

Homes and Haunts of Famous Authors

WORDSWORTH, BY CANON RAWNSLEY, M. A., AUTHOR OF "LITERARY ASSOCIATION OF THE ENGLISH LAKES," ETC.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH'S first home was the substantial house at Cockermouth, with its pillared gateway flush with the main street, and its well-enclosed garden and orchard running at the back of the house to a terrace and terrace wall overlooking the Derwent.

He was born here on April 7, 1770, and spent his happy childhood here with intermittent visits to Penrith till 1788, when he was broken up on the death of his father, and Cockermouth knew him no more. But the scenes of that Cockermouth home haunted him all his life.

"Next morning I found Miss Wordsworth making breakfast in the little sitting-room. No one was there, no glittering breakfast service; a kettle boiled upon the fire; and everything was in harmony with these unpretending arrangements.

Years they dwelt there, with much sight of De Quincy, who, with succeeded them in occupancy of Dove Cottage, and much visiting of S. T. Coleridge, who was busy with his publication, "The Friend."

What Hawthorne was to Wordsworth, "Fair seed-time" for his soul, only those who learn who will see the "Preface" and how he saw it and all its surroundings, "So beautiful among the pleasant fields, made him to Nature and to Nature's God."

"A little semicircular entrance between two doors prefaced the entrance into what might be considered the principal room of the cottage. It was an oblong square, not above six feet high, eight long, and it had a very pretty staircase from the floor to the ceiling with dark polished oak, slightly embellished with carving.

That kitchen, and half-parlor too. It was not fully seven feet six inches high, and in other respects pretty nearly of the same dimensions as the rustic hall below. There was, however, in a small recess, a library of perhaps 300 volumes, which seemed to consecrate this room as the poet's study and composing-room, and such occasionally it was.

Nab Scar, its rocks well fit for a water-drinking bard, its sloping orchard and oaken grove, its Doris' field clad each Spring with juncos and daffodils, did the poet's heart with fond remembrance.

The First Home of His Own. A legacy of £200, from Ransley Calvert, who had realized the worth of Wordsworth's first published poems, "Descriptive Sketches," and "An Evening Walk," enabled him now to set up a home for himself and for his dear sister Dorothy, and they two went down into Dorset and settled at Racedown Lodge in the Autumn of 1795. It was a pleasant place enough.

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humble cottage were the years that established Wordsworth's fame and gave him his abiding rank in English literature. To that cottage he brought his wife, Mary Hutchinson, in 1802, and there the children were born. It is true that Coleridge was lent them in the Winter of 1803, but he never lived in it.

That old age serene and bright And lovely as a Lapland snow Had led her to the grave.

MR. DOOLEY'S LETTER

THE PHILOSOPHER POINTS OUT ONE ADVANTAGE OF POVERTY.

"WELL, sir," said Mr. Dooley, "ye ought to be glad ye're not sick an' ill-shinners at th' same time."

"How's that?" Mr. Hennessy demanded. "Well, ye see," said Mr. Dooley, "suppose anything happens to ye now, ye'd get a doctor an' ye'd get a hammer on ye th' day after th' picnic or ye'er digestion listens to a walkin' dilligence fr'm th' Union iv Mickrebos an' goes out on strike. Th' policeman on th' corner has th' usual suspicions among gentlemen an' hits ye over th' head an' calls th' wagon an' sends ye home. Th' good woman wrings her hands an' calls hiven to witness that if ye have a toothache ye wad th' neighborhood an' ye'd get a mustard plaster on ye. If she comes back later an' finds ye haven't put th' sheet between ye an' th' plaster an' goes to sleep, she knows th' seerious an' sends fr' th' doctor. We continue to have doctors in what th' pa-pers calls th' outlay'n' ward. They live above th' drug store an' practice medicine on us. Th' physicians an' surgeons are th' down town eddins' th' pa-pers. Well, doe come to ye either while in a buggy. On th' way up ye sets a broken leg, removes an arm, does a little something fr' th' city directory, takes a drink, talks politics with th' unhappy parent, an' finally lands at ye'er door with th' burglar's tools. After he's closed that durt th' secrets iv th' inner man is known ov' to him. No wan hears an' wants to hear anything about it. Th' next time we see ye, ye come out lookin' pale an' emaciated an' much younger an' better lookin' than anywan iver remembers seein' ye, an' either while ye observe that whin ye start to look ye see whin ye smelled th' daisy sponge, ye'er frinds begin to sprin' away. An' ye go back reluctantly to wurrk. Ye never hear anywan say: 'Himself is great comp'ny with him, he's talk about his sickness.' I've seen men th' fr'm a poor, helpless, enthusiastic invalid to listen to a man talkin' about th' Niagara-Groen Canal.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

LETTERS asking for general information will be answered in these columns. Letters should be written on one side of the paper, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, however. All letters without the name of the writer go to the waste-basket.

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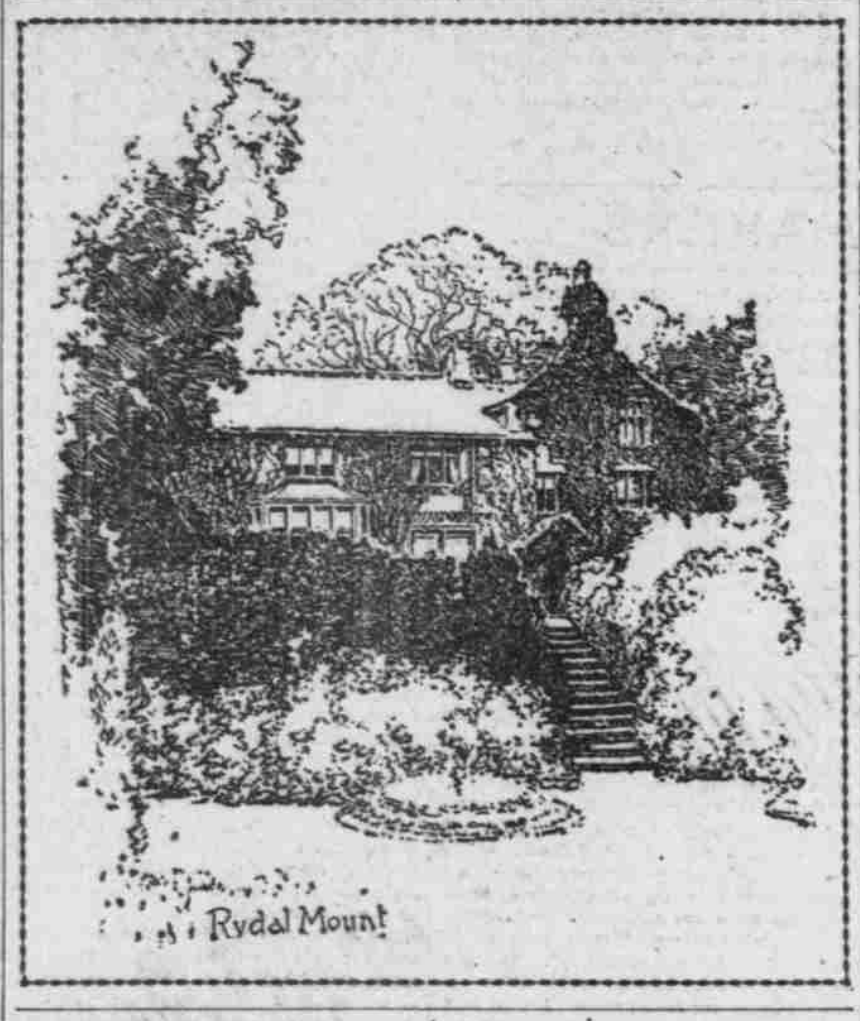
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