



Ralph Waldo Emerson  
(1803-1882)

# Loss and Gain

from: Emerson, Ralph Waldo. Early Poems of Ralph Waldo Emerson. New York, Boston,  
Thomas Y. Crowell & Company: 1899. Introduction by Nathan Haskell Dole.

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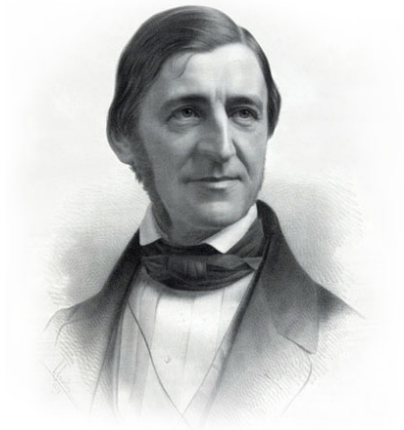
Virtue runs before the muse  
And defies her skill,  
She is rapt, and doth refuse  
To wait a painter's will.

Star-adoring, occupied,  
Virtue cannot bend her,  
Just to please a poet's pride,  
To parade her splendor.

The bard must be with good intent  
No more his, but hers,  
Throw away his pen and paint,  
Kneel with worshippers.

Then, perchance, a sunny ray  
From the heaven of fire,  
His lost tools may over-pay,  
And better his desire.

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