LITERARY
TRANSCENDENTALISM

Style and Vision in the
American Renaissance
TO MY FAMILY
Acknowledgments

This book owes its existence to a succession of teachers who showed me the possibilities of literary study by example as well as prescription. For support and criticism in my studies of Transcendentalism, I am grateful to James McConkey, G. Ferris Cronkhite, Walter Slatoff, and especially Jonathan Bishop. Equally important has been Arthur Mizener's constant encouragement through the years.

To Oberlin College I am indebted for support (through a leave of absence and two grants-in-aid) to pursue research. The George and Eliza Howard Foundation also supported my research with a generous grant in 1969-1970.

My colleagues Dewey Ganzel, Robert Pierce, and John Olmsted read portions of this manuscript at various stages of its evolution and contributed valuable insights. Richard Brown, in many long conversations, helped my understanding of New England history. I am also indebted to former Oberlin students for suggestions on a number of topics, especially to Suzanne Bernstein, Dan Campbell, and Bruce Nygren. Ms. Bernstein also served as my research assistant in 1971.

The officers of several libraries have given me permission to examine and quote from manuscripts in their possession. Quotations from manuscripts by Emerson, Thoreau, A. Bronson Alcott, and William Ellery Channing II are by permission of the Harvard College Library. The Massachusetts Historical Society has granted permission to quote from manuscripts by
Theodore Parker and Christopher Cranch; the Andover-Harvard Theological Library of the Harvard Divinity School, from Theodore Parker; the Boston Public Library, from Elizabeth Peabody; and the Wellesley College Library, from Jones Very. For permission to quote from manuscripts by Emerson, Alcott, Channing, and Cranch I am indebted also to the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association, to Mrs. F. Wolsey Pratt, to Mr. Laurence M. Channing, and to Mrs. Emerson Evans, respectively.


Earlier versions of a few portions of this book appeared in *American Quarterly* (1968, 1972) and in *American Transcendental Quarterly* (1971). I am grateful to the editors for permission to use this material here.

I am grateful also to the staff of the Oberlin College Stenographic Services Department for typing my manuscript.

Finally, I have dedicated this book to my family, to whom I owe much more than any public acknowledgment can tell.

**Lawrence Buell**

*Oberlin, Ohio*