

**THE RIVERSIDE
LITERATURE SERIES.
POEMS AND ESSAYS**

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The Riverside Literature Series. Poems and Essays by Ralph Waldo Emerson

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RALPH WALDO EMERSON

**THE RIVERSIDE
LITERATURE SERIES.
POEMS AND ESSAYS**

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POEMS AND ESSAYS

BY

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

WITH INTRODUCTIONS AND NOTES



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POEMS FROM THE WRITINGS OF
RALPH WALDO EMERSON

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY GEORGE H. BROWNE

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

To the biographies referred to in the notes the following may be added on account of the bibliographies appended to them : Alex. Ireland's (1882) and Dr. Richard Garnett's (Great Writers Series, 1888). The Second Supplement to Poole's Index (1887-1891), Fletcher's Index to General Literature (1893), The Annual Literary Index (1892-), and The Cleveland Cumulative Index to Periodicals (1896-), will furnish later articles. The best may be found under the names Alcott, Arnold, Bartol, Benton, Burroughs, Chadwick, Chapman, Clarke, Conway, Craneh, Everett, Frothingham, Furness, Hale, Harris, Hawthorne, Hedge, Higginson, Howells, James, Morley, Norton, Sanborn, Stedman, Thayer, Underwood, Whipple, and Woodbury.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE NOTES.

Cabot, A Memoir of Ralph Waldo Emerson (1887), J. Elliot Cabot.

Conway, Emerson at Home and Abroad (1882), Monseur D. Conway.

Cooke, Ralph Waldo Emerson, his Life, Writings, and Philosophy (1882), George Willis Cooke.

E. W. E., Emerson in Concord (1889), Edward Waldo Emerson.

O. W. H., Ralph Waldo Emerson (American Men of Letters, 1885), Oliver Wendell Holmes.

xii, 115, Emerson's Works, Riverside edition, volume xii, page 115. For convenience in identifying the references, the contents of each volume are given on the next two pages. With the dates appended, the list may serve as a concise chronological literary biography. In Mr. Cabot's *Memoir*, 710 ff., may be found a

chronological list of all of Emerson's Lectures and Addresses, with references to volume and page if published in his collected writings, or with short abstracts if still unpublished.

COMPLETE WORKS, RIVERSIDE EDITION.

i. *Nature and Addresses* (1847), p. 13, *Nature* (1836); 81, *American Scholar* (1837); 117, *Divinity Address* (1838); 149, *Literary Ethics* (1838); 181, *Method of Nature* (1841); 215, *Man the Reformer* (1841); 245, *Lecture on the Times* (1841); 277, *The Conservative* (1841); 309, *The Transcendentalist* (1842); 341, *Young American* (1844).

ii. *Essays: First Series* (1841), p. 7, *History*; 45, *Self-Reliance*; 89, *Compensation*; 123, *Spiritual Laws*; 159, *Love*; 181, *Friendship*; 207, *Prudence*; 231, *Heroism*; 249, *Over-Soul*; 279, *Circles*; 301, *Intellect*; 325, *Art* (1836).

iii. *Essays: Second Series* (1844), p. 7, *Poet*; 47, *Experience*; 87, *Character*; 115, *Manners*; 151, *Gifts*; 161, *Nature*; 189, *Politics*; 213, *Nominalist and Realist*; 237, *New England Reformers*.

iv. *Representative Men* (1850) p. 7, *Uses of Great Men*; 39, *Plato*; 78, *Plato, New Readings*; 89, *Swedenborg*; 141, *Montaigne*; 179, *Shakespeare*; 211, *Napoleon*; 247, *Goethe*.

v. *English Traits* (1855).

vi. *Conduct of Life* (1860), p. 7, *Fate*; 53, *Power*; 83, *Wealth*; 125, *Culture*; 161, *Behavior*; 191, *Worship*; 231, *Considerations by the Way*; 265, *Beauty*; 291, *Illusions*.

vii. *Society and Solitude* (1870), p. 7, *Society and Solitude*; 21, *Civilization*; 39, *Art*; 61, *Eloquence*; 99, *Domestic Life*; 131, *Farming*; 149, *Works and Days*; 179, *Books*; 211, *Clubs*; 237, *Courage*; 265, *Success*; 297, *Old Age*.

viii. *Letters and Social Aims* (1876), p. 7, *Poetry and Imagination*; 77, *Social Aims*; 107, *Eloquence*; 131, *Resources*; 149, *The Comic*; 167, *Quotations and Originality*; 195, *Progress of Culture*; 223, *Persian Poetry*; 255, *Inspiration*; 283, *Greatness*; 305, *Immortality*.

ix. *Poems* (1847,¹ 1867,¹ 1876,² 1883³).

x. *Lectures and Biographical Sketches* (1883), p. 7, *Demonology* (1839); 33, *Aristocracy* (1848); 69, *Perpetual Forces* (1877); 91, *Character* (1866); 123, *Education*; 157, *The*

Superlative (1882); 175, The Sovereignty of Ethics (1878); 207, The Preacher (1867); 229, The Man of Letters (1863); 247, The Scholar (1876); 275, Plutarch (1871); 305, Historic Notes of Life and Letters in New England; 349, The Chardon Street Convention (1843); 355, Ezra Ripley; 371, Mary Moody Emerson (1869); 405, Samuel Hoar (1856); 419, Thoreau, (1862); 453, Carlyle (1848).

xi. *Miscellanies* (1883), p. 7, The Lord's Supper (1882); 31, Historical Discourse at Concord (1835); 99, Address, Soldiers' Monument, Concord (1867); 129, Address, West India Emancipation (1844); 177, War (1838); 203, Fugitive Slave Law (1854); 231, Assault on Sumner (1856); 239, Affairs in Kansas (1856); 249, Relief John Brown's Family (1859); 257, John Brown, Speech at Salem (1860); 265, Theodore Parker (1860); 275, American Civilization (1862); 291, Emancipation Proclamation (1862); 305, Abraham Lincoln (1865); 317, Harvard Commemoration Speech (1865); 323, Editor's Address, Mass. Quarterly Review (1847); 335, Woman (1855); 357, Address to Kossuth (1852); 363, Robert Burns (1859); 373, Walter Scott (1871); 378, Organization of the Free Religious Association (1867); 385, Annual Meeting of the Free Religious Association (1869); 393, Fortune of the Republic (1878).

xii. *Natural History of Intellect, and Other Papers* (1893), p. 3, Natural History of Intellect (1870-71); 61, Memory (1870-71); 83, Boston (1861); 113, Michael Angelo (1837); 143, Milton (1838); 175, Papers from The Dial (1840-44); 177, Thoughts on Modern Literature; 201, Walter Savage Landor; 212, Prayers; 219, Agriculture of Massachusetts; 225, Europe and European Books; 237, Past and Present; 249, A Letter; 260, The Tragic; 273, General Index.

In this volume, the papers on *Boston*, *Michael Angelo*, and *Milton* are of special interest to the users of this little book; the last, written in 1835, may serve to-day as a most admirable autobiography of Emerson. "Are we not the better," it concludes, "are not all men fortified by the remembrance of the bravery, the purity, the temperance, the toil, the independence, and the angelic devotion of this man, who, taking counsel of himself, endeavored, in his writings and in his life, to carry out the life of man to new heights of spiritual grace and dignity, without any abatement of its strength?"

INTRODUCTION.

ALTHOUGH the whole body of Emerson's verse barely fills one moderate-sized volume, — a small twelfth of his published works, — a constantly growing number of readers are learning to value the poems even more highly than the prose. When a friend, soon after the publication of *May-Day*, expressed to Emerson his pleasure in the book, adding that, much as he valued the essays, he cared more for the poems, Emerson laughingly answered: "I beg you always to remain of that opinion." He then went on more seriously to say, that he himself liked his poems best, because it was not he who wrote them; because he could not write them by will; he could say, "I will write an essay; I can breathe at any time," he added, "but I can whistle only when the right pucker comes."¹

That was thirty years ago. To-day there is an increasing number, not only of those who value the verse more highly than the prose, but also of those who value it as the highest and most truly representative American contribution to literature. Emerson's fellow-poets were the first to recognize his superiority. Dr. Holmes has acknowledged it in his appreciative biography; Lowell, loyal "liegeman," as he signed himself, has testified to the spiritual and intellectual passion of Emerson's verse, "some of which is as exquisite as any in the language;" and Whittier, speaking one day of modern writers, said: "I regard Emerson as foremost in the rank of American poets; he has written better things than any of us."² In the fifty years that have now just elapsed since the publication of Emerson's first

¹ *Emerson in Concord, E. W. E.*, p. 236. ² *Pickard's Life*, ii, 696.