

Letter to S. T. Coleridge, June 10 1796

With Joan of Arc I have been delighted, amazed. I had not presumed to expect any thing of such excellence from Southey. Why the poem is alone sufficient to redeem the character of the age we live in from the imputation of degenerating in Poetry, were there no such beings extant as Burns and Bowles, Cowper and fill up the blank how you please, I say nothing. The subject is well chosen. It opens well. [...] Else that 9th Book is the finest in the volume, an exquisite combination of the ludicrous and the terrible, —I have never read either, even in translation, but such as I conceive to be the manner of Dante and Ariosto.