



Ralph Waldo Emerson  
(1803-1882)

# The Amulet

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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Your picture smiles as first it smiled,  
The ring you gave is still the same,  
Your letter tells, O changing child,  
No tidings since it came.

Give me an amulet  
That keeps intelligence with you,  
Red when you love, and rosier red,  
And when you love not, pale and blue.

Alas, that neither bonds nor vows  
Can certify possession;  
Torments me still the fear that love  
Died in its last expression.

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