

Romantic Revival: GANGESH KUMAR
AND College, Patory.

The period of Romantic Revival began with the publication of *Lyrical Ballad*, a collaborated work of Wordsworth and Coleridge, in 1798. It was a literary movement as a reaction against the conventional strictness of neo-classicism. The romantics revolted against the supremacy of reason, authority, tradition and convention of Augustan age. The romantics liked to express their feelings in simple theme, in worship of nature and in familiarity with the lives and thoughts of humble men and women. This movement is labelled as the Romantic Revival because it signified a return to the imaginative fervour of Elizabethan age. It tried to recapture the first flush of romanticism in the Elizabethan age. The originating point of the movement is a longing for freedom from all that restricts and confines. As Walter Hugo says, "Romanticism is liberalism in literature". It insist upon spontaneity and the principle of Individualism. The chief characteristics of Romanticism are; Individualism, Naturalism or nature worship, Primitivism, a fondness of middle ages, the orient and philosophical idealism, revolt against political authority and social convention, the cultivation of Emotion and sensation for their own sake, a persistent attraction for the super-natural, the morbid and melancholy. There was a paradoxical tendency towards both the

free thought and religious mysticism.

Romanticism is thus a longing for an escape into some ideal surrounding with the help of imagination. It is characterized by passion, ecstasy and mystery that belong to strange experience. Romantic imagination is subjective and intuitive. The poets use words not only to signify but to suggest.

The chief poets of the period are William Wordsworth, S.T. Coleridge, Robert Southey, Walter Scott, Lord Byron, P.B. Shelley and John Keats.

William Wordsworth, the leader of this movement stressed on "organic sensibility" which comes, according to him, from a deep emotional kinship between man and nature. His important works are "Tintern Abbey, Ode on Intimation of Immortality, The Excursion, The Prelude etc. The Prelude traces the growth of poet's mind under the influence of nature and social events. It is a great autobiographical poem.

Coleridge, a poet as well as a great critic, had a greater intellect than Wordsworth, was capable of evoking the mystery of things in his highly musical poetry. He defined poetry as "best words in best order". His famous works are 'Ancient Mariner', 'Kubla Khan', 'Christable' and 'Dejection an ode'. His famous critical work is 'Biography Literaria'.

Robert Southey, one of the early romantics, wrote some long and short poems. His long poems are labouriously composed and monotonous while his short poems are mediocre.

Among the great romantics of younger generation are Shelley, Keats and Byron.

Byron possessed both qualities of romanticism and classicism. He wrote in light vein and produced irony and spirit. Child Harold and 'Don Juan' are his important works.

P. B. Shelley and John Keats both lived a short span of life but earned fame as much as Wordsworth and Coleridge. In Shelley's hand lyrical verse attained its apex. His poetry was highly musical. He wrote lyrical drama 'Prometheus Unbound' and several long and short poems like 'To a Skylark', 'Ode to the West Wind' etc.

Keats, on the other hand devoted himself to his art. Like Byron, he also combined in him the classical discipline with romanticism. His attraction for Hellenism and Medievalism is noteworthy. He was the worshiper of beauty and the elements of sensuousness are vivid in his poetry. His best poems are, 'The Eve of St. Agnes', 'Hyperion', 'Lamia', 'Ode to a Nightingale', 'Ode on a Grecian Urn' etc.

— x x —