

Contents

THE PASTURE	1
A BOY'S WILL	
INTO MY OWN	5
GHOST HOUSE	5
MY NOVEMBER GUEST	6
LOVE AND A QUESTION	7
A LATE WALK	8
STARS	9
STORM FEAR	9
WIND AND WINDOW FLOWER	10
TO THE THAWING WIND	11
A PRAYER IN SPRING	12
FLOWER-GATHERING	12
ROSE POGONIAS	13
WAITING	14
IN A VALE	15
A DREAM PANG	16
IN NEGLECT	16
THE VANTAGE POINT	17
MOWING	17
GOING FOR WATER	18
REVELATION	19

THE TRIAL BY EXISTENCE	19
THE TUFT OF FLOWERS	22
PAN WITH US	23
THE DEMIURGE'S LAUGH	24
NOW CLOSE THE WINDOWS	25
IN HARDWOOD GROVES	25
A LINE-STORM SONG	26
OCTOBER	27
MY BUTTERFLY	28
RELUCTANCE	29
NORTH OF BOSTON	
MENDING WALL	33
THE DEATH OF THE HIRED MAN	34
THE MOUNTAIN	40
A HUNDRED COLLARS	44
HOME BURIAL	51
THE BLACK COTTAGE	55
BLUEBERRIES	59
A SERVANT TO SERVANTS	62
AFTER APPLE-PICKING	68
THE CODE	69
THE GENERATIONS OF MEN	73
THE HOUSEKEEPER	81
THE FEAR	89
THE SELF-SEEKER	92
THE WOOD-PILE	101
GOOD HOURS	102
MOUNTAIN INTERVAL	
THE ROAD NOT TAKEN	105

CHRISTMAS TREES	105
AN OLD MAN'S WINTER NIGHT	108
THE EXPOSED NEST	109
A PATCH OF OLD SNOW	110
IN THE HOME STRETCH	110
THE TELEPHONE	118
MEETING AND PASSING	118
HYLA BROOK	119
THE OVEN BIRD	119
BOND AND FREE	120
BIRCHES	121
PEA BRUSH	123
PUTTING IN THE SEED	123
A TIME TO TALK	124
THE COW IN APPLE TIME	124
AN ENCOUNTER	125
RANGE-FINDING	126
<i>The Hill Wife</i>	
I. LONELINESS	126
II. HOUSE FEAR	127
III. THE SMILE	127
IV. THE OFT-REPEATED DREAM	128
V. THE IMPULSE	128
THE BONFIRE	129
A GIRL'S GARDEN	133
LOCKED OUT	135
THE LAST WORD OF A BLUEBIRD	135
“OUT, OUT—”	136
BROWN'S DESCENT	137
THE GUM-GATHERER	140

THE LINE-GANG	141
THE VANISHING RED	142
SNOW	143
THE SOUND OF TREES	156

NEW HAMPSHIRE

NEW HAMPSHIRE	159
A STAR IN A STONEBOAT	172
THE CENSUS-TAKER	174
THE STAR-SPLITTER	176
MAPLE	179
THE AX-HELVE	185
THE GRINDSTONE	188
PAUL'S WIFE	191
WILD GRAPES	196
PLACE FOR A THIRD	199
<i>Two Witches</i>	
I. THE WITCH OF COÖS	202
II. THE PAUPER WITCH OF GRAFTON	207
AN EMPTY THREAT	210
A FOUNTAIN, A BOTTLE, A DONKEY'S EARS, AND SOME BOOKS	212
I WILL SING YOU ONE-O	217
FRAGMENTARY BLUE	220
FIRE AND ICE	220
IN A DISUSED GRAVEYARD	221
DUST OF SNOW	221
TO E. T.	222
NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY	222
THE RUNAWAY	223

THE AIM WAS SONG	223
STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING	224
FOR ONCE, THEN, SOMETHING	225
BLUE-BUTTERFLY DAY	225
THE ONSET	226
TO EARTHWARD	226
GOOD-BY AND KEEP COLD	228
TWO LOOK AT TWO	229
NOT TO KEEP	230
A BROOK IN THE CITY	231
THE KITCHEN CHIMNEY	232
LOOKING FOR A SUNSET BIRD IN WINTER	232
A BOUNDLESS MOMENT	233
EVENING IN A SUGAR ORCHARD	234
GATHERING LEAVES	234
THE VALLEY'S SINGING DAY	235
MISGIVING	236
A HILLSIDE THAW	237
PLOWMEN	238
ON A TREE FALLEN ACROSS THE ROAD	238
OUR SINGING STRENGTH	239
THE LOCKLESS DOOR	240
THE NEED OF BEING VERSED IN COUNTRY THINGS	241
WEST-RUNNING BROOK	
SPRING POOLS	245
THE FREEDOM OF THE MOON	245
THE ROSE FAMILY	246
FIREFLIES IN THE GARDEN	246

ATMOSPHERE	246
DEVOTION	247
ON GOING UNNOTICED	247
THE COCOON	247
A PASSING GLIMPSE	248
A PECK OF GOLD	249
ACCEPTANCE	249
ONCE BY THE PACIFIC	250
LODGED	250
A MINOR BIRD	250
BEREFT	251
TREE AT MY WINDOW	251
THE PEACEFUL SHEPHERD	252
THE THATCH	252
A WINTER EDEN	254
THE FLOOD	254
ACQUAINTED WITH THE NIGHT	255
THE LOVELY SHALL BE CHOOSERS	255
WEST-RUNNING BROOK	257
SAND DUNES	260
CANIS MAJOR	261
A SOLDIER	261
IMMIGRANTS	262
HANNIBAL	262
THE FLOWER BOAT	262
THE TIMES TABLE	263
THE INVESTMENT	263
THE LAST MOWING	264
THE BIRTHPLACE	264
THE DOOR IN THE DARK	265

DUST IN THE EYES	265
SITTING BY A BUSH IN BROAD SUNLIGHT	266
THE ARMFUL	266
WHAT FIFTY SAID	267
RIDERS	267
ON LOOKING UP BY CHANCE	
AT THE CONSTELLATIONS	268
THE BEAR	268
THE EGG AND THE MACHINE	269
A FURTHER RANGE	
A LONE STRIKER	273
TWO TRAMPS IN MUD TIME	275
THE WHITE-TAILED HORNET	277
A BLUE RIBBON AT AMESBURY	279
A DRUMLIN WOODCHUCK	281
THE GOLD HESPERIDEE	283
IN TIME OF CLOUDBURST	285
A ROADSIDE STAND	286
DEPARTMENTAL	287
THE OLD BARN AT THE BOTTOM	
OF THE FOGS	289
ON THE HEART'S BEGINNING	
TO CLOUD THE MIND	290
THE FIGURE IN THE DOORWAY	292
AT WOODWARD'S GARDENS	293
A RECORD STRIDE	294
LOST IN HEAVEN	295
DESERT PLACES	296
LEAVES COMPARED WITH FLOWERS	296

A LEAF-TREADER	297
ON TAKING FROM THE TOP	
TO BROADEN THE BASE	298
THEY WERE WELCOME TO THEIR BELIEF	299
THE STRONG ARE SAYING NOTHING	299
THE MASTER SPEED	300
MOON COMPASSES	300
NEITHER OUT FAR NOR IN DEEP	301
VOICE WAYS	301
DESIGN	302
ON A BIRD SINGING IN ITS SLEEP	302
AFTERFLAKES	303
CLEAR AND COLDER	303
UNHARVESTED	304
THERE ARE ROUGHLY ZONES	305
A TRIAL RUN	306
NOT QUITE SOCIAL	306
PROVIDE, PROVIDE	307
<i>Ten Mills</i>	
I. PRECAUTION	308
II. THE SPAN OF LIFE	308
III. THE WRIGHTS' BIPLANE	308
IV. EVIL TENDENCIES CANCEL	308
V. PERTINAX	308
VI. WASPISH	309
VII. ONE GUESS	309
VIII. THE HARDSHIP OF ACCOUNTING	309
IX. NOT ALL THERE	309
X. IN DIVÉS' DIVE	310
THE VINDICTIVES	310

THE BEARER OF EVIL TIDINGS	313
IRIS BY NIGHT	315
BUILD SOIL	316
TO A THINKER	325
A MISSIVE MISSILE	326
A WITNESS TREE	
BEECH	331
SYCAMORE	331
THE SILKEN TENT	331
ALL REVELATION	332
HAPPINESS MAKES UP IN HEIGHT	
FOR WHAT IT LACKS IN LENGTH	333
COME IN	334
I COULD GIVE ALL TO TIME	334
CARPE DIEM	335
THE WIND AND THE RAIN	336
THE MOST OF IT	338
NEVER AGAIN WOULD BIRDS' SONG	
BE THE SAME	338
THE SUBVERTED FLOWER	339
WILLFUL HOMING	341
A CLOUD SHADOW	342
THE QUEST OF THE PURPLE-FRINGED	342
THE DISCOVERY OF THE MADEIRAS	343
THE GIFT OUTRIGHT	348
TRIPLE BRONZE	348
OUR HOLD ON THE PLANET	349
TO A YOUNG WRETCH	349
THE LESSON FOR TODAY	350

TIME OUT	355
TO A MOTH SEEN IN WINTER	356
A CONSIDERABLE SPECK	357
THE LOST FOLLOWER	358
NOVEMBER	359
THE RABBIT-HUNTER	360
A LOOSE MOUNTAIN	360
IT IS ALMOST THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND	361
IN A POEM	362
ON OUR SYMPATHY WITH THE UNDER DOG	362
A QUESTION	362
BOEOTIAN	362
THE SECRET SITS	362
AN EQUALIZER	363
A SEMI-REVOLUTION	363
ASSURANCE	363
AN ANSWER	363
TRESPASS	364
A NATURE NOTE	364
OF THE STONES OF THE PLACE	365
NOT OF SCHOOL AGE	366
A SERIOUS STEP LIGHTLY TAKEN	367
THE LITERATE FARMER AND THE PLANET VENUS	368

STEEPLE BUSH

A YOUNG BIRCH	375
SOMETHING FOR HOPE	375
ONE STEP BACKWARD TAKEN	376
DIRECTIVE	377

TOO ANXIOUS FOR RIVERS	379
AN UNSTAMPED LETTER	
IN OUR RURAL LETTER BOX	380
TO AN ANCIENT	382
<i>Five Nocturnes</i>	
I. THE NIGHT LIGHT	382
II. WERE I IN TROUBLE	383
III. BRAVADO	383
IV. ON MAKING CERTAIN	
ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED	383
V. IN THE LONG NIGHT	384
A MOOD APART	385
THE FEAR OF GOD	385
THE FEAR OF MAN	386
A STEEPLE ON THE HOUSE	386
INNATE HELIUM	386
THE COURAGE TO BE NEW	387
IOTA SUBSCRIPT	387
THE MIDDLENESS OF THE ROAD	388
ASTROMETAPHYSICAL	388
SKEPTIC	389
TWO LEADING LIGHTS	390
A ROGERS GROUP	391
ON BEING IDOLIZED	391
A WISH TO COMPLY	391
A CLIFF DWELLING	392
IT BIDS PRETTY FAIR	392
BEYOND WORDS	393
A CASE FOR JEFFERSON	393
LUCRETIVS VERSUS THE LAKE POETS	393

HAEC FABULA DOCET	394
ETHEREALIZING	394
WHY WAIT FOR SCIENCE	395
ANY SIZE WE PLEASE	396
AN IMPORTER	396
THE PLANNERS	397
NO HOLY WARS FOR THEM	398
BURSTING RAPTURE	398
U. S. 1946 KING'S X	399
THE INGENUITIES OF DEBT	399
THE BROKEN DROUGHT	399
TO THE RIGHT PERSON	400
"AN AFTERWORD" FROM COMPLETE POEMS	
TAKE SOMETHING LIKE A STAR	403
FROM PLANE TO PLANE	404
IN THE CLEARING	
POD OF THE MILKWEED	411
AWAY!	412
A CABIN IN THE CLEARING	413
CLOSED FOR GOOD	415
AMERICA IS HARD TO SEE	416
ONE MORE BREVITY	419
ESCAPIST—NEVER	421
FOR JOHN F. KENNEDY HIS INAUGURATION	422
ACCIDENTALLY ON PURPOSE	425
A NEVER NAUGHT SONG	426
VERSION	427
A CONCEPT SELF-CONCEIVED	427
[FORGIVE, O LORD . . .]	428

KITTY HAWK	428
AUSPEX	443
THE DRAFT HORSE	443
ENDS	444
PERIL OF HOPE	445
QUESTIONING FACES	445
DOES NO ONE AT ALL EVER FEEL THIS WAY IN THE LEAST?	446
THE BAD ISLAND—EASTER	447
OUR DOOM TO BLOOM	449
THE OBJECTION TO BEING STEPPED ON	450
A-WISHING WELL	451
HOW HARD IT IS TO KEEP FROM BEING KING WHEN IT'S IN YOU AND IN THE SITUATION	453
LINES WRITTEN IN DEJECTION ON THE EVE OF GREAT SUCCESS	462
THE MILKY WAY IS A COWPATH	464
SOME SCIENCE FICTION	465
QUANDARY	467
A REFLEX	468
IN A GLASS OF CIDER	468
FROM IRON	468
[FOUR-ROOM SHACK . . .]	469
[BUT OUTER SPACE . . .]	469
ON BEING CHOSEN POET OF VERMONT	469
[WE VAINLY WRESTLE . . .]	469
[IT TAKES ALL SORTS . . .]	470
[IN WINTER IN THE WOODS . . .]	470

A MASQUE OF REASON	
A MASQUE OF REASON	473
A MASQUE OF MERCY	
A MASQUE OF MERCY	493
NOTES	
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL & TEXTUAL NOTES	525
INDEX	
INDEX OF FIRST LINES & TITLES	585