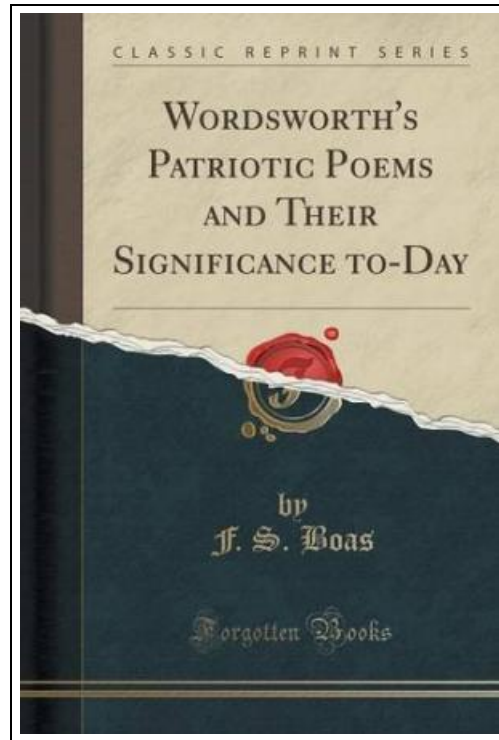


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from Wordsworth s Patriotic Poems and Their Significance to-Day Wordsworth s pre-eminence as a poet of nature and of rural life has somewhat overshadowed the part of his work devoted to the larger issues, national and international, of his time. It is some times forgotten that the lyrist of The Daffodils and The Daisy, the chronicler of the humble fortunes of Michael and of Ruth, could turn, with equal success of poetic intuition, to the causes that make or mar the greatness of kingdoms and of peoples. It may therefore be not unfitting, during the present crisis, to consider once again the poems of Wordsworth that were inspired by the conflict with Napoleon, and to see what bearing they may have on the strikingly parallel European situation to-day. But to grasp fully the significance of these poems, and to realize the stern passion for liberty which both weights them and gives them wing, it is necessary to trace briefly Wordsworth s attitude towards the French Revolutionary movement in which Napoleonism had its birth. Wordsworth s first direct contact with the Revolution took place while he was an undergraduate at Cambridge. During his third summer vacation, he set out with a friend on a Continental tour, and landed at Calais on the eve of July 14, 1790, the anniversary of the fall of the Bastille, which was celebrated by the festival of the Oath of Federation. He noted the widespread joy that marked the occasion, the general atmosphere of benevolence and blessedness . But on this journey, which extended to Switzerland and the Italian Lakes, he was more occupied with scenery than with politics. His active interest...



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