

Contemporary responses

Please do not photocopy or distribute outside your institution

© 2009 EMC

‘The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere’, a ballad in 7 parts, is written professedly in imitation of the style as well as of the spirit of the ancient poets. We are not pleased with it...’ *Analytical Review*, 1798

‘The ‘experiment’ we think has failed, not because the language of conversation is little adapted to ‘the purposes of poetic pleasure,’ but because it has been tried upon uninteresting subjects.’ *Robert Southey, Critical Review*, 1798

‘The endeavour of the author is to recall our poetry, from the fantastical excess of refinement, to simplicity and nature. ... we think that in general the author has succeeded in attaining that judicious degree of simplicity, which accommodates itself with ease even to the sublime.’ *British Critic*, 1799

‘It has genius, taste, elegance, wit, and imagery of the most beautiful kind....indeed the whole volume convinces us that the author possesses a mind at once classic and accomplished, and we, with pleasure, recommend it to the notice of our readers as a production of no ordinary merit.’ *Anti-Jacobin Review*, 1800

‘His style is now wholly changed, and he has adopted a purity of expression, which, to the fastidious ear, may sometimes sound poor and low, but which is infinitely more correspondent with true feeling than what, by the courtesy of the day, is usually called poetical language...’ *British Critic*, 1801

‘It is one of the innovations of the time. It partakes of, and is carried along with, the revolutionary movement of our age: the political changes of the day were the model on which he formed and conducted his poetical experiments. His Muse (it cannot be denied, and without this we cannot explain its character at all) is a leveling one.’ *Hazlitt: William Wordsworth*

