From Fenwick Note on “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”

To that dreamlike vividness and splendor which invest objects of sight in childhood, everyone, I believe, if he would look back, could bear testimony, and I need not swell upon it here: but having in the Poem regarded it as presumptive evidence of a prior state of existence, I think it right to protest against a conclusion, which has given pain to some good and pious persons, that I meant to inculcate such a belief. It is far too shadowy a notion to be recommended to faith, as more than an element in ours instincts of immortality…I took hold of the notion of pre-existence as having sufficient foundation in humanity for authorizing me to make purpose the best use of it I could as a Poet.