# HENRY DAVID THOREAU

## COLLECTED ESSAYS AND POEMS

## Contents

#### ESSAYS

Aulus Persius Flaccus, 3

The Service, 8

Natural History of Massachusetts, 20

A Walk to Wachusett, 42

Sir Walter Raleigh, 57

Dark Ages, 89

A Winter Walk, 92

The Landlord, 108

Paradise (To Be) Regained, 115

Homer. Ossian. Chaucer., 138

Herald of Freedom, 155

Wendell Phillips Before Concord Lyceum, 162

Thomas Carlyle and His Works, 165

Civil Disobedience, 203

Walking, 225

A Yankee in Canada, 256

Love, 324

Chastity & Sensuality, 329

Slavery in Massachusetts, 333

Life Without Principle, 348

Autumnal Tints, 367

A Plea for Captain John Brown, 396

Martyrdom of John Brown, 418

The Last Days of John Brown, 422

The Succession of Forest Trees, 429

Wild Apples, 444

Huckleberries, 468

### POEMS

In days of yore, tis said, the swimming alder, 505

Fair Haven ("When little hills like lambs did skip"), 505

Voyagers Song, 506

Life is a summer's day, 507

I love a careless streamlet, 508

Pens to mend, and hands to guide, 509

Each summer sound, 509

Friendship ("I think awhile of Love, and while I think"), 510

When breathless noon hath paused on hill and vale, 512

The Bluebirds, 512

May Morning, 515

Walden, 516

Truth—Goodness—Beauty—those celestial thrins, 516

Strange that so many fickle gods, as fickle as the weather, 517

In the busy streets, domains of trade, 517

I knew a man by sight, 517

Cliffs, 518

My Boots, 518

Noon, 519

Fair Haven ("When Winter fringes every bough"), 519

The Thaw, 521

Last night as T lay gazing with shut eyes, 521

Love, 522

The deeds of king and meanest hedger, 522

'T will soon appear if we but look, 522

The Evening Wind, 522

The Peal of the Bells, 523

The Shrike, 523

Sympathy, 524

The "Book of Gems", 525

The Assabet, 526

The Breeze's Invitation, 528

Stanzas, 529

Loves Farewell, 529

Each more melodious note I hear, 530

The Fisher's Son, 530

Friendship ("Let such pure hate still underprop"), 532

The Freshet, 534

The Poet's Delay, 535

The Summer Rain, 536

Guido's Aurora, 537

I've heard my neighbor's pump at night, 538

Who sleeps by day and walks by night, 538

When with pale cheek and sunken eye I sang, 538

I arose before light, 539

I'm guided in the darkest night, 539

Friends—, 540

When in some cove I lie, 541

Who hears the parson, 542

Sic Vita, 542

Wait not till I invite thee, but observe, 543

Friendship ("Now we are partners in such legal trade"), 543

On the Sun Coming Out in the Afternoon, 544

They who prepare my evening meal below, 544

My ground is high, 544

If from your price ye will not swerve, 545

Death cannot come too soon, 545

The Mountains in the Horizon, 545

The needles of the pine, 549

The Echo of the Sabbath Bell-, 550

Low in the eastern sky, 550

My life has been the poem I would have writ, 552

To the Mountains, 552

Greater is the depth of sadness, 552

Where I have been, 553

Better wait, 553

Independence, 553

Cock-crowing, \$54

Inspiration ("Whate'er we leave to God, God does"), 556

The Soul's Season, 560

The Fall of the Leaf, 561

Delay, 566

Inspiration ("If thou wilt but stand by my ear"), 566

Ive searched my faculties around, 567

Who equallest the coward's haste, 567

The Vireo, 567

The coward ever sings no song, 567

Only the slave knows of the slave, 568

Great God, I ask thee for no meaner pelf, 568

The Inward Morning, 568

Within the circuit of this plodding life, 570

To Edith, 570

Delay in Friendship, 571

Ah, 'tis in vain the peaceful din, 572

Between the traveller and the setting sun, \$73

Have ye no work for a man to do-, 573

I sailed up a river with a pleasant wind, 574

I was made erect and lone, 574

I'm not alone, 575

Our Country, 575

Pray to what earth does this sweet cold belong, 576

True kindness is a pure divine affinity, 577

Until at length the north winds blow, 577

Wait not till slaves pronounce the word, 577

The Funeral Bell, 578

Sometimes I hear the veery's clarion, 579

Thou dusky spirit of the wood, 579

Not unconcerned Wachusett rears his head, 580

Nature, 580

Godfrey of Boulogne, 581

The Rabbit leaps, 582

I am the Autumnal sun, 583

Where'er thou sail'st who sailed with me, 583

I was born upon thy bank river, 584

Salmon Brook, 584

The moon now rises to her absolute rule, 584

My friends, why should we live?, 585

I mark the summer's swift decline, 585

My love must be as free, 586

The Moon, 587

Rumors From an Aeolian Harp, 587

On shoulders whirled in some eccentric orbit, 588

Far oer The bow, 588

Methinks that by a strict behavior, 590

I have rolled near some other spirits path, 590

Fog, 590

How little curious is man, 591

To the Comet, 591

Haze, 592

Smoke, 593

To a Stray Fowl, 593

The Departure, 594

Brother where dost thou dwell?, 595

All things are current found, 596

On fields oer which the reaper's hand has passed, 597

Epitaph on an Engraver, 597

Epitaph on Pursy, 598

Ep on a Good Man, 598

Epitaph, 598

Ep on the World, 598

The sluggish smoke curls up from some deep dell, 599

On Ponkawtasset, since, we took our way, 599

To a Marsh Hawk in Spring, 600

Great Friend, 600

The offer, 601

Morning, 602

The Friend, 602

Yet let us Thank the purblind race, 603

Ye do command me to all virtue ever, 604

Ive seen ye, sisters, on the mountain-side, 604

I am bound, I am bound, for a distant shore, 605

The Hero, 605

At midnight's hour I raised my head, 607

I seek die Present Time, 608

Tell me ve wise ones if ye can, 610

Behold these flowers—, 611

My friends, my noble friends, know ye-, 612

The Earth, 612

But now "no war nor battle's sound", 612

Such water do the gods distill, 613

Die and be buried who will, 613

I have seen some frozenfaced Connecticut, 614

Such near aspects had we, 614

Travelling, 614

The Adantides, 615

Conscience is instinct bred in the house, 615

That Phaeton of our day, 617

Then spend an age in whetting thy desire, 617

We see the *planet* fall, 617

We should not mind if on our ear there fell, 618

Men say they know many things, 618

Away! away! away!, 618

In the East fames are won, 619

The good how can we trust?, 620

Greece, 620

Poverty, 620

The respectable folks, 622

Farewell, 622

For though the eaves were rabitted, 623

You Boston folks & Roxbury people, 624

I will obey the strictest law of love, 624

Why toll the bell today—, 625

And once again, 625

The Old Marlborough Road, 626

Old meeting-house bell, 627

It is a real place, 628

Among the worst of men that ever lived, 628

What's the rail-road to me?, 629

Tall Ambrosia, 629

'Tis very fit the ambrosia of the gods, 629

I saw a delicate flower had grown up 2 feet high, 630

To day I climbed a handsome rounded hill, 630

I am the little Irish boy, 631

In Adams fall, 632

Life, 632

The moon moves up her smooth and sheeny path, 633

I'm thankful that my life doth not deceive, 633

Manhood, 634

Music, 635

The Just Made Perfect, 636

I do not fear my thoughts will die, 637

I'm contented you should stay, 637

Man Man is the Devil, 638

You must not only aim aright, 638

He knows no change who knows the true, 638

When the toads begin to ring, 638

The chicadee, 638

'Twas 30 years ago, 639

Forever in my dream & in my morning thought, 639

Except, returning, by the Marlboro, 640

The Rosa Sanguinea, 641

Any fool can make a rule, 641

All things decay, 641

Chronology, 645

Note on the Texts, 657

Notes, 675

Index of Titles and. First Lines, 699