COLERIDGE'S: THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649411665

Coleridge's: The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by M. A. Eaton

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

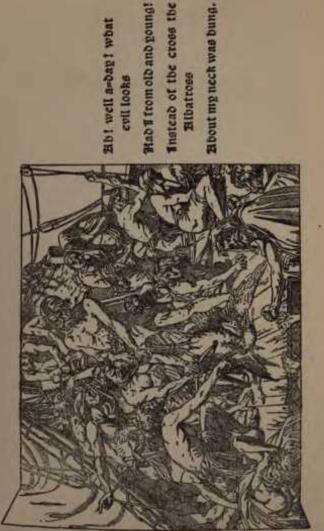
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

M. A. EATON

COLERIDGE'S: THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER





Instead of the cross the Albatross Had I from old and poung! Ab! well asday! what cvil looks

COLERIDGE'S

THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER

EDITED

WITH NOTES AND AN INTRODUCTION

BY

M. A. EATON, A. B.

EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING COMPANY
BOSTON
NEW YORK CHICAGO SAN FRANCISCO

19475. 5.16c

JAN 13 1922 LIBRARY Jaylor fund

COPYRIGHTED

By EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

1906

.

INTRODUCTION.

THE AUTHOR.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge was born in the village of Ottery St. Mary in Devonshire, in the year 1772. His father was rector of the little parish and had a large family, of whom Samuel was the youngest. He lived here until he was nine years old when, unfortunately for him, his father died.

As he was without money or friends, he was sent to the great London Charity School, Christ's Hospital, which Lamb has described so vividly in "Elia."

Here his life was by no means an easy one. Once, indeed, he tried to escape, and became the apprentice of a shoe-maker, but he was forced to go back to school again. Coleridge, however, had an unfailing refuge from all the ills that afflicted him. This was the dream world in which from his earliest years he lived much of the time. This "shaping spirit of imagination," he says, "Nature yave

me at my birth." In school at London he would lie for hours on the roof gazing after the drifting clouds and trying to fathom the blue of the sky.

Once this too vivid imagination very nearly involved him in grave difficulties. He was walking along the Strand on a busy day, swinging his arms and fancying himself swimming in an imaginary sea. Suddenly his hand came in contact with the pocket of one of the passers-by. It was promptly grasped by the outraged stranger, who exclaimed. "What, so young and so wicked!" "But I'm not wicked nor a pickpocket, sir," remonstrated Coleridge; "I thought I was Leander swimming the Hellespont." The gentleman was so impressed with the incident that it is said he obtained membership for the youth in a circulating library.

Coleridge was not a mere dreamer, however. He became the first student in the school and, as a result, was transferred at nineteen to Cambridge University. Here he might have distinguished himself had it not been for his erratic temperament. Debts drove him to London, where he enlisted in the Dragoons, and, although he subsequently returned to college, he soon left again without taking a degree.

He made one friend at this time, who had a good deal of influence upon his life. This was the poet, Robert Southey, who was just then under the influence of the socialistic ideas of the French Revolution. The two young men decided to establish an ideal community in the wilds of America, in which the citizens were to work at farming two hours of the day and develop their souls the rest of the time.

Unfortunately, however, their ideas outstripped their pocketbooks, and while they were still dreaming at Southey's home in Bristol, their plans were forever checked. The two poets fell in love with two sisters and were soon after married.

Coleridge lived at Clevedon, near Bristol, with his wife, Sara Fricker, for two years.

His life here was a struggle. He had married, with his usual carelessness in such matters, on practically no income at all. His health was poor, he was quite unable to do any good work except when the spirit moved him, and his wife did not prove to be of a toppathetic temperament. His work at this

period, therefore, is of little moment, and it was not until he met the poet Wordsworth in 1797 that his real power began to awaken.

In this year Coleridge moved to Nether Stowey, in the English lake region, Wordsworth's home, and their famous intimacy began. Wordsworth was then full of the idea that poetry should deal with the simple emotions and events of daily life and express them in simple language, not in the artificial diction of the eighteenth century poets.

These theories, which were destined to have a profound influence upon English poetry, bore immediate fruit in a joint volume called "Lyrical Ballads," to which Coleridge contributed "The Ancient Mariner" and a few other poems.

The book did not make a great impression at the time and Coleridge left Nether Stowey soon after. For two years he travelled in Germany with the Wordsworths, where he translated Schiller's drama, "Wallenstein," and became profoundly interested in German philosophy.

In 1800 he returned to England and settled in Keswick with Wordsworth. The poetic muse, however, seemed to have abandoned