

ALCOTT, THE CONCORD MYSTIC.

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BY

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of Dufferin," etc.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A year has elapsed since I had the honour of addressing you from this platform. On that occasion I took the opportunity of conveying to your notice a few imperfect thoughts which I had formed on the subject of Emerson and his writings, and the influence such a man must have, not only on the immediate community in which he may live, but among thoughtful people everywhere. To-night I purpose introducing, with your permission, a companion picture, and asking you to consider with me, the life and teachings of one who for more than half a century, has wielded a power—though in another way—scarcely less great than that of his friend and neighbour, Waldo Emerson himself. Concord, as many of you doubtless are aware, is one of the loveliest towns in New England. It is situated on the line of railway, and is scarcely an hour's ride from Boston. There are several Concords in the United States, but the Concord I mean, is the poetic and historic Concord of the State of Massachusetts—the Concord of Emerson, of Hawthorne, of Thoreau and of Alcott the mystic teacher, whose literary, and social, and educational career, it is my intention to enlarge upon to-night.