





close friend of Coleridge and who possessed one of the few copies of the plates of Blake's *Songs* which he had lent to Coleridge in 1818. Wilkinson's edition of the *Songs*, with his own introduction, was published in a very limited edition, of which Alexander Gilchrist remarked in his life of Blake published in 1863 that it 'soon became almost as scarce as the costly and beautiful original'. Gilchrist adds:

Dr Wilkinson printed them in an order of his own, and too often with words of his own; alterations which were by no means improvements always.<sup>iv</sup>

In the early 1840s Garth spent much time translating some of Swedenborg's scientific works and in 1844 a new body, the Swedenborg Association, was formed for the specific purpose of printing and publishing these works. Financial assistance was given by the Revd Augustus Clissold, a wealthy Anglican clergyman who had been a curate of St Mary's, Stoke Newington and of St Martin-in-the-Fields and who, much

of both sexes: a book of singular suggestiveness, though not very compatible with the smugness and straightlacedness of many of the followers of Swedenborg. However, the Swedenborg Association has had the boldness to commission me to execute a version. I cannot help regarding it as one small step on the way to a greater liberty of thought on sexual subjects.<sup>vi</sup>

While staying with this subject, it should be noted that in later years Wilkinson was a fierce opponent of the Contagious Diseases Acts of 1866 to 1869 passed to provide for the compulsory medical examination of prostitutes in garrison and naval dockyard



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<sup>i</sup> RW Emerson *English Traits* (1856), *The Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson*