

**A CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN  
JOHN STERLING AND RALPH  
WALDO EMERSON; WITH A  
SKETCH OF STERLING'S LIFE.  
[1897]**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649036349

A Correspondence Between John Sterling and Ralph Waldo Emerson; With a Sketch of Sterling's Life. [1897] by John Sterling & Ralph Waldo Emerson & Edward Waldo Emerson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JOHN STERLING & RALPH WALDO  
EMERSON & EDWARD WALDO EMERSON**

**A CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN  
JOHN STERLING AND RALPH  
WALDO EMERSON; WITH A  
SKETCH OF  
STERLING'S LIFE. [1897]**



## By Ralph Waldo Emerson.

**COMPLETE WORKS.** *Riverside Edition.* With 2 Portraits, and papers hitherto unpublished. 12 vols., each, 12mo, gilt top, \$1.75; the set, \$21.00.

1. Nature, Addresses, and Lectures (formerly known as Miscellanies). 2. Essays. First Series. 3. Essays. Second Series. 4. Representative Men. 5. English Traits. 6. Conduct of Life. 7. Society and Solitude. 8. Letters and Social Aims. 9. Poems. 10. Lectures and Biographical Sketches. 11. Miscellanies. 12. Natural History of Intellect, and other Papers. With a General Index to Emerson's Collected Works.

*New Little Classic Edition.* 12 vols., in arrangement and contents identical with above, except that vol. 12 does not contain the index. Each, 12mo, \$1.25; the set, \$15.00.

**POEMS.** *Household Edition.* With Portrait. 12mo, \$1.50; full gilt, \$2.00.

**ESSAYS.** First and Second Series. *New Authorized Popular Edition,* complete. 12mo, \$1.00; paper, 50 cents.

**NATURE, LECTURES, AND ADDRESSES;** together with **REPRESENTATIVE MEN.** *Popular Edition.* Crown 8vo, \$1.00.

**PARNASSUS.** A collection of Poetry edited by Mr. Emerson. With Introductory Essay. *Household Edition.* 12mo, \$1.50.

*Library Edition.* 8vo, \$3.00.

**EMERSON BIRTHDAY BOOK.** With Portrait and Illustrations. 24mo, \$1.00.

**EMERSON CALENDAR BOOK.** 32mo, parchment-paper, 25 cents.

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & COMPANY,

BOSTON AND NEW YORK.

**A Correspondence**

BETWEEN

68109

**JOHN STERLING**

AND

**RALPH WALDO EMERSON**

WITH A SKETCH OF  
STERLING'S LIFE

BY

**EDWARD WALDO EMERSON**



BOSTON AND NEW YORK  
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY  
The Riverside Press, Cambridge  
1897

## PREFATORY NOTE

---

It has seemed to me proper to introduce these letters with a short account of Sterling and his work, believing that neither Carlyle's "Life of Sterling" nor Archdeacon Hare's "Memoir" are read by many persons nowadays, and Sterling's own works are difficult to obtain.

Through the kind permission of Colonel John Barton Sterling of London I am enabled to use his father's letters.

EDWARD W. EMERSON.

CONCORD, *September, 1897.*

**STERLING AND EMERSON**



*Then smiled King Eif and answered, ' A long way wilt  
thou ride*

*To where unpeace and trouble and griefs of the soul abide,  
Yea, unto the death at last, — yet surely shalt thou win  
The help of many people, so have thy way herein.*

*Forsooth no more may we hold thee than the hazel-copse  
may hold*

*The sun of the early morning which turneth it all to gold.'*

SIGURD THE VOLSUNG, WILLIAM MORRIS.

## JOHN STERLING

**H**OW much the world owes, how little it credits, to the Illuminators. King Admetus had one of these nominally tending his herds for a time, but who did more than this for him ; and the story has been remembered the better because it has been the fortune of many men to fall in with one of the herdsman's descendants. However dark the times and unpromising the place, these sons of the morning will appear, and their bright parentage shows through life, for the years let them alone. In Rome in her decline Juvenal found this saving remnant, and rightly told their lineage in the verses,

*" Juvenes quæis arte benigna  
Et meliore luto finxit præcordia Titan."* \*

Blest youths, though few, whose hearts the God of Day  
Fashioned with loving hand and from a nobler clay.

## JOHN STERLING

Where they have come, they have gilded the day for those around, and warmed their hearts, and made the dim way plain ; and when they suddenly passed, a bright twilight has remained, and the voice has rung for life in the ears that once knew it. And because the twilight does not last, and the echo perishes with the ears that heard it, and the gain of these lives is of a kind less easily pointed out to the common eye than if it had taken form in " goods," or inventions, or institutions, or even laurels, men often lament and count such lives as lost.

In presenting the words of good cheer that passed between John Sterling, the poet, and a friend, never seen, beyond the ocean, I wish to urge that here was one whose nobility and sympathy illuminated in his short day the lives of his friends ; and though he died before his noon, leaving little lasting work, yet was not the light lost, for the seemingly more