

Emily Dickinson



Emily Dickinson

Emily Dickinson was a 19th Century American poet whose many poems deal with themes such as nature and death.



Emily Dickinson

- The majority of Emily Dickinson's poems were found by her sister Lavinia after Emily had died.
- Emily kept almost 2000 handwritten poems, in workbooks and on scraps of paper, in a locked chest without instruction as to what to do with them.

531
Without a smile -
Without a throe
* A Summer's soft
Assemblies go
to their entrancing
end
Unknown - for all
the times we met
I stranged however
intimate -
What a dissembling
friend -
+ No - our -
Nature's soft

252
In this short life
that only lasts an hour
How much - how
little - is our
power

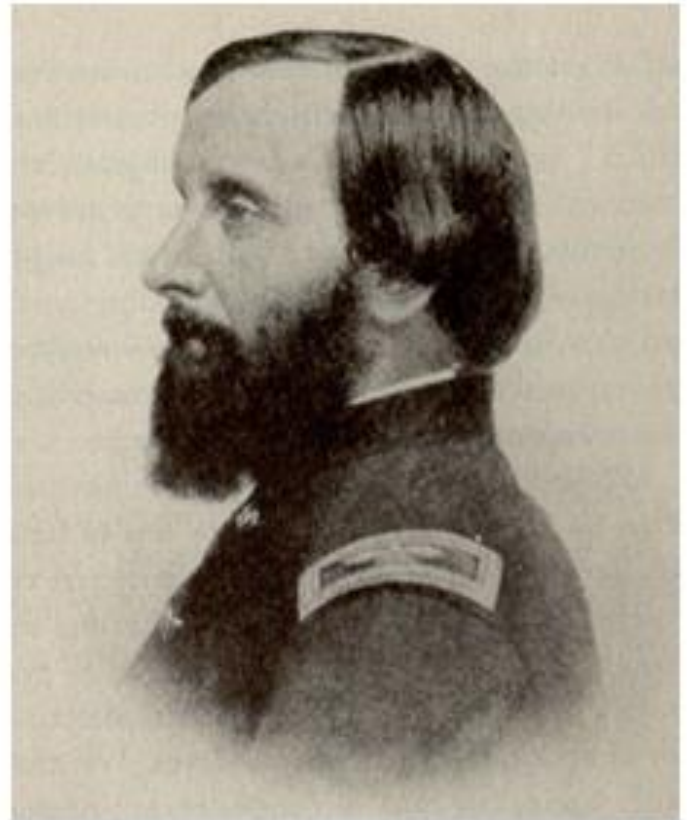
Poems written on the
back of envelopes.

Dickinson's Letter to Thomas Higginson Asking his Opinion of her Poetry

Emily wrote a letter to Higginson (1861), a literary critic who had published an article giving advice to aspiring writers, asking his opinion of three poems she had enclosed.

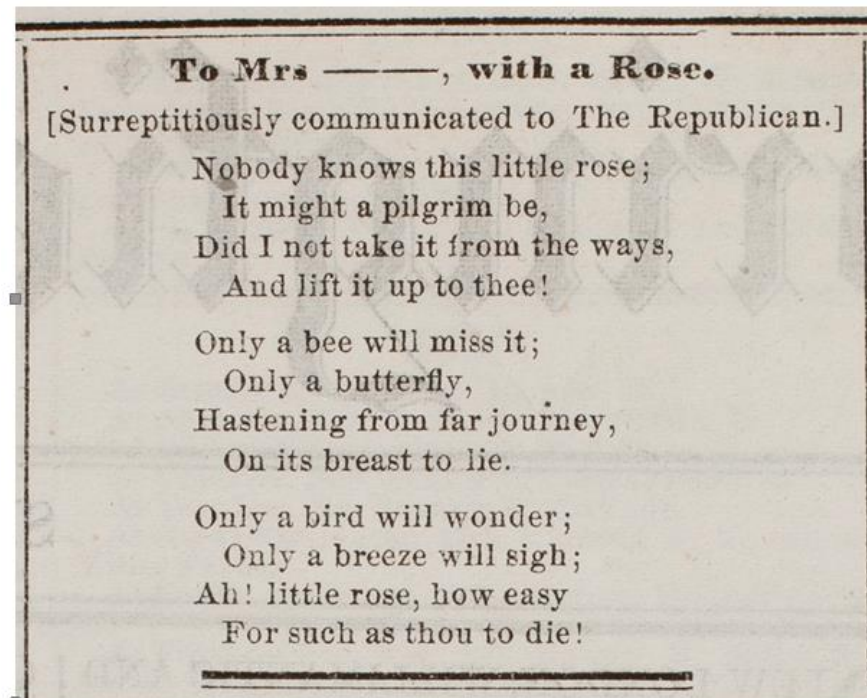
He was encouraging, but criticised her unusual use of punctuation, the rawness of her style and ambiguity of her words.

Dickinson and Higginson became life-long friends, but there is no evidence that Dickinson listened to his writing advice.



Emily Dickinson

- She was a prolific writer – it is believed she wrote around 1,800 poems.
- However, in her lifetime, only 10 were published.



A Bird Came Down The Walk

A Bird came down the Walk -
He did not know I saw -
He bit an Angle Worm in halves
And ate the fellow, raw,

And then, he drank a Dew
From a convenient Grass -
And then hopped sidewise to the Wall
To let a Beetle pass -

He glanced with rapid eyes,
That hurried all abroad -
They looked like frightened Beads, I thought,
He stirred his Velvet Head. -

Like one in danger, Cautious,
I offered him a Crumb,
And he unrolled his feathers,
And rowed him softer Home -

Than Oars divide the Ocean,
Too silver for a seam,
Or Butterflies, off Banks of Noon,
Leap, splashless as they swim.