

Charles Lamb (1775 - 1834)

In Lamb and Wordsworth, we have two widely different views of the romantic movement. One shows the influence of nature and solitude, the other of society. Lamb was a life long friend of Coleridge and an admirer and defender of the poetic creed of Wordsworth but while the latter lived apart from men, content with nature and with reading an occasional moral lesson to society, Lamb was born and lived in the midst of the London streets. The city crowd, with its pleasures and occupations, its endless little comedies and tragedies, alone interested him. According to his own account when he paused in the crowded street tears would spring to his eyes - tears of pure pleasure at the abundance of so much good life and when he wrote, he sim-

ply interpreted that crowded human life of joy and sorrow, as Wordsworth interpreted the woods and waters, without any desire to change or to reform them. He has given us the best pictures we possess of Coleridge, Hazlitt, Landor, Hood, Cowden Clarke and many more of the interesting men and women of his age and it is due to his insight and sympathy that the life of those far-off days seems almost as real to us as if we ourselves remembered it. Of all our English essayists he is the most lovable, partly because of his delicate, old-fashioned style and humour, but more because that cheery and heroic struggle against misfortune which shines like a subdued light in all his writings.

The end.

Munee Bhusan Sinha

Deptt. of English

S.S. College, Jehanabad