

**UNCOLLECTED WRITINGS:
ESSAYS,
ADDRESSES, POEMS,
REVIEWS AND LETTERS**

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Uncollected writings: essays, addresses, poems, reviews and letters by Ralph Waldo Emerson

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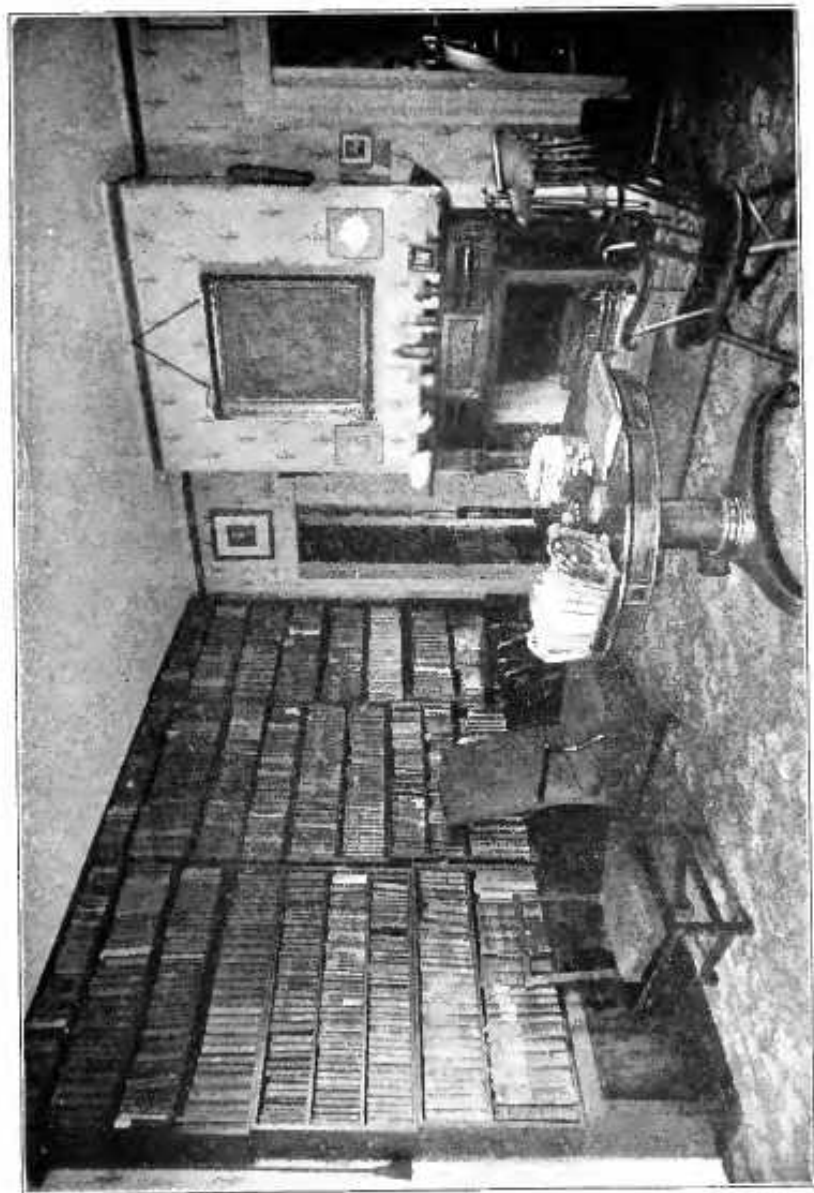
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RALPH WALDO EMERSON

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BY
RALPH WALDO EMERSON

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TO THE
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INTRODUCTION

FOR many years the editor, in common with other collectors of American first editions, has known of the existence of much Emerson material that has never been permanently placed in book form or gathered in any collected edition of Emerson's Works. As early as 1866 an edition of Emerson appeared in London labelled "Complete Works," but, though much matter was crowded into the two volumes, it was very incomplete. In 1869, 1876, 1881 and 1883 collected editions appeared, bearing the imprints of Fields, Osgood & Company and their various successors, but on these editions no claims were made as to completeness. In 1884 Houghton, Mifflin & Co., of Boston, published a twelve-volume edition of Emerson called the Riverside Edition, labelling it "The Complete Works." This edition was edited by J. E. Cabot, but while Mr. Cabot included in the Riverside Edition much material that had never before been published in book form, he failed to include a great mass of material, essays, addresses, speeches and poems, which he must have known existed.

In 1903-4 Houghton, Mifflin & Co. issued the Centenary Edition of Emerson, in twelve volumes, the work being edited by Edward Waldo Emerson. This edition contains much matter not included in the previous Riverside Edition, but, although the publishers again claimed completeness for their book, they again neglected to include all known material.

As the matter stands to-day, no such thing as a really complete edition of Emerson has ever been

issued, no matter what publishers' title-pages may say or claim.

This present volume contains nothing but authentic Emerson material not appearing in any of the collected editions or in any of the so-called "Complete Works." Many of the pieces in this volume are of great importance and should have been given to the public long ago. The initial piece, "Nature," is an individual essay, distinct from all others of the same or similar title, and appeared in "The Boston Book" in 1850. The article on Amos Bronson Alcott was written for the "New American Cyclopaedia" in 1858. Emerson's address entitled "The Right Hand of Fellowship," and his addresses at the Japanese Banquet, the Froude Dinner and the Bryant Festival, are all important and worthy of preservation. Previous editors have reprinted Emerson on Carlyle's "Past and Present," but have overlooked his Review of Carlyle's "French Revolution."

During the years 1840 to 1844 Emerson contributed liberally to "The Dial," a quarterly magazine published in Boston. More than seventy-five pieces of Emerson's writings, including essays, poems and reviews, appeared in this magazine during the four years of its existence, and this material has been largely drawn upon, but not exhausted by the various Emerson editors. In this present volume we have reprinted from "The Dial" all of the papers omitted by previous editors, and they are thirty-two in number.

Included in this volume are six poems that have not been reprinted since their first appearance in the early annuals where they were first published. A number of Emerson's letters conclude this volume, two of them being of special importance. One is the Letter to the Second Church and Society, March,

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1829, accepting the invitation to become pastor of that church, and the other is the Letter to the Second Church and Society, dated December, 1832, addressed to the congregation after he had delivered his famous sermon entitled "The Lord's Supper," on September 9th, 1832, which was followed by his resignation.

