

Popular Information on Literature.

Written for the Saturday Morning Post.

THE LITERARY CHARACTER OF COLERIDGE was three-fold: he was a poet, metaphysician, and conversationalist. He was peculiar in thought and in language, original, philosophical and eloquent.

Coleridge was born at Ottery, in Devonshire, Oct. 21, 1772. His father was a clergyman, in straightforward circumstances, with a numerous family. He received the rudiments of his education at Christ's Hospital, where the late Charles Lamb was a contemporary. In 1791 he entered Jesus College, Cambridge, where he distinguished himself in Greek composition. During the second year of his residence, he suddenly left the university in a fit of despondency, occasioned, it is said, by unrequited love; and after wandering for a while about the streets of London, in extreme pecuniary distress, he enlisted in the army, under an assumed name. One of his officers, discovering his classical attainments, questioned him in a friendly manner, and elicited his real history, and effected his discharge. Shortly after he commenced the publication of a periodical, entitled "The Watchman," which did not succeed, owing to its irregularity. As a means of subsistence he contributed verses to one of his London papers. In 1795 he married Miss Sarah Fricker, Southey, on the same day wedded himself to her sister—Young and enthusiastic, these poets conceived the idea of emigrating with their wives, to the United States, and settling on a farm in the Wyoming Valley, where they would pass a life of quietude, simplicity and enjoyment. The ardent reader will find an interesting account of this romantic idea, in the "Friend," one of the publications of Coleridge. It was not until he had read the lectures of the celebrated Blumenbach, and he became a proficient in German language, literature and metaphysics. After his return from the Continent, he resided at the Lakes, where Mr. Southey, Mr. Wordsworth and himself obtained the desirable acquisition of Lake Poets, and he showed upon them, the status of keener criticism, principally from the Edinburgh Review; which, however, only had the effect of bringing them into contact, and establishing their character. In 1810, Coleridge left the Lakes, to make his residence in London, where he remained until his death, which took place on the 25th of July, 1834.

Coleridge had no profession except that of letters, and such that impregnated his life, too often allied to genius, he was constantly involved pecuniary difficulties. The same misfortune which befell Scott, occurred to him, and the blow was severely felt; his publisher became a bankrupt. The dependent situation in which he was consequently placed, may be easily imagined. He endeavored in many ways to retrieve his losses, but never systematically carried out a single plan. His health suffered, and he became an opium eater, but this pernicious habit, as we are informed by the editor of the "Friend," he contrived to keep under, and he was constantly in the habit of going to bed, and was generally found in the morning, as if he had never smoked a pipe.

Coleridge was a great thinker, but was never steadfast in any opinion, and that seems to be the chief fault of his life. He was a clear and diligent enquirer, into the philosophy of the human soul. He attacked the ethical systems of Locke, Paley and Bentham, and it is a question, whether he has not ingeniously demolished them or not. He has been charged with obscurity of style, but that may be ascribed more to the intricate nature of many of the subjects which he wrote upon, than to any want of perspicuity in the writer. Both his "Friend" and "Aids to Reflection" abound in passages of great clearness and beauty. His "Lay Sermons" are also much esteemed. His "Lectures on the Conversational Powers of Coleridge were extraordinary, and can only be compared to those of Dr. Johnson. On his removal to London, he became the welcome guest of a Mr. Gillman, and held weekly conversational parties, in his house, which were distinguished by their free and open discussion of the opinions of his friends; and all were held captive for the time, by the depth of his thoughts, and the fascination of his eloquence. Fragments of his conversational remarks are preserved, and have been published in two volumes. They show the wonderful grasp of his intellect, and the readiness with which he analyzed, and illustrated every subject, no matter how obscure or intricate. His conversations with Coleridge, were warm and interesting. Unlike Dr. Johnson, he was warm and generous. His "Ode to the Departing Year" is a masterpiece of genius, and without being over-egregious, he soon made himself the center of its attraction. He had warm friends and few enemies. But it is as a poet that we desire to view Coleridge. I consider him superior to Southey and Keats, and inferior to Wordsworth. He had more genius than the one, and less of nature than the other; but he never produced anything equal to his power. His "Ancient Mariner" is a bold, original ballad, which has been generally admitted for a masterpiece of genius, but with me it is never a favorite. His "Ode to the Departing Year" is a masterpiece of genius, and without being over-egregious, he soon made himself the center of its attraction.

She listened with a fitting blush,
With downcast eyes, and modest grace;
And she forgave me, that I goad
Her with my words, and she would
Interpret my own.

Told her how he pined, and he
Told her how he pined, and he
Told her how he pined, and he
Told her how he pined, and he
Told her how he pined, and he

The Morning Post.

L. HARPER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
PUBLISHED FOR THE PROPRIETOR BY L. HARPER, FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 9, 1849.

Morning Post, Job Printing Office.
Having added to our Establishment, a splendid new printing press, we are enabled to do all kinds of Newspaper and Book work in a style of unsurpassed beauty and perfection, and in the most expeditious manner. We are particularly distinguished by our large and elegant assortment of paper, and our superior printing of all kinds of colored bills, cards, and other works, in the most artistic style.

For Commercial and River News, see our Page.

London, Market Reports, &c., will be found in our Daily Papers.

The Cotton Conspectus.
We are not yet done with the Cotton Conspectus. They began the war, and we shall end it. The conspectus is a most valuable work, and we have been endeavoring to get it into the hands of our readers. It is a most valuable work, and we have been endeavoring to get it into the hands of our readers. It is a most valuable work, and we have been endeavoring to get it into the hands of our readers. It is a most valuable work, and we have been endeavoring to get it into the hands of our readers.

Who are the Manufacturers?

The Journal begins to dilate, on the length of its editorial. The Capitalist, monopolized but one hope, got angry, and repented. It was the matter of general interest, and we would not have it so much neglected. The article opens with a flourish, which for many reasons is a happy one. It pretends to be really editorial, and makes faces at the Democracy, as if the graining sector had been moving upon a peg-shaped hinged for the job.

Mr. Editor, you are charged with showing a plain face, trembling limbs, &c. The trilling water for the globe's struts of protractors, bold warlike men, will charge his competition, when any one can say of him he has a plain face.

It is funny, to see the effrontery with which he persists in calling your course a hostile one to the "manufacturing interests." What are the "manufacturing interests? Do they consist in the profits to capital, or in those of labor? Or are the manufacturing interests the interests of those who sell to manufacture, men to work with the tools? We are not yet done with the Cotton Conspectus. They began the war, and we shall end it. The conspectus is a most valuable work, and we have been endeavoring to get it into the hands of our readers. It is a most valuable work, and we have been endeavoring to get it into the hands of our readers. It is a most valuable work, and we have been endeavoring to get it into the hands of our readers.

LOCAL MATTERS.

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Public Meeting.—A public meeting of the citizens of St. Louis, was held at the Mechanics' Hall, on Friday evening, the 7th inst., for the purpose of discussing the proposed extension of the bridge across the river. The meeting was well attended, and the proceedings were of an interesting nature. The speakers were in favor of the bridge, and the resolution was carried in favor of the extension.

Wrecked.—A schooner, carrying a cargo of lumber, was wrecked on the banks of the river, on the 5th inst. The crew were rescued, but the cargo was lost. The schooner was owned by Mr. John Doe, and was on its way to St. Louis.

Fire.—A fire broke out in the city, on the 8th inst. The fire was caused by a gas stove, and the cause was extinguished. The property was insured, and the loss will be covered.

Market.—The market was quiet on Friday. The price of wheat was steady, and the price of flour was firm. The price of cotton was higher, and the price of sugar was lower.

News by Telegraph.

Reported for the Morning Post.
CONGRESSIONAL NEWS.
Washington, February 8, 1849.
The bill for the relief of the Judiciary Committee, was passed today. The bill is a most valuable one, and will be of great benefit to the country.

Philadelphia, February 8, 1849.
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New York, February 8, 1849.
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THE MORGAN CASE.

The Morgan case is a most interesting one. It has attracted the attention of the public, and has been the subject of much discussion. The case is a most valuable one, and will be of great benefit to the country.

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