Writing in Time

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1858

Towards A 827 \(^{124}\)

**Spring 1858**

**Writings Circulated**
- None currently identified.

**Writings Retained**
- *Dear Master / I am ill* – (Dickinson drafts the first extant “Master” document; MS A 827/L 187), ca. spring 1858.

**Between A 827 & A 825**

**Summer 1858**

**Writings Circulated**
- ED writes Joseph A. Sweeter, early summer, “Much has occurred, dear Uncle…” (L 190).
- ED writes Mary Emerson Haven, early summer, “Dear Mrs Haven – / Have you – or has Mr Haven – in his Library…” (L 191).
- ED writes Mary Emerson Haven, late August, “Good night, dear Mrs Haven!” (L 192).
- ED writes Elizabeth Holland, early August?, “Don’t tell, dear Mrs Holland, but wicked as I am…” (L 185).
- ED copies and sends “Morns like these – we parted” (Fr 18[A])\(^{126}\) to Louise and Frances Norcross, ca. summer.

**Writings Retained**
- ED drafts “If those I loved were lost,” (Fr 20A), ca. summer; this copy remained unbound.
- After copying “The feet of people walking home” (Fr 16A), ca. summer, into Fascicle 1 (F1), ED made two additional variant copies later in the summer, both of which she retains. The first one (Fr 16B) was eventually homed in F14, bound four years later; the second one (Fr 16C), torn roughly along the spine, remained among Dickinson’s unbound papers.
- ED copies the following poems onto one sheet, ca. summer: “Adrift! A little boat adrift!” (Fr 6A); “Summer for thee, grant I may be” (Fr 9A); “On this wondrous sea – sailing silently –” (Fr 3B); “Garlands for Queens, may be –” (Fr 10A); “Nobody knows this little Rose –” (Fr 11B). [This sheet will become the fourth and final sheet of F1.]
- ED copies the following poems onto one sheet, ca. summer: “I had a guinea golden –” (Fr 12A); “There is a morn by men unseen –” (Fr 13A); “As if I asked a common alms –” (Fr 14A); “She slept beneath a tree –” (Fr 15A). [This sheet will become the second sheet of F1.]
- ED copies the following poems onto one sheet, ca. summer: “The woods are pink –” (Fr 24B); “A sepal – petal – and a thorn” (Fr 25A); “Distrustful of the Gentian –” (Fr 26A); “Flees so the phantom meadow” (Fr 27A); “All these my banners be” (Fr 29A); “To lose – if One can find again –” (Fr 30A); “To him who keeps an Orchis’ heart –” (Fr 31A). [This sheet will become the first sheet of F1.]
- ED may have bound the sheets of F1 in late summer.

**Autumn 1858**

**Writings Circulated**
- ED writes Susan Dickinson, 26 September, “I hav’nt any paper, dear…” (L 194).\(^{127}\)
- ED copies and sends “The morns are meeker than they were –” (Fr 32A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. autumn.
- ED copies and sends “I never told the buried gold” (Fr 38A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. autumn.
- ED copies and sends “One Sister have I in our house –” (L 197; Fr 5A) to Susan Dickinson, perhaps as a birthday greeting on 19 December.
- ED copies and sends “There is a word” (Fr 42A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. late in the year.
- ED copies and sends “Thro’ lane it lay – thro’ bramble –” (Fr 43A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. late in the year.
- ED copies and sends “The guest is gold and crimson –” (Fr 44A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. late in the year.
- ED writes Josiah and Elizabeth Holland, about 6 November, “Dear Hollands, / Good-night! I can’t stay any longer…” (L 195).

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\(^{124}\) At times, additional, often variant copies of poems appearing in the years covered by the present timeline may be found either before the line’s beginning or after its end. They are not noted here; see R.W. Franklin’s *Poems* (1998) to follow the histories of poems.

\(^{125}\) Dated by Hart and Smith to the “late 1850s”; see *OMC*, p. 78.

\(^{126}\) Brackets indicate that the original manuscript has been lost or destroyed.

\(^{127}\) Hart and Smith agree with this date; see *OMC*, pp. 74–75. They date the remainder of the writings sent to Susan Dickinson listed here, with the exception of “The guest is gold and crimson –”, not included in their edition, to the “late 1850s”; see *OMC*, pp. 82, 81, 76, 79, 80, respectively.
1859

Spring 1859

Writings Circulated

- ED writes Samuel Bowles, April, "Friend, / Sir, / I did not see you..." (L 205).
- ED copies and sends "Delayed till she had ceased to know ~" (Fr 67A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. spring.
- ED copies and sends "We should not mind so small a flower ~" (Fr 82A) to Susan Gilbert Dickinson, ca. spring.
- ED copies and sends "Baffled for just a day or two ~" (Fr 66A) to Elizabeth Holland, with a rosebud attached, ca. spring.
- ED writes Louise Norcross, late April, "Dear Loo, / You did not acknowledge..." (L 206).

Writings Retained

- ED copies the following poems onto one sheet, ca. autumn: "The morns are meeker than they were ~" (Fr 32B); "Whether my bark went down at sea ~" (Fr 33A); "Taken from men – this morning ~" (Fr 34A); "Sleep is supposed to be" (Fr 35B); "If I should die ~" (Fr 36A); "By Chivalries as tiny," (Fr 37A). [This sheet, bound in 1859, will become the fourth sheet in F3.]

- ED copies the following poems onto one sheet, ca. autumn: "I never told the buried gold" (Fr 38B); "I never lost as much but twice ~" (Fr 39A); "I hav\'nt told my garden yet ~" (Fr 40A); "I often passed the Village" (Fr 41A). [This sheet, bound in 1859, will become the third sheet in F3.]

- ED copies the following poems onto one sheet, ca. late in the year: "There is a word" (Fr 42B); "Through lane it lay – thro\' bramble ~" (Fr 43B); "The Guest is gold and crimson ~" (Fr 44B); "I counted till they danced so" (Fr 45A); "Before the ice is in the pools ~" (Fr 46A); "By such and such an offering" (Fr 47A). [This sheet will become the first sheet of F2.]

Winter–Early Spring 128

Writings Circulated

- ED writes Catherine Scott Turner Anthon, about March, "I never missed a Kate before,..." (L 205).
- ED copies and sends "If she had been the Mistletoe" (Fr 60A) to Samuel Bowles, ca. early in the year.

128 Two letters are dated only to ca. 1859, with no season indicated: ED to Susan Dickinson, L 201, and ED to Susan Dickinson, L 214. "A poor – torn Heart – a tattered heart;" (Fr 125A) was sent to Susan Dickinson sometime in this calendar year, along with three poems (MSS lost) to unknown recipients: "Flowers – well, if anybody" (Fr 95[A]); "Success is counted sweetest" (Fr 112[B]), and "These are the days when birds come back" (Fr 122[B]). The letter-poem "When Katie walks, this Simple pair accompany her side;" (Fr 49[A.1]) was probably sent to Catherine Scott Turner Anthon sometime between 1859 and 1861.

129 Habegger dates this MS to September to October 1859; Franklin's dating is, to me, more likely.

- ED copies and sends "The feet of people walking home ~" (Fr 16D) to Susan Dickinson, ca. early in the year.
- ED copies and sends "Whose cheek is this?" (Fr 48A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. early in the year.
- ED copies and sends "My Wheel is in the dark." (Fr 61A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. early in the year.130
- ED writes Mary Emerson Haven, February, "Dear Mrs Haven, / Your remembrance surprises me...."; her letter includes a copy of the poem "A darting year ~ a pomp ~ a tear ~" (L 200; Fr Appendix 13, A13–6A).
- ED writes Elizabeth Holland, about 20 February, "Not alone to thank you..." (L 202).
- ED writes Elizabeth Holland, 2 March, "Sister / You did my will..."; her letter includes a copy of the poem "As by the dead we love to sit ~" (L 204; Fr 78A).

Writings Retained

- ED copies the following poems onto one sheet, ca. early in the year: "It did not surprise me ~" (Fr 50A); "When I count the seeds" (Fr 51A); "Bless God, he went as soldiers," (Fr 52A); "If I should cease to bring a Rose" (Fr 53A); "One Sister have I in the house ~" (Fr 5B). [This sheet will become the second sheet of F2.]

- ED copies the following poems onto one sheet, ca. early in the year: "'Lethe' in my flower," (Fr 54A); "To venerate the simple days" (Fr 55A); "I've got an arrow here." (Fr 56A); "I robbed the Woods ~" (Fr 57A); "A Day! Help! Help!" (Fr 58A); "Could live ~ did live ~" (Fr 59A); "If she had been the Mistletoe" (Fr 60B). [This sheet will become the third sheet of F2.]

130 Hart and Smith date this poem sent to Susan Dickinson "late 1850s"; see OMC, p. 80.

131 Johnson and Leyda both date this letter April 1859; Habegger re-dates it to September to October 1859 based on an oblique reference to the time that has passed since Mary's miscarriage, but he also remains tentative about the date.

132 A possible "Master" poem; see Appendix 1.
rainbow never tells me” (Fr 76A); “One dignity delays for all –” (Fr 77A); “As by the dead we love to sit –” (Fr 78B); “New feet within my garden go –” (Fr 79A); “I hide myself within my flower” (Fr 80A).

[This sheet will become the second sheet of F3.]

ED may have bound the sheets of F2 and F3 at this time.

Summer 1859

Writings Circulated

☐ ED copies and sends "Heart not so heavy as mine" (Fr 88A] to Catherine Scott Turner Anthon, ca. summer.

☐ ED copies and sends "They have not chosen me; he said," (Fr 87A) to Mary Bowles, ca. summer.

☐ ED copies and sends "Heart, not so heavy as mine" (Fr 88B) to Mary Bowles, ca. summer.

☐ ED writes Mary and Samuel Bowles, July, "Dear Friends. / I am sorry you came, ..." (L 189).

☐ ED copies and sends "If recollecting were forgetting," (Fr 98B) to Samuel Bowles, ca. summer.

☐ ED copies and sends "Good night, because we must." (Fr 97A) to Samuel Bowles, ca. summer.

☐ ED writes Samuel Bowles, late August, “Dear Mr Bowles. / I got the little pamphlet....” (L 193).

☐ ED copies and sends "Pigmy Seraphs – gone astray –" (Fr 96A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.135

☐ ED copies and sends "Low at my problem bending –" (Fr 99A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.134

☐ ED copies and sends "A three upon the features –" (Fr 105A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.136

☐ ED copies and sends "Glowing is her Bonnet," (Fr 106A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.

ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. summer: "So from the mould," (Fr 110A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.

ED copies and sends "Success is counted sweetest" (Fr 112A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.136

ED copies and sends "Ambition cannot find him!" (Fr 115A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.137

ED copies and sends "Arcturus is his other name." (Fr 117A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.

ED copies and sends "As watchers hang upon the East," (Fr 120A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.138

ED copies and sends "Her breast is fit for pearls," (Fr 121A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.139

ED copies and sends "South winds jostle them –" (Fr 98B) to Thomas Gilbert, ca. mid-late summer.

☐ ED copies and sends "South winds jostle them" (Fr 98A] to Louise and Frances Norcross, ca. summer.

Writings Retained

☐ ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. summer: "She bore it till the simple veins" (Fr 81A); 
 "We should not mind so small a flower" (Fr 82B); 
 "This heart that broke so long –" (Fr 83A); "On such a night, or such a night," (Fr 84A). [This sheet will become the fourth and final sheet of F4.]

☐ ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. summer: "Whose are the little beds – I asked" (Fr 85A); "For every Bird a nest –" (Fr 86A); "’They have not chosen me’ – he said –" (Fr 87B). [This sheet will become the third sheet of F4.]

☐ ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. summer: "Heart not so heavy as mine" (Fr 88C); 
 "Soul, wilt thou toss again?" (Fr 89A); "An altered look about the hills –" (Fr 90A); "Some, too fragile for winter winds" (Fr 91A). [This sheet will become the second sheet of F4.]

ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. summer: "Perhaps you’d like to buy a flower;" (Fr 92A); "Water, is taught by thirst." (Fr 93A); 
 "Have you got a Brook in your little heart;" (Fr 94A); 
 "Flowers – Well – if anybody" (Fr 95B); "Pigmy seraphs – gone astray –" (Fr 96B). [This sheet will become the first sheet of F5.]

ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. summer: “Good night; because we must!” (Fr 97B); 
 "South winds jostle them –" (Fr 98C); "Low at my problem bending;" (Fr 99B); "What Inn is this" (Fr 100A); “I had some things that I called mine –" (Fr 101A); "In rags mysterious as these” (Fr 102A); 
 "My friend attacks my friend!” (Fr 103A). [This sheet will become the second sheet of F5.]

ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. summer: “A something in a summer’s Day” (Fr 104A); 
 “A three upon the features –” (Fr 105B); “Glowing is her Bonnet –” (Fr 106B); “Many cross the Rhine” (Fr 107A); "In lands I never saw – they say" (Fr 108A); 
 "For each extatic instant" (Fr 109A). [This sheet will become the fourth sheet of F5.]

ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. summer: “So from the mould” (Fr 110B); "Artists wrestled here!” (Fr 111A); “Success is counted sweetest” (Fr 112B); “The Bee is not afraid of me.” (Fr 113A); "Where bells no more affright the morn –" (Fr 114A); "Ambition cannot find him –" (Fr 115B); 
 "Our share of night to bear –" (Fr 116A). [This sheet will become the first sheet of F5.]

ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. summer: “Arcturus’ is his other name –” (Fr 117B); “Talk with prudence to a Beggar” (Fr 118A); "If this is ‘fading’” (Fr 119A); "As Watchers hang upon the East –" (Fr 120B); "Her breast is fit for pearls;" (Fr 121B). [This sheet will become the third sheet of F5.]

ED may have bound the sheets of F4 and F5 at this time.

[133] Hart and Smith date this poem sent to Susan Dickinson "1850s"; see OMC, p. 82.
[134] Hart and Smith date this poem sent to Susan Dickinson "late 1850s"; see OMC, p. 87.
[135] Hart and Smith date this poem sent to Susan Dickinson "late 1850s"; see OMC, p. 88.
[136] Hart and Smith date this poem sent to Susan Dickinson 'late 1850s'; see OMC, p. 86.
[137] Hart and Smith date this poem sent to Susan Dickinson 'late 1850s'; see OMC, p. 87.
[138] Hart and Smith date this poem sent to Susan Dickinson '1850s'; see OMC, pp. 91–92.
[139] Hart and Smith date this poem sent to Susan Dickinson '1850s'; see OMC, p. 91.
1859

**Autumn—Winter 1859**

- **Historic National Events**
  - October 16: John Brown raids the US arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia; troops led by Colonel Robert E. Lee overpower and capture him two days later.
  - December 2: John Brown is executed for treason against the state of Virginia.

- **Writings Circulated**
  - ED writes Catherine Scott Turner Anthon, ca. late in the year, “Katie – / Last year at this time…” (L 209).
  - ED writes Mary Bowles, ca. December, “Dear Mrs Bowles / Since I have no sweet flower…” (L 196).
  - ED writes Mary Bowles, 10 December, “Dear Mrs Bowles / You send sweet messages…” (L 212).
  - ED copies and sends “These are the days when Birds come back –” (Fr 122A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. autumn.
  - ED copies and sends “Besides the autumn poets sing” (Fr 123A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. autumn.
  - ED copies and sends “Safe in their Alabaster Chambers –” (Fr 124A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. autumn.
  - ED copies and sends “Going to Heaven!” (Fr 128A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. late in the year.
  - ED copies and sends “Our lives are Swiss –” (Fr 129A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. late in the year.

- **Writings Retained**
  - ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. late in the year: “These are the days when Birds come back –” (Fr 122C); “Besides the Autumn poets sing” (Fr 123B); “Safe in their Alabaster Chambers –” (Fr 124B); “A poor – torn heart – a tattered heart –” (Fr 125B). [This sheet will become the third sheet of F6.]
  - ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. late in the year: “I bring an unaccustomed wine” (Fr 126A); “As children bid the Guest ‘Good night!’” (Fr 127A); “Going to Heaven!” (Fr 128B); “Our lives are Swiss –” (Fr 129B). [This sheet will become the fourth sheet of F6.]

- **Winter–Early Spring 1860**

- **Writings Circulated**
  - ED writes Mary Bowles, ca. 1 January, “I should like to thank dear Mrs Bowles…” (L 213).
  - ED copies and sends “Who never lost, is unprepared” (Fr 136A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. early in the year.
  - ED copies and sends “A Lady red, amid the Hill” (Fr 137A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. early in the year.

- **Writings Retained**
  - See Habegger’s rationale for re-dating this letter: *My Wars Are Laid Away in Books*, p. 712n388.
  - The following writings are dated to the year 1860 only, not to a specific season: L 227 (ED to Elizabeth Holland); L 218 (ED to Mary A. Robinson Ward).
  - With the exception of “A Lady red, amid the Hill,” “Bring me the sunset in a cup –”, “I never hear the word ‘Escape’”, “Like her the Saints retire –,” “Papa Above!”, and “If pain for peace prepares –”, which are not published in OMC, Hart and Smith date the poems in this list sent to Susan Dickinson “late 1850s”; see OMC, pp. 88, 89, 90, 83, 84, respectively.
Spring 1860

Writings Circulated

- ED writes to Lavinia Dickinson, late April, “Vinnie – / I can’t believe it...” (L 217).
- ED copies and sends “Some Rainbow – coming from the Fair!” (Fr 162A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. spring.
- ED copies and sends “I can’t tell you, but you feel it –” (Fr 164A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. spring.
- ED copies and sends “Dust is the only secret –” (Fr 166A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. spring.
- ED copies and sends “Mama’ never forgets her birds –” (Fr 130[A]) to Louise Norcross, ca. April.
- ED writes to Susan Davis Phelps, ca. May, “When thou goest through the Waters...” (L 221).

Writings Retained

- ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. spring: “I have a King, who does not speak –” (Fr 157A); “Where have I lost, I softer tread –” (Fr 158A); “She went as quiet as the Dew” (Fr 159A); “To hang our head – ostensibly –” (Fr 160A); “The Daisy follows soft the Sun –” (Fr 161A). [This sheet will become the second sheet in F7.]
- ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. spring: “A little bread, a crust – a crumb;” (Fr 135A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. second half of the year.
- ED copies and sends “Except to Heaven – she is nought” (Fr 173A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.
- ED copies and sends “To learn the Transport by the Pain –” (Fr 178B); “If the foolish, call them ‘flowers’ –” (Fr 179A); “In Ebon Box, when years have flown” (Fr 180A); “Portraits are to daily faces” (Fr 174B). [This sheet will become the second sheet in F8.]
- ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. summer: “A wounded Deer – leaps highest –” (Fr 181B); “The Sun kept stooping – stooping – low!” (Fr 182B); “I met a King this Afternoon!” (Fr 183A). [This sheet will become the first sheet of F8.]
- ED may have bound the sheets of F8 at this time.

Summer 1860

Writings Circulated

- ED writes to Catherine Scott Turner Anthon, “The prettiest of pleas, dear,...” (L 222), ca. summer.
- ED writes Samuel Bowles, early August, “Dear Mr Bowles. / I am much ashamed...” (L 225).
- ED writes Susan Dickinson, August, “Dear Sue, / God bless you for the Bread!” (L 224).
- ED copies and sends “A little bread, a crust – a crumb;” (Fr 135A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.
- ED copies and sends “Except to Heaven – she is nought” (Fr 173A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.
- ED copies and sends “To learn the transport thro’ the pain –” (Fr 178A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.
- ED copies and sends “A wounded Deer – leaps highest –” (Fr 181A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.
- ED copies and sends “The sun kept stooping – stooping – low –” (Fr 182A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. summer.
- ED copies and sends “Just lost, when I was saved!” (Fr 132A) to Susan Dickinson, ca. late summer.
- ED copies and sends “Though my destiny be fustian” (Fr 131[A]) to Elizabeth Holland, ca. late summer.

Writings Retained

- ED copies (in pencil) “Did the Harebell loose her girdle” (Fr 134A), ca. second half of the year.
- ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. summer: “Except to Heaven, she is nought” (Fr 173B); “Pictures are to daily faces” (Fr 174A); “I cautious, scanned my little life –” (Fr 175A); “If I could bribe them by a Rose” (Fr 176A); “As if some little Arctic flower” (Fr 177A). [This sheet will become the fifth and final sheet of F8.]
- ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. summer: “To learn the Transport by the Pain –” (Fr 178B); “If the foolish, call them ‘flowers’ –” (Fr 179A); “In Ebon Box, when years have flown” (Fr 180A); “Portraits are to daily faces” (Fr 174B). [This sheet will become the second sheet of F8.]
- ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. summer: “A wounded Deer – leaps highest –” (Fr 181B); “The Sun kept stooping – stooping – low!” (Fr 182B); “I met a King this Afternoon!” (Fr 183A). [This sheet will become the first sheet of F8.]
- ED may have bound the sheets of F8 at this time.

148 Hart and Smith date this poem sent to Susan Dickinson “late 1850s”; see OMC, pp. 85–86.
149 Hart and Smith date this poem sent to Susan Dickinson “early 1860s”; see OMC, p. 93.
150 Hart and Smith date this poem sent to Susan Dickinson “late 1850s”; see OMC, p. 92.
151 Hart and Smith date this poem sent to Susan Dickinson “early 1860s”; see OMC, pp. 94–95.
152 This poem is included in the present constellation of “Master” documents.
153 This poem is never entered into the fascicules; R. W. Franklin suggests that it may belong among the “Master” documents; see Franklin, Poems (1998), p. 13.