



## EMILY DICKINSON

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1830-1886

### **Drowning is not so pitiful (Fr1542, J1718)**



Drowning is not so pitiful  
As the attempt to rise.  
Three times, 'tis said, a sinking man  
Comes up to face the skies,  
And then declines forever  
5 To that abhorred abode,  
Where hope and he part company –  
For he is grasped of God.  
The Maker's cordial visage,  
However good to see,  
Is shunned, we must admit it,  
10 Like an adversity.

c. 1880?

### **Death sets a Thing significant (Fr640, J360)**

Death sets a Thing significant  
The Eye had hurried by  
Except a perished Creature  
Entreat us tenderly  
5 To ponder little workmanships  
In Crayon – or in wool –  
With “This was last Her fingers did” –  
Industrious until –  
The Thimble weighed too heavy –  
10 The stitches stopped – themselves –  
And then 'twas put among the Dust  
Upon the Closet shelves –

A Book I have – a friend gave –  
Whose Pencil – here and there –  
15 Had notched the place that pleased Him –  
At Rest – His fingers are –

Now – when I read – I read not –  
For interrupting Tears –  
Obliterate the Etchings  
20 Too Costly for Repairs –

c. 1863

