

THE POEMS OF

Emily Dickinson

READING EDITION



EDITED BY

R. W. FRANKLIN

The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press

Cambridge, Massachusetts, and London, England

1999

I'm pleading at the counter - sir -
Could you afford to sell?

I've Diamonds - on my fingers!
You know what Diamonds - are!
I've Rubies - like the Evening Blood -
And Topaz - like the star!
'Twould be a bargain for a Jew!
Say? May I have it - Sir?

259

A Clock stopped -
Not the Mantel's -
Geneva's farthest skill
Cant put the puppet bowing -
That just now dangled still -

10

5

An awe came on the Trinket!
The Figures hunched - with pain -
Then quivered out of Decimals -
Into Degreeless noon -

It will not stir for Doctor's -
This Pendulum of snow -
The Shopman importunes it -
While cool - concernless No -

10

Nods from the Gilded pointers -
Nods from the Seconds slim -
Decades of Arrogance between
The Dial life -
And Him -

15

260

I'm Nobody! Who are you?
Are you - Nobody - too?
Then there's a pair of us!
Dont tell! they'd advertise - you know!

How dreary - to be - Somebody!
How public - like a Frog -

5

To tell one's name - the livelong June -
To an admiring Bog!

261

I held a Jewel in my fingers -
And went to sleep -
The day was warm, and winds were prosy -
I said "Twill keep" -

I woke - and chid my honest fingers,
The Gem was gone -
And now, an Amethyst remembrance
Is all I own -

5

262

Ah, Moon - and Star!
You are very far -
But - were no one farther than you -
Do you think I'd stop for a firmament -
Or a cubit - or so?

5

I could borrow a Bonnet - of the Lark -
And a Chamois' silver boot -
And a stirrup of an Antelope -
And leap to you - tonight!

But - Moon - and Star -
Though you're very far -
There is one - farther than you -
He - is more than a firmament - from me -
And I cannot go!

10

263

Just so - Christ - raps -
He - does'nt weary -
First at the Knocker -
And then - at the Bell -
Then - on Divinest tiptoe standing -
Might he but spy the hiding soul!

5

When he - retires -
Chilled - or weary -