

Edward Tyrrell Channing Biography

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Biography

Edward Tyrell Channing (12 December 1790-8 February 1856), educator and younger brother of the Reverend William Ellery Channing, was born in Newport, Rhode Island. He took a law degree from Harvard University but soon quit his practice to pursue literary endeavors. Channing edited the *North American Review* from 1818 to 1819, then accepted the post of Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard. During thirty-two years there, he taught his students, including Emerson, Oliver Wendell Holmes, James Russell Lowell, and Thoreau, to write in a natural yet lucid style. He also moved away from classical theories of rhetoric towards more modern ones. His *Lectures Read to the Seniors in Harvard College* (Boston: Ticknor & Fields, 1856), edited by Richard Henry Dana, Jr., contains the essence of his courses. He died in Cambridge.