

**THE EARLY POEMS  
OF RALPH WALDO  
EMERSON**

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The Early Poems of Ralph Waldo Emerson by Ralph Waldo Emerson & Nathan Haskell Dole

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**RALPH WALDO EMERSON & NATHAN HASKELL DOLE**

**THE EARLY POEMS  
OF RALPH WALDO  
EMERSON**



THE  
EARLY POEMS  
OF  
*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY  
*Nathan Haskell Dole*



T. Y. CROWELL & COMPANY  
NEW YORK

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## LIFE OF RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

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IN the early years of the nineteenth century, when Boston was as yet only a comfortable little seaport town, and its principal streets still gave room for gardens and cow pastures, there stood at the corner of what is now Summer and Chauncy streets a gambrel-roofed wooden building, shaded by elms and Lombardy poplars, and surrounded by ample grounds. This was the parish house of the oldest church in Boston, called the First or "Old Brick Church."

The minister of this church and occupant of this mansion was the Rev. William Emerson, who on the 25th of May, 1803, wrote in his diary: "This day, whilst I was at dinner at Governor Strong's, my son Ralph Waldo was born."

The Rev. William Emerson was one of the notable men of his day. Although his life was cut off at the early age of forty-two, he had accomplished a work the influence of which is still definitely, if unconsciously, felt, and always will be felt in the culture of Boston. Science and learning as represented by the Lowell Institute, literature as represented by the Athenæum, art as represented by the Museum, point back to that vivacious, liberal-minded, and eloquent