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The Confessions of an English Opium-Eater have appeared in parts published at various times in the London magazine, and are <sup>the</sup> production of Mr De Quincey - generally known among his literary contemporaries by the name of Monsieur Sore-throat - who is the Editor of a Westmorland newspaper in the interests of the Earl of L., and who is esteemed as a writer of talent and ability. He is about 40 years of age, and is described as a man of short stature and dark complexion, with strong indications of genius in his countenance; of a nervous & irritable habit, and from his appearance, evidently laboring under a debility of body, which any one ignorant of its true cause, would feel tempted to ascribe to an approaching decay of nature.

The work is not a history of Fiction, as the author was a determined opium-eater, which, in England is considered as a sort of *rara avis*; yet, besides those whom he alludes to in Page 6, some of whom are dead, and some <sup>alive</sup>, and also besides himself, there are two other instances, which I will mention, of the (at one period) almost unlimited indulgence in a baneful and health-destroying passion, in men possessed of talents and abilities of a superior order.

Mr Coleridge, the poet, whose name is familiar to every English ear, has been known to take as much as half a pint of laudanum in the course of a day. During the last five or six years, however, he had resided in the

house of a medical friend at Highgate, who has succeeded in totally weaning <sup>him</sup> from the pernicious practice of Opium-eating. Mr. C's age is about 50, and it <sup>is</sup> <sup>him</sup>, whom it is supposed the Author of "The Confessions" alludes to in Page 10. Like other Opium-eaters Mr. C. possessed a weakness of nerves, and an irritability of mind and body, which nothing but the intoxicating influence of the favorite drug could relieve. At the present time, report speaks highly of the judicious treatment and care he has received.

Mr. Lloyd, who is known as the author of several poems of a grave and religious cast, and also as the translator of the Alfieri: was, from the nature of his constitution, directed by the faculty to take ether in large doses, which, after a time, he abandoned, and substituted Opium in its stead. The gentleman to whom I am indebted for this information has seen him take off a large wine-glass-full of liquid laudanum without experiencing any immediate visible effect whatever. Mr. Lloyd is about 47 years of age, and continues to be an "English Opium-eater".

Mr. De L. - is now residing at Grassmere surrounded by his wife & children, the former of whom he frequently alludes to as - Mr.

CONFESSIO NS

OF AN

ENGLISH

Opium-Dealer

Price 5s

*Handwritten notes on the cover, including the number 51 and other illegible text.*

JOHN ROGERS PITMAN, A. N., 1822, on Thomas De-  
Quincey, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Charles Lloyd.

The Confessions of an English Opium-Eater have appeared in parts published at various times in the London Magazine, and are the production of M<sup>r</sup>. De Quinsay—generally known among his literary contemporaries by the name of *Monsieur Sore-throat*—who is the Editor of a Westmorland newspaper in the interests of the Earl of L - -, and who is esteemed as a writer of talent and ability. He is about 40 years of age, and is described as a man of short stature and dark complexion, with strong indications of genius in his countenance; of a nervous & irritable habit, and from his appearance, evidently laboring under a debility of body, which any one, ignorant of its true cause, would feel tempted to ascribe to an approaching decay of nature.

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Mr. Coleridge, the poet, whose name is familiar to every English ear, has been known to take as much as half a pint of laudanum in the course of a day. During the last five or six years, however, he has resided in the [p. 2] house of a medical friend at Highgate, who has succeeded in totally weaning him from the pernicious practice of opium-eating. Mr. C's age is about 50, and it is him, whom it is supposed the Author of "The Confessions" alludes to in Page 4—Like other opium-eaters Mr. C—professed a weakness of nerve, and an irritability of mind and body, which nothing but the intoxicating influence of the favorite drug could relieve. At the present time, report speaks highly of the judicious treatment and care he has received.

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AN, 2 pages. Double sheet, 16.5 x 9.5 cm.

Wove paper. No watermark.

Provenance: *Ex libris* John Rogers Pitman (with signature J R Pitman, in the same hand as for the MS, on title page). Tipped in to *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*, London, 1822.

Unpublished.

Notes: 1. Pitman (1782–1861) was a well known London preacher (and writer, mainly on the classics) by the mid-1820's.

2. The *Confessions* first appeared in the *London Magazine* for October and November 1821, when DeQuincey was in Town for a time. He had been living in Westmorland, mostly, since early 1809, becoming editor of the *Westmorland Gazette* in 1819.

3. "The Earl of L- -" is Lord Lowther.

4. Toward the end of 1816 De Quincey married Margaret Simpson.