

CHARLES LAMB

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Romantic Liter.

Charles Lamb—

LIFE AND WORKS

Charles Lamb was born in London on February 10, 1775. In the crowded city of London there was an ancient building named '**Temple**' which was a crowded one. Later on, this building was shifted into official building and a lodging of London lawyers. This 'temple' was the birth place of Charles Lamb. His seven years of child-hood passed in this building. His father was a confidential clerk, a servant to a lawyer. Charles Lamb was the youngest of seven children, of whom only three survived. John Lamb—his elder brother, was a selfish person and he did not take part in the sufferings of brother and sister. At the age of seven, Charles Lamb was sent to a charity school named '**Christ's Hospital**'. There he lived for seven years and at the age of fourteen, he got the job of a clerk in '**South Sea House**'. After two years he became a clerk in '**India House**' where he worked for thirty three years with the exception of six weeks which were spent in the asylum. His sister Mary Lamb was also of extraordinary talent but she, too, was the patient of insanity. She killed her own mother. Lamb looked after her with tenderness and devotion. Lamb got pension from '**India House**' and retired to a literary career. He died in Edmonton in 1834 leaving his sister behind in the tragic situation.

Works—Lamb's literary works may be divided into three periods. He wrote '**Poems on Various Subjects**' in 1796 and '**Rosamund Gray**' in 1798. '**John Woodvil**' is his poetic creation which was published in 1802. This period belonged to the immaturity of Lamb. In the second stage he gave up the news paper work. It was the period of his criticism. '**Tales from Shakespeare**' in 1807 is a good book written by Lamb and Mary Lamb. He wrote with the poetic qualities of Keats and a criticism of Coleridge in 1808 named '**Specimens of English Dramatic Poets Contemporary with Shakespeare**'. His third period started there after '**Essays of Elia**'. He wrote these famous essays for '**London Magazine**'. These essays appeared in 1820 and continued for many years. They are as follows—**Christ's Hospital, Dissertation of Roast**