**“Self Reliance” by Ralph Waldo Emerson**

**Henceforth, please God, forever I forego  
The yoke of men's opinions. I will be  
Light-hearted as a bird, and live with God.  
I find him in the bottom of my heart,  
I hear continually his voice therein.**

**\* \* \***

**The little needle always knows the North,  
The little bird remembereth his note,  
And this wise Seer within me never errs.  
I never taught it what it teaches me;  
I only follow, when I act aright.**

October 9, 1832.

**And when I am entombed in my place,  
Be it remembered of a single man,  
He never, though he dearly loved his race,  
For fear of human eyes swerved from his plan.**

**Oh what is Heaven but the fellowship  
Of minds that each can stand against the world  
By its own meek and incorruptible will?**

**The days pass over me  
And I am still the same;  
The aroma of my life is gone  
With the flower with which it came.**

1833.