The choice of my present subject for a brief dissertation owes largely to an early work which I did at Dublin several years ago under the inspiring guidance of Professor H.O. White. My success in winning the B. Litt Degree at Dublin led me to plan a detailed study of Wordsworth, but on account of my preoccupations with my college at Moradabad during this long interval, I had to suspend learned activities until now.

Much has been written on Wordsworth, too much on all the aspects of his poetry, particularly his religion of nature. So at the outset the title of this work may not suggest any freshness of approach. Yet I shall consider my labour well spent if, in spite of so many books having been written previously on Wordsworth, readers find in it a consistent development of his mind and art. I claim that in these pages a fresh approach has been made to the study of Wordsworth's development as a poet of Nature.

My chief endeavour in this work has been to represent the poet and his poetry against a background of the natural traits of his character and the environmental influences to which he was subject at different periods of his life. In doing this I have taken an independent stand with regard to Wordsworth's way of approach to Nature, the development of his feeling for her and the.
gradual decline of that feeling. I have taken into account and discussed the various opinions about his life and works, and my conclusions owe to a certain extent to the findings of some of the critics. My main work has often been an attempted revaluation rather than a discovery of any new material.

In Chapter I, I have discussed the native endowment of the poet from such records as are left to us by himself, his contemporaries, and later writers. In the same Chapter I have related the growth of the poet's mind under the influence of Nature up to 1817, that is the end of his school education at Hawkshead. In the second Chapter I have discussed the further growth of the poet's mind and the first fruits of his poetic endeavour in a background of political, social, and emotional and economic stress, and his partial alienation from Nature on account of these factors. In the third I have described the two great influences upon his life, one, of his sister, and the other of Coleridge, but for whom it is likely that Wordsworth would have become a poet of somewhat different kind. It is on account of the benign influence of these two poetic souls that Wordsworth was able to regain his freshness of outlook on Nature. In the fourth Chapter, I have taken a retrospective view of the actual as well as the historical background connected with his great nature - poetry. In doing
so I have also tried to bring out Wordsworth's originality in respect of theme and diction. In the fifth Chapter my attention has been engaged in analysing the poetic method and exploring the poetic beauty of the "Lyrical Ballads" and the volumes of 1807. In the sixth Chapter I have tried to deal with the origin and growth, and the language and theme of "The Prelude", the poem which is taken to be as the greatest as well as the most original and characteristic poem of Wordsworth. The seventh Chapter deals with the main part of my dissertation, that is, Wordsworth's special way of approaching Nature in which three distinct currents of thought met together, that is, sensationalism, mysticism and transcendentalism, acting and reacting upon one another, but now the one, and now the other predominating. In that Chapter I have also tried to explain the reason of his poetic decline which, as far as I know, is a subject left untouched by previous critics. In the last Chapter I have tried to make a final assessment of the poet taking into view the past as well as the present-day criticism of his poetic works and his contribution to literature of certain aspects of thought having a permanent value. I have also discussed in it summarily the influence of Wordsworth's works upon contemporary as well as later writers up to the present day.

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