINER**

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SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

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LONGMANS' ENGLISH CLASSICS

EDITED BY

GEORGE RICE CARPENTER, A.B.

PROFESSOR OF RHETORIC AND ENGLISH COMPOSITION IN COLUMBIA COLLEGE

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THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT
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EDITED

WITH NOTES AND AN INTRODUCTION

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PREFACE

I HAVE treated this poem as introductory to poetry, aiming to help boys and girls to see the beauties of song-land. True, some seem elect, without aid ; others seem by nature debarred. There is, however, a great mean—the host of young people who may be taught to enjoy poetry. Editor and teacher must help them, not merely by admiring, but by explaining admiration. Poetry reaches us, not by miracle, but by means most definite. The printed lines convey certain sounds pleasing in themselves. Yet to the untrained ear even this beauty must be demonstrated. Just so with the ideas, to us so suggestive. The student must be helped to grasp the idea, to master the material for emotion. His imagination must do the rest.

I have tried to avoid both extremes—cold analysis and vague appreciation. Appreciation can hardly be intelligibly conveyed. Analysis, carried too far, becomes mechanical, deadening ; leading even to snobbish patronage of art so easily measured. It seems better, aiming at the mean, to explain the reason of our pleasure, and so lead others, first to see, then to feel, as we do.

Such guidance is the object of this book. Alone it cannot accomplish this. The teacher is needed, the teacher who, feeling what poetry is, shall yet be willing patiently to slacken his pace, to explain, to encourage—perhaps along dull paths—other feet to the pleasant eminences of poetry.

H. B.