# THE RIVERSIDE LITERATURE SERIES; POEMS AND ESSAYS. THE FORTUNE OF THE REPUBLIC AND OTHER AMERICAN ADDRESSES

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The Riverside Literature Series; Poems and Essays. The Fortune of the Republic and Other American Addresses by Ralph Waldo Emerson

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# RALPH WALDO EMERSON

# THE RIVERSIDE LITERATURE SERIES; POEMS AND ESSAYS. THE FORTUNE OF THE REPUBLIC AND OTHER AMERICAN ADDRESSES



## The Riberside Literature Beries

# POEMS AND ESSAYS

BY

## RALPH WALDO EMERSON

### WITH INTRODUCTIONS AND NOTES



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#### ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE NOTES.

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

Conway, Emerson at Home and Abroad (1882), Moneure 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.

 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chronological list of all of Emerson's Lectures and Addresses, with short abstracts if still unpublished. C prefixed to references means the Centenary Edition, 1903—4, with notes and abstracts from Emerson's Journals and unpublished writings, edited by his son. Every school library should have this edition.

## 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).

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 1883 5).

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

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(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); 379, 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?".

#### CRITICAL APPRECIATIONS.

Quite in the spirit of the sentiment expressed in Emerson's paper on Milton (p. vi.) are the following extracts from Le Baron Russell Briggs's address to the Concord school children on the hundredth anniversary of Emerson's birth.<sup>1</sup>

"Nothing is more like great postry than the soul of a great man; and when the great man is good, when he loves everything that is beautiful and true, and makes his life like what he loves, his face becomes transfigured, or, as an old poet used to say, 'through-shine;' for the soul within him is the light of the world. Such a great man was Emerson. He was much beside : he was a philosopher. Sometimes a philosopher is a man who disbelieves everything worth believing, and spends a great deal of strength in making simple things hard; but Emerson was a philosopher in the best sense of the word — a lover of wisdom and of truth. He was also a poet; not a poet like Homer, who sang, but a poet like that Greek philosopher, Plato, who thought deep and high, and saw what no one else saw, and told what he saw as no one else could tell it. This is another way of saying that Emerson was a 'seer.' To many of you he may not seem a poet, for his verse is often homely and rough. Yet I, for one, would give up any other poetry of America rather than Emerson's; and I am certain that one secret of his power over men and women was his belief that every human soul is poetry and a poet, and his waking of men and women to that belief. He had beyond other men a poet's heart."

"It was not cheerfulness that made Emerson a poet; and certainly it was not music, in the common understanding of the term: it was high thought, joined with the wonderful gift — an almost inspired sense — of the right word; a gift not always his, but his so often that he has said more memorable things than any other American."

<sup>1</sup> These and the extracts from the addresses of Edward Waldo Emerson, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Charles Eliot Norton, William James and Hon. George Frisbie Hoar are quoted by permission from The Centenary of the Birth of Ralph Waldo Emerson, as observed in Concord, May 25, 1903, under the direction of the Social Circle in Concord. Printed at the Riverside Press for the Social Circle in Concord, June, 1903.