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for the first time the well-known words about the marble image of the mathematician which is seen by all visitors to the chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge, England:

The antechapel where the statue stood
Of Newton with his prism and silent face,
The marble index of a mind for ever
Voyaging through strange seas of Thought, alone.

In exhibiting *The Prelude* next month, the book will be opened to this famous passage.]



"JUST FOR A RIBAND TO STICK IN HIS COAT"?

BY ALICE PATTEE COMPARETTI

ON March 21, 1843, Robert Southey died, Poet Laureate of England. His post was immediately offered to WILLIAM WORDSWORTH, and its acceptance by him led Browning to regard Wordsworth as a "lost leader" and to write his well-known lines:

Just for a handful of silver he left us,
Just for a riband to stick in his coat.

On April 4, 1843, Wordsworth wrote to the Earl De la Warr: "I accept this high distinction." He held the title until his death seven years later.

Byron too, long before Southey's death and Wordsworth's accession, had accused Wordsworth of turning "both his creed and his coat," and despised him as a "poetical charlatan and political parasite." These charges of political apostasy and poetical degeneration have remained alive until our own day. Thus, these are the two things many people think of when Wordsworth the Laureate is mentioned.

Readers of his later works, however, can find much poetry of a high order, some of it revision, some of it new

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work. One example must here suffice—the two lines written about Isaac Newton, and inserted in *The Prelude* in 1839:

The marble index of a mind for ever
Voyaging through strange seas of Thought, alone.

And as counter to the charge of arch-conservatism, the Postscript of 1835 may serve. In his observations of statecraft, Wordsworth had grown not less passionate, but more tolerant of his opponents; not less liberal, but more understanding of the means necessary to liberty. Perhaps he found the manifestation of human dignity most clearly perceptible in individual men—in the Leech-gatherer, the Happy Warrior, in the Matron of Jedborough, in Emily—rather than in the revolutions of masses of people. Surely he loved Man no less sincerely in his age than in his youth. What changed, I think, was not his feeling for men, but his conviction as to how men may best be served.

The Colby Library will use the centennial anniversary of Wordsworth's acceptance of "this high distinction" to exhibit, from its own Treasure Room, a dozen Wordsworth first editions, all published during the poet's life, and all except one in London. The books to be exhibited are:

- 1800: *Lyrical Ballads*, 2 vols. Second edition of Vol. I; First edition of Vol. II. A. Edward Newton's copies, purchased by the Colby Library Associates at the auction of the Newton Library on May 15, 1941. Also shown are the two volumes of the Fourth Edition (1805), which contains a revised and greatly enlarged form of the Preface.
- 1809: *The Convention of Cintra*.
- 1815: *The White Doe of Rylstone*.
- 1819: *Peter Bell*.
- 1820: *The Waggoner*.
- 1822: *Memorials of a Tour on the Continent, 1820*.
- 1822: *Ecclesiastical Sketches*.
- 1827: *Poetical Works*, 5 vols., of which Wordsworth wrote: "In these volumes will be found the whole of the Author's published poems, for the first time collected in a uniform edition."

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1828: *Poetical Works*, one vol., Paris. The first one-volume collected edition.

1835: *Yarrow Revisited and Other Poems*.

1836: *Poetical Works*, 6 vols. The fifth collected edition.

1842: *Poems, Chiefly of Early and Late Years*.

The poet who, in youth, "had approached the shield of human nature from the golden side," in old age still held active faith in "human nature rising up to her own defense."



HARDY'S POPULARITY

THE Librarian is pleased to be able to announce that *The First Hundred Years of Thomas Hardy*, the centenary Bibliography of Hardiana published just a year ago by the Colby College Library, has been completely sold out. Professor Weber's compilation has been greeted with approval in many places and welcomed in many libraries. The *New York Times Book Review* declared that "this voluminous and impressive record is a valuable service to scholars." The *London Times Literary Supplement* spoke of this "impressive proof of the interest that Hardy and his works arouse in all sorts and conditions of men." And more recently, Professor Raymond D. Havens, writing from The Johns Hopkins University, spoke of this "attractive and impressive Bibliography." Professor Havens continued:

"I first knew of Hardy as the author only of *Tess*, but when I began really to read him (about 1910), I was fascinated, as I have been ever since. I once wrote to him and said that he might be interested to know that, in a country that he had never seen, and in a city and university (the University of Rochester) of which he had never heard, the constant circulation of his novels showed him to be the most popular English or American writer. His novels were never on the shelves. In reply, I received from him a brief