

# WORDSWORTH THE PRELUDE

Edited by  
Ernest de Selincourt  
A new edition,  
corrected by  
Stephen Gill



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# WORDSWORTH

## THE PRELUDE

OR

## GROWTH OF A POET'S MIND

(TEXT OF 1805)

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*Edited from the manuscripts  
with an Introduction and Notes by*  
ERNEST DE SELINCOURT

*A new edition, corrected by*  
STEPHEN GILL

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## WORDSWORTH

## The Prelude

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*The Prelude*, Wordsworth's great autobiographical poem, is crucial to our understanding of his life and poetry. It was written between 1799 and 1805, when it was read to Coleridge, but the text first published in 1850, after the poet's death, had been subjected to intensive revision in his later years. This volume, first published in the Oxford Standard Authors series, contains the original version of 1805, edited from manuscripts and with an Introduction and Notes by Ernest de Selincourt. The text of 1850 is accessible in some (also available in paperback as OPB 182). To facilitate comparison, the numbers of the 1850 text have been placed in square brackets on the right-hand side of the page.

For a revised impression in 1860 the late Helen Darbishire brought the text and apparatus into line with that of the corrected (second) edition of de Selincourt's fully annotated edition. Text and notes have been newly revised for this Oxford Paperbacks edition by Stephen Gill, Lecturer at Exeter College, Oxford.

Cover portrait: *Wordsworth (1805)* by Henry Edridge, A.R.A. Courtesy of the Trustees, Dove Cottage, Grasmere.

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