

**EARLY POEMS,
PP. 1-255**

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Early Poems, pp. 1-255 by William Wordsworth

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WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

**EARLY POEMS,
PP. 1-255**

EARLY POEMS

If thou indeed derive thy light from Heaven,
Then, to the measure of that heaven-born light
Shine, Poet ! in thy place, and be content, —
The stars pre-eminent in magnitude,
And they that from the zenith dart their beams
(Visible though they be to half the earth,
Though half a sphere be conscious of their brightness)
Are yet of no diviner origin,
No purer essence, than the one that burns,
Like an untended watch-fire, on the ridge
Of some dark mountain ; or than those which seem
Humbly to hang, like twinkling winter lamps
Among the branches of the leafless trees ;
All are the undying offspring of one Sire :
Then, to the measure of the light vouchsafed,
Shine, Poet ! in thy place, and be content.

PREFATORY NOTE.

IN the following pages I have endeavoured to give the best of Wordsworth's earlier short poems. They are arranged, as nearly as can be ascertained, in the chronological order of their composition; the date of each poem being appended.

The earlier texts have been followed, except in a few cases where the later readings were preferable.

The present selection will, I trust, confirm the general opinion that Wordsworth's early work is his best. All the poems here given were composed between the Poet's sixteenth and fiftieth years; and the greater portion of them between the years 1798 and 1808. Wordsworth was born 1770; died 1850.

J. R. TUTIN.

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