# THE LETTERS OF
# RALPH WALDO EMERSON

165

Thebes Jan 73

Dear Lidian,

We enjoy heartily this watery journey, & have spent the last two days in the colossal temples on the two sides of the river here. Every day is clear & hot, the sky rich, the shores lined with palm groves, the birds innumerable, the ibis the penguin, the hawk & the eagle, with vast flights of geese & ducks & flocks of little birds of sparrow size who fly in a rolling globe, whirl round & return again every minute. The crocodile is promised to us a little higher up the river, but not yet seen. The Nile has daily the appearance of a long lake whose ends we are always fast approaching, but the shores separate as we come to them

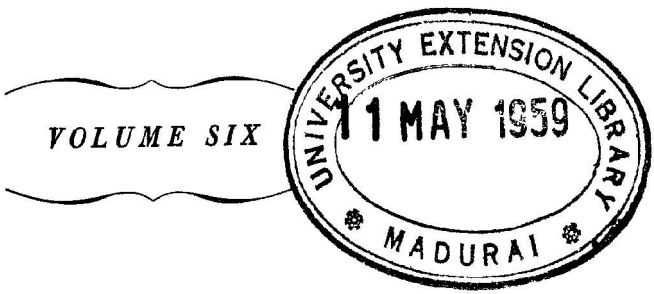
*Facsimile Page of Letter to Lidian Emerson*
*January 21? and May 11? 1873*

# THE LETTERS OF RALPH WALDO EMERSON

*IN SIX VOLUMES*

*EDITED BY*

RALPH L. RUSK
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# THE LETTERS OF
# RALPH WALDO EMERSON
## 1868–1881

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# 1868

## To Benjamin B. Wiley, Concord, January 7, 1868 [1]

Concord
7 January 1868

My dear Wiley,

I depended on seeing you once more before I left Chicago,[2] if it were only to say goodbye; for one likes to make a bow to his benefactors. I send today the Monument Speech; [3] but it turns out that there is no copy of the photograph in the house: but I shall be in town in a few days, & will forward it. I find all my house well; arrived at my daughter's house in Milton on the 2nd & found they had postponed New Year's one day for my sake. I pray you to come & spend 24 hours with me here of your next summer's vacation. So shall you best oblige

Yours ever
R. W. Emerson –

## To Charles Eliot Norton, Boston, January 8, 1868 [4]

Union Club
8 January

My dear Norton,

It seems it is quite certain that B F Thomas, Esq, is nominated as Chief Justice; & the only hope is in the Veto of the Council.

1. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is a copy, not in Emerson's hand.

2. *Cf.* letters of Dec., 1867.

3. Emerson's "Address" was published in *Ceremonies at the Dedication of the Soldiers' Monument, in Concord, Mass.*, 1867.

4. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL. The year is fixed by the reference to Benjamin Franklin Thomas, who was nominated in 1868 to be chief justice of Massachusetts but was not confirmed. *Cf.* the letter of Jan. 12 following. Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar was a justice of the Supreme Judicial Court and was soon to become attorney-general of the United States for a brief term.

Do you know any counsellor Can not so fatal a mischief be averted I do not know but presume that Judge Hoar may resign on the announcement, & the mischief looks most serious.

Ever yours,
R. W. Emerson

C. E. Norton, Esq.

I think with Mr Forbes that a list of strong names would be of use, in protest.

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, January 12, 1868 [5]

Concord –
January 12th, 1868.

Dear Edith,

How about Friday? Can you go to Plymouth with me, on that day. I learn, last night, that Abraham Jackson will sit with Dr Jackson, & your mother, & me, on Thursday evening, in Somerset Street, & there I shall learn my lesson, which I am to carry to Plymouth the next day. Certainly, it will not be so gray a day if you go with me. I shall depend on finding you at Neponset: & is not Ralph to be of the party, & assist me in ciphering? We can tell Mr Isaac J. that we are mustering the heirs, & he had best surrender at discretion.

Ellen came home to our surprise yesterday afternoon, having remorsefully magnified her duty to her two sick Aunts, & spends the most of each day with them. They are both seriously ill, & Aunt Susan's days, I fear, soon numbered.[6] But I have not been permitted to see her since my return from the West.

We have the hope that the Council will veto the Governor's nomination of Judge Thomas,[7] thanks chiefly, I believe, to Mr Forbes's powerful working.

Love to Will & to your babes. R. W. E

Mrs Edith E. Forbes

5. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

6. According to her gravestone, in Sleepy Hollow, Concord, Susan Haven Emerson died on Feb. 6, 1868.

7. *Cf.* Jan. 8, 1868.

## To Charles Eliot Norton, Boston, January 16, 1868 [8]

Union Club
16 Jan$^{y}$ 1868

My dear Norton,

I heartily thank you for the good news your note [9] communicated & promised. I understand that in the present position the best hopes are entertained.

For the bad behavior which my slowness in the keeping of my venerably old promise [10] about the writing must needs appear to you I will venture to say that if new disturbances from the outsid [11] world, — which I have not been able of late to bar out of my study, — do not occur I shall hope to give you the paper you ask for, say, next Wednesday when you come to Concord which promises me & my townsmen an auspicious occasion.[12] So I remain with good hope ever Yours

R. W. Emerson

Charles E. Norton, Esq

## To Charles Eliot Norton, Concord? February 5, 1868 [13]

February 5

My dear Norton,

I send you by tomorrow morning's Express this promised roll of paper. It ought to reach you in just a fortnight from the hour when you said at Concord that it might have so much time. It wants correction sadly, yet I can mend it much by some very practicable work on the proofs.

Ever yours,
R. W. Emerson

Charles E. Norton, Esq

8. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL.

9. Presumably in reply to the letter of Jan. 8, 1868.

10. *Cf.* Oct. 7, 1866.

11. The word ran off the margin.

12. The MS records of the Concord Lyceum (in the Concord Free Public Library) show that Norton delivered his "Thought in America" on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 1868. The lecturer spent the night, as he wrote a friend, at the Emerson home (*Letters of Charles Eliot Norton*, I, 297–298). Presumably it is this lecture that Emerson criticizes in *Journals*, X, 229.

13. MS owned by the Bodleian Library; ph. in CUL. For the year, *cf.* Jan. 16, 1868. The conversation at Concord was doubtless on the occasion of Norton's lecture referred to in that letter. "Quotation and Originality" appeared in *The North American Review* for Apr., 1868.

## To Anne Charlotte Lynch Botta, Milton, Massachusetts, February 24, 1868

[MS listed, without the year, in American Art Association, Jan. 8–9, 1925. This letter and a photograph accompanying it were acknowledged by Mrs. Botta, New York, Apr. 13, 1868 (*Memoirs*, p. 296).]

## To Emma Lazarus, Concord, February 24, 1868 [14]

Concord
24 February 1868

My dear Miss Lazarus,

I have so happy recollections of the conversation at Mr Ward's,[15] that I am glad to have them confirmed by the possession of your book [16] & letter. The poems have important merits, & [I] I observe that my poet gains in skill as the poems multiply, & she may at last confidently say, I have mastered the obstructions, I have learned the rules:[I] henceforth I command the instrument, [II]& now, every new thought & new emotion shall make the keys eloquent to my own & to every gentle ear. Few know what treasure that conquest brings, – what independence & royalty. Grief, passion, disaster, are only materials of Art, & I see a light under the feet of Fate herself.[II] – Perhaps I like best the poems in Manuscript. Some of those in the book are too youthful, & some

14. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I–II were printed by Emma Lazarus in "Emerson's Personality," *The Century*, XXIV, 455 (July, 1882). This is apparently the first of the considerable series of letters Emerson wrote to Emma Lazarus, mainly in criticism of her poems.

15. The firm of which Ward was the head had moved to New York about 1858 (*The Early Years of the Saturday Club*, p. 115); and he is duly credited by *Trow's New York City Directory* for 1868–1869 with an office at 52 Wall St. and a residence at 89 Madison Ave. According to a writer in *The Critic*, n. s., VIII, 293 (Dec. 10, 1887), it was "Some years before 1870" that Emma Lazarus became acquainted with Emerson, "then staying with Mr. Samuel Gray Ward." E. L. Godkin (in *The American Hebrew*, XXXIII, 70, Dec. 9, 1887) said he first met Emma Lazarus at Ward's home twenty years earlier – which, if not a mathematically exact reckoning, would suggest the possibility that he met her at the same time Emerson did. That time, I conjecture, may have been late in Dec., 1866, when, we know, Emerson was in New York (*cf.* the note on Dec. 7, 1866). At the end of the MS memorandum book for that year are a number of addresses, including Ward's. But the meeting with the Jewish poetess may have occurred later, at a time of which I have no record.

16. A copy of *Poems and Translations. By Emma Lazarus. Written between the Ages of Fourteen and Seventeen*, 1867, is still in the Emerson library at the Antiquarian House and bears the inscription: "Mr Emerson with kind regards of Emma Lazarus. February 12th 1868. New York." It contains the poems named in the present letter.

words & some rhymes inadmissible. "Elfrida" & "Bertha" are carefully finished, & well told stories, but tragic & painful, — which I think a fault. You will count me whimsical, but I would never willingly begin a story with a sad end. Compensation for tragedy must be made in extraordinary power of thought, or grand strokes of poetry. But you shall instantly defy me, & send me a heartbreaking tale, so rich in fancy, so noble in sentiment that I shall prefer it to all the prosperities of time. I am so glad that you have kept your word to write to so ancient a critic, that I regret the more that you should have had to wait so long for a reply. But I was absent from home when your book arrived, & only now have found & read it.

Yours with all kind regards,
R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

### To Caroline Sturgis Tappan, Concord, March 12, 1868?[17]

Concord
12 March, Thursday

Dear Caroline,

I am delighted to be sent for, though I cannot come to you on Saturday. I have been twice on my way to Cambridge lately to find you, & both times prevented. Certainly I will send you word presently — — perhaps tomorrow, — what day I can come myself, & bring Ellen if she will: but Edward is on his way to Florida with Mr J. M Forbes at this moment. It is strange that you should be so near, & I never to see you: — but Cambridge is practically almost as far from me as Lenox.

Always yours,
R. W. Emerson

### To Welch, Bigelow, and Company? Concord, March 17, 1868

[MS listed and partly quoted in Merwin-Clayton Sales Co., Mar. 21, 1911, where it is described as "To the Printer"; mentions some changes to be made in the proof sheets of "Quotation and Originality," *The North American Review*, Apr., 1868. This volume of the *Review* was printed by Welch, Bigelow, & Co., of Cambridge.]

17. MS owned by Mrs. Gorham Brooks; ph. in CUL. The widest range of possible years when Mar. 12 fell on Thursday would include 1857, 1863, 1868, and 1874. But Edward would hardly have journeyed with J. M. Forbes in 1857 and the Civil War would, presumably, have made 1863 out of the question for a trip to Florida. J. M. Forbes frequently traveled to that state. On Mar. 23, 1868, Edith Emerson Forbes wrote from Lake George, Fla., but Edward was apparently not with her at that time.

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Boston, March? 1868? [18]

Boston Athenaeum
Wednesday

Dear Edith,

No letters today from Edward and you must impart of yours from Will to supply our want. I have made my second visit to the Professor Goodwin, tell Ellen, today in vain. I told his wife of Ellen's regret at leaving her door.[19] I picked these chamomiles or buttercups for you out of some beans & peas which Mr Sumner sent me yesterday. I trust the babes are well & riotous.

Papa.

## To Abby Larkin Adams, Concord, April 3, 1868 [20]

Concord
Friday Eve 3 April

Dear Abby,

I have just received your note. — I read the announcement

18. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The date March, 1868, has been supplied, but there are serious difficulties in accepting it. W. W. Goodwin, Cambridge, Mar. 25, 1868, told of his disappointment on returning home after his lecture that morning to find he had missed Emerson's visit. This would suggest that the present letter was written on that day, which happened to be Wednesday. But Edith Emerson Forbes had written from Lake George, Fla., on Mar. 23 and could hardly have reached home by the 25th, where she certainly was, however, at the time of this letter. If March of 1868 was the month of the letter, the Wednesday must have been the 4th, 11th, or 18th. Edward's absence would presumably fit the 11th or 18th, but he was off to Florida with J. M., not W. H., Forbes. It is possible, of course, that Goodwin's letter referred to a third visit of Emerson's, though it must be confessed that such a conjecture is not highly plausible. Finally, Apr. 1, 1868, would be a possibility only a little beyond the margin of the incomplete date supplied, on what authority I do not know. William Watson Goodwin, formerly a Concord boy, was a professor at Harvard. In his letter noted above he inclosed, he said, a tabular view of the Greek courses, with an account of examinations and of perfunctory visits of the committee of overseers. For Emerson as a member of the board of overseers of the college, *cf.* July 23, 1868, and later letters. In an unpublished part of his diaries he wrote the names of the members of the "Greek Committee" for 1867–1868, with his own first, as if he were chairman (typescript *Journals* for 1868–1870).

19. On the back of a letter from C. F. Christian to Emerson dated Bridgewater, Apr. 20, 1868, is a note from Lidian Emerson to Ellen stating that Professor Goodwin is to be at Taylor's house on Thursday. But this only makes the spring of 1868 more probable as the time of the present letter and offers no definite proof even as to year.

20. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year is obviously 1868, when Apr. 3 fell on Friday.

of your Aunt Mary's death,[21] — though too late to connect it with your absence on Saturday. Nor did I know that she had been suffering so sorely as you say. It is sad to think of as befalling one so kind & blameless as I remember her. Perhaps because I have seen so little extreme suffering, I have the habit of thinking that in most forms of disease the sensibility is dulled, so that the patient's pain is less than the friends think it. I shall cling to the belief.

You say you will come & tell us of your new plans. I shall be delighted to see you & hear of them. But not Monday, unless you can stay all night — for Ellen goes to the wedding visit of Anna Lowell[22] at Cambridge at 12 o'clock, & has an appointment with Dr Harwood[23] at 2 P. M, I believe. She is in Boston tonight at Dickens' Reading[24] with the Fields'. But I can think of nothing that can hold her from you on Tuesday, & if that day is free to you, we shall be at the door of your train at the Concord Station at 12 o'clock. If that day does not suit you, come Wednesday. Thursday is the only day of the week in which I must leave home. I shall see Elizabeth H. in the morning & tell her of your approach. I do not think of any person who could give so many valuable hints to a traveller in Europe.[25] So please bring your trunk & sit down for two or three days with us. I was very glad to hear that your Aunt had so bravely considered & adopted this design which ought to bring her a great store of health & happiness. Give my love & congratulation to her Your affectionate

R. W. Emerson

My wife sends kindest regards & joins in my requests.

## To Anne Charlotte Lynch Botta, Concord, April 9, 1868[26]

Concord, 9 April,
1868

Dear Mrs Botta,

I find that I am expected to read three or four lectures at

21. The *Boston Daily Advertiser,* Mar. 31, 1868, announced the death, in Amherst, N. H., on the 25th, of Mary C. Adams, 68, who was, I conjecture, the person referred to.

22. The marriage of Anna, daughter of Charles R. Lowell, to Henry E. Woodbury, at Cambridge, on the 6th, was reported *ibid.,* Apr. 9, 1868.

23. Daniel Harwood, dentist, is listed in *The Boston Directory* for 1868–1869.

24. Dickens was giving his series of farewell readings, and on the day of this letter he entertained a large audience with "Dr. Marigold" and "Mrs. Gamp" (*Boston Daily Advertiser,* Apr. 4, 1868).

25. See May 21, 1868, to William Emerson, for the sailing of Abby L. Adams and her "Aunt" Abby Adams, widow of Emerson's late friend Abel Adams.

26. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL.

Brooklyn, perhaps on alternate evenings, from the 20th April onward.[27] I mean to bring my daughter Ellen with me, & if I find you at home, & if your house is not crowded full, we shall beg a couple of beds for a night or two during our visit. Ellen's plan is ambitious & she is trying to persuade me to set out on the 18th, that she may carry me – after an old cherished whim of hers, – to hear Beecher[28] preach on Sunday. You shall please tell me if we may come thence directly to you on the Sunday.

I was in town today & heard of Dickens on every side.[29] But it seems he is quite spent, & almost prostrate, with the long accumulated exertion, & was obliged at the very last to decline the farewell banquet at which he was to be entertained.

Ever yours affectionately,
R. W. Emerson

Mrs A. C. L. Botta.

## To Anne Charlotte Lynch Botta, Concord, April 13, 1868[30]

Concord, April 13

Dear Mrs Botta,

With my thanks & Ellen's for your anticipating goodness, & alluring high prizes of Thursday & Friday, I yet understand that my despotic daughter will not or cannot allow me to advance by one day her astronomic almanac for New York.

We have both seen & heard Dickens,[31] & she no doubt has every hour of the week allotted to its duties, until Saturday. So I think you must

27. John W. Chadwick, Brooklyn, Apr. 6, said he had finally selected Apr. 20, 22, and 27 as the days for Emerson's lectures. The schedule actually followed in the course read before the Brooklyn Liberal Christian Union at Packer Institute was: "Eloquence," Apr. 20; "Man of the World," 22; "Relation of Intellect to Morals," 25 (*The Brooklyn Union*, Apr. 18–27, 1868). The MS memorandum book for this year shows that Emerson read or was to read, somewhere in Brooklyn, his "Rule of Life" on Sunday, the 26th. The letter cited above and others from Chadwick earlier, on the subject of the lectures, make it all but certain that Emerson wrote to him several times in March and April of this year.

28. Henry Ward Beecher was pastor of the Plymouth Congregational Church in Brooklyn.

29. The *Boston Daily Evening Transcript*, Apr. 9, 1868, gave an account of Dickens's farewell reading in Boston, on the 8th.

30. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL.

31. Dickens was now in New York, beginning another farewell series of readings (*The Evening Post*, Apr. 14, 1868). For the earlier seeing and hearing of Dickens, *cf.* a note on Dec. 8, 1867.

leave us to our fate & her Greenwich calendar, till Sunday noon, after church,[32] when we hope to salute you at your house. But if you chance to know that Mr Beecher is dead, or exiled, or excommunicated, & so the ordinances no longer his, then I shall be relieved from this filial tyranny, & shall rush to your doors.

Ever yours faithfully,
R. W. Emerson

Mrs Botta.

With my respects to Mr Botta, & congratulations on his return.

## To Emma Lazarus, Concord, April 14, 1868[33]

Concord, 14 April.
1868.

My dear Miss Lazarus,

You are very kind to write again, & it is good in these cold misplaced days to see your letters on my old desk. I shall not lose my faith in the return of spring. It is the more kind that you risk the wasting of time on such a shut-up dilatory correspondent. But on poetry there is so much to say, that I know not where to begin, & really wish to reply by a treatise of thirty sheets. I should like to be appointed your professor, you being required to attend the whole term. I should be very stern & exigeant, & insist on large readings & writings, & from haughty points of view. For a true lover of poetry must fly wide for his game, &, though the spirit of poetry is universal & is nearest, yet the successes of poets are scattered in all times & nations, & only in single passages, or single lines, or even words; nay, the best are sometimes in writers of prose. But I did not mean to begin my inaugural discourse on this note; but only sat down to say that I find I am coming to New York in the beginning of next week,[34] & I rely on your giving me an hour, & on your being docile, & concealing all your impatience of your tutor, nay, on your inspiring him by telling him your own results.

In which good hope,
I rest yours faithfully,

R. W. Emerson

Miss Lazarus.

32. *Cf.* Apr. 9, 1868.
33. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.
34. *Cf.* later letters of this month.

## To Herman Grimm, Concord, April 17, 1868

[MS owned by the Goethe- und Schiller-Archiv. Printed in *The Atlantic,* XCI, 478 (Apr., 1903), and in *Correspondence between Ralph Waldo Emerson and Herman Grimm,* p. 81. Grimm was absent when this letter of introduction was brought to Berlin, but it was left at his house, as W. W. Goodwin wrote to Emerson from Dresden, July 7, 1868.]

## To Emma Lazarus, New York? April 23, 1868 [35]

Thursday Evening
23d April

My dear Miss Emma,

I am sorry to find that I must lose for myself & my daughter the ride in the Park which you & your sister so kindly proposed. Ellen who has been visiting her friend Mrs Minturn [36] in Staten Island brings so urgent requests from Mrs Frank Shaw [37] who has very old claims on me, to come to her tomorrow, that I see I cannot combine such visit with other peremptory duties of tomorrow, without giving up the Park. If I shall stay longer than Monday, I shall ask you to repeat your invitation.

R. W. Emerson

## To Emma Lazarus, New York, April 26, 1868 [38]

Sunday
25 W. 37th Street [39]

My dear Miss Emma,

The Postmaster at Station G assured me on Friday morning that my note then deposited [40] would reach your door at 11 o'clock. I hope it brought its tardy explanation to you during the day, & told you that I must give up the visit to the Park, because Mrs Frank Shaw had sent

35. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL. The year is obviously 1868, when Apr. 23 fell on Thursday. For the lectures in Brooklyn at this time, see a note on Apr. 9, 1868. But Emerson was presumably at the home of Mrs. Botta in New York (*cf.* Apr. 26, 1868, and earlier letters to Mrs. Botta).

36. *Trow's New York City Directory* for 1868–1869 has a Robert B. Minturn, a merchant of South St., residing in Staten Island.

37. Probably the wife of Francis George Shaw, whose home was at New Brighton, Staten Island. They were the parents of Robert Gould Shaw, the soldier.

38. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL. For the date, *cf.* Apr. 23, 1868.

39. The envelope of the letter of Apr. 13, 1868, is addressed to Mrs. Botta at this street number.

40. Doubtless the letter of Thursday, Apr. 23.

for me to spend a night at Staten Island with my daughter under circumstances which made it a command. I grieved to learn that you & your sister should come once – twice – in vain to my door, on your beneficent errand. I have not even been able to come to your house [41] today to say this, & to say goodbye. So I hope you will imagine that I am a great philosopher lost in thought, or else that I have affairs of absorbing importance. Meantime I am sorry not to see you.

With great regard,
R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, May 3, 1868 [42]

Concord, 3 May.

Dear Edith,

It is not so far to Milton, but that I can see your face every day looking inquiringly through all the mists & rains as if to search where some of your old friends are, & why they do not write or come to see you & yours. Well, they also are gazing in your direction, & so eagerly, that it is strange that they have not one of them arrived at your door. But Ellen being absent, your Mother was held fast by care of Uncle William.[43] Edward has been the victim of his cold; & I, who am nothing but an old anchor, have only to stick my flukes deeper in the mud. But we are all cheered by tidings that you are coming on Wednesday, &, this note comes only to confirm your purpose. It would not be prudent for Edward to leave his fireplace until his obstinate cough is broken up, & the weather is really mild. Ellen is not clear of her cold yet, &, on all accounts, tis better that you should bring the babes here, whom we are pining to see. So persuade Will to come with you on Wednesday; or, if office & vineyard forbid, then let him follow you at the earliest hour. Come & hear Ellen's New York tales,[44] & soothe your Mother, & read with us Mr Lesley's new book,[45] & comfort Papa.

41. *Trow's New York City Directory* for 1868–1869 lists Emma Lazarus's father, Moses Lazarus, refiner, residing at 36 W. 14th St.

42. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Evidence cited below confirms the year 1868, supplied on the MS.

43. *Cf.* the note on a letter of May 10, 1868, for William Emerson's illness in his brother's house a little earlier, and for Edward's recovery as reported from Concord.

44. The letters of Apr. 23 and 26 show that Ellen was then in New York.

45. *Cf.* the letter of the same date to Emma Lazarus.

## To George Washington Greene, Concord, May 3, 1868 [46]

Concord
3 May 1868

Dear Sir, Thank you for your friendly note. The passage from Gibbon, I ought to have recalled in time, as it was long ago a favorite book of mine. That from Fra Paolo is quite new to me & certainly carries the sarcasm back a long way & to a distinguished original.

Yours with kind regards
R. W. Emerson

George W. Greene, Esq.

## To Emma Lazarus, Concord, May 3, 1868 [47]

Concord —
3 May, 1868.

My dear friend,

I am delighted with your kindness, & I try to believe that it really covers up all my short-comings. I was sadly vexed that my visit to New York [48] should have ended with so short an interview with yourself, to whom I had promised to be so frank & tedious. But we must accept what the all-disposing Genius allows, without murmurs. It is a sufficient happiness to have the eye opened to the miracle of Nature, & the ear to that music which reports it, & which we call poetry; though this last is a grandly loose term, & covers all of suggestion, as well as of rhythmical success. But we live among hints from the gods, & are often more lifted & guided by a hint than by a course of study or of practice. These may make us solid & satisfactory, but the other is the light of all our day,[49] & having seen it, we never can be quite mean. Did I add Marcus Antoninus to my rambling list of books,[50] or do

46. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. The "3" of the date line was written over "2." Greene, who lived in Rhode Island and who was a grandson of Washington's General Nathanael Greene, was known in his time as a historian and is remembered by students of American literature for his friendship with Longfellow. I conjecture that Greene had noted earlier sources, in Edward Gibbon and in Paolo Sarpi, the Venetian historian, for some passage Emerson had cited, perhaps in the recently published "Quotation and Originality" (*cf.* the note on Feb. 5, 1868).

47. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.

48. The visit of the preceding month referred to in earlier letters.

49. Wordsworth's immortality "Ode," l. 152.

50. Some light is thrown upon the nature of the reading list which Emerson must

you already keep him on your table? Read Taine's little chapter about him, — " Nouveaux Essais de critique." [51] You will no doubt find much you will not care for, but a few of his Antonine's sentences cannot be mended. And in literature as in life, I believe the units or atoms outvalue the masses. And of books there is another which, when you have read, you shall sit for a while & then write a poem, — The " Bhagvat Geeta," but read it in Charles Wilkins's translation.[52] You will not thank me for lists of books, & yet here is another, which I read yesterday with great interest, — Mr J. P. Lesley's " Man's Origin & Destiny," — just now published in Philadelphia,[53] & which has every attraction. But perhaps you are impatient of books, & I too would have you read haughtily, & call even your favorites to strict account, & not the less that you tell me you have honored mine. Certainly your letters will be welcome to me, if you dare risk the homilies I shall send you in reply. R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

### To William Torrey Harris, Concord? May? *c.* 8? 1868

[Mentioned in June 1, 1868. Harris, St. Louis, May 13, 1868, said that he was returning by mail the Schwegler Emerson lent him and that he hoped Stirling would be the successful candidate for the chair " of which you speak." Harris also said he was glad to learn that Stirling was not so badly off financially as had been reported. The information to which Harris referred had come to Emerson in J. H. Stirling's letter dated Edinburgh, Apr. 16, 1868, so that the letter to Harris was almost certainly written between May 1 and 13. All of this is clear in the light of June 1, 1868.]

### To William Emerson, Concord? May 10, 1868

[William Emerson, New York, May 14, 1868 (MS owned by Dr. Haven Emerson), acknowledged this letter; he was glad to learn that Edward was mending and that Emerson had had a good visit with Edith and her family; and he alludes to his own sickness " while you sheltered me " at Concord.]

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have given Emma Lazarus by a note on June 23, 1868. The choice of books was one of Emerson's favorite topics, as we know from plentiful proofs in his collected works. He had supplied lists for young readers in the letters of *c.* 1824 and Feb. 1, 1832. Letters of late 1868 and early 1869 relate to his course of readings of choice passages to a " class " in Boston, and a few years later came *Parnassus.*

51. This had appeared some three years earlier. The word " Antonine's," in the following sentence, is written between the lines of the MS.

52. *Cf.* the letters of May 30, 1845, and Aug. 4, 1873.

53. J. B. Lippincott, of Philadelphia, announced this book in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* of Apr. 30, 1868, as just published. There is now among Emerson's books at the Antiquarian House a copy of a much later edition inscribed by the author.

## To William Watson Goodwin, Concord? May 10, 1868

[Goodwin, Dresden, July 7, 1868, said that he received this letter as he was leaving London for Berlin and that Emerson was very good to take so much pains to find him in New York.]

## To William Emerson, Concord, May 21, 1868 [54]

Concord 21 May

Dear William,

I have two letters to thank you for, & could wish they spoke in firmer tone of your returning health. One addressed to Edward was written on a better day. But we must resign vigor to our children, & content ourselves with what slowness of deterioration we can effect. We are all glad to be summoned to Haven's wedding,[55] & shall at least send representatives. Ellen delights in Susie.

Yesterday's Advertiser announces the death of Mrs Sally Kast Shepard,[56] announcing her funeral to be at the Trinity Church Boston, on the arrival of the New York train 5. o'c P. M. I was not able to attend it at that hour. I ought to have told you what you may have already learned, – that Mrs Jane Wigglesworth Grew died, in Boston, a fortnight since.[57]

The heavy weather which annoys the farmers, I suppose you cannot quite ignore in the city, though 'buses & horse cars make life more tolerable for you. My friends Mrs Adams & Abby go to N. Y. to sail for Liverpool, on the 3d proximo,[58] & Ellen will find them in her train. The Longfellows go I think on the 25th Mr Gurney is to take charge of the " North American," [59] during Norton's absence, who sails later.[60]

54. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL. The year " 1868," probably not a part of the original date line, is clearly correct.

55. According to the *New-York Tribune*, June 4, 1868, Dr. J. Haven Emerson was married to Susan, daughter of Ray Tompkins, of New York, on June 2.

56. The death, at New Haven, Conn., on May 18, of Sally Inman, wife of the Rev. George C. Shepard and daughter of the late Dr. Thomas Kast, of Boston, was announced in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* of May 20, 1868. Both she and her husband were cousins of Emerson; *cf.* the note on Sept. 3, 1821.

57. The *Boston Daily Evening Transcript*, May 7, 1868, recorded the death of Jane, wife of Henry Grew, of Dorchester.

58. " Mrs Adams " and " Miss Adams " are listed among the passengers in the " Scotia," New York for Liverpool, *ibid.*, June 4, 1868. The same newspaper for May 28, 1868, shows that several Longfellows, including the poet, together with T. G. Appleton, left New York for Liverpool in the " Russia," which sailed on the 27th.

59. Ephraim Whitman Gurney was associated with Lowell as editor in 1868–1870.

60. In July (*Letters of Charles Eliot Norton*, I, 300).

We find J. P. Lesley's book, " Origin & Destiny of Man " full of recent science & charming by its vivacity & aperçus, though he runs his " Arkite " [61] theory into the ground.

Edward went to Milton two days ago, in somewhat mended health, believing that the sun would shine, — as eventually it will for us all. With love to all your household; affectionately

Wm Emerson, Esq. Waldo E.

To Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Concord, May 21, 1868 [62]

Concord
May 21 1868

My dear Mr Higginson,

Forgive me for my delays, & I do not know but I ought promptly to add, for my refusals. I am the worst speaker known to the platforms & ever deteriorating Meantime, I hate to be counted out of the minorities, & should like well to attend the Meeting you propose,[63] & not speak, & so am ever your useless servant,

R. W. Emerson

T. W. Higginson, Esq.

To William Wetmore Story, Concord, May 30, 1868 [64]

Concord
30 May 1868

Dear Mr Story,

Two dear friends of mine, whose house has always been one of my homes, Mrs Adams (widow of the late Abel Adams,) & her adopted daughter, Miss Adams, are leaving home for an extended tour, & mean to be in Rome after a few months. I believe, you & Mrs Story

61. *Cf.* a note on May 3, 1868, to Emma Lazarus. Chap. xi is " On Arkite Symbolism."

62. MS owned by Mrs. J. Dellinger Barney; ph. in CUL.

63. A MS copy of this letter owned by RWEMA (ph. in CUL) has this note in square brackets: " In answer to an invitation to address the first annual meeting of the Free Religious Association." That Emerson had been active when that society was formed is shown by his " Remarks " at the meeting of May 30, 1867 (*Cent. Ed.*, XI). The first annual meeting occurred on May 28 and 29, 1868, and Higginson was prominent among the speakers (*Boston Daily Advertiser*, May 25 and 30, 1868). Emerson attended at least one session (*cf. Journals*, X, 245).

64. MS owned by Messrs. Dulau & Co.; ph. in CUL. For the sailings of the Adamses and the Longfellow party, *cf.* May 21, 1868, to William Emerson.

were formerly acquainted with Miss Adams, but I am not the less ambitious to fancy that I attend my friends to your door, & send up my card at least with them. I could heartily wish that I could go with them in person to your house & your studio. But I know that what such travellers really most want, – good direction to the most competent guide, (or professor I should say,) who could wisely show them the historical points of Rome, & the works of art, – you can best advise them how to secure.

The Longfellows & T. Appleton sailed last week, & I suppose will find you soon. I rejoice in your works & your fame, but hope for your return to Massachusetts.

R. W. Emerson

W. W. Story, Esq.

## To James Hutchison Stirling, Concord, June 1, 1868 [65]

Concord, 1 June, 1868.

Dear Mr Stirling,

I confess that my habits as a correspondent are the worst. I received, about the 1st December last, your gift of the Translation of Schwelger.[66] I was then just setting out for Saint Louis, Missouri, and as I considered myself a quite incompetent judge of such a book, I took it with me to put it in the hands of a friend, Mr Harris,[67] of that city, whom I think one of the most competent, being himself a courageous student of Hegel, – & left it with him to be returned at his early convenience. On receiving your letter,[68] I wrote to him [69] to send the book, as I had now leisure, & might at least venture timidly on the precincts. And I hoped in the meantime the "Critical Essays" you announced as being sent by you would arrive: But it has miscarried somewhere, &

65. MS owned by Mr. Owen D. Young; ph. in CUL.

66. The name is misspelled. A copy of the *Handbook of the History of Philosophy by Dr. Albert Schwegler. Translated and Annotated by James Hutchison Stirling, LL.D.*, 2d ed., Edinburgh, 1868, is still in the Emerson library at the Antiquarian House. The first edition was dated 1867.

67. *Cf.* Dec. 16? 1867.

68. Stirling, Edinburgh, Apr. 16, 1868, said he was a candidate for the vacant chair of moral philosophy at Edinburgh. The earlier testimonial (the first letter of May 8, 1866, recommending Stirling for a professorship at Glasgow) was still available, but he would be glad if Emerson found any reason in the new books to add to it. All papers must be forwarded to the electory before June 1.

69. Letter of May? *c.* 8? 1868.

came not. Schwelger came at last. . . .[70] with perfect comity yet with effect. Still I read superficially, & it would be rash for me to affect to weigh the translator & annotator. Meantime, the Critical Essays [71] not coming, it occurred that other copies might swim, if mine had lodged; I sent to an importer & was so fortunate as to procure a copy, which I have carefully read. The Analysis of Macaulay is excellent: The "Coleridge" painful, though I fear irrefutable. Yet he was so efficient a benefactor to that generation of which he had the teaching, that I think his merits understated. The "Tennyson" is a magnificent statue, — the first adequate work of its kind, — his real traits & superiorities rightly shown. — But Shelley, — was he the poet? He was a man in whom the spirit of the Age was poured, — man of aspiration, heroic character; but poet? Excepting a few well known lines about a cloud & a skylark, I could never read one of his hundreds of pages, and, though surprised by your estimate, despair of a re-attempt. Keats *had* poetic genius, though I could well spare the whole Endymion. The doubt has crossed my mind once or twice, that your friendships hoodwink your dangerous eyes.

. . . . .[72]

With great regard, yours,
R. W. Emerson

J. H. Stirling, Esq.

P. S.

. . .[73] I sincerely hope for the sake of the Cause generally, that he may be the successful candidate for the Chair of which you speak."

70. The one sentence and part of the following one here omitted are printed in Amelia H. Stirling, p. 187. Emerson tells of his reading of the Schwegler and of his appreciation of the way in which Stirling, in his notes, had disposed of critics.

71. Stirling's *Jerrold, Tennyson and Macaulay with Other Critical Essays*, Edinburgh, 1868. This volume was announced among "New Books by Steamer" in the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, May 4 of this year. The essays referred to below are "Lord Macaulay," "De Quincey and Coleridge upon Kant," and "Alfred Tennyson." The last of these contains high praise of Shelley and Keats, who, Stirling says, form, with Tennyson, the richest of poetic triads — The Three Graces of English literature (p. 53).

72. The paragraph here omitted, covering about one of the eight pages of the MS, is printed in Amelia H. Stirling, p. 209. Emerson said that he would be glad if the University of Edinburgh rather than that of Glasgow was to have Stirling but that he had had no means of forming a new judgment till too late for the first of June.

73. About one and a half MS pages, including the first part of a quotation from a letter written to Emerson by W. T. Harris in praise of Stirling, are here omitted. The omitted passage is printed in Amelia H. Stirling, p. 187. For Harris's letter, see also a note on May? *c.* 8? 1868.

## To William Emerson, Concord, June 11, 1868 [74]

Concord
11 June, Thursday

Dear William,

I have to thank you for one letter – I fear for two letters – since I have written. But many sins have made the conscience callous And I hoped daily to hear of your mended health. But if the body is slow at reform, I rejoice with you in this every way happy rebuilding of your household by your children.[75] My young people sympathize so heartily with yours that they looked on the whole occasion as their own, & the ancients were gratified to see the bridegroom & the bride at one halt in their march. You must yet send me better news of yourself as I have many enquries [76] to answer. I spent a half hour with Dr Frothingham, the other day, who spoke of you with a sort of re-searching kindness as if exploring his earliest recollections of your youth, – & he used the most affectionate expressions Mr Sanborn sells his house at auction today, & departs to Springfield [77] & Ashfield. He was here last evening, & plainly means to return here to live at a future day. You have, I suppose, seen the notice of the death of Dr Noyes of Cambridge.[78] The more liberal of his students held him to be their best teacher, – which surprised me when I first heard it.

Morris's new poem which has come to me yesterday [79] reads as easily as Jason [80] – the same plain-song style, & absence of lyric flights. Such poetry has great merits for the reader, but also you can afford to omit it, as you cannot Gray & Wordsworth. I read lately with great interest (Hegelian) Stirlings Critical Essays on Macaulay, Coleridge & Tennyson.[81] It is acute & adequate, though my scale of the poets would not

74. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL. Evidence cited below shows that the year was 1868, when June 11 fell on Thursday.

75. The recent wedding in the family is referred to in May 21, 1868, to William Emerson.

76. The word is incompletely written.

77. F. B. Sanborn appears in the *Springfield City Directory*, 1868, as assistant editor of the *Springfield Daily Republican*.

78. According to the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, June 5, 1868, the Rev. George R. Noyes died in Cambridge on the 3d of that month, at the age of seventy. *Cf.* Aug. 31, 1827, for his early days at Harvard.

79. *The Earthly Paradise*, first published abroad more than a month earlier, was advertised by Roberts Brothers in the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, June 10, 1868, as ready that day.

80. *The Life and Death of Jason* was published in June, 1867.

81. See June 1, 1868.

agree with his. In your Ball house young Walcutt was married day before yesterday [82] with the good wishes of all the town. Lidian is at Milton & Ellen is scouring the town in the rain. Your affectionate

Waldo E.

## To Emma Lazarus, Concord, June 23, 1868 [83]

Concord
June 23 1868

My dear Miss Lazarus,

I am sorry to have been so bad a correspondent lately, & to you to whom I did not mean to be wanting. For I prize your letters, & mean to reply, because they interest me. It is vain to say, Write on generously, whether I write or not – don't mind an old scholar's procrastinations. It were unreasonable to try you with such ingratitude, &, no doubt, would break down even such goodness as yours. But I have happened to have some more than usual engagements lately. Then I understood your father to speak of going to Newport, this summer, & I fancied I might see you there with the leisure supposed to belong to such places, which would be better than much writing. Yet I must qualify this too, for I often think a little writing carries more of what I wish to know than many interviews, but as I had assumed to make suggestions for your reading,[84] & there is no end to the library, it seemed we could dispose of it faster in conversation. And I have promised my friend Miss Sarah Clarke, of Newport, a visit of a few days in the second week of July.[85] But if you are at East Haven, we must hold by the post office still. [1]Books are a safe ground, & a long one, but still introductory only, for what we really seek is ever comparison of experiences – to know if you have found therein what alone I prize, or still better if you have found what I have never found, & yet is admirable to me also. Books so tyrannize over our solitude that we like to revenge ourselves by mak-

82. The *Boston Daily Advertiser* of June 13, 1868, reported that Henry J. Walcott (for so it spelled the name) was married to Ellen S. Johnson at Concord on the 9th.

83. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL. Excerpt I is in *The Century*, XXIV, 455 (July, 1882).

84. *Cf.* May 3, 1868, to Emma Lazarus. It was probably the list of books Emerson had supplied that accounted for some of her adventures in reading at this time. She wrote from Ryeland Cottage, New Haven, Conn., June 27, 1868, of her dreamy, happy life for the last fortnight in a place on Long Island Sound. She had read little, she said, except from Nature – only *A Week* and letters of Thoreau and a poem or two from Walt Whitman. These writers were quite in harmony with Nature. She no longer wondered at Emerson's admiration for Thoreau. Her father added a note, urging that Emerson accept her invitation to visit them at New Haven.

85. See the letters of that month.

ing them very secondary & merely convenient as hints & counters in conversation. Yes & I hold that we have never reached their best use until our own thought rises to such a pitch that we cannot afford to read much. I own this loftiness is rare & we must long be thankful to our silent friends before the day comes when we can honestly dismiss them.[1]

But I have come to the end of my paper. Ever with friendliest regard,

R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

## To Anna C. Green, Concord, June 30, 1868 [86]

Concord
June 30, 1868

Dear Miss Green,

I fear you have thought me a sad cynic to have utterly neglected the letter which ought plainly to have fixed my attention & found an answer at once. But my correspondence is large, – larger than I can meet as it requires, & I at almost all times indisposed to write any letter that is not indispensable. Tis only at intervals that I dare take up my sheaves of letters to see what has been neglected. And tonight I have alighted on yours which I must have read on its first arrival without recalling the person of its author. I now believe that you must be the young lady who, with Miss Tryon, represented the Society which invited me to Pulteney,[87] & who with her gave me that pleasant drive to the quarries in your neighborhood. I hope I am not mistaken – for if it be not as I suppose, – I am at sea again. But for

86. MS owned by Charles and Anna Green Rohlfs, Emerson's correspondent; ph. in CUL. Anna Katharine Green – for so she altered her name, her husband informs me, for literary purposes – is known as the author of numerous books, mainly of fiction.

87. For Emerson's visit to Poultney, Vt., and for Virginia Tryon, see July 2, 1865. *A Quarterly Journal Devoted to Female Education, Published by Ripley Female College*, II, 17 (July, 1866), lists both A. C. Green and V. G. Tryon as members of the Irving Association, the society that had invited Emerson to Poultney the preceding year. Another organization took a hand in entertaining the lecturer. Julia C. R. Dorr wrote to Emerson from Rutland, Vt., Sept. 26, 1865, that she had heard much about his visit to Poultney from his warm friends and admirers, the young ladies of the M. Y. O. B. Mr. Rohlfs informs me that Anna Green initiated Emerson into that secret society. On p. 6 of the same issue of *A Quarterly Journal* cited above is a report of the commencement exercises of June 26, 1866, which names Anna C. Green, of New York, as a member of the graduating class. According to *Who's Who in America*, she did not graduate till 1867, but this is apparently an error.

the verses which you sent me, & which I have just been reading. They are well chosen & give me as you meant they should a good guess at your style & quality of your work: clearly indicate a certain good degree attained in power of expression, & the specimens together show the variety & range of the thought. It is much to have got so far, & you cannot easily stop there, but will attempt new steps & heights in these pleasant experiments. I think one is to be congratulated on every degree of success in this kind, because it opens such a new world of resource & to which every experience glad or sad contributes new means & occasion. But it is quite another question whether it is to be made a profession, — whether one may dare leave all other things behind, & write. And I should say, this cannot be determined by cold election. If our thoughts come in such wealth & with such heat that we have no choice, but must watch & obey & live for them, the question is answered for us But for the most part the writing talent only adds to culture & to resources, & lifts society here in America, but the creative power is & remains rare. I should say to you, write whenever you can, & be thankful; read Milton & Shakspeare a good deal from time to time to see if your own lines are growing more cheerful & wise; And with whatever success you obtain, you will be sure of that one, — that all your writing educates to a better insight & enjoyment of the good minds & of Nature. I do not know whether to send back the verses you have confided to me or not.

With great regard,

Miss Anna C. Green. R W Emerson

### To Annie Adams Fields, Concord? *c.* June? 1868?

[Incompletely printed in *Harper's,* LXVIII, 465 (Feb., 1884), and in Annie Fields, *Authors and Friends,* p. 98. The reference to Stirling's *Jerrold, Tennyson and Macaulay,* of which Emerson had told Mrs. Fields, apparently not long before, indicates that this letter was written soon after that of June 1, 1868; in all probability it was not earlier than May of that year.]

### To Ellen Emerson, Boston? July 4, 1868 [88]

Saturday Noon
4 July

Dear Ellen,

In my 2[d] or 3[d] drawer of cabinet lies an open paper given me by Mr Charles Hayward, entitling us to the use of the Ladies' Bath,

88. MS owned by Miss Pauline Forbes; ph. in CUL. It is clear from evidence cited below that the year was 1868, when July 4 fell on Saturday.

at the Pond,[89] & which I think you & Edith D.[90] may find a convenience some morning or evening. The pic-nicers do not usually arrive till ten, I think, & depart at 5.15 P. M. & on many days do not come at all. He has promised attention to Edith [91] complaint about the pool. Mr Hobson will come in a few days, & will make the spout over the well good at once,[92] & the long ones a little later I am sorry to say that I think you must put into my trunk Morris's " Earthly Paradise," [93] though I meant yesterday that Edie D. should have the benefit of it, if she liked. But that is uncertain, & Miss Clarke,[94] if she has not read it, I know will prize it. Be careful that your Mother brings the key of the trunk, which I put into the key hole. She must be sure & leave room in the trunk for my clothes which Tolman is to give me on Monday: coat & pantaloons.

The loaded train took an hour & a half to reach Boston, not alert enough for the " Alert " [95] so I went to the bridge, & looked at the first race in beatific ignorance from afar. But of course I had more time for my papers, which I needed.

## To Emma Lazarus, Boston, July 6, 1868 [96]

Boston —
6 July, 1868 —

My dear Miss Lazarus,

I received your own & your father's friendly invitation,[97] & like well to hold it as a bright contingency, but I own with no near hope of availing myself of it. I wish you would express to him my thanks for his courtesy. I am here in town awaiting the arrival of my wife on the way to Newport. But the inveterate gravitation of an old scribe to

89. Walden, presumably.

90. Edith Davidson is mentioned in earlier letters.

91. At the end of a page; apparently Emerson forgot the structure of his sentence when he turned the leaf.

92. Ellen Emerson replied, Concord, July 7, 1868, that Hobson and the tinner came that morning to see about the spout.

93. See June 11, 1868.

94. July 10, 1868, tells of Emerson's visit to Sarah Clarke.

95. The regatta at Boston on July 4 drew a curious variety of contestants and was regarded as deciding the American championship — won by a boat manned mostly by brothers. The " Alert " was a small steamer chartered by friends of Harvard to run alongside the course during the races. Its passengers " included Hon. Emory Washburn, Hon. R. H. Dana, jr., and other distinguished gentlemen, with a number of the Harvard faculty." (*Boston Daily Advertiser*, July 6, 1868.)

96. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.

97. See a note on June 23, 1868.

his study-chair will no doubt carry me quickly back even from the surf & the shining faces of Newport: So if you have any riddles for me to read, or books to praise, or poetry to uplift me you shall hold me by it at Newport or let me find it at Concord.

And thus I remain

Your friend,

R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Newport, Rhode Island, July 10, 1868 [98]

Newport
10 July

Dear Edith,

We have been spending very pleasant days in very pleasant company since Monday eve [99] & tomorrow morning I depart for Concord.[100] Your Mother cannot leave her bed so early as seven o'clock, & so must stay till the P. M. train too late for Concord, & means to stop at Neponset, & spend her Sunday with you. But just here Mr S. Clarke informs me, that it is far better she should go to Boston, & there take the 6.15 train to Milton, & so let it be: for the train from Newport should arrive in Boston about 5.30 Great are the attractions & enjoyments of Newport Sarah Clarke is always noble & beneficent & draws excellent people about her. George Bradford & Mr Brooks [101] & Tom Ward & Anna Thoron [102] & Mrs Howe [103] come to see us, & we go to see them & the hospitalities of the rocks & beaches are incessant. I am sorry I cannot come & spend the Sunday with you also but a little later shall have that happiness But the mail goes.

Papa

Mrs Edith E. Forbes

98. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year 1868, which has been added to Emerson's date line, fits exactly the evidence of other letters of this time.

99. July 6. For Emerson in Boston on his way to Newport, see the letter of that day.

100. Probably the report published in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* of July 15, 1868, was a little out of date: "Among the summer visitors at Newport is Ralph Waldo Emerson."

101. Doubtless the Charles Timothy Brooks of earlier letters.

102. Presumably Tom Ward's sister, mentioned in May 5, 1859.

103. Probably Julia Ward Howe, who, at any rate, read some of her essays in the Unitarian Church at Newport in the summer of 1868 (Laura E. Richards and Maud Howe Elliott, I, 291; *cf.* also the note on Nov.? *c.* 20? 1863?).

## To William Emerson, Concord, July 23, 1868 [104]

Concord 23 July

Dear William,

I grieve to have sent you no tidings in all these weeks of us, & you with I fear too much leisure at home. But there was little to send, especially in these last days, when I have been shut up & enfeebled & self displeased in all ways by an odious carbuncle on a large part of my left cheek. Luckily it held off till I got through my visit to Sarah Clarke, at Newport, where I saw George Bradford, & Brooks, & Mrs Helen Hunt,[105] who writes verses now & then in the "Nation," short but good, & is herself interesting. Miss Clarke is an old & valued friend.[106] The Sea is always good & makes the whole day & every day a vacation. We crossed the water to the Fort, & Lidian saw Mrs Arthur & her babe.[107] And plainly Newport will be Bath or Montpelier or a Versailles in time: has even the Redwood Library, with the gifts of Bishop Berkeley.[108] I did not see or hear of Calvert,[109] but was twice at Sam Ward's noble house, admirably placed.[110] I was forced to go to Cambridge to an important meeting of the Overseers on Commencement Day,[111] in spite of my facial eruption, (which soon became cra-

104. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL. The year 1868, supplied, apparently by William Emerson, is obviously correct.

105. Bradford and Brooks are mentioned in July 10, 1868. Emerson recorded his hearty praise of the poems of Helen Fiske Hunt (later Helen Hunt Jackson) and his good opinion of the author herself in *Journals*, X, 252; *cf.* also Dec. 8, 1870. Higginson had met the young widow in 1866 (*Letters and Journals*, p. 244). A copy of her *Verses*, Boston, 1874, is still in Emerson's library at the Antiquarian House and contains a note in his hand showing that it was the gift of the author.

106. She had been a pupil in the Emersons' school for young ladies more than forty years earlier (*cf. Journals*, X, 250–251, note).

107. Alice Jackson, Emerson's niece, had married Lieut. William Arthur (*cf.* Feb. 17, 1867, to Lidian Emerson).

108. Contradictory statements are to be found on this point. According to David King, *An Historical Sketch of the Redwood Library and Athenaeum*, 1860, p. iii, the library had its origin in a literary and philosophical society founded in 1730, with the encouragement of Berkeley; but as the original plan did not include a library, the philosopher, on his departure in 1731, left valuable books to Harvard and Yale which, under other circumstances, he would undoubtedly have left for the library of the Newport society.

109. George H. Calvert, mentioned in many early letters, is duly listed in *Boyd's Newport City Directory*, both of 1865 and of 1869.

110. Described as at Ocean Point (*ibid.*, 1865).

111. The *Boston Daily Advertiser*, July 15, 1868 (commencement day), announced the adjourned meeting for that morning. Emerson was an overseer from 1867 to 1879.

ters,) & thence to my class,[112] who mustered nine men, & made a pleasant meeting. I saw Oliver in the horse-car, who inquired eagerly if you were to dine with him at Mr Curtis's,[113] & told him I had little hope of it. Since then, I have stayed at home & measured the time by by plasters. Ellen, though not strong, has coaxed Dr Bartlett's leave to carry her party to Monadnoc, & sets forth on Monday; &, on her return, means to carry her mother to Princeton [114] for a week, so that I am to have my fill of solitude. We hear from time to time of Charles at Milton, & now, I think, on his way to Naushon. I am anxious to hear of you, & how you fight off sickness & hot weather by a son & daughter, & doctors & books & patient courage & skill. Not a word do I hear of Nantucket since I saw you. Great is the sea, but I know well that in a journey & the search of new quarters, time & chance have often too much power for a sick man. But when it is quite easy to you, write me a little letter about the facts. Your affectionate brother

Waldo E.

## To Emma Lazarus, Concord, July 28, 1868 [115]

Concord, July 28

It was a pity not to go to East Haven when I was on my travels,[116] & learn a little more of you than much writing could tell me. So had I been qualified for your ghostly counsellor in all emergences, & at least might have had a basis for letters, & could never as I may now write wide of the mark. But such a journey was quite out of my plans, & indeed not to be thought of then. Yet of course I mean to see you when I can easily, & shall not be in New York again, I hope, without a good conversation. Have you not read in Bohn's Plato the dialogue of " Theages," wherein Socrates gives his theory of what one can do

112. The meeting of the class of 1821 was announced for commencement day (*ibid.*).

113. The Harvard catalogues of 1814 and 1815 show that Thomas H. Oliver was a freshman and sophomore with William Emerson. He seems to have dropped out before the beginning of the junior year. The *Boston Daily Advertiser* of July 15, 1868, announced that the class of 1818 would dine at the residence of Nathaniel Curtis, Beacon St., on that afternoon. Horse cars were running in Boston before 1868, it is clear from the annual report of the Metropolitan Railroad Co., printed *ibid.*, Jan. 2, 1869.

114. Princeton, Mass., no doubt, for Mt. Wachusett; *cf.* Aug. 9 following. Ellen was in Vermont with her father some three weeks after the present letter was written (see Aug. 13, 1868).

115. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.

116. *Cf.* the letters of July 6 and 10, 1868.

for another in discourse, & what are the stern conditions?[117] I think Socrates never appears more lovely. I am a heavy visiter, never go anywhere to stay, without sinning against my foresight, & being well punished. I must not forget that my friends at Newport were bountiful angels from whom one could almost expect his own reformation.

Your friend,

R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

## To Lidian Emerson, Concord, August 9, 1868[118]

Concord, August 9, 1868.

Dear Lidian,

Short time, long oration, Ralph, & picking apples, will not allow me any longer letter than to hold the inclosed $5. & to bid you use all your might, & philosophy, & maternity, to get sleep & health for you & your daughter. Edith has been held here against her will, & I fear much to the prejudice of her comfort to take care of her dear lonely sour papa, but greatly to the ornament of his mansion both by her & her husband, not omitting the little smiler. I shall bring Ellen, in my trunk, Edith says, some warm gown.

R. W. Emerson

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Underhill, Vermont, August 13, 1868[119]

Underhill Vermont.
13 August, 1868

Dear Will,

If those Vt. & Canada shares which I brought you a few days ago, are not sold, I think they should be at once. In the stage coach

117. *The Works of Plato,* London, Henry G. Bohn, 1861, IV, 415–416. Emerson had referred to the same passage of the dialogue in his lecture on Plato in *Representative Men* (*Cent. Ed.*, IV, 66–67).

118. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Presumably Ellen, with her mother, had gone to Princeton, Mass. (*cf.* July 23, 1868). Perhaps her father accompanied her from that town into Vermont (see Aug. 13 following).

119. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Emerson noted in *Journals,* X, 253, that he stopped at Middlebury, Vt., on the 11th to read his discourse on "Greatness." This was apparently the same lecture – or a preliminary sketch of it – with which he was to close his Boston course a few months later (see a note on Oct. 3, 1868). The letter of Aug. 24 of this year has an account of his experiences at Mt. Mansfield.

yesterday I heard some new movements discussed affecting that road, which seemed to me to threaten its value. But I am the worst judge, yet would sell them

Ellen & I are here to climb the Mansfield Mountain; but Mr Bradford, who should have arrived last night does not come. We shall give him so much time as to the next train & if he comes not we must climb if the clouds permit

Love to all your house

R. W. Emerson

W. H. Forbes Esq.

### To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, August 16, 1868 [120]

Concord
16 August

Dear Edith,

I am always delighted to think of Milton, & to be asked to come to you, whether I can come or not: but old gentlemen are heavy weights, & cannot go & come like young daughters: Yet am I not to be hindered of this visit promised for this week by all the old age in the world: — mean to come if there be twenty rheumatisms. You shall not expect to escape me by any means short of your own sickness, which, one line of your note appears to threaten me with. But my visit must be short this time on more accounts than I can pester you with. Ellen comes home on Tuesday noon with your Mother [121] & departs Wednesday morning, I believe, for Beverly.[122] I think now I will come out on Wednesday & probably at 3 o'clock.

Ever your loving Papa

### To ————————, Concord, August 18, 1868

[MS listed and partly quoted in Anderson Auction Co., Apr. 16–17, 1914; Emerson refuses an invitation to lecture — he has so recently visited Brooklyn that he is hardly ready to go there again.]

120. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year 1868, which has been supplied, is doubtless correct, as the following notes show.

121. From Princeton, Mass. (*cf.* July 23, 1868, and *Journals*, X, 257).

122. For Ellen Emerson at Beverly, Mass., see Aug. 24 following.

## To William Emerson, Concord, August 24, 1868 [123]

Concord, 24 August, 1868

Dear William,

I believe I have long owed you a letter, but the hearing now & then from Ellen & Edward the purpose of each to write to you, I am apt to fancy you have all our news, such as they are. Ellen is at Beverley,[124] &, I suppose, has told you of our visit to the mountains from Middlebury.[125] Mountains speak one speech to youth & age. We were not quite fortunate, as we found a party of amateur players on the top of Mansfield Mt. filling the house, too, all night with violent fun. And as they were good young people, — Geo Bartlett & his friends,[126] — perhaps the contretemps was not better. If I could have spared the time, we should have outstayed the company, & made our religious visits to the crags later. We spent a whole day on the banks or in the bed of the Winooski (Onion) River, at Essex Junction, with great content. For the last week I have been sitting at home alone, Lidian & Edward being at Milton, as well as Ellen gone. I cannot leave home too for the village is annoyed lately with night robberies, successful or otherwise, but not allowing venerable heads of families to wander much. I went however to the Chinese Banquet, which was stately & interesting. I sat next to Fung, who speaks English very well, & we were good neighbors. Sumner spoke very well, & was well-received. So did Burlingame; and Bullock, whom I saw for the first time, is a quite good looking rogue, & speaks well. I send you a "Daily Advertiser" with their speeches & mine.[127] I duly receive the "Nation" from your hands. I do not know when the new subscription from us fell due. Of course the year must

123. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL. The square brackets in the last sentence indicate a slight mutilation.

124. *Cf.* Aug. 16, 1868.

125. *Cf.* the note on Aug. 13, 1868.

126. George Bartlett, son of Emerson's Dr. Josiah Bartlett of Concord, seems to have been a colorful figure, a strolling player and director of amateur theatricals (see *Journals*, X, 255–256). This was not the first time Emerson had been disturbed in his mountain-worship by the behavior of the profane (*cf.* Sept. 3, 1839). In the letter of Aug. 10, 1870, to Edith Emerson Forbes, he cited Nature's rule: "I keep my enchantments & my oracles for the religious soul coming alone or as good as alone in true-love."

127. The *Boston Daily Advertiser* of Aug. 22, 1868, reports the banquet for the Chinese Embassy and the "Speeches by His Honor Mayor Shurtleff, Hon. Anson Burlingame, His Excellency Governor Bullock, Hon. Charles Sumner, Hon. Caleb Cushing, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Charles G. Nazro and Edwin P. Whipple." Emerson,

be out. I will send my half subn Also let me say, that Edward & I opened last week the box of hock you brought me from your cellar, & found six bottles & in perfect order. You will have to find & tell me the price. I can only find in my journal a memorandum of July, 1865, paying Woodman at the rate of $10. per dozen, which, if you bought this last at the same rate, will make $5. due from me on this acct – so that I do now enclose $7.50 as an approximation to the two items of Nation & Hock.

Send me I pray you better news of your nights & days than the last I gathered from Haven's letter to Ellen. When we are old we do not expect the health of youth, but must come as near as we can to the average health of age. Ever your affectionate b[r]other [128]

Waldo E.

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according to this account, sat between "Mr. Fung, speaking English," and the Rev. Dr. George Putnam. Emerson's speech is printed in *Reception and Entertainment of the Chinese Embassy*, Boston, 1868, pp. 52–55, and in *Cent. Ed.*, XI.

128. William Emerson replied (MS owned by Dr. Haven Emerson):

"33 E. 19.. New York,
"Sept. 4/68

"Dear Waldo, I was very glad of your letter of the 24th Ultº It must have been particularly agreeable to you to reach Mansfield Mt. (which you & I had hoped even in 1865 to visit together), & that you could now take Ellen, & Geo. Bradford with you was a joyful Providence. It was a funny transition, that from the inhabitants of the banks of Winooski next set you hob-a-nobbing with these of the Kiau-ku. Your Daily Advertiser did not come, tho' your speech did in our N. Y. papers. I trust that Lidian was benefited by her visit to Princeton.

"The $7.50 you inclosed was all wrong, so I send it back in a Metrn check, which Mr Cheney will be good enough to pay. All wrong, because on the 19th Febv you paid me your half of the price of the 'Nation' for the present year; and I cannot possibly think of your doing any thing else with the hock than accepting it from me.

"Ellen & Edward have both written me very kind letters which I have not had the energy to answer. Indeed, I am but poorly. The last two days I was not able to go down stairs.

"I found much that was novel in your Lesley, & have lent it to Sally.

"I am much interested in Upham's Histv of the Salem Witchcraft. He has done that work well.

"Susie makes a charming daughter & wife. Haven & Chas. are well, & send their love.

"Affv Your brother William."

This was, so far as I know, the end of the remarkable correspondence between the two brothers which had begun more than fifty years earlier. The letter of Sept. 13 following tells of William's death.

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, August 25, 1868 [129]

Concord
August 25 1868

Dear Will,

Your house is now & always too attractive to me, — let Edith hard to please say what she will, — & does not need the added new names, (which yet interest me,) to bring me to you. But our village is so annoyed by these night alarms,[130] — lately one or two again on Sunday night, — that I cannot properly be absent at night. I left John Clahan in the house on Friday night when I was in the city, & poor John " did not sleep a wink," so nervous was he. Of course, the two girls must not be left alone, & I can only therefore come to Milton by day, as I will before you go. Yet I remember that Edward offers to come & spend Sunday here, & I to go Saturday & Sunday, to Milton. Well, if he holds by that, & Edith confirms it, I shall obey you & her, — I think.

Yours ever

W. H. Forbes, Esq.

R. W. Emerson

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, August 26, 1868 [131]

Concord
26 August

Dear Edith,

I did not remember in writing yesterday to Will,[132] that Saturday is my Club day, & I had promised Mr Sumner that I would come to it. So I shall not arrive at Milton till 7 or 8 P. M. by horse cars, and that, too, on the condition that Edward comes hither [133] for the two nights. I am sorry, for both you & I shall want him. But Ellen will doubtless be at home.[134] I sent you her letter.

Wednesday

R. W. E.

129. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

130. *Cf.* Aug. 24, 1868.

131. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Aug. 26 fell on Wednesday in 1863, 1868, and 1874; but in 1863 Edith Emerson was not yet married, and in Aug., 1874, Charles Sumner was dead. Evidence noted below confirms 1868 as the year of this letter.

132. The letter of Aug. 25, 1868, exactly fits into this chronology.

133. For Edward at Milton, Mass., *cf.* Aug. 24 preceding.

134. She wrote on the 27th of this month from Beverly, Mass., where she was visiting.

### To Juliette H. Dana, Concord? September *c.* 10, 1868

[Juliette H. Dana, New York, Sept. 19 (1868), says she received his note that morning and had received another a week earlier; she had read in the *Tribune* of the death of his brother. She wrote again, New York, Oct. 3 (1868), recalling his statement in one of his notes that he would probably have to come to New York within a few days; that trip, she now supposed, was planned because of his brother's illness.]

### To Lidian Emerson, New York, September 13, 1868 [135]

New York,
Sunday P M
September 13, 1868

Dear Lidian,

I came this morning to this house a little after 8 o'clock and found Haven & Susie at breakfast. They said their father had had a better night than usual, & was more comfortable today. I went up into his chamber, & found him much altered in face & in speech, but entirely intelligent, &, though speaking with difficulty, yet we talked of various things & persons for half an hour; then I left him, & then returned again. At my next visit to his chamber, he was asleep; &, at dinner, at one o'clock, Haven left Charles to preside, whilst he sat with his father. Presently he called up Charles, & soon after came to tell me that he thought all was over. I went up & found him quite insensible, one or two groans escaped him, but his pulse soon ceased. Haven said when they two lifted him to the bed, he said — " Goodbye."

It was all a sad surprise to me. I am glad to have come, if it was the last day. He did not expect to see me. The boys have been excellent sons, & I tell Charles that he can never reproach himself.

Their father told them he did not wish any funeral ceremonies to be performed in New York & wished his body to be carried to Concord, & they will proceed at once to obey him. The warm weather allows no delay, & I suppose it will go on Monday night, & arrive at our house for a funeral on Tuesday.

You must not go to Cohasset on Tuesday; & Charles & Haven do not wish that Edward should be kept from Naushon, or recalled if gone: but if at home I think he will wish to stay. Ellen must ask Mr Farrar

135. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

to open the tomb for Tuesday, & ask Mr Reynolds [136] if he will be so good as to attend the funeral at our house.

Affectionately
R W Emerson

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Haven & Charles have just decided on conference with Dr Stone [137] to have the body sealed tonight in a lead coffin & they depart with it in the 8 o'clock train tomorrow morning I shall go with them. Of course the coffin can not be opened in Concord. Tell Mr Farrar this. Charles sends a notice to the B. Daily Advertiser [138] announcing the funeral at 12.15 on Tuesday.[139]

## To Emma Lazarus, Concord, September 18, 1868 [140]

Concord, Sept. 18, 1868

I know too well the value of having a sensible soul to speak to & to hear from now & then, than that I should by pre-occupations & too long intervals lose the right of challenge & reply. It is true that, like other ancients, I have relation to a good many persons, &, for one reason or another, much more writing to do than I like. And as you are young & hold so facile a pen, you must write long letters & I the notes. I went to New York in the last week to visit my brother who was very ill – I did not know how long I might stay, – & fancied even that your family might now be returning thither – So I should have seen you.

136. Grindall Reynolds, the Concord pastor mentioned in earlier letters.

137. Probably the John O. Stone of a note on Nov.? *c.* 14? 1853. He is listed in *Trow's New York City Directory* for the year ending May 1, 1869.

138. The death of William Emerson, at New York, on Sept. 13, and the plans for the funeral from his brother's home at Concord were announced in the *New-York Tribune*, Sept. 14, 1868, and in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* on the following day. An obituary of some biographical value was copied into the *Boston Daily Evening Transcript* of Sept. 18 following. An interesting passage states that William Emerson, going to Germany as a theological student, became doubtful of his choice of profession and, having access to the acquaintance of Goethe, asked his advice. This is partly corroborated by the record written at the time of the meeting with Goethe (see a note on Feb. 10, 1825). William Emerson lies buried in Sleepy Hollow at Concord, close to his brother.

139. Ellen filled some of the blank pages of this MS with a letter to her sister and brother, both of whom were apparently at Milton at the time of the funeral:

"Last night at tea time I heard Father call, and as Mother & I rushed out with acclamation at his return, he hushed us and asked if this letter hadn't come . . . The funeral was at noon today. . . ."

140. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.

But I had a sad surprise in my brother's sudden change & death, & the next day with his sons we brought his body home to this town.[141]

Thanks for your note from your cottage,[142] & your praise of Autumn. To the poet every month & every day is the best in the year, & though the activity & the use is less, I do not know that the sensibility to Nature diminishes with age. But I shall be glad to read in verse or in prose the new thoughts she has brought you. But I was only to write you now that I had received your letter.

With kind remembrances to your father & your sister, Yours,

R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

## To Juliette H. Dana, Concord? September *c.* 18, 1868

[See the note on Sept. *c.* 10, 1868.]

## To James Russell Lowell, Concord, October 3, 1868[143]

Concord, 3 Oct. 1868

Dear Lowell,,

I enclose my cards because I send them to other friends, but I absolve you from a shadow of duty to "go to meeting."[144] I send you the poem of "Phoenix" Derby,[145] that I promised when you were

141. See Sept. 13, 1868.

142. Probably her letter dated Ryeland Cottage, New Haven, Conn., Aug. 24, 1868.

143. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL.

144. The *Boston Daily Evening Transcript,* Oct. 1, 1868, had announced the whole of this Boston course, which began on the 12th of that month. On the 13th the same paper stated that no report of "Nature and Art" was printed because Emerson had requested that there be none. The *Transcript* announced the remaining lectures on the days of delivery: "Poetry and Criticism," Oct. 19; "Historical Notes of American Life and Letters," 26; "Doctrine of Leasts and Mosts," Nov. 2; "Hospitality, and how to Make Homes Attractive," 9; and "Greatness," 16. Leslie Stephen heard the first lecture and thought it rambling and incoherent (Frederic W. Maitland, pp. 206–207). The same lecture and the supper following it are described in *Memories of a Hostess,* pp. 94–95. An interesting comment on the second lecture and Emerson's reprimand to the reporters present are given in Annie Fields, *Authors and Friends,* pp. 78–79. Lowell himself wrote his praise in "Mr. Emerson's New Course of Lectures," *The Nation,* Nov. 12, 1868.

145. Derby may have interested Emerson chiefly as a former Concordian (*cf.* Jan. 25, 1866). But the poem referred to in the present letter may be that about the alligator and the water snake which was credited to Derby in an edition of *Parnassus* dated 1875, but later assigned to James W. Morris, in whose *"Vive la Bagatelle!" K. N. Pepper, and Other Condiments,* 1859, it had appeared.

in Concord. Will it not be well to renew our April nominations to the Club at the October meeting, — say, of Gurney, Quincy, & Lee?[146] Dr Hedge was accountable for the last. But he is a good candidate at any time.

Ever yours
R. W. Emerson

### To Leslie Stephen, Concord, October 4, 1868

[MS listed in Anderson Auction Co., Nov. 12–13, 1914; Emerson explains, according to the description here given, that the necessity of preparing new lectures has prevented him from paying a promised visit. Stephen heard Emerson's lecture of the 12th of this month (see a note on Oct. 3, 1868).]

### To Henry James, Sr., Concord, October 6, 1868[147]

Concord
6 October 1868

My dear James,

I have never thanked you for a kind message you sent me lately by Harry's hand, — who added a note of your own condition at the moment which I was sorry to read. I trust & doubt not that the later days have brought relief & soundness, for you are the most elastic of men, & have the largest part of your message still untold.

Today I send you my cards well knowing your disgust at lectures and only because I am sending them to other friends.[148] What if I have a purpose in it? Edward is curator of our Lyceum, & dreams in his ambition that he can win you to stoop to our rural necessities as you have magnanimously done before.[149] So shall I have the visit which all this house prizes.

Affectionately,
R. W. Emerson

Henry James, Esq.

146. Presumably this refers to the Saturday Club; but according to *The Early Years*, p. 441, Ephraim Whitman Gurney had been elected in 1867. Quincy is probably Edmund Quincy, who became a member in 1875 (*Later Years*, pp. 81–86). Apparently no Lee was ever a member during Emerson's lifetime.

147. MS owned by Mr. Henry James; ph. in CUL.

148. *Cf.* Oct. 3, 1868.

149. The MS records of the Concord Lyceum (in the Concord Free Public Library) show that Edward Waldo Emerson was reëlected a curator in 1868. James replied to the present letter, Cambridge, Oct. 11 (endorsed 1868), that he expected to use one of the tickets; he mentioned his own lecture on the symbolism of woman and suggested that he might be asked to show his wares in Concord.

This was an overhearing of mine & I must not prejudice Edwards designs by my telling: he does not know of my writing –

### To Mary Fiske Sargent, Concord, October 15, 1868 [150]

Concord 15 Oct

Dear Mrs Sargent,

I hate to stand in my own light & lose the good society at your house on Monday. It is – or I know, will be, necessary for me to husband every hour of that day. Yet I mean at least to hear Mr Wasson's paper, but I shall not be able to remain to dinner.

Yours gratefully,
R. W. Emerson

Mrs Sargent.

### To Frederic Henry Hedge, Concord, October 27, 1868 [151]

Concord 27 Oct 1868

My dear Hedge

I am very happy In your safe return.[152] It is to-day, & was two days ago, the best news I have to think upon. All the better for the noble, & I must say at all risks – the loveliest letter that came to me on your departure, & which I have often answered by day or night, but the written sheet has never reached you! I can not go to see you to-morrow, – am held at home by the ridiculous poor reason that there is a lecture to be written for Monday,[153] & my pen of late creeps slow &

150. MS owned by the Authors Club, New York; ph. in CUL. For the date, the Radical Club had been founded in 1867 (*cf.* letters of Oct. 31 ff., 1867). In 1868, Monday following the 15th, the day set for the meeting referred to in the present letter, was Oct. 19, probably as busy a day as Emerson here describes; and presumably he could not have remained for dinner because he was to lecture that night (see a note on Oct. 3, 1868). We happen to know, however, that Emerson was actually present at the Sargent home on the morning of the 19th and took part in the discussion of a paper read by David A. Wasson before what a newspaper calls the "Free Religious Club" (*National Anti-slavery Standard*, New York, Oct. 24, 1868). *Cf.* also *Sketches and Reminiscences of the Radical Club*, pp. 26–29, where no date is given.

151. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is a copy, not in Emerson's hand. A notation at the top of the MS makes this clear and continues: "The original I gave to Mr O. B. Frothingham for a friend of his." And then follows Edward Waldo Emerson's note, in parentheses: "The above is not in RWE's writing, but of course was written for him. E. W. E."

152. The *Boston Daily Advertiser*, Oct. 26, 1868, reported that Hedge had returned from Europe in good health and had resumed his pastoral labors in Brookline.

153. "Doctrine of Leasts and Mosts" (see a note on Oct. 3, 1868).

slower. But I must see you very soon. I had promised Lowell that I would go to the next Club, – of this Saturday – Important on some accounts, if a threatened move is made, – but cannot now be sure that I shall unless you will come. If possibly you will come to my Monday night's lecture, you shall find tickets addressed to you at Fields' office, for I find none left in my drawers here. Very good people come there your friends & mine. Only now that you have come there is a reason the less for Ellen & me to go to Europe

Your affectionate
R. W. Emerson.

To Emma Lazarus, Concord, October 28, 1868 [154]

Concord
28 October

I have noble friends – they send me high poetry – pictures of gods heroes & woman bravely & adequately drawn.[155] I read slowly & thankfully a little at a time – (– for I am a prisoner to my task in these days –) [156] and when I have read all the poem I shall tell you what I find. R. W. E

To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, October 29, 1868 [157]

Thursday Night
29 Oct.

Dear Edith,

I have only time to say from your mother that a shawl strap came which she gave to Ellen – (and I believe should not,) *but that no letter-weigher came.*

Ellen grieved that you did not come, & now we read your account of Ralph, it is explained: but I hope he will keep this wonderful talent of jumping out of his distempers into sudden health. Ellen wanted your

154. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL. MS copies of all the letters to Emma Lazarus are owned by RWEMA (phs. in CUL). The RWEMA copy of this letter bears the year 1868, which is clearly correct.

155. Emerson's comments after he had finished reading the MS of "Admetus" are in Nov. 19, 1868, to Emma Lazarus.

156. Earlier letters of this month mention the course of lectures which did not end till Nov. 16.

157. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year is obviously 1868, when Oct. 29 fell on Thursday.

counsels all day. Aunt Elizabeth came this P. M. from Worcester, at the first hearing of her voyage; [158] & is here again now. Ellen will take the 8.40 train in the morning. R. W. E.

### To G. Tremain, Concord, November 5, 1868

[MS listed in Charles F. Heartman, Jan. 1, 1927, where it is described as relating to lectures.]

### To James Thomas Fields, Concord, November 11, 1868 [159]

Concord
Nov[r] 11 1868

My dear Sir,

I duly received your note of yesterday, containing a draft for one hundred dollars, on account of Lectures at the Meionaon; making in all, thirteen hundred dollars received on this account.[160] [I]I also received the account rendered of the Blue & Gold Edition of the "Essays" & "Poems" [161] I keep the paper before me, & study it now & then to see if you have lost money by the transaction; & my prevailing impression is that you have.[I] – I had, earlier, your note announcing the change in your house, of partners.[162] I confide that your action in matters so important will be well-considered & will be wise, but, of course, having no knowledge of the circumstances, I can have no opinion on the result. Mr Howard Ticknor I hardly know at all; but I have a good & growing acquaintance with the two Junior Partners, so that I find every thing auspicious in the reconstruction.

[II]You ask in your last note for "Leasts & Mosts" [163] for the "Atlantic." You have made me so popular by your brilliant advertising &

158. Ellen Emerson was a passenger in the "Fredonia," which cleared from Boston for Fayal on Oct. 30 (*Boston Daily Evening Transcript*, Oct. 31, 1868). June 7, 1869, tells of her return.

159. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I–II are in *Harper's*, LXVIII, 461 (Feb., 1884), and in Annie Fields, *Authors and Friends*, p. 84.

160. These lectures are listed in a note on Oct. 3, 1868.

161. *Cf.* the letters of May 13 and 19, 1864.

162. The *Boston Daily Advertiser*, Oct. 30, 1868, announced the retirement of Howard M. Ticknor and the dissolution of the copartnership of Ticknor & Fields, and stated that their successors, James T. Fields, James R. Osgood, and John S. Clark, would continue the publishing business under the name of Fields, Osgood & Co.

163. See a note on Oct. 3, 1868. Emerson published no more prose in *The Atlantic*.

*arrangements,* (I will say, not knowing how to qualify your social skill,) that I am daily receiving invitations to read lectures far & near [164] & some of these I accept & must therefore keep the readable lectures by me for a time though I doubt not that this mite like the mountains will fall into the Atlantic at last.

Ever your debtor,
R. W. Emerson[II]

James T. Fields, Esq.

## To C. H. S. Williams, Concord, November 13, 1868? [165]

Concord
13 November

My dear Sir,

I am much obliged to you for bringing me the very kind invitation of Mr Sterling.[166] When I go to Poughkeepsie, — which I believe is not till the 21st January,[167] I shall certainly call on him, if the laws of railroad time & place permit, though I am a little cautious habitually of stopping at private houses, as knowing what carnage the timetables are apt to work in family hours.

Yours with kind regards,
R. W. Emerson

Rev. C. H. S. Williams

## To Juliette H. Dana, Concord? November? *c.* 18? 1868

[Juliette H. Dana, New York, Nov. 22 (1868), says she deserves " the reproof your letter contained "; she had in mind, she explains, the impression produced upon Emerson, according to his own account, by his first interview with Margaret Fuller.]

164. The MS memorandum book for this year lists a number of appointments in New England for late November and December.

165. MS owned by Mr. Thomas F. Madigan; ph. in CUL. The date remains doubtful, but evidence cited below points to 1868. *Boyd's Poughkeepsie and Fishkill Landing Directory* for 1864–1865 has a C. H. S. Williams, Jr., lawyer. I conjecture that Emerson's correspondent was the Rev. Charles H. Williams listed in *The Boston Directory,* 1867, perhaps the father of the lawyer, and that he may have seen Sterling about the invitation to Emerson during a visit to Poughkeepsie. This would explain the " bringing " of the invitation, but it is purely conjectural.

166. The Poughkeepsie directory cited above lists a G. W. Sterling, manufacturer, whose address, like that of the younger Williams, is described as on South Liberty, near Barclay. According to Benjamin J. Lossing, *Vassar College and its Founder,* 1867, pp. 87 and 90, a George W. Sterling was one of the trustees of Vassar when it was first incorporated.

167. Perhaps Emerson meant Jan. 22. According to the MS memorandum book

## To James Thomas Fields, Concord, November 19, 1868 [168]

Concord
19 November, 1868

My dear Fields,

I received before I left the Parker House your note with its enclosure of two hundred dollars, — thus with its foregoers making $1500.; [169] by much the largest sum I ever received for the like amount of work.

I owe all this very serious benefit to your friendly initiative, & to your efficient executive hand; and I only wish that my work in it could have better justified your pains. I heartily thank you for this eminent one of many good deeds to me & mine.

R. W. Emerson

James T. Fields, Esq

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, November 19, 1868 [170]

Concord
Wednesday 19th Nov

Dear Edith,

Alice Arthur [171] writes to your Mother, in a letter arrived to-day, that she & her husband have decided not to come to Concord on Thanksgiving Day, & adds her regrets & her kind messages. I asked your Mother, in Boston, whether whether I should ask you to engage Mrs Gay; and she answered " let it be according to Alice's answer: If she comes, there is no room for Mrs Gay." Also as I remember you were to consider whether Cousin Elizabeth's [172] proffered aid would enable you to leave out Mrs Gay, so the burden of decision still returns to you, poor child.

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for 1869, he was to read " Hospitality " at Poughkeepsie then. And Miss Mary Corliss informs me that the *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle* of Jan. 22, 1869, announced the " Lyceum Lecture " by Emerson for that night.

168. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL.

169. *Cf.* Nov. 11, 1868. The amount here mentioned was evidently for the course of six lectures described in a note on Oct. 3, 1868.

170. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. No doubt 1868, the year added, perhaps by Edith Emerson Forbes, is correct, though Nov. 19 was Thursday, not Wednesday, in that year. I have noted below some evidence pretty definitely indicating 1868.

171. *Cf.* July 23, 1868.

172. Probably Elizabeth Ripley, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Bradford Ripley.

Is it not time to make up Ellen's bundle of letters?[173] Two arrive today for her one from St Francisco, & one from E. Saginaw, Michigan, & lie here unopened. But you are to come did I not hear on Thursday? Quō citius, eō melius.[174] With love to Will who gave me beautiful suggestions[175] on Tuesday

Affectionately yours,
R. W. E.

Mrs E. E. Forbes.

## To Emma Lazarus, Concord, November 19, 1868[176]

Concord
19 November 1868

My dear friend,

I write immediately on closing my first entire reading of "Admetus,"[177] to say, All Hail! You have written a noble poem, which I cannot enough praise. You have hid yourself from me until now, for the merits of the preceding poems did not unfold this fulness & high equality of power. I shall not stop to criticise, more than to say that it is too good than that the reader should feel himself *detained* by speeches a line too long. And the only suggestion I dare offer is that you shall read for the tone of Teutonic humanity Act III. Scene 1. of "Measure for Measure," as the only corrective of your classic sympathies. I think I shall return the treasured sheets by tomorrow's mail, secure that the eternal Apollo & the placated Fates will guard them to you.

R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

173. For Ellen Emerson's voyage to Fayal, see Oct. 29, 1868.

174. Perhaps Emerson did not think of the saying as having any particular literary parentage.

175. Almost certainly about the course of readings soon definitely planned for Chickering Hall (*cf.* Nov. 22 following and later letters).

176. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.

177. *Cf.* Oct. 28, 1868. This was the MS later printed in *Admetus and Other Poems*, 1871, which was dedicated "To my Friend, Ralph Waldo Emerson." The MS was, it appears from Emma Lazarus's letter dated 36 West 14th St., New York, Nov. 22, 1868, carried back to the owner by Edward Waldo Emerson. She was, she wrote, astonished and delighted by the high estimate placed on her poetry; but she would take the liberty of sending him some of her later pieces to prove that her sympathies were not too classical.

## To James Bradley Thayer, Concord, November 22, 1868 [178]

Concord
Sunday Evening Novr

My dear Mr Thayer,

William Forbes came to me the other day with a pleasing project [179] that I should have a private class of young men, his friends or acquaintances, for readings of poetry or prose, & conversation; & I should give what form to the project I would. He could not have devised anything that would flatter me so successfully. O certainly, bright young men & young women, either or both, met on any ground of culture delight me, & always provoke what faculty I have. Yes, I would think of it, & tell him, — if he persisted, & found any good will to it, — what I should like to attempt. I have now last night, a note from him intimating that he has talked of it with you, & that I should send you some scheme of a basis.[180]

To meet this request as nearly as I now can, I will say, that I fancy that, like every old scholar, I have points of rest & emphasis in literature. I know what books I have found unforgetable, & what passages in books. It will be most agreeable to me to indicate such. I should like, in poetry, especially, to mark certain authors & certain passages which I prize, & to state on what grounds I prize them; & to distinguish good poetry from what passes for good. I believe I might secure proper consideration for some remote & unfrequented sources. If the class would bear it, I have something to say on Oriental poetry, which poetry seems to me important, & yet not studied hitherto except as language, — for language as a part of paleontology.

So in History, I should have my valued selections. Even of Natural Science something would need to be said, & of the future it is opening.

178. MS owned by Professor James B. Thayer; ph. in CUL. The date " 22/68 " has been added, probably by Emerson's correspondent himself. It fits other evidence exactly. Nov. 22 fell on Sunday in 1868.

179. For Forbes's suggestions, *cf.* Nov. 19, 1868, to his wife. The project for the readings recurs in a number of letters during the following months. For the preliminaries, *cf.* especially the letters of Dec. 6 and 23, 1868. Thayer reappears in connection with the scheme in Jan. 3, 1869, to Forbes.

180. W. H. Forbes, Saturday (MS endorsed Nov., 1868), tells of a meeting held that day (Nov. 21, apparently) at which he discussed plans for the readings with Mrs. Parkman and with Mr. and Mrs. Thayer, all of whom agreed that women should be invited as well as men; he asked that Emerson write as soon as possible to Thayer, stating what shape to give the project and proposing the hours and the season.

And even of American biography, I think at this moment of much that would fall fitly in a class, that would be quite unparliamentary in a book or a public lecture.

I think this is the whole of my outline, – Readings of poetry; Readings of passages of prose; with my own commentary, & with special regard to making opportunity of conversation.

Perhaps it will be found impossible to add ladies to the class, on account of the hours chosen. It will be equally agreeable to me to come in the afternoon or the evening. Only one condition is important to me, namely, that no person shall be coaxed to come. If it is found, as may easily happen, that those on whom you reckoned are pre-occupied, – you must drop the plan at once, or postpone it to a better day.

With very kind regards,
Always yours,
R. W. Emerso [181]

James B. Thayer, Esq

P. S.

Let me say that my wife & I are resting in a perfect assurance that Ellen & Edith, one or both, have conveyed to you & Sophy our invitation for Thanksgiving day,[182] at 2.30 P. M. Our little friends the children,[183] & their guardian are surely counted in. R. W. E.

### To Charles Sumner, Concord? November 24? 1868

[Mentioned in Nov. 24, 1868.]

### To Henrietta Crosby Ingersoll, Concord, November 24, 1868 [184]

Concord
24 Nov[r] 1868

Dear Mrs Ingersoll,

I am very unhappy to be so backward in my plain duty – & that a

181. The signature ran off the leaf.

182. Other letters show that the Thayers were often invited as Emerson's guests on that day.

183. These must have included at this time the late Dr. William Sydney Thayer, who was born in 1864 and became a noted professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University, and Ezra Ripley Thayer, the lawyer, who was born in 1866.

184. MS owned by the Library of Congress; ph. in CUL. For Mrs. Ingersoll, see May 11, 1858. She appears as Mrs. H. C. Ingersoll in *Boyd's Directory of Washington and Georgetown* for 1868.

pleasure, – to my friend Mr Withington,[185] to his family, & to yourself. I have been the slave of the lamp in the last weeks, & back to the day when your letter[186] came to me, & all my corres[187] – much of it too as imperative as your own note, – has been inevitably postponed. T'were long to tell you how & why, – but my invalided daughter has been got off to the Azores;[188] – we have had a crowd of other affairs, &, meantime, a new lecture was to be read each week in Boston,[189] a task which was suddenly put on me. But I saw Mr Sumner, & told him that I should send him the letter with yours. I enclose, with this, a note to him. I heartily thank you for your interest in this worthy man, my friend, Mr W.; & his family, whom I have not the pleasure to know; & hope my poor note does not arrive too late for its purpose.

With great regard

R W Emerson

Mrs Ingersoll.

### To Rowland R. Hazard, Jr., Concord, November 25, 1868

[Listed and partly quoted in Anderson Galleries, Nov. 23, 1926, and quoted at greater length in Thomas F. Madigan, Mar.–Apr., 1912. Emerson says he requested all the Boston journals in advance not to report him and that, for the most part, they abstained. Each of these " essays," he explains, is substantially new matter, and the first reading is always only a rehearsal. For the lectures in question, see a note on Oct. 3, 1868. According to *The Boston Directory* for 1869–1870, Hazard was connected with the *Boston Post,* which had begun by noticing the first lecture very briefly in its issue of Oct. 13 – " By request we refrain . . ." – and had for some time either ignored the lectures or kept within reasonable limits, but had fallen from grace on Nov. 17 by printing half a column on the lecture of the 16th, the final one of the course. Probably Emerson communicated with most of the other Boston papers by letter, perhaps in early October. I have no definite proof, though it is clear from the note on Oct. 3, cited above, that the *Transcript* at least knew Emerson's wishes and behaved accordingly.]

185. Several letters of 1822–1823 are to Emerson's college classmate William Withington. *Cf.* also Sept. *c.* 9, 1875, to Withington's daughter.

186. Mrs. Ingersoll, Washington, D. C., Sept. 16, 1868, mentioned the early correspondence Emerson had had with his classmate, who was now old and feeble and needy; and she suggested a letter to Sumner in an attempt to secure a place as a teacher for one of Withington's daughters (*cf.* Nov. 24? 1868). Mrs. Ingersoll, Washington, Nov. 15, 1868, said she had received no reply to her earlier letter.

187. At the end of a page; Emerson failed to complete the word on the following page.

188. See Oct. 29, 1868.

189. See a note on Oct. 3, 1868.

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, December 6, 1868 [190]

Concord
Sunday Eve. 6 Dec[r]

Dear Will,

I find no engagement that will prevent me from keeping the first three Saturdays of January for the Reading Class; [191] but on the two last, I shall probably be absent. All the Saturdays of February & March are disengaged.

For the numbers of the Class, – since we are to go into Chickering's Hall, I see no objection to enlarging them enough at least to prevent a chilly look. It does not seem worth while to exclude any good friend of books who wishes to come; only it should be kept within limits that make it a strictly private class, as much as if it were in a drawing-room. We shall probably at no one time assemble the whole class, & therefore 't were well to have more than just enough on our list, in order to have enough on a snowy day. I am speaking on your highly imaginative hypothesis of many applicants, & will say, that if a hundred are too few for the hall, two hundred would be too many, & we will fix our theory of a perfect class at a hundred & fifty, & be entirely contented with two thirds of that company.

I shall be in the city on Tuesday morning, & will come to your office,[192] say at 11 o'clock, ready to keep any appointment thereafter which you may wish to make for me.

Always yours,
R. W. Emerson

William H. Forbes –

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, December 20, 1868 [193]

Concord
December 20

Dear Will,

I enclose Mr George Jackson's short account of his conference with Mr Isaac C. Jackson. It remains to decide whether you would

190. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year 1869 has been supplied on the MS; but the correct date is clearly 1868, when Dec. 6 fell on Sunday.

191. *Cf.* Nov. 22, 1868, and later letters.

192. *The Boston Directory* for 1869–1870 lists William H. Forbes as a member of the firm of John M. Forbes & Co., merchants, Sears Building.

193. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year 1869 has been supplied but is

like to try your powers of persuasion in a personal interview with Mr J.

I found him friendly & reasonable, if sticking a little to letter & form, in my one interview, and now think he would have been more gratified, & softened perhaps, by a conference.

Ever yours,
R. W. Emerson

W. H. Forbes.

To Anne Charlotte Lynch Botta, Concord, December 23, 1868 [194]

Concord
23 Dec[r] 1868

My dear Mrs Botta,

[I]I was very glad to hear[I] weeks ago [II]that you were safe home again [195] to me & all of us in your house of the expanding doors;[II] and I rejoice to learn that the voyage & journey had such prosperities. The visit to Paris could not but be gratifying, when Saint Beuve was of the party. I wish to hear all that you will tell me of these interviews, yet I find myself as fast holden as ever from New York, for the present. I had designed a visit to N. Y., that should be purely that, without any clog of literary duties, & with several specially social hopes. But I have had a new task set for me, lately, in a Class for Readings,[196] which I had no choice but to accept. So I am not quite certain when I can come to see you, & only pray you not to return to Paris before my freedom arrives. I trust Mr Botta's health was restored & confirmed by his tour.

With affectionate regards,
R. W. Emerson

Mrs A. C. L. Botta.

incorrect. Forbes, Boston, Dec. 21, 1868, acknowledged this letter with that of George Jackson inclosed; explained that it would not do for him to talk with Isaac Jackson; and suggested arguments Emerson himself might offer in favor of a sale of the Jackson family estate, of which Lidian Emerson was part owner.

194. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I–II are in *Memoirs of Anne C. L. Botta*, p. 177.

195. The *New-York Tribune*, Nov. 25, 1868, named "V. Botta and Lady" among passengers arriving in the "Russia," which had sailed from Liverpool on Nov. 14. Doubtless Emerson was answering an inquiry sent directly to him by Mrs. Botta; but Annie Fields had written him, Boston, Dec. 1, 1868, of a letter she had received from Mrs. Botta telling of the return and asking whether there was any hope that he might come at once to New York to repeat his lectures.

196. This project appears in numerous letters of the winter.

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, December 23, 1868 [197]

Concord 23 Dec$^{r}$

Dear Will,

I received yesterday your note with its brilliant enclosure of six hundred dollars, — which look a little alarming to me, until they shall be earned, or a faithful attempt in that direction be made. It was a fine piece of knightly courtesy & daring, that you should invent & create this little college [198] of yours for my exclusive pleasure & benefit. Let us only hope that your constituents, when it comes to maturity, shall not demand damages of you.

I am sorry for Mr Jackson's note,[199] & will go to Plymouth & talk with him at the risk of his finding out that my " political economy " was not my own. Today Mrs Emerson fancies that she should like to go with me. I am not sure but it would be well so, for she has a right to complain, & he would feel it.

Ever yours affectionately,
R. W. Emerson

W. H. Forbes.

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, December 24, 1868? [200]

Concord
24 Dec. Thursday

Dear Edith,

Your mother says she does not know what engagements you have but she wishes you might come & persuade Will to come & dine with her on Monday at 3.30 & bring your babies,[201] if you will; She has invited Aunt Elizabeth & I believe Mr Hotham of Walden Pond, to her

197. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year 1869, added in pencil, is an error for 1868, as the following note shows.

198. Certainly the course of readings alluded to in various letters of the winter of 1868–1869. There was no such course the following year. For the actual maturity of the scheme, see a note on Jan. 3, 1869, to Forbes.

199. *Cf.* a note on Dec. 20, 1868.

200. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The only years after the marriage of Edith Emerson Forbes when Dec. 24 fell on Thursday were 1868 and 1874. On Dec. 23, 1874, Ellen wrote her father from Milton, Mass., that her sister Edith hoped he would come there the following afternoon. This makes it very improbable that the present letter belongs to 1874, especially in view of the fact that the letter written the same night still says nothing about going to Milton.

201. The two children are mentioned in earlier letters.

*quasi* Christmas mince pie on that day, &, I fancy, Mr Channing.[202] She does not wish to give her fete any importance in your eyes, in case it should be inconvenient to you, but it would gratify her much. She adds that you need not come till the 2.15 train, for she does not need aid.

Affectionately,
R. W. Emerson

To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, December 24, 1868?[203]

24 Dec
Thursday Night

Dear Edith,

As some of us are not sure whether my note today named the right date of Mamma's mince pie, you are to know that it is *Monday* at 3.30 that was & remains determined.

R W E

To John Haven Emerson, Concord, December 27, 1868[204]

Concord Dec 27 1868

My dear Haven,

I have never told you of my taking the grand old books from the trunk which you had so carefully laid therein,[205] & so bringing your fathers benediction & benefaction to this house. They are noble books, & seem to ask to be nobly placed, & one wishes to add an alcove where they may be fitly set with a few authors who have attained to equal dignity of editions. The Bayle[206] is a great treasure, at least in his renown, & in my curiosity, for it is difficult to consult a book of this shape in any library but your own. I have already turned over a good many pages & shall a good many more. It shall stand with Wood's "Athenae Oxonienses," which Thomas Carlyle gave me,[207] & with Landino's

202. William Ellery Channing, no doubt.

203. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This obviously belongs to the same day with the preceding letter.

204. MS owned by Dr. Haven Emerson; ph. in CUL.

205. John Haven Emerson, New York, Oct. 26, 1868, said he had just packed in an old trunk "the Bayle, Bolingbroke & Locke father wished you to have."

206. Probably an early edition of the seventeenth-century *Dictionaire historique* of Pierre Bayle.

207. A gift from Carlyle in 1848; in 1870 Emerson expected to place it with the books Carlyle was giving to Harvard; but seven years later he intended that after his death it should go to James Elliot Cabot (see Jan. 23, 1870 [mentioned in a note on Jan. *c.* 23, 1870], and May 7, 1877).

Dante,[208] which his brother John gave me. Locke is & will be always a respectable name, though little & less read in these years; & Bolingbroke will get in these volumes almost my first readings of his thoughts.[209] These books attest your father's invincible loyalty to literature, which, in other place & surroundings, would have constituted his habit & profession, & which, as he was, adorned & dignified his leisures. I seem to owe to you & Charles also a thankfulness for yielding yourselves so freely to your father's too generous promptings.

Edward shows me the list of books which you desired I should see I notice one or two books that I think would be welcome to Mr Reynolds [210] to whom E. says, you wish to send one, viz. 1. *Prince's Chronological History of New England* &c &, 2. The Book of Jasher, translated from the Hebrew [211] &c There are one or two books which I should like to have on the condition that Mr Putnam,[212] or other expert, will fix the price that I shall pay; These are

1. " Wolf's Prolegomena ad Homerum."
2. " Fauriel's History of Provencal Poetry." [213]

There are other books that have a permanent value, as " Gibbon's Miscellaneous Works, in 2 Volumes." [214] " Ockley's History of the Saracens." And, " AEsthetic Papers " Edited by E P Peabody " Cook's Voyages " and these should not be sold but for a fit price.

We are a little lonely here in Concord & do not wish to lose any hold of you & yours When your first vacation comes you must bring Susie to see us. Ellen will be at home in June, & if Susie can come earlier, we need her the more, for Ellen's delay. My dame & I shall try to look as unlike very old people as we can, & Edward will bring your contemporaries about you. We are attentive to every word we hear of Charles.

Your affectionate Uncle,

R. W. Emerson.

Dr J. Haven Emerson

208. Doubtless an old edition of Cristoforo Landino's commentary.

209. He is quoted in the lecture on Montaigne, but I know of no other evidence that Emerson had read him.

210. *Cf.* Sept. 13, 1868.

211. There were various editions of this spurious work.

212. Presumably George Palmer Putnam, the publisher.

213. This might well have been J. J. Adler's translation, Fauriel's *History of Provençal Poetry*, New York, 1860. Fauriel appears in several earlier letters.

214. This and the two following titles are set off by short oblique lines, which I do not attempt to reproduce.

### To James? Thomas? Fields, Concord? 1868

[MS listed in C. F. Libbie & Co., Nov. 10 and 11, 1904, where it is described as consisting of one page and where Fields's initials are given as "J. F."]

### To ————————, Concord? 1868

[MS listed in Anderson Auction Co., Apr. 19–20, 1904; in regard to a proposed visit to Harrisburg.]

### To the Editor of the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, *c.* 1868? [215]

Will the Editor of the Advertiser please insert the following notice?

Respectfully,
R. W. Emerson

### To Annie Adams Fields, Concord? *c.* 1868?

[Incompletely printed in *Harper's*, LXVIII, 465 (Feb., 1884), and in Annie Fields, *Authors and Friends*, p. 98. The same passage, with the addition of Mrs. Fields's name at the end, is reproduced in facsimile in *Memories of a Hostess*, p. 100. The most plausible conjecture is that this letter was written at a time when James T. Fields was managing both lectures and publications for Emerson. It may well relate, for example, to the very successful management of the Boston course of Oct.–Nov., 1868. For Emerson's satisfaction with the unusually large remuneration received for that course, *cf.* the letters of Nov. 11, 1868, and Jan. 15, 1869, the first of which also mentions the good returns from books.]

215. MS owned by Mr. Thomas F. Madigan; ph. in CUL. This is a kind of note, quite impossible to date with certainty, that Emerson must have written frequently to the newspapers.

# 1869

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, January 3, 1869[1]

Concord,
Sunday Eve. Jan 3
1869

Dear Will,

I found at home last night your note & its enclosure of two hundred & sixty dollars, on account of the Readings at Chickerings Hall,[2] – which is a new proof of that incredible enchantment which

1. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

2. Several earlier letters relate to plans for this series of ten readings, of which, however, there seems to be no very satisfactory account extant. Cabot's outline of the contents of the course (II, 799) describes several of the MSS as wanting. In the important account in *Journals*, X, 282–285, Emerson comments mainly upon what he was unable to include. The MS memorandum book for 1869 notes the first reading under Jan. 2 but mentions no other till Feb. 6, for which date " IV " is entered. The rest of the readings are recorded: V, Feb. 13; VI, 20; VII, 27; VIII, Mar. 6; IX, 13; X, 20. There was little publicity, and I find in the newspapers no such announcements as commonly appeared in connection with a course of lectures. *The Commonwealth*, however, managed to get some information from time to time. On Jan. 9, 1869, this paper stated vaguely that " Mr. Emerson's readings in prose and verse, from his favorite authors," would begin " the present month "; as the class of a hundred was nearly made up, those who could get tickets hereafter would be fortunate. On Feb. 27 following, it printed rather lengthy praise of the readings, and stated that they were given on successive Saturdays, that tickets were $10, and that the hall was filled. The reporter informed the public that " Certain ladies inaugurated and manage the entertainment." And he added some comment on the nature of the entertainment: " An attendant says the readings are so quiet and leisurely that they give one a sense of repose . . . and says one of them began with the fine old hymn: — ' My mind to me a kingdom is.' Then Mr. Emerson read Henry Kirke White's little poem to the rosemary . . . He then devoted an hour to Ben Jonson . . . The reading was closed with a few extracts from Bacon . . ." The same paper for Mar. 13 commented on " one of his late readings," of which Milton was the text: " He read much from his prose works . . . rather avoided ' Paradise Lost.' . . . He thought ' Comus ' the noblest praise of chastity ever written . . ." Finally, on Mar. 27, this paper recorded the conclusion of the course covering " the great circle of English poetry from Chaucer to Walt Whitman." Some additional facts may be gleaned from the MS diaries of Annie Fields (now deposited in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society), where there are notices of the readings of Jan. 2, 9, and 16; Feb. 6, 20, and 27; and

you & Mr Thayer & Mrs Parkman have devised & wrought for my benefit.[3] Continue, I pray you, to enchant people in my behalf.

R. W. Emerson

W. H. Forbes.

## To Mary Preston Stearns, Concord, January 3, 1869?[4]

Concord
Jan. 3, Sunday Eve

Dear Mrs Stearns,

I ought to have replied to your note at once, but have been away from home & from rest.[5] Yet I should have found a moment, if I could have complied with your request to give Frank letters. I grieve to say that I have fallen out of correspondence long since with all or any of the persons I once knew, to whom I should wish to send him. As I never write a letter except of necessity, my foreign correspondents are only those who write to me of some book or literary project, & I do not get with them as far as to human relations. The fact would mortify me, if I had not long accepted it as a constitutional misfortune. I have often had occasion to regret it before, when asked for letters, but seldom as today. I am grieved that Frank should need to go for health, but the sea & Europe,[6] I doubt not, will heal him: — he will not need letters. I

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Mar. 13. On Feb. 20, according to this reporter, there were selections from Donne, Daniel, Herrick, and, especially, Herbert, while Vaughan was treated " rather unjustly we thought "; the lecturer was " extremely natural and easy in manners and speech . . . He . . . shut his eyes endeavoring to recall a passage from Ben Jonson . . ." On Feb. 27 " He began by giving Herbert's Easter day which he forgot last week — a touch of Marvell & then turned at once to Milton the poet of the day . . ." On Mar. 13 " The subject was Wordsworth in chief, but the time was far too short to do justice to the notes he had made . . ."

3. This agrees with the evidence of earlier letters and particularly with the important evidence of Nov. 22, 1868, and of William H. Forbes's letter referred to there. The " Certain ladies " of the preceding note seem to have received too much credit from *The Commonwealth*. For Fields and his possible share in this project, see a note on Jan. 15, 1869. The Mrs. Parkman here mentioned may, I conjecture, be she to whom Emerson wrote one of the letters of Nov. 12, 1867.

4. MS owned by Mr. F. R. Fraprie; ph. in CUL. The form of Mrs. Stearns's name at the end of the letter — a form Emerson did not use in earlier years — suggests that this was written after her husband's death, which occurred in 1867, the year of Frank P. Stearns's graduation from college. Later years in which Jan. 3 fell on Sunday were 1869 and 1875.

5. This would fit 1869, for on Jan. 2 of that year Emerson had given the first of his ten readings in Boston (see a note on the preceding letter).

6. The fact that " Leaves from a Roman Diary," in Stearns's *Cambridge Sketches*, 1905, is dated Feb., 1869, tends to confirm my conjecture as to the year of this letter.

do not remember that I ever carried more than one, except to a banker. With kindest regards to Frank, Yours always,

R. W. Emerson

Mrs Mary E. Stearns.

To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, January? 10? 1869?[7]

Concord, Sunday Night

Dear Edith,

The Dr gives a very good account of your Mother in every respect yet thinks so highly of your nursing that thinks she had better not come home suddenly. So give my love to her & charge her to be very patient & long-enjoying according to apostolic rule,[8] & she shall come home all the sooner. But in these circumstances I hope you will try to come on Tuesday afternoon, for I understood Aunt Elizabeth to tell you that she should not be at home: Otherwise, I should ask her to come over & undertake us. Mrs Agassiz has written that she will not come; Mr A., that he will.[9] If Mamma is comfortable, & your babes will let you, please try to come, and I will write to Ellen [10] what a good child you are.

Your dear Papa.

To James Thomas Fields, Boston, January 15, 1869[11]

Parker House
January 15, 1869

My dear Fields,

I have just received the Account of the Chickering Hall Lectures,[12] with the inclosed balance of one hundred fifty five $\frac{78}{100}$ dol-

7. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The date Jan., 1869, which has been supplied, fits the evidence cited below. The Sunday of Emerson's heading was probably that just preceding Agassiz's visit to Concord.

8. Apparently the "apostolic rule" here given is Emerson's humorous inversion of *Colossians*, 1:11.

9. The MS records of the Concord Lyceum (in the Concord Free Public Library) note Agassiz's lecture on "The Mountain," Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1869. And Emerson wrote in his MS memorandum book under the same date: "Agassiz at Concord Lyceum."

10. Ellen was at Fayal; *cf.* Feb. 2 and 3, 1869, and other letters of 1868–1869. Doubtless there were a number of letters written to her there, but I have not found them.

11. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL.

12. It is pretty clear that Emerson means, not the readings at Chickering Hall, but the lectures of 1868, nearly all of which were given at Meionaon Hall (see a note on

lars; making in all my net receipts, as I read it $1655.75, which is by much the largest sum I ever received for work of this kind. I owe my hearty thanks to you & your house for this admirable management, & to you personally for the suggestion of it, & the friendly energy by which it was effected. Long live the House, & prosper, as they highly deserve: and specially the head of the House who makes all his clients rich, shall never want the prosperity he bestows.

Yours always,
R. W. Emerson

James T. Fields, Esq.

To Emma Lazarus, Buffalo, January 20, 1869[13]

Buffalo
20 January 1869

My dear friend,

I have your last note, as I had already one, — unanswered both, — accusing thus my incapacity, — would it were only in this, — to many happiest duties. Thanks for your hospitable will & proposition, — but I am the worst of guests, & never or rarely come. Yet I write now to say that I mean to be in New York on the 23d instant,[14] for a day or two, & rely on seeing you; so you must not go to Washington or to Rome next week.

The new poem that was to come to me has never arrived, & the only help left is a personal inquisition. I do not know but the sole advice I have to offer is a pounding on the old string, namely, that though you can throw yourself so heartily into the old world of Memory, the high success must ever be to penetrate unto & show the celestial element in the despised Present, & detect the deity that still challenges you under all the gross & vulgar masks.

R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

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Oct. 3, 1868). Other letters had reported the astonishing growth of the returns on those lectures under Fields's able management. In Nov. 11, 1868, Emerson had counted a total of $1300; in Nov. 19 following, to Fields, he acknowledged $200 more, "thus with its foregoers making $1500." The additional payment mentioned in the present letter brought the total, as he said, to over $1655. According to a note in *Journals*, X, 281, Fields was one of the instigators and managers of the Chickering Hall readings, but I find no evidence in support of that statement; *cf.* Jan. 3, 1869, to Forbes, and Feb. 12, 1870.

13. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.

14. See Jan. 24, 1869.

## To Emily Mervine Drury, New York, January 24, 1869[15]

St Denis Hotel. New York
Sunday Eve 24 Jan.y 1869

My dear Mrs Drury,

Your note with its invariable goodness, & I will add, mercy, to your also shortcoming friend, reached me after some delays through my absence from home, & ought of course to have been instantly answered, but also of course it was not; and I can believe that notwithstanding all the happiness which your presence & the thought of your friendship has ever given me, I was added to your list of friends for the trial of your perfect faith and good will.

But without annoying you with a page on my hindrances I will only say, that I did not keep my first engagement at Rochester & was, on representation of the facts, forgiven, on my stipulation to go there on the 3d of February;[16] which, though it costs me three important days, I mean to do. It will certainly be a great satisfaction to find you there which I hardly dare to hope. But I am carrying with me the Southworth head[17] & the book, which will have the value of antiques.

Always affectionately yours
R. W. Emerson

## To James Russell Lowell, Concord, February 2, and Rochester, New York, February 3, 1869[18]

Concord, 2 Feb.y '69

Dear Lowell,

Very sorry to find no opportunity – so clumsy am I at din-

15. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL. This is a copy made by Mrs. Drury herself and so described by her. At the end of the copy she recorded the disposal of the original MS: "Given to Rev. Mr Reed because I had given him 'the Southworth head' which Mr Emerson had brought for me to Rochester." So far as I know, Emerson did not lecture in New York at this time. Apparently one of his appointments was with the poet mentioned in Aug. 21, 1866. In his MS memorandum book for 1869 he wrote under date of Jan. 23: "mem. New York W. B. Wright 354 W. 14th St. from Walter T. Chester, Buffalo." *Cf.* Feb. 20, 1869?

16. See the letter of Feb. 2 and 3, 1869.

17. Two photographs by Southworth & Hawes are described by Sanborn in the *New England Magazine*, n.s., XV, 456, as among the best of the many pictures of Emerson made after 1850. According to the same authority, the "more domestic" of the two is that reproduced in *Emerson in Concord*.

18. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL.

ner-tables, – to speak with you ten minutes in New York [19] about the College, which at this moment seems to be in the moult.[20] And you are so inaccessible in your castle, with its protecting mile, to rushing travellers. But I only write now to enclose tickets [21] in answer to a flattering message which Miss Lily Cabot brought me – she innocent girl believing every word, whilst I being old, had properly defended you from any such idleness. But in case Mrs Lowell or Mabel, (if I may so call a young lady whom I have not seen since she was eight years old, – she making a point never to be at home when I come to her house) or yourself should honor us – it will be at your proper risks. I find I have only two normal cards, so strict have my committee been with me, but a white card shall serve.

My daughter Ellen has found the " Nation," at Fayal,[22] & reports her delight in your paper, & in its malice at my pets.[23]

Ever yours affectionately,

R. W. Emerson

James Russell Lowell, Esq

This note begun at Concord ends here in Rochester N. Y. 3 Feb [24]

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, February 10, 1869 [25]

Concord 10 Feb.ʸ

Dear Edith,

Your Mother who is longing to see you is not more impatient than I, to name a time; but whenever I look at my dates of duty in my Diary, I cannot find a white page, and I see plainly, that, come

19. *Cf.* Jan. 24, 1869.

20. The choice of a new president was imminent at Harvard. At a meeting of the overseers on Jan. 7 there was, so the press reported, much discussion of the view that *the college was badly managed and needed to be reformed* (*Boston Daily Advertiser,* Jan. 8, 1869). On the margin of a printed circular dated Feb. 22, 1869 – a memorial of Professor J. M. Pierce, urging that a progressive and not a conservative be chosen as the next president, Lowell wrote Emerson that he agreed with Pierce. Charles W. Eliot was presently chosen. John H. Gardiner, *Harvard,* 1914, pp. 46–47, notes the low level of instruction in the college at this time.

21. Presumably to the readings at Chickering Hall mentioned in earlier letters.

22. *Cf.* Oct. 29, 1868, and later letters.

23. Possibly a reference to Lowell's account, in *The Nation,* of Emerson's lectures of a few months before (see a note on Oct. 3, 1868).

24. *The Rochester Evening Express,* Feb. 4, 1869, reported Emerson's reading of " Hospitality and Pleasant Homes " on the 3d.

25. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year is fixed by evidence cited below.

when you will, I shall only get the least part of the visit, — I dodging between between this & that appointment. Therefore it is plain you must simply choose the best time for yourself, & stay here as long as you can, you & Will, & the blessed babes, and I shall not fail to get my share between whiles. Tomorrow, & next Thursday, I go to Providence [26] & end there with these two. Then perhaps to Salem & to Randolph, — days not yet fixed: & to Plymouth, say, next Tuesday.[27] which last contingence please name to Will, as my answer to his excellent statement in his letter received today. Tell him besides, — & thank him for it, — that I have done nothing lately but pay debts, & have now paid all, or all floating ones; & do begin to accumulate, &, if he thinks the State House or New York is to be sold, I will think of buying them. But entreat him to come & bring you on the first fair day.

R. W. E.

Have you, — asks your mother, — peradventure the photographs of your Daguerre of Mrs L. E.?

## To James Thomas Fields, Concord, February 20, 1869? [28]

Concord
20 Feb.[y]

My dear Sir,

[1]I have made the fewest changes I could — so not to shock the *amour propre* of the poet, & yet strike out the bad words. You must please, if it come to question, keep my agency out of sight,[29] & he will

26. According to the MS memorandum book for 1869, Emerson gave the last two lectures of a series of six at Providence, on Thursdays, Feb. 11 and 18 ("Leasts and Mosts" and "Greatness").

27. The MS memorandum book for this year does not mention a lecture at Salem in February but gives "Randolph?" under Feb. 23; and that name again appears under Tuesday, Mar. 2, where it is crossed out and Plymouth substituted.

28. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. Excerpt I is printed, with an error which changes the meaning of the first sentence completely, in *Harper's*, LXVIII, 458 (Feb., 1884), and in Annie Fields, *Authors and Friends*, p. 71. I conjecture that this letter concerned the poems of William Bull Wright, who wrote from Goshen, N. Y., Mar. 31, 1869, that his New York address of last winter had been wrongly reported to Emerson by Mr. Chester of Buffalo (*cf.* a note on Jan. 24, 1869); he also acknowledged the help he had received in his attempt to secure the reappearance, under more favorable circumstances, of his volume of poems. Some years later, Apr. 1, 1872, Wright wrote that he had sent a MS book of verse to James R. Osgood & Co. but had not yet heard from it. By 1872, however, Fields had quit the publishing business.

29. This may account for the lack of a signature.

easily persuade himself that your compositor has grown critical & struck out the rough syllables.[1]

## To William E. Tinney, Concord? February? *c.* 27? 1869

[Tinney, Philadelphia, Feb. 6, 1869, described himself as twenty-five, an admirer of Emerson, and a believer in phrenology. He wrote again, Mar. 2, 1869, that he was pleased with Emerson's letter.]

## To Andrew Preston Peabody, Concord, March 3, 1869

[MS listed in Anderson Auction Co., Oct. 14, 1904, where it is described as in regard to a Greek professor. It is not clear whether the letter about Flagg's appointment listed and partly quoted in Goodspeed's Book Shop, Apr., 1930, is the same; neither the date nor the name of the person addressed is given there. Peabody, then acting president of Harvard, had written from Cambridge, Mar. 1, 1869, urging Emerson's approval of the nomination of Isaac Flagg as assistant professor of Greek and regretting the delay in confirmation. He thought he could show that Emerson had been mistaken in regard to the supposed facts of the situation. He inclosed a letter from William Watson Goodwin, the Greek professor, to Isaac Flagg, showing that Goodwin strongly favored the nomination and suggesting that Flagg ask Peabody to speak to Emerson about the matter.]

## To James Bradley Thayer, Concord, March 3, 1869[30]

Concord, 3 March
1869

Dear Mr Thayer,

I received last night your note containing $9.91, amount of Ellen's coupons, & have this day put them to her account in the Savings Bank.

You are quite too good to me in sending me again these delicate Egyptians. I shall try to keep them longer than I did their fore-goers.[31] If I do not, it will be their own fault.

For Vaughan, — tis very likely I talked a little petulantly the other day,[32] — for I wrote nothing. He is not an early acquaintance; I knew

30. MS owned by Professor James B. Thayer; ph. in CUL.

31. *Cf.* May 9, 1867.

32. Both Herbert and Vaughan were included in the sixth of the readings at Chickering Hall, on Feb. 20; according to one friendly critic, Vaughan was treated "rather unjustly" (see a note on Jan. 3, 1869, to Forbes).

nothing of him but the "Sundays," until ten or more years ago the poems were reprinted in Boston.[33] Ellery Channing took warmly to them, & wrote out pages to me of references to every good line; – exalted him above Herbert. I read all these, & attributed more merit than I found. When now I came back to the book to read these gems to the Class, I found all the references, but, instead of gems, glass. Except four lines at the bottom of a page in "The Waterfall," nothing seemed quite good. Add however the opening lines of "The Bird"; and the next poem, "The Timber" is poetic But it is wrong to match him with Herbert, who always gains by long acquaintance. But I shall try to make my peace with George B.[34] by returning to Vaughan at some impartial time.

I shall read the "Providence" again.

It just occurs to me to send you Channing's list of lines. I shall risk the comedy of sending such a mass of poetic MSS to a lawyer loaded with affairs – for he can keep them as long as he will. Yours faithfully,

James B. Thayer, Esq. R. W. Emerson

To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, March 4, 1869[35]

Concord, 4 March.

Dear Edith,

Mamma says, that we depend on you to carry us through next Tuesday Evening; & asks you whether you would not like to have Elizabeth Ripley entreated to come also? – but Mamma must have forgotten or ignored that Elizabeth has gone for the winter, – has she not? – to help Mr Gam[l] Bradford in his housekeeping at Weston or elsewhere. Then she suggested that Sarah Richardson's school is ended, & she might come, &c. &c. But you must over all persuade Will to come if he would like to study palaeontology in the Concord Social Circle, which dates back towards Arthur's Round Table. Grandmama pines already for Ralph & Violet.[36] Bring them. – But she has suddenly dis-

33. *The Sacred Poems and Private Ejaculations of Henry Vaughan*, Boston, 1854. "The Water-fall" and the other poems mentioned below are in this volume. Emerson included "The Retreat" in *Parnassus*.

34. Bradford, doubtless.

35. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year is fixed by the advertisement mentioned.

36. Ralph Emerson Forbes and his sister Edith (*cf.* a note on Nov. 22, 1867, and see July 2, 1871).

appeared, leaving only this advertisement clipped from today's Transcript,[37] *which she thinks you may like to read.*

Tell Will, that I have his letter today, & it appears to speak good sense as all his letters do, & I shall probably be guided by it, if a little slowly. Thanks ever for his interposition in this matter, which still gives a cheerful look to the old sour affair.[38]

R. W. E.

### To Wilson Flagg, Concord? March? *c.* 4? 1869

[Wilson Flagg, Boston, Mar. 5, 1869, acknowledged Emerson's " prompt reply," which had evidently explained that Emerson's committee were not yet satisfied with the qualifications of Isaac Flagg. *Cf.* Mar. 3, 1869, to Peabody.]

### To George C. Francis, Concord, March 11, 1869[39]

Concord
11 March, 1869.

My dear Sir,

I enclose a dollar which I begged at your office-desk, on Monday, with thanks for the courtesy.

With great regard,
*R. W. Emerson*

George C. Francis, Esq.

### To James Thomas Fields, Boston, March 13, 1869[40]

I will copy for you Websters verses as soon as I go home from my MS. Dion is Wordsworths grand poem but I do not remember to have

37. The clipping pasted here on the MS contains the advertisement of " a respectable English girl " for a place as a maid. The same advertisement is to be found in the *Boston Daily Evening Transcript* for Mar. 4, 1869.

38. Plymouth and Court St. rents are mentioned in other letters. W. H. Forbes, Mar. 3, 1869, advised that the Jackson estate be sold and divided.

39. MS owned by the Public Library, Boston; ph. in CUL. George C. Francis lived in Cambridge but was a member of Sever, Francis & Co. in Boston (*The Boston Directory* for 1869–1870).

40. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. This is written on the same sheet with a letter from Fields, dated Boston, Mar. 13, 1869. Fields wanted to know where " Webster's lines, which you quoted a few weeks ago " could be found; whether it was " Diol " or " Dion " that was named in the last reading; and where the two bragging brothers mentioned in one of the earlier readings were to be found. For the readings, see a note on Jan. 3, 1869, to Forbes. It is probable that *The Heimskringla* was quoted in the first reading and Webster, in the fourth or fifth. Wordsworth came mainly in the ninth; and this reading was, as we know, the one to which Emerson refers as of " today."

mentioned it lately; shall probably today; The contention between Sigurd the Crusader & his brother King Einar is in the Heimskringla translated by Laing.[41]

Ever yours,
R. W. E.

## To Emma Lazarus, Concord, March 14, 1869[42]

Concord
14 March 1869

My dear friend,

I have the new sheets safely, and the "Masque"[43] also safe, & am sensible of the large trust you put in me; and yet they lie untouched, for the present, & you have had no word from me since I saw you. I hope your patience will still prove perfect, for my pre-occupations are not yet over, though this week puts an end to a part of them. I will not annoy you by counting their number or varieties,[44] & only write to assure you of the security of the manuscripts & the good will of your friend R. W. Emerson
Miss Emma Lazarus.

## To Anne Charlotte Lynch Botta, Concord, March 16, 1869[45]

Concord, [1]16 March,
1869.[1]

My dear friend,

This last week brought me your note, full, as always, of thought & hospitality for me. But I fear there is no New York that I can reach for many days & weeks to come. I think I am held more fast,

41. *The Heimskringla*, tr. Samuel Laing, 1844, III, 176–180, where the names are given as Sigurd and King Eystein. A letter from J. Harland, Manchester, Nov. 23, 1847, accompanied a copy of *The Heimskringla*, which he lent to Emerson. Vols. II and III of the 1844 edition are still in Emerson's house, at Concord, and bear his signature.

42. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.

43. Possibly the poem now known as "A Masque of Venice."

44. The MS memorandum book shows that during the early months of this year Emerson not only gave his readings at Boston, but lectured in many other towns.

45. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I–III are in *Memoirs of Anne C. L. Botta*, p. 341.

this winter & spring, than in any rememberable days, to my niche; & by a concourse of claims & duties of unusual variety. With the enumeration of these you shall not be annoyed. But I am happy & flattered that your friendly doors are still open to me: and my wife sits by, & recounts your goodness to Ellen, & insists that I shall convey to you her grateful regards. Ellen sends us oranges, & paradisiacal details of the Azores, & of the Dabneys,[46] who are nobles in the truest sense.

II I am glad you find Huxley interesting. He is an acknowledged master in England. As long ago as the Prince of Wales was in Boston, Dr Acland [47] interested us much in H. But I have read him less than his compeers, Owen, & Tyndall, & Darwin.II You shall not keep the Lecture for me, as I shall probably find it in Boston. III Natural Science *is* the point of interest now, &, I think, is dimming & extinguishing a good deal that was called poetry. These sublime & all-reconciling revelations of nature will exact of poetry a correspondent height & scope, or put an end to it.III The photograph of Oriel is most welcome to me: I was Clough's guest therein in happy days.[48] I add it at once to my Botta Gallery, which has already given great satisfaction to many eyes. You will have guessed that I am driven by concourse of small duties as furiously as heroes by large, when you reckon how long it is since I received the kind words to which I am replying. With friendly remembrances to Professor Botta, Yours faithfully,

R. W. Emerson

Mrs Anna C. L. Botta.

## To Frank B. Fay, Concord? March 16, 1869

[George T. Angell, Boston, Mar. 17, 1869, said "Mr Fay" had just handed him Emerson's favor of the 16th. Angell, as president of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, urged Emerson to say a few words for the cause at a meeting in Boston. The *Boston Daily Advertiser,* Mar. 31, 1869, recorded the first annual meeting of the Society on Mar. 30: Angell presided and Fay – the Hon. Frank B. Fay, of Chelsea – presented his first annual report as secretary.]

46. Among the passengers who sailed on the "Fredonia" with Ellen Emerson for Fayal (*cf.* Oct. 29, 1868) were a number of Dabneys, including Charles W. Dabney, Jr., and wife, of Boston, and Miss C. P. Dabney, apparently a resident of Fayal.

47. Henry Wentworth Acland, physician and professor of medicine at Oxford, accompanied the Prince of Wales to America in 1860.

48. In the letter of Apr. 2 and 6, 1848, Emerson says he was "housed close upon Oriel, though not within it."

## To Frederic Henry Hedge, Concord, March 28, 1869 [49]

Concord
Sunday Eve.
28 March

Dear Hedge,

I had a swift interview with George Bradford some days ago, & we agreed that you should be entreated to take the 11 o'clock A. M. train for Concord, on Fast Day [50] & spend the day with him & me & mine. To make that good thing sure I have relieved myself of an engagement for that day at Providence,[51] & now wish to be sure of your good will to our little plan. Please do not fail your old friends G. P. B. &

R. W. Emerson

Mr Adams [52] was not elected yesterday.

## To Sarah Swain Forbes, Concord, March 29, 1869? [53]

Concord
Monday Eve. 29 March

Dear Mrs Forbes,

I trust you will have forgiven me for not appearing at your house tonight, – what with the rain,[54] with a guest at home,[55] & plenty

49. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The Sunday, Mar. 28, of this letter might belong to any of a number of years; but the evidence cited below makes 1869 certain. The failure to mention Sarah Bradford Ripley, who for years joined Emerson in the celebration of Fast Day, is also significant as indicating a time later than 1867, the year of her death (*cf.* letters of Mar. 26 and Apr. 2, 1867).

50. Thursday, Apr. 8, in 1869 (see the *Boston Daily Advertiser* of that date).

51. The MS memorandum book for 1869 has, under Apr. 8: "Providence. Reading." The Providence papers, as one would expect, seem to have no announcement of Emerson for Fast Day, but we learn of his two readings there, under the auspices of the Union for Christian Work, on Apr. 15 and 22 (*Providence Daily Journal,* Apr. 15, 16, and 22). The program for these occasions was of the same kind Emerson had given at Chickering Hall a little earlier.

52. Probably Charles Francis Adams, who became a member of the Saturday Club in 1870 (*The Early Years,* pp. 483 ff.).

53. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Mar. 29 fell on Monday in 1869, the year indicated by very inconclusive evidence noted below.

54. The *Boston Daily Evening Transcript,* Mar. 30, 1869, says that the rain storm of "yesterday afternoon" lasted through the night.

55. The entry for Mar. 29, 1869, in *Journals* (X, 287) says, "Alcott came, and talked Plato and Socrates . . ." This would easily explain Emerson's failure to attend to another engagement.

of work for the morning it proved quite impracticable – & at last – I confess – drove the whole design quite out of my memory – till just now recalled. I have the more need of pardon.

R. W. Emerson

Mrs Forbes.

### To Abraham Jackson, Concord? March 31, 1869

[Mentioned in Apr. 1, 1869.]

### To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, April 1, 1869 [56]

Thursday, 1 Apr.

Dear Edith,

You do not consider that I have not crept out of my prison-yard yet. I go to New Bedford with lecture on Tuesday.[57] Overseers meet Wednesday. Thursday, Dr Hedge & Mr Bradford come here.[58] & I carry about with me MSS. from New York,[59] &c. unread, unopened, yet. So I think I must not allow myself a visit to Milton for a week or two.

Please tell Will that I received safely his note & its enclosure drawn out of that wonderful inexhaustible Christmas Box which he has invented, hinting even at further possibilities. – [Yes by all means invite Mrs Paulina Nash & Mr & Mrs F. P. Nash if there is room.][60]

Tell Will also, after this parenthesis, that I wrote yesterday to Abraham Jackson, that, if Mr Wadsworth had not yet been able, on account of snow or rain, to finish his survey, he would please not the less send me his Report on the Rent roll, & the owners' names, & would meet as fast as he could the urgency of the Broker. Your Mother entreats me to enclose, for your reading, a letter which Doctor C. T. J. has sent her from Alice.[61] Affectionately,

R. W. E

Mrs Edith E. Forbes.

56. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year is fixed by the evidence cited below.

57. The MS memorandum book for 1869 gives Tuesday, Apr. 6, to New Bedford ("Art and Nature").

58. See Mar. 28, 1869.

59. From Emma Lazarus, no doubt (*cf.* Apr. 26, 1869, to her).

60. Edith Emerson Forbes had written, Boston, Mar. 31 (1869 supplied), that Mrs. Forbes had sent out her notes "inviting about seventy people to your reading" and had asked whether her father wished to have the Nashes invited.

61. Alice Jackson Arthur, mentioned in earlier letters.

To George William Curtis, Concord? April? *c.* 10? 1869

[Mentioned in Curtis to J. R. Lowell, Apr. 15, 1869 (Edward Cary, *George William Curtis, 1894, p. 209*).]

To Abraham Jackson, Concord? April 12, 1869

[Jackson, Boston, Apr. 15, 1869, acknowledges this letter, which, it is clear, contained inquiries about the dimensions of the Jackson family estate in Boston, the annual receipts from it, and an abstract of title to it.]

To George Sewall Boutwell, Concord? April 18? 1869

[Mentioned in Apr. 18, 1869.]

To Leander M. Drury, Concord, April 18, 1869 [62]

Concord
April 18 1869

My dear Sir,

I have been absent from home three days, &, on my return, found your letter & Mrs Drury's waiting for me. I am a clumsy & unwilling interferer in politics, but I have written a letter to Mr Secretary Boutwell [63] to state my knowledge & my desires in the matter, & it will go into the mail for Washington at the same time with this note to you. I extremely regret my absence lest my letter may be too late to be of any use. It would have little enough weight at the best, but I hope & trust you will have the desired confirmation, & then I shall wish to think that I too was one of your petitioners. For better speed I send directly to Mr Boutwell, instead of enclosing to yourself.

I send my thanks to Mrs Drury for her friendliest letter, every line of which interested me, & I am always her debtor, & do not yet abandon the hope, after all my shortcomings, that I may still show myself a just correspondent deserving so many good letters with which she has honored me.

With very kind regards,
R. W. Emerson

L. M. Drury. Esq

62. MS owned by Mr. Thomas F. Madigan; ph. in CUL. A letter from Leander M. Drury, husband of Emerson's correspondent of many years, was inclosed in hers dated Utica, N. Y., Apr. 13, 1869; Drury, it seems, feared removal from his place as U. S. pension agent at Canandaigua, N. Y. *Cf.* the *Register of Officers and Agents*, 1868. Drury replied to the present letter from Canandaigua, May 31, 1869.

63. Letter of Apr. 18? 1869.

To Alexander Ireland, Concord, April 26, 1869

[MS listed and partly quoted in Maggs Bros., catalogue 174 (1900). Incompletely printed in Ireland, *In Memoriam*, pp. 85–86.]

To Emma Lazarus, Concord, April 26, 1869 [64]

Concord
April 26, 1869

My dear Miss Lazarus

I have been looking in these weeks for a letter from you renouncing & denouncing me as a person incapable of all friendship, contumacious, &, in sum, a borrower of precious manuscripts which he neither publishes nor restores nor accounts for. Not having received such a letter, your patience & magnanimity rise daily to my wonder, &, at last, to my rebuke: And though by no means ready to send you my final Report on the duties with which I was charged, I will at least assure you that both the Manuscripts are safe, & by no means forgotten by me. It has happened to me this winter & spring to accept a succession of tasks public & private more numerous & more exacting of time than in any season I remember, so that I have been forced to postpone all correspondence & all reading not imperative. I am not yet quite out of these bonds, but with rising hopes of escape.

I believe I must not enter now, – as I was just turning this page to do, – on the poems – but will only ask leave, as committees do, for a longer day which yet shall soon arrive.

Ever your friend,
R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

To Francis James Child, Concord? May? *c.* 10? 1869

[Mentioned in May 18, 1869, to Hill.]

To John Boynton Hill, Concord, May 18, 1869 [65]

Concord. 18. May. 1869 –

My dear Hill,

I have been much a sinner to-you-ward in the unpardonable tardiness of my letters. Yet not so much a sinner as a pre-occupied man, more driven by my tasks this last year & this new year than ever

64. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.
65. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is a copy, not in Emerson's hand.

before. Another fact is, that in my absence from home, my wife undertook to carpet & paint my study & all my books were removed. When I came home I looked for the two copies of Mr Hodgman's Memoir of your brother,[66] but have not yet found it, after much searching; so that I was compelled to borrow Reed's copy to send to Professor Child. It was to me an interesting & I think an accurately true record, entirely simple & plain, & yet honourable throughout to the courage & fidelity of your brother, in all his career. I sent it with a long letter [67] to Mr Child & I enclose to you his answer & the letter of Dr Brown — I am sorry that the reply is not what we wished.[68] I am now to ask you to send me two, or shall I say, three more copies of the book, one for Dr Brown, one for the College Library & one for me.[69] I have all your letters & if they are unanswered, so alas are many more that I have received in the year. —

Yours faithfully,

R. W. Emerson.

John. B. Hill. Esq.

### To Benjamin Rodman, Concord? May 18, 1869

[Rodman, New Bedford, May 18, 1869, acknowledged Emerson's "note of this morning," and said he found, as he believed, that Miss Kellogg was to be in New Bedford on Thursday. W. J. Potter had written from New Bedford, May 17, 1869, that the next Thursday would be quite unfavorable for Emerson's proposed readings, as Miss Kellogg was announced for that evening in Italian opera.]

### To William Bradley Dorr, Concord, June 1, 1869 [70]

Concord
1 June 1869

My dear Dorr,

I found my name lately on a committee appointed at some meeting of Alumni of Harvard College to solicit Class subscriptions to lift

66. Edwin R. Hodgman, *A Brief Memoir of Rev. Joseph Bancroft Hill,* Boston, 1868. Joseph B. Hill was the twin brother of Emerson's correspondent and died in the service of the U. S. Christian Commission at Chattanooga, Tenn., in June, 1864 (title page and p. 5).

67. May? *c.* 10? 1869.

68. For the probable subject of this correspondence, *cf.* June 9, 1869.

69. Hill replied, June 10, 1869, that he had recently wrapped up the three copies desired.

70. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL.

the college out of a poverty now growing ridiculous.[71] I did not make haste to act, remembering that it was difficult to induce the Class of 1821 to make any important contribution to the fund for the "Memorial Hall," in 1866.[72] But meeting Lowell,[73] some days ago, I found him quite ready to give to the present object. I went to Reed, & he was well disposed. I went to Gardner, & he at once told me that he would give five thousand dollars. Lowell promised $500., but I understand he will now give 1000. Pratt favored the plan, & will probably assist. I write today to Upham, Kent, Wood, Hill, & Farnsworth,[74] not expecting, of course, out of the city to get large subscriptions, but to swell by a few hundreds the amount. An outright gift, large or small, seems to be preferred by the contributors, to the way of an annual subscription Now I hope this note may find you in such prosperity & good will to the poor old College which our young days knew, that you can & will assist in the effort to put it on an independent footing.

In the midst of this talking above-mentioned, it was proposed that our class should invite Barnwell to attend the class-meeting on Commencement Day, this month, & Upham should write him to that effect. If Barnwell refuses, we shall probably have no meeting, but wait for our grand climacteric in 1871. Meantime, I send you the first & second circulars lately issued, & have at least this pleasure from the business, that it puts me, after 48 years, once more in connection with my old chum.

With all kind regards,

William B. Dorr, Esq

R. W. Emerson

## To Ralph Farnsworth, Concord? June 1, 1869

[See the letters of June 1, to Dorr, and 9, 1869, to Hill. A small strip of paper contains this, with various other notes in Emerson's hand: "1869 June 1 Wrote to Kent, Farnsworth, Upham, Dorr, & Hill, in behalf of Class subscription to H. College."]

71. Emerson appears as a representative of the class of 1821 among the signers of the appeal to Harvard graduates which is published in the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, Dec. 21, 1868. Subscriptions were to be paid, in ten annual instalments, into a fund the income of which would be used for the general purposes of the college.

72. See letters to various classmates of July and later, 1866.

73. Francis C. Lowell.

74. See letters of June 1, 1869, to Upham, Kent, Hill, and Farnsworth. Possibly Emerson actually wrote to Wood about the same time, but I have no proof.

### To John Boynton Hill, Concord? June 1, 1869

[See the note on the letter of the same date to Farnsworth.]

### To Edward Kent, Concord? June 1, 1869

[*Cf.* other letters and notes of June 1, 1869. Kent, Bangor, Me., June 5, 1869, thanked Emerson for his letter and inclosures, commended the plan for a subscription for the college, and promised to contribute $100.]

### To Charles Wentworth Upham, Concord? June 1, 1869

[See the note on June 1, 1869, to Farnsworth.]

### To Emma Lazarus, Concord, June 7, 1869[75]

Concord
June 7

My dear friend,

O yes, the "Heroes" is good to write & to read. I carried it upstairs & read it to my wife, & to my daughter Ellen who has just now returned from Fayal.[76] Ellen said, "You know that I dont know about the poetry, but the word is true, and it is the first time it has been said in America, & I shall send it as a sop to poor Will & Charles," meaning (Lt. Col.) W. H. Forbes & (Captain) Charles Emerson, both of whom she highly esteems. The tone & sentiment of the poem are noble, & the voice falters in reading it aloud. And yet Mr Lowell[77] is right, if by rough judgment he can drive you to a severer pruning of your verses, & mainly to a severer ear. This poem is so free of fault, however, that you can well afford to put the 10th stanza into the smelting-pot again, & save the stanza, which is essential, by mending its melody. Did you ever read such a word as "*'gainst*" in Tennyson? here it occurs twice in this stanza: then "intense" is a dangerous word which we avoid in conversation for its flatness,[78] — but that is venial: but the verse fails by ab-

75. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL. The year is fixed by evidence cited below.

76. According to the *Boston Daily Evening Transcript*, May 27, 1869, Ellen Emerson arrived at Boston from Fayal in the "Fredonia" that morning.

77. Emma Lazarus, New York, June 1, 1869, asked whether Lowell was right and she was to be sent back to learn her lesson over again, and whether she was capable of anything worthy.

78. In the final form of the stanza of "Heroes" (*The Poems of Emma Lazarus*, 1889, I, 57–58), "against" has replaced "'gainst" and is used only once, and "intense" has been dropped.

sence of all force & melody in the last line. You must change that & its correspondent rhyme. Having made this rude beginning, is there not hope that I may now presently arrive at the older & more peremptory duty of restoring to you " Admetus " & the " Masque," with notes? [79]

Yours ever,

R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

[80] To explain, I will venture to sketch what I think the ear requires of stronger accent, though I have not at this moment time or facility to attempt a clean verse. —

The selfsame men, with like audacious port,
And with as stout endurance struggle on, —
As sturdy & as valiant in the street,
As faced the blazing fort.[81]

## To John Boynton Hill, Concord, June 9, 1869 [82]

Concord. 9 June. 1869

My dear Hill.

I think you must have been absent from home — perhaps not yet returned — or I should have had a reply to my note of a fortnight ago.[83] Yet I must add a sheet today. That concerned your books, & my correspondence with Messrs Child & Clark on the Roll of Honor.[84] And the affair remains where it was.

My later errand touches the movement of the Alumni in aid of the College. I found my name on the Committee to put the matter before the Class of 1821.[85] I did not hasten to act, remembering how limited was my success in canvassing in our Class for the Memorial Hall in 1866, when I found none to help me but yourself, Wood, Cheney, Up-

79. The MSS of *Admetus* and " Masque " are mentioned in earlier letters.

80. The remainder of the letter is in pencil and on a separate sheet. In a copy owned by RWEMA (ph. in CUL), this appears definitely as a postscript to the letter of June 7.

81. The final form of this tenth stanza differs widely from these lines of Emerson's.

82. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is a copy, not in Emerson's hand.

83. Apparently June 1, 1869, to Hill.

84. The letter to Child was that of May? *c.* 10? 1869. I am uncertain whether " Clark " is an error for " Brown "; *cf.* May 18, 1869, to Hill. And it is not quite clear whether there was a separate letter to this Brown or Clark. Presumably Emerson had recommended that Joseph B. Hill's name be included in a roll of honor, perhaps in Memorial Hall, with the names of other Harvard students who died in the Civil War.

85. *Cf.* June 1, 1869, to Dorr.

ham, Farnsworth, Kent, Briggs & Reed. But meeting with Lowell he said he was willing to subscribe to the present object. Reed was ready also. I went to Gardner who was cordially ready to give $5000.00. Pratt indicated also very good dispositions. I then wrote to Kent,[86] who promises me a hundred dollars, with a reserved right to add fifty more. – Upham finds himself exhausted at this moment, by dependent relatives, & I have no answers yet from Farnsworth or Dorr, nor have I written to all on my list. I will gladly give a hundred. I think Reed (who you know has founded a Divinity College for Episcopalians at Cambridge, by a donation of $100,000.)[87] inclines to give $500. now. Lowell[88] promised me $500. & I learn, will increase it to $1000. So that I hoped at first, that with our country hundreds the class donation might mount to $10.000. One thing is certain that the College is ridiculously poor; & what is bad, – has just been forced to raise the room-rents, so that no poor scholar can live in Holworthy, the rent being now $200. for a chamber in that Hall. This last year, a room in Stoughton cost only $56: but now (I think) is to be $125. Charles Hoar gave me the figures, but I have lost them. However I enclose the statement of the Committee who are working for the relief. I find in our men a natural preference for an outright gift, instead of an annual subscription. I shall be very glad if you find yourself in will & ability to help the endeavor. My other reason for writing is to say that we talked, (Lowell, Reed & I) over the expediency of holding a class-meeting this year. It was agreed that Barnwell should be invited through a letter from Upham to come. It was done & Barnwell replies that he cannot. Then we agree that it is better not to attempt a separate class-meeting until our grand climateric in 1871: & meantime, since the Alumni dinner this year is on a new foundation, we will all go to that: & I am to go to W$^{m}$ Gray tomorrow, to secure a separate table at the festival for 1821. So do not fail us on that day.

Affectionately yrs.

R. W. Emerson.

J. B. Hill. Esq.

86. See the letters of June 1, 1869, to Kent, Upham, Farnsworth, and Dorr.

87. A sketch of the life of Benjamin Tyler Reed and of the school he founded is in William Lawrence, *Beginnings of the Episcopal Theological School*, Cambridge (1927), pp. 7 ff.

88. Francis C. Lowell.

## To James Elliot Cabot, Concord, June 17, 1869[89]

Concord, June 17, 1869.

My dear Cabot,

More dear & prized than one would dare say to a Doric gentleman except in a letter, — — I learn from Mr Eliot that you hesitate to listen to his invitation to give lessons on Philosophy.[90] I must hope from you a better result; for, of all the names shown me yours was the most important, & if you withhold it, it will kill the design. On an enterprize so new, the College cannot, I suppose, send for Mr J. H. Sterling[91] with sufficient assurances. A little later, & if the first trial prospers, it might. The project seems to me highly worthy of the College, indicating its good will to be a working College in these active & emulous times, and a right step toward the position of a University we would give it. It is certainly a very serious gift they ask of you, — all the nobler. The number of weeks & lessons formidable, — but of course they want literature & history as well as the teacher's own results.

Did you send me the Temple Bar article on Tennyson?[92] It was well worth reading. I shall go to the Saturday Club next week in the hope of seeing you.

Always yours,
R. W. Emerson

J. Elliot Cabot, Esq.

## To John Murray Forbes, Concord, June 24, 1869[93]

Best of men, I can & will be with you on Monday Morning, if there is need, but you do not tell me at what hour, nor whether in Milton, Boston, or or Concord. I propose the last, as the *venue*.

Yours wherever,
R. W. Emerson

J. M. Forbes, Esq
Concord, June 24th 1869

89. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL.

90. Emerson, Cabot, and John Fiske were confirmed as "University Lecturers" on philosophy for the ensuing academic year at a meeting of the overseers of Harvard on June 29 following (*Boston Daily Advertiser*, June 30, 1869). Eliot was presumably the new president.

91. *Cf.* earlier letters to Stirling, whose name Emerson certainly knew how to spell.

92. "The Poetry of the Period. Mr. Tennyson" (*Temple Bar*, May, 1869).

93. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

## To John Murray Forbes, Concord, June 25, 1869 [94]

Concord
June 25, 1869

Dear Mr Forbes,

My letter [95] was in answer to your telegraphic despatch Later, I received your note which fixed the hour & purpose. And now that I have a third summons, I neither wish nor dare to refuse.

Yours,
R. W. Emerson

J. M. Forbes, Esq.

## To John Boynton Hill, Concord, June 25, 1869 [96]

Concord. 25 June. '69.

My dear Hill,

Your letter came to me safely, & the three books [97] also, for which I am all the more grateful, because the first have not yet been recovered. I shall tomorrow carry them to their addresses.

I was to notify you if any new order were taken about class-meeting. Barnwell answered Upham that he could not come, because his own College Commencement falls on the same day 29 June, as ours. And as the Alumni this year take the Academic festival into their own hands we are content to join that & have asked for a x x x x x x I am sorry that you are prevented from helping the College this year, but the bag will remain open, I doubt not, for the day when it pleases you. I believe I have no news to add on that matter. I hope you will come to Commencement by all means. — x x x x x

## To Edward Kent, Concord? July *c.* 8, 1869

[Kent, Lynn, Mass., July 9, 1869, accepts Emerson's invitation for the following Wednesday. *Cf.* July *c.* 9, 1869.]

94. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

95. June 24, 1869.

96. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is an incomplete copy, not in Emerson's hand. I have followed the copyist's method of indicating omissions.

97. For the books and the letter from Hill, see May 18, 1869, to him and notes.

## To Emma Lazarus, Concord, July 9, 1869 [98]

Concord –
July 9, 1869.

My dear Miss Lazarus,

I ought long ago to have taken a decided part either to work out my criticism on your poems – as I doubted not at first to do, – or to have sent them back,[99] & committed them to your own. But I still believed that my preoccupations were temporary, & the freedom would presently return – which does not return. I think I have never had so many tasks as in the last twelvemonth, and just now some revolutions at Cambridge [100] have embarrassed me more than ever with time-taking duties, so that – added to the old ones – my rainbow leisures are thrust far forward quite or almost out of sight. For Admetus, I had fully intended to use your consent & carry it to Mr Fields for the "Atlantic." But on reading it over carefully, I found that what had so strongly impressed me on the first reading was the dignity & pathos of the story as you have told it, which still charms me. But the execution in details is not equal to this merit or to the need. You permit feeble lines & feeble words. Thus you write words which you can never have spoken. Please now to articulate the word "smileless," [101] – which you have used twice at no long interval. You must cut out all the lines & words you can spare & thus add force I have kept the poem so long that you will have forgotten it much, & will read it with fresh eyes. The dialogue of Hyperion & the Fates [102] is not good enough. Cut down every thing that does not delight you to the least possible. I have marked a few heedless words. "Doubt" does not "ravage" nor be "revenged" [103]

But I hate to pick & spy, & only wish to insist that, after reading Shakspeare for fifteen minutes, you shall read in this MS. a page or two to see what you can spare.

My present thought being that it would not be fair to yourself to offer it to the Atlantic until after your careful revision.

98. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.

99. *Cf.* June 7, 1869, and earlier letters.

100. *Cf.* letters of June 1 and later, 1869, about the subscriptions, and June 17, 1869.

101. This word seems not to appear in the 1871 or 1889 edition.

102. *Admetus and Other Poems*, pp. 9–11. This remains one of the weak passages of the poem.

103. Apparently the fault was corrected.

For the Masque,[104] – I had it in mind when I first brought it home to indicate some capital scraps of pastoral poetry in Ben Jonson, to show you what a realism those English brains attained when gazing at flowers & pheasants.

I think the best pastoral is Shakspeare's " Winter's Tale." You will think it cheap to say these proverbs. Who could n't conjure with Shakspeare's name?

And now that I may pour out all my vitriol at once, I will add that I received the poem on Thoreau,[105] but that I do not think it cost you any day-dawn, or midnight oil. But the poem to the *Heroes* keeps all its value.

On the whole, in this cynicism of mine, & on this suggestion of yours, I decide to inclose the two Manuscripts to you by mail today, & I am not without hope that I may find an opportunity to talk with you about them when you have forgiven me my bilious mood. Your friend,

R W Emerson

Miss E. Lazarus.

## To John Boynton Hill, Concord? July *c.* 9, 1869[106]

July 1869.

My dear Hill.

I have asked Kent,[107] Upham, & Wood to come & dine with me next Wednesday 14th inst. & I have good hope they will come. I hope besides to bring Reed & perhaps Lowell. Now I beg you to put all obstacles behind you & come to meet them. It is not for business at all, but only for memory & hope, & to supply the fault of our not meeting on Commencement Day. Kent's being in the neighborhood suggested the reunion. Perhaps I can find more limbs of 1821

We will dine at 2 – & expect you to a late break-fast if you can take the first train that morning, & I will give you a good bed at night. If any serious obstacle should make it desirable to change the day (for as yet I have only Upham's acceptance) [108] I shall telegraph you. I

104. *Cf.* Mar. 14, 1869.

105. This poem was, I believe, dropped.

106. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is a copy, not in Emerson's hand. Hill replied, Mason, N. H., July 12, 1869, that he would come.

107. July *c.* 8, 1869. Probably Emerson asked Upham and Wood also by letter, but I have no proof.

108. This shows that Kent's reply of July 9 had not yet been received and makes it probable that the present letter was not written later than that date.

received your books & delivered one to the Library & one to Dr Brown.[109]

Come.

Yours ever,

John B. Hill. Esq. R. W. Emerson.

To Josiah Quincy, Jr., Concord, July 12, 1869[110]

Concord
July 12, 1869.

Dear Quincy,

I entreat you to come & dine with me on Wednesday, 14th at 2'o clock. Kent & Upham will come: perhaps Wood & Hill, & I hope *one or two more limbs of 1821* should be here. Kent came to Commencement, & found only two remnants, & I comforted him by the hope that we would try to find two or three more this week. There is no business whatever, nothing but kind memories & congratulations, but these grow important in old age & to men far in the country. So I pray you to clothe yourself in your habitual serenity, & come & shine on us. Take the 11 o'clock Fitchburg train & convince yourself that wolves & catamounts no longer infest this town.

Yours with kind regard,

Josiah Quincy, Esq. R W Emerson

To Mellish Irving Motte, Concord? July *c.* 12, 1869

[Motte wrote from Cohasset, Mass., July 13, 1869, acknowledging Emerson's invitation for the following day, but stating that he could hardly reach Concord in time for the symposium of old classmates. *Cf.* July 12, 1869, and earlier letters of this month from Emerson to his classmates.]

To ————————, Concord, July 21, 1869

[Printed in the *Boston Daily Advertiser,* July 29, 1869, and in *The New-York Times,* July 30 of the same year, p. 4. Emerson says he is forced to decline all new tasks that are not imperative, and begs his correspondent " to say to the Essex County Woman's Suffrage Association, that while I think their political claim founded in equity, and though perhaps it does not yet appear to any what precise form in practice it will and ought to take, yet the seriousness and thoughtfulness with which it is urged seem to me to mark an important step

109. *Cf.* June 9, 1869.

110. MS owned by Mr. M. A. DeWolfe Howe; ph. in CUL. Quincy replied, Quincy, Mass., July 12, 1869, that he would come.

in civilization." According to the *Advertiser,* this letter was read on July 28 at a convention of the Association at Newburyport, Mass.

There is some confused evidence of other letters of a like sort during the same year. Harriet Beecher Stowe, n. p., n. d. (endorsed 1869), wrote to ask Emerson to contribute to a discussion of the woman problem in *Hearth and Home* and told him that she was struck by the reading of his letter to the suffrage convention in Boston. And we find her writing in *Hearth and Home* for Aug. 28, 1869, in her article on "What is and what is not the Point in the Woman Question":

"At a convention recently held at Lynn . . . A letter also was read from Ralph Waldo Emerson, in which he says that the seriousness, earnestness, and perseverance with which this subject has been presented merits the attention of every thoughtful mind."

As the indirectly quoted sentence does not exactly tally with the last in the letter of July 21 given above, it may have come from a different letter; but I have not found any record for Lynn, and it seems possible that the reference to a meeting there was merely a confused echo of the meeting at Newburyport, in the same county. For Boston, there is other reason for doubt. We have, in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* of May 27, 1869, a pretty full account of the meeting of the New England Woman Suffrage Association on the preceding day. Emerson was present, his remarkably friendly speech is recorded at some length, and we learn that, with his consent, he was elected a vice-president. Furthermore, there is a list of letters read before the Association — a list in which Emerson is not mentioned. It may be that Mrs. Stowe had read the speech but later, recalling it imperfectly, referred to it as a letter.]

## To John Spencer Clark, Concord? July 26, 1869 [111]

July 26 1869

Mr Clark.

Dear Sir

I send the six volumes corrected for the press. I shall probably have to to send you a few days later a few more *errata* for the English Traits.[112]

Respectfully
R. W. Emerson

111. MS owned by Mr. Leslie B. Cooper; phs. in the New York Public Library and in CUL. Apparently Emerson began a "25" in his date line and changed it to "26." John Spencer Clark was a member of Fields, Osgood & Co. (*The Boston Directory* for 1869–1870; and a note on Nov. 11, 1868).

112. Vol. II of *The Prose Works,* Fields, Osgood & Co., Boston, 1869. On the day of this letter Emerson noted in his diary (*Journals,* X, 295): "This morning sent my six prose volumes, revised and corrected, to Fields and Company for their new edition in two volumes." The new edition was published on Oct. 27 (*Boston Daily Advertiser,* Oct. 27, 1869), and among the acknowledgments from friends to whom it was sent was

## To Edwin Morton, Concord, July 27, 1869[113]

Concord
27 July, 1869 –

My dear Sir,

I do not think it prudent for me to promise one, much less two, of the Sunday lectures, to which you so kindly invite me. I have

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one from Holmes, who took occasion to record the change in his own estimate of Emerson:

" Boston Oct. 30th 1869.

" My dear Mr. Emerson,

" I found your two volumes, – with your own very kind autograph to give them additional value for myself and for those who come after me, – on my table, Saturday evening.

" I was very slow and very thick-witted in finding out the qualities which I now, in common with all the world, recognize in your writings. I will not put my estimate of them into phrases farther than to say this, – that more than any contemporary reading with which I am familiar they reach the springs of thought and action and call out all the bravery and nobleness of the souls open to their influences more than all the war-odes that are said or sung. They are peaceful battle-songs which do not make men set their teeth and knit their foreheads, but send them forward smiling to think their thoughts and say them – which is the truest and hardest of warfares. This is the secret of their power and not simply the wit or the wisdom, the algebraic generalizations and the acumenated niceties of observation which so captivate your lovers.

" I had the great pleasure of listening to several of the last course of Lectures you delivered in Boston, some of which I believe I recognize in your second volume as I glance over it. I was caught by some paragraphs which seemed familiar to me, and never more fully realized certain fascinations of style and way of thinking which I have no doubt are the chief attraction to not a few of your growing circle of readers. But I must repeat it, it is the widening and lifting influence they exert on men and women – getting them above and outside of the limits of time and space and accident among the eternal truths that were the order which preceded chaos – which have won you the trust, the respect, the homage of so many loyal-hearted persons who know that the world is full of intellectual and moral hemiplegics, who talk truth and honesty with only one side of themselves.

" As I grow older, I grow freer in my talk to those who have done any service for which I honor them. It seems to me a right and I confess it is a pleasure. I am sure I mean all I say in this note, and though you may receive many from those who learned in better season to see the meaning of your errand, and from those whose good opinion will be more to you than mine, you may be assured that not one of them all will write more naturally and sincerely the first words that come from all that is truest within him.

" Always faithfully yours
" O. W. Holmes.

" I will not wrong this shapeless letter by rewriting it, but send in its brute form ore – not metal."

113. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL. For Morton, see Jan. 17, 1857, and Sanborn, *Recollections, passim.*

lately accepted an engagement at Cambridge to read to a class at the college twenty lectures, which, – on such subjects as they treat, & to be read in May, – do not promise me much leisure for other writing. And yet I have a fair share of work due in the Autumn. It is plainly not prudent to accept the invitation which you & Mr Wellington send me, though the subject is always attractive to me, & I am sorry to refuse you. Please to show this note to Mr Wellington, who has written me to the same purpose.

With kind regards,
R. W. Emerson

Edwin Morton, Esq

To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, July 27, 1869? [114]

Concord
27 July, Tuesday

Dear Edith,

Your mother says she will go to you Thursday, by the 1.30 Boston & 3. P M Milton train. I think it will not do for me to go so soon, though you say it. I am waiting, among other things, for Mr Abraham Jackson's "Accounts," which have not yet arrived, though they are overdue.

We have no syllable yet from Monadnoc, except what the molesting showers tell us.

R. W. E.

To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, August 3, 1869 [115]

Tuesday Eve, 3 Aug.

Dear Edith,

Ellen surprised me tonight by saying that she had written you that I would come to you tomorrow. I have wished to come whenever I could hope to have any good counsel from Will on Mr Jackson's Accounts: but I fear that the Accounts I sent by Edward are not in sufficient detail to give the needed knowledge; & moreover, that Will has not had time to look at these.

114. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. After the marriage of Edith Emerson Forbes, July 27 fell on Tuesday in 1869, 1875, and 1880. Of these years, 1869, which has been supplied, is the only one that seems to fit Abraham Jackson and his accounts.

115. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. For the year, *cf.* the letters of July 27, 1869? and Aug. 11, 1869. And Aug. 3 fell on Tuesday in that year.

These affairs have lagged so long, & right action on them is so important, that there is no need to jump with them. And I gave Ellen no ground whatever to promise my coming tomorrow. I have a boil or other sore on my ankle which lames me just enough to make my boot uncomfortable. So we will give a day or two for Will to have leisure to know what we should ask of Mr A. J. & for my foot to mend. Meantime I trust that Mamma is consoled by you & the babes that Will has been refreshed at New York & Naushon & will have brilliant opinions on Court Street Estates. Your affectionate

R. W. E.

## To Abraham Jackson, Concord, August 11, 1869[116]

Concord, August 11, 1869.

My dear Sir,

I have read your Account of the Court Street Estate with what attention I could give, & I believe I understand much of it. I think it is not as much in detail as the Account which you read to us at Dr Jackson's, & I wanted as full details as possible, in order to answer every question which occurs to me, or might occur to those for whom I read. But the increased attention which I have given to the subject of the estate, in the last years has been long driving me to the conviction that I am quite unfit to acquire, if I would, the proper knowledge of it which my wife's interest seems to demand of me, – complicated, too, as it is, with the interest of so many partners, – and that I must not longer pretend to audit its annual accounts, but must delegate the whole of that duty to a more competent examiner. At my request, my son-in law, Mr William H. Forbes,[117] who already manages for me most of my few money-stocks, has consented to be my representative & receiver in relation to Mrs Emerson's real estate in Boston & in Plymouth. Mr Forbes has kindly consented to look over these accounts in our behalf, from time to time, & suggest to you whatever in his judgment would be for our advantage in relation to the estate. I believe you will find it a benefit to obtain so intelligent an auditor in the place of such slow understandings as you have hitherto found.

Will you then have the goodness to communicate to him whatever

116. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

117. Forbes's intervention saved Lidian Emerson's property (*cf. Journals*, X, 160); and I am informed that the Abraham Jackson of this and many earlier letters was later sent to prison. *Cf.* a note on June 30, 1871, to Thayer.

information concerning either Mrs E.s Boston or Plymouth property he may require, & especially arm him with a rent-roll signed, which, he tells me, is essential, but which is omitted in the sketch you send me.

Yours, with great regard,
R. W. Emerson

Abraham Jackson, Esq.

Mrs Emerson & I will give Mr Forbes a general power of attorney[118] to represent us in the premises. Mr F. is to be absent from the city for some weeks to come, but will call upon you on his return in September

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, August 16, 1869[119]

Concord
August 16

Dear Will,

I enclose the signed Power of Attorney. My thanks for the completion of the change from B. & Providence to C. B. & Q. which appears a so manifest advantage. I have sent my note to Mr Jackson with the information you wished to add; &, marching under such good guidance, I appear to myself a prospering man. R. W. E.

## To James R. Osgood, Concord, August 18, 1869[120]

Concord
18 August 1869

My dear Sir,

I do not know but I could waive the perhaps sentimental objection that occurs to me at the suggestion of going to Canada for a few days, provided that I were assured that so doing I could establish

118. See Aug. 16, 1869.

119. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. For the year, *cf.* Aug. 11, 1869.

120. MS owned by the Carnegie Book Shop; ph. in CUL. *Society and Solitude* was soon to be published, and several later letters of this year refer to it; but it seems probable that the copyright question discussed here relates to the "New Edition" mentioned in the last paragraph – the new edition of *The Prose Works*, 1869 (*cf.* July 26 preceding). Sampson Low, Son & Marston to Fields, Osgood & Co., London, Sept. 11, 1869, regretted that they could not order a thousand copies of Emerson's complete prose works. Unfortunately, as they explained, Bell & Daldy had only recently brought out the complete works at a low price, so that an author's edition, even if protected by copyright, could make no headway. Fields, Osgood & Co., Sept. 23, 1869, inclosed the English letter to Emerson with the remark that this disposed of the question of copyright on the two volumes.

a perfect English copyright without weakening my American copyright to the same book. I have never taken professional advice on the matter, but I believe that *prior publication* is required by the law of each country. Unless you are informed exactly on this point, I will within a few days take advice in Boston, & be guided by that. If you are informed, I am content to be ready to make the journey at the proper time.

I enclose a note of one or two *Errata* for the printer of the New Edition.

Yours with great regard,
R. W. Emerson

Mr Osgood

## To Emma Lazarus, Concord, August 23, 1869 [121]

Concord, 23 Aug$^{t}$ 1869

My dear Miss Lazarus,

I have but one serious objection to your kind proposal to grace me with the dedication of the poem,[122] & that is, that I wish to praise the poem to all good readers whom I know; but if I am honored with the dedication my mouth is estopped. Is it not a pity that I do not live nearer New York, I should so like to play the rhetorical tutor, & praise a little the good & impale the bad lines, & put offending words & syllables on the rack in your verses. But you will print " Admetus," & I infer you will print it by itself. I have not said a word lately about the " Atlantic," because Fields went to Europe [123] whilst I was getting ready my scissors & sandpaper, & has left Howels in charge, whom I scarcely know.[124] Yet, if you desire to print it in the " Atlantic," I will carry it to him: in that case, of course, without dedications.

Your friend,
R. W. Emerson

Miss Lazarus

121. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.

122. See Jan. 27, 1871.

123. According to the *Boston Daily Evening Transcript* of Apr. 28, 1869, Fields was sailing from New York on that day for a summer abroad.

124. This explains the spelling. There are several later letters to Howells. On Aug. 31, 1869, he wrote from Boston that, in Fields's absence, it fell to him to ask Emerson to contribute to *The Atlantic* for January.

## To James Elliot Cabot, Concord, August 25, 1869[125]

Concord
Wednesday Aug. 25
1869

Dear Cabot,

I hope you are at home & will come to Saturday's Club, not only because it is always desireable that you should be there, or because there is a balloting not unimportant at this time, but that I wish we may have a little more counsel, before it is too late, on the arrangements of the "Philosophical Course."[126] I will ask Dr Hedge to come early, say, at 2 o'clock.

Yours ever,
R. W. Emerson

J. Elliot Cabot, Esq.

## To James Elliot Cabot, Boston, August 28, 1869?[127]

B. Athenaeum
Saturday 28 Aug.

I am sorry you cannot come today on all accounts – specially for the "Philosophers."[128] But you will be in town on Monday, &, as I go Naushon-ward, at 11.10 A. M.[129] I will hope to find you at the Athenaeum at 10 A. M. or if that is too early for you I shall stay till 10.30

Yours
R. W. Emerson

J. E. Cabot, Esq.

## To Henry James, Sr., Concord, September 7, 1869

[MS owned by Mr. Henry James; printed in R. B. Perry, I, 100.]

125. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL. Possibly the year of the heading was not written there by Emerson, but it is, at any rate, correct.

126. *Cf.* June 17, 1869.

127. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL. Evidence cited below points to the year 1869, when Aug. 28 fell on Saturday.

128. I conjecture that this refers to the meeting about the philosophical course mentioned in Aug. 25, 1869.

129. The *Boston Daily Advertiser* of Aug. 28, 1869, lists a train leaving Boston for Taunton (on the road to New Bedford) at this hour.

## To Edward Waldo Emerson, Concord? September 10, 1869[130]

Friday Evening
10 September

Dear Edward,

You were right to write.[131] I not only rejoice in your safety, but also to be assured of it. I thought it so probable that you would be on the water on Wednesday, that as soon as I learned on the next morning how disastrous the gale had been at Boston & along the coast, — (for it was only a strong wind here, & no wise destructive,) I began to fear telegrams; & when I learned on my return from Boston, that none had come to Chapman,[132] went home relieved, — & this morning still more, in the continued silence. And now tonight we learn that you were all three only escaped from shipwreck.

Tell the dear Edith not to put herself unnecessarily into yachts, & not to sit too long at dinner during a typhoon, & not to wade much when she disembarks. And give my love to Will, & tell him that terrors of this kind are not good for old people, even though they make them find out how much they love three young people. I had not told my uneasiness to your Mother & she learns it first from your relieving it She sends her love to you all, being very sensible of your great deliverance.

You will like to know that President Eliot in the conference we had with him at the Athenaeum conceded all we asked of him, so that we shall go on without fail: a new advertisement will state the modifications.[133]

Come home safe & soon.

R. W. E.

130. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Sept. 10 fell on Friday in 1869, the year which has been supplied and which is indicated by the evidence cited below.

131. Edward Waldo Emerson, Ocean House, Newport, R. I., n. d. (Sept. 9, 1869, added in pencil), says that his sister Edith and he, with Mr. Heiberg, sailed on the "Azalea" yesterday from Naushon to Newport. The boat was caught in the storm, and they would have been lost had they not reached the harbor when they did; he and Edith got ashore over another ship. According to *The New York Herald* of Sept. 11, 1869, the "Schooner Azalea" dragged her anchors in Newport Harbor and crashed into a building which projected over the water.

132. At the railway station. Miss Sarah Bartlett informs me that her mother remembers Hiram Chapman as the stationmaster at Concord.

133. The new philosophical course is mentioned in June 17, 1869, and later letters.

## To Robert Cassie Waterston, Concord, September 13, 1869

[MS listed and partly quoted in American Art Association, Apr. 28 and 29, 1924. Emerson thanks Waterston and his committee for tickets to the Humboldt memorial; he will attend both afternoon and evening meetings but, he says, does not wish to speak. *Cf.* Sept. 15 following. This is the letter to Waterston incompletely dated in Anderson Auction Co., Apr. 11 and 12, 1905, and may be the letter listed with complete date, but without the name of the person addressed, in C. F. Libbie & Co., May 18, 1900.]

## To Ellen Emerson, Concord? September 15, 1869[134]

15 Sept
Night.

Dear Ellen,

Excellent day yesterday at the Music Hall. Sat by Miss Mary Felton, who sent love to you. Agassiz greater than ever, & to the best audience.[135] Edward does not come home yet to his pining mother. The Barrett house[136] in demand yesterday – three competing tenants, – the Lebruns, Augustus Adams, & Mr Wing. You will not see Mrs Botta I fear in N. Y. I found her at the Horticultural Hall last night. Aunt Elizabeth had your ticket to the Music Hall. Bring us home the best tidings of Haven & Susie, & establish the strongest ties between them & us.

Papa.

## To William James Linton, Concord, September 21, 1869

[MS owned by Yale University Library; printed in *The Yale University Library Gazette,* IV, 17 (July, 1929). Linton had written from Yonkers, N. Y., Sept. 9, 1869, that he was about to exhibit in Boston the painting of Emerson

134. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year is obvious. Ellen was apparently in New York, visiting her cousin J. Haven Emerson and his wife.

135. The *Boston Daily Advertiser* of Sept. 14, 1869, announced the double program which Emerson attended. Agassiz was to make an address at the Music Hall as a part of the centennial celebration of the birth of Alexander von Humboldt, under the auspices of the Boston Society of Natural History; and there was to be an evening reception, still honoring Humboldt, it seems, at the Horticultural Hall. Comment on Agassiz's long discourse is in *Journals,* X, 300. Emerson's own speech, quoted indirectly in pp. 71–72 of *Address Delivered on the Centennial . . . of Alexander von Humboldt . . . by Louis Agassiz. With an Account of the Evening Reception,* 1869, is epitomized in *Cent. Ed.,* XI.

136. Owned by Emerson or at least in his charge. J. Fay Barrett had written, n. p., Sept. 4, 1869, inclosing the rent to Aug. 15 and stating that he wished to give up the house at the end of the quarter.

by David Scott which the artist's brother had recently sent to America for sale. The price would be $1000 but would be reduced to $700 if Emerson or any of his friends wished to buy before the public sale. Emerson now replied that he could not afford the picture but might, with the advice of his family, be able to give an opinion on it.]

### To Robert Collyer, Concord, September 25, 1869 [137]

Concord
September 25, 1869.

My dear Mr Collyer,

Mrs Ann Goddard a lady long & well known to all of us here, a sister of our Dr Bartlett, is about to return to Chicago where she has once already resided for a time, & very naturally desires an introduction to you. She is a lady valued among her friends for her social virtues & talents, & has at one time been a successful teacher. Your fold is very large, and I hope there is room for one more lamb.

Ever, with great regard, yours,
R W Emerson

Rev. Robert Collyer.

### To George W. Gage, Concord, September 25, 1869 [138]

Concord
September 25, 1869.

Mr Gage
Tremont House, Chicago.

Dear Sir,

Allow me to make you acquainted with Mrs Ann Goddard, a lady highly esteemed by a large circle of friends here, who goes to Chicago on a visit of uncertain length. I know it will be in your power & I doubt not at all it will be your wish to make her comfortable, if she comes to your excellent house.

Your obedient servant,
R. W. Emerson

137. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL. Collyer, the celebrated preacher, appears in many letters of the 1860's.

138. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL. For Gage & Drake, proprietors of the Tremont House, see *Edwards' Annual Director . . . in the City of Chicago* for 1866 and *cf.* Feb. 15, 1867.

## To Ellen Emerson, Concord, September 28, 1869 [139]

Concord
Sept 28

Dear Ellen,

Your letters come duely to each in turn around the small table, & giving joy: Tonight, the full one to Edward, — which shall go to him tomorrow morning, — an excellent photograph of your visit. Your black valise was as punctual to its day as your letters. But I think we have no tidings to send you. You will have heard that Gore Ripley is to be made Chief Justice in his State.[140] It is a healthy office as well as fit for his ability. Few men can long stand the strain of anxiety for his client which kills the great lawyers. In the house & in the town all were busied last night with the terror of the frost which was to kill the vines of Concord, but did not. Your air plant was carefully tucked up head & feet. There is a mountain of pumpkins in the yard. Perhaps we have two or three good letters to show you one from Longfellow — : [141] & one or two English notes. I was vexed to think last night in my bed that I had utterly forgotten hitherto that last Saturday was my club day & so missed it I have often stayed at home but never I think forgot it before. I had fully meant to go, to see Longfellow & hear his news.

Your mother is vexed in believing that her letter to you which she sent *via Milton & Edith,* had not arrived there, & so is lost for you. I maintain that you have opened read & answered it ere this hour. The Lebruns withdrew, & Augustus Adams has taken the Barrett house.[142] We look for you on Friday is it not? at 5 P. M. The Agricultural Society have sent you their card & ticket for the Show on the 7th & 8th.[143]

Affectionately
Papa

Your mother sends some column from Mr Sanborn

139. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. For the year, *cf.* Sept. 15, 1869, and evidence cited below. The " e " of " duely " was apparently an afterthought, possibly not Emerson's.

140. Christopher Gore Ripley, son of Emerson's half uncle Samuel Ripley, became chief justice of the supreme court of Minnesota in 1870.

141. See the note on Oct. 1, 1869. Longfellow had returned from abroad a few weeks earlier.

142. *Cf.* Sept. 15, 1869.

143. The seventy-fifth annual exhibition of the Middlesex Agricultural Society, at Concord (*Boston Daily Advertiser,* Oct. 8 and 9, 1869).

### To ————————, Concord? *c.* September? 1869?[144]

I think I was only going to tell you in the train, that Mr Eliot had, in our conference that morning, entirely & gracefully conceded the point of the separation of each lecturer's course from the others, in the Philosophical Department, & fixed the fee of each series.

In the Department of Modern Literature, the lecturers prefer *solidarity*.

### To Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Concord, October 1, 1869

[MS owned by the Trustees of the Longfellow House, Cambridge; ph. in CUL. Printed in *Final Memorials*, pp. 123–124. There the date is erroneously given as Oct. 10 and the year, though correct, is added to Emerson's incomplete date line; Longfellow's name is omitted at the end; and minor changes are made in diction. Longfellow had written from Cambridge, Sept. 26, 1869, that he was sending a letter and pamphlet which Capt. Brown had asked him to deliver. Brown, whose address was Lyme Regis, Dorset, was an admirer of Emerson's writings and wanted sympathy. Longfellow hoped to meet Emerson at the Club.]

### To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, October 5, 1869[145]

Concord, 5 Oct^r^ 1869

Dear Will,

I ought yesterday to have acknowledged your cheque for $87.87, amount of coupons on Burlington & M. Road Bonds in July & Oct^r^

We are relying on your visit to the Cattle-Show & us, this week.[146] Bring Ralph & Baby to good condition, as they will want all their resources.

Yours,
R. W. E.

Wm H. Forbes, Esq.

144. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is apparently a part of a letter I cannot identify or have not seen — possibly of some letter to Hedge, as other letters to him are now owned by RWEMA, or to John Fiske, one of the lecturers appointed for the course in philosophy. There is at least a bare possibility that it belongs to a letter to George P. Fisher, who wrote from New Haven, Conn., Sept. 7, 1869, that he willingly acquiesced in the arrangements agreeable to Emerson and others on the ground; that he thought the fee large considering the limited thirst for philosophy; and that it would not be practicable for him to be absent from New Haven except during the period he had agreed upon with Eliot. For the probable date, *cf.* the third paragraph of Sept. 10, 1869.

145. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

146. *Cf.* Sept. 28, 1869.

## To Emma Lazarus, Concord, October 6, 1869 [147]

Concord, Oct. 6, 1869

My dear Miss Lazarus,

Mr Howells declines printing the Poem,[148] & leaves us only the doubt whether he or we are in the wrong. I should have printed it thankfully & proudly. We must believe that his Atlantic portfolio is very rich in poetry in these months, & shall frankly own it if Sparta hath worthier daughters. I am at a loss to find the imitation of Tennyson & Morris [149] that the editor remarks. I am glad you had the courage & diligence to condense the piece, and now the more, that our Aristarchus [150] still finds you too expansive. One of the things I owe to India is the proverb of the Pundits, "that an author rejoiceth in the economizing of half a short vowel as much as in the birth of a son." [151]

147. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.

148. *Cf.* Aug. 23, 1869. Howells wrote from the office of *The Atlantic*, in Boston:

"October 2, 1869.

"My dear Sir:

"I beg to return you the poem of Miss Lazarus, of which I think I see the merits, but which I am not able to like well enough to accept for the Atlantic. It so very plain an imitation in manner of some of the Greekish poems of Tennyson, and all the Greekish poems of Wm. Morris, that it is for that reason alone undesirable; besides though it is prolix, the old bones of fable are too thinly clothed on with new life.

"I hope that you will find it possible to give us something of your own for our *January number. I for one – if such a thing could be – would be most glad to read* in print one of those lectures which we all had so much pleasure in hearing a year ago. I venture to suggest the use of something already done, because Mr. Osgood said you were so much occupied with your University course that you feared you could not find time to write for us. However, even something new would be welcome.

"I am sorry to have kept Miss Lazarus's manuscript so long: it takes a mood as well as a certain amount of time to read a poetical *contribution fairly, and the two* can't always be commanded at once.

"Very respectfully yours

"W. D. Howells.

"Mr. Emerson."

149. Some likeness of "Admetus" to parts of *The Earthly Paradise* could, I think, be shown.

150. The Alexandrian critic.

151. Professor A. V. Williams Jackson showed me that Emerson might have found this in Max Müller's *A History of Ancient Sanskrit Literature*, London, 1859, pp. 71–72. Possibly this was one of the passages "on the art of writing, on Language, Compression, etc." that Emerson had hoped to read at Chickering Hall a few months earlier; and we know that he omitted, for lack of time, an hour's reading from Oriental books (*Journals*, X, 282–283).

You can well afford to receive back the fable, but when will the Atlantic give me one as noble?

If I never write, pity me still as an anxious worker.

R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

### To Emma Lazarus, Concord? October 6, 1869[152]

Wednesday Eve
Oct. 6

You will see how aged I grow in that I left the now inclosed letter out of my envelope this P M, though I wrote only for that end.

Admetus will follow as soon as I get as far as the Post Office for a suitable envelope.[153]

### To Fields, Osgood and Company, Concord, October 16, 1869

[MS listed and partly quoted in Anderson Auction Co., Jan. 30–31, 1908; mentions Emerson's choice of *Society and Solitude* as the title of his new book and gives a list of the essays that may be included. *Cf. Journals*, X, 301. The same letter is listed, with incomplete date, and partly quoted in American Art Association, Apr. 28 and 29, 1924.]

### To Kate Field, Concord, October 28, 1869[154]

Concord
28 October, 1869

Dear Miss Field,

Forgive me for not answering your note in time. I am in these days oppressed by an engagement to my publishers which just now hardly leaves me a respectable degree of freedom. I do not know enough of the present condition of the Brown family to judge of the desireableness to them of your project.[155] I once passed by the farm when it

152. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL. For the year, *cf.* the first letter of this date; Oct. 6 fell on Wednesday in 1869.

153. A part of the leaf below this line, probably containing the signature, has been cut away.

154. MS owned by the Public Library, Boston; ph. in CUL.

155. *The Commonwealth*, Boston, Oct. 23, 1869, reported Kate Field's lecture on "The Adirondack Region." At the close of the lecture proper, said this paper, Miss Field turned to a graver theme and made an eloquent appeal for the purchase of the John Brown farm at North Elba, N. Y. She repeated her lecture and her appeal, and on Nov. 20 following *The Commonwealth* announced that she and others had purchased the farm.

did not look attractive to a settler. One of the daughters was for some weeks in my house,[156] & I do not recall any expression of attachment to the place. It would be graceful from the State or from individuals the gift, — but I believe their removal was their choice. The land has already John Brown's mark indelibly on it: — So I wait to be fired by hearing your speech, which hitherto has been denied me.

With kind regards,

R. W. Emerson

Miss Kate Field.

### To John Lothrop Motley, Concord, October 30, 1869

[MS listed in Anderson Galleries, Feb. 18, 1916; described as introducing George P. Bradford and as mentioning Longfellow, Appleton, and Fields.]

### To Welch, Bigelow, and Company, Concord, November 22, 1869?[157]

Messrs Welch, Bigelow, & Co

Gentlemen,

I do not think that all the proofs of "Eloquence" have been sent me. I return the two which had now come, but do not remember correcting the intermediate ones. You can easily see by examination whether they have all come to me.

Please to send the proofs yet to come in smaller portions & oftener.

Respectfully,

Concord

22 Novr

R. W. Emerson

### To William Henry Furness, Concord, November 23, 1869?

[MS owned by Mr. Horace Howard Furness Jayne; printed in *Records of a Life-long Friendship*, p. 147.]

156. *Cf. Journals*, IX, 253.

157. MS owned by Mr. Carroll A. Wilson; ph. in CUL. "Eloquence" is the fourth chapter in *Society and Solitude*, published Mar. 5, 1870 (*cf.* Mar. 31, 1870). We know that Emerson had carried the "four first chapters" to Fields, Osgood & Co. on Oct. 19 (*Journals*, X, 301), and that he received the last proof sheet of the book on Feb. 3 following (*ibid.*, X, 309). On the other hand, it is necessary to remember that he published a second "Eloquence" in *Letters and Social Aims* on Dec. 15, 1875 (see Dec. 18, 1875); but Nov. 13 of that year notes that on that day "the last sheets" of the new book were sent off, and if, as seems probable, these "sheets" were proofs, the date of the present letter could not be 1875. Welch, Bigelow, & Co. were the printers of both *Society and Solitude* and *Letters and Social Aims*.

To William Henry Furness, Concord, November? 25? 1869

[MS owned by Mr. Horace Howard Furness Jayne; printed *ibid.*, p. 148, where the date is given as Thursday, November? 1869. If November is correct, as seems probable, the day is fixed by the reference to the Saturday Club "day after tomorrow."]

To Anne Charlotte Lynch Botta, Concord, November 30, 1869 [158]

Concord, 30 November –
1869

My dear Mrs Botta,

[I]Thanks for your unfailing memory & good will. Pity me that I cannot yet use the hospitalities you offer me. I please myself, like other aging & aged men, with visions of leisure & the finer employments that shall fill it – too long delayed, – the leisure still flies before me, unattainable. Will it always? I am *then* to be a poet, a friend, & turn days into heavens. But today & tomorrow & the year through I find myself the drudge of tasks I cannot praise. But the taskmaster lets gleams & streams of sunshine slip in, & consoles us with friends & new promises.[I] Just now I am filling up a new volume [159] which I am to send you a little after New Years: And, in the winter, I am to prepare lectures, it seems, on Philosophy, for a class in the College.[160] Wish me well through them, – though I own to some pleasure in the prospect. I will not threaten you or New York with any hint of them, if you will still keep your door open to me when they are ended.

The box of photographs you brought me is a constant attraction to my neighbors & my visiters. [II]I am glad you saw Saint Beuve: I grieve that he is gone.[161] He was for me the best of his nation in the late years.[II] Mrs Fields has a letter from him (which I have not yet seen,) but she did not see him. Ever yours affectionately,

Mrs A. C. L. Botta. R. W. Emerson

158. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I–II are in *Memoirs of Anne C. L. Botta,* pp. 177–178.

159. *Society and Solitude* was delayed till the first week in March (see Mar. 31, 1870).

160. The course is mentioned in various earlier letters; for its actual beginning, some months later, see a note on Apr. 23, 1870, to Lowell.

161. He had died in October of this year.

## To Welch, Bigelow, and Company, Concord, December 8, 1869 [162]

Concord
8 Dec$^{r}$

Gentlemen,

I send corrected proof and wish to see the revise of these first pages of " Works & Days " with the proofs of the remainder of the chapter. I send copy of chapter on " Books "

Respectfully
R W Emerson

Messrs
Welch Bigelow & Co [163]

## To Nathaniel? Bradstreet? Shurtleff, Concord, December 19, *c.* 1869?

[MS listed in American Art Association, May 7–8, 1925, where no year is given. If, as seems probable, " the Honorable Mr. Shurtleff " was Nathaniel Bradstreet Shurtleff, the letter may well have been written when he was mayor of Boston (1868–1870).]

## To Emma Lazarus, Concord, December 30, 1869 [164]

Concord
30 December 1869

Dear Miss Lazarus,

I am glad to hear from you again, & such good news – that the muse is propitious, & abundant in her gifts. I wish I deserved the share you offer me in letting me read what is given. But I am at present still a " man forbid," [165] perhaps more utterly selfish & helpless than ever, – endeavoring for many weeks past & shall be for weeks to come to print

162. MS owned by the Converse Memorial Library, Amherst College; ph. in CUL. " Works and Days " and " Books " appeared in *Society and Solitude,* published Mar. 5, 1870 (see a note on Mar. 31 of that year). Emerson had carried several of the earlier chapters to Fields, Osgood & Co. on Oct. 19, 1869 (*Journals,* X, 301). Presumably the present letter is the same as that listed without date in American Art Association, Apr. 28 and 29, 1924, and there described as to the printers of *Society and Solitude,* regarding the proof of two essays appearing in that book.

163. *Cf.* Nov. 22, 1869?

164. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.

165. Shakespeare's *Macbeth,* I, iii; and, as usual, the allusion fits its purpose exactly.

a book [166] which halts at each chapter, & requires more faculty to finish it as I wish than I can command. Nor do I foresee any early leisure, as the " University Lectures " in which I am to take a serious part are grimly awaiting my first liberty. So think as kindly as you can of your friend. Meantime do not, I pray you, lose a good line which Night or Morning offers you, & do not spare a weak one.

With kind regards
Ever yours,
R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

## To James Redpath, Boston, 1869

[MS listed in Merwin-Clayton Sales Co., May 13, 1907, where it is described as regarding Emerson's lectures " American Traits " and " The Coming Age."]

166. *Cf.* Nov. 30, 1869, for the book and the lectures.

# 1870

## To Alpheus Crosby, Concord? January? *c.* 8? 1870?

[Crosby, Salem, Mass., Jan. 9, 1870, replies to "your questions," naming the members of those committees of overseers to which Emerson himself belongs. It seems possible that this is the letter listed in Goodspeed's Book Shop, Nov., 1915, where it is dated simply 1870 and described as regarding an appointment on the committee of languages at Harvard and the duties of that committee. The MS listed in Goodspeed's Book Shop, Jan.–Mar., 1922, with the date 1870 and a similar, but not identical, description is presumably the same listed in the earlier catalogue. Crosby is named in the *Forty-fifth Annual Report of the President of Harvard College,* for 1869–1870, as a member, with Emerson, of the committee of overseers to visit the academical department.]

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord? January 12, 1870[1]

12 January

Dear Edith,

I desire you if you have come home now or shall come home within a week to send me by first mail Aunt Elizabeths poem about her Californian hero.[2] I like it as much as Will did, & believe that it may serve me a golden use, if I find that it will fit a dangerous gap in my chapter on "Courage" now passing to the printers;[3] &, if on new reading I think of it as now, I will obtain her leave.

R. W. E.

1. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The "1870" following Emerson's date line does not seem to be in his hand and is not in the same ink with the rest of the letter, but is confirmed by evidence cited below.

2. This poem by Elizabeth Hoar, telling the story of George Nidiver, which she had from her brother Edward, is to be found in "Courage" (*Cent. Ed.,* VII; *cf.* an editorial note, *ibid.,* p. 435).

3. On Oct. 19, 1869, Emerson had carried the first four chapters of his "so-called new book," *Society and Solitude,* to the publishers (*Journals,* X, 301); on Feb. 3 following he had received the last proof-sheet for correction (*ibid.,* X, 309); and on Mar. 5 the book was out (note on Mar. 31, 1870).

## To Thomas Carlyle, Concord? January *c.* 23, 1870 [4]

Dear Carlyle,

Your letter [5] came, & was read with joy. It was a design wholly unexpected, & yet welcome to me, even more than the many sacred gifts which I have received from you in all these years. I read in this act a sympathy with this country which will surprise but deeply multitude of gratify [I]a ~~great many~~ good men your friends who love & fear you & believe that the Heaven which inspired you gave you a keener perception of the faults than of the good wills of men both East & west.[I] I have not answered your letter I have almost ceased to answer any letter but in a depravity could not have believed that I should ever have left letter of yours without instant notice. But perhaps I am incredibly ~~older~~ more aged than you – to approximating fatuity the point of shunning & fearing to write. ~~it sound~~ it reads ridiculously for me to say so but I live too much alone & in too narrow a round & too superficially in my work & conversation [II]I think of you as carrying a trumpet confided to you by some of the Elder Angels to signify by its blasts in Fontarabian echoes [6] that an empire[II] & an empire & [III]a Republic are to fall. Well your eloquent warning voice will do no harm The evils you stigmatize are real & poisonous enough but not the less the balance has been is & will be kept. In this country we are greedy of gain as others, & with manifold more opportunities & avenues than rate others.[III] But the crime does not surmount the like rate in Europe. With us > There are more crimes of fraud than of force. But we think the

4. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This differs very widely from the other incomplete draft (MS owned by Mr. Lewis M. Isaacs; phs. in HCL and in CUL) printed, with minor omissions, in *C–E Corr.*, 1883, under date of Jan. 23, 1870. Excerpts I–III are in Cabot, I, 243. I have indicated the canceled passages and alterations made by Emerson on the MS.

5. Carlyle's letter of Nov. 18, 1869 (*C–E Corr.*), had renewed the old correspondence after nearly three years of silence.

6. Emerson is thinking not only of the horn of Roland but of Milton's lines (*Paradise Lost*, I, 586–587).

politics of the City & State of New York sinister & approaching an explosion.[7]

Now that you are sending your books,[8] will you not come yourself & see where they are to go, & converse with the men & women who are to read them

Yes I will do what is needful in the matter with serious thankfulness I thought ~~I would~~ the question lay between the City Library of Boston founded by Joshua Bates & which is now the largest & richest in the country, excepting that of the Congress at Washington between that Lib.y & the Harvard Lib.y and I had settled in my mind that Harvard as holding by some tie ~~all~~ the greatest number of those persons who are
mind & history
your readers & have strong personal interest in your ∧ Nortons letter contains all & more than all I had thought of to be said [9]

## To Edward Everett Hale, Concord? January 25, 1870?

[Mentioned in Jan. 26, 1870?]

## To Ednah Dow Cheney, Concord? January? *c.* 25? 1870?

[Mrs. Cheney, Boston, Jan. 27, 1870, said the first Monday in March had been fixed as the day on which the New England Women's Club wished Emerson to give an address. She wrote again, Jamaica Plain, Mass., Feb. 13, 1870, that she had neglected too long to answer his "last note" and that the committee now preferred to have him speak on Saturday, Mar. 8. It is clear, then, that she received at least two letters from Emerson on this subject, and probably one was earlier than Jan. 27 and the other shortly after that date. On Mar. 8, 1870, according to the MS memorandum book for 1870–1871, Emerson read "Classes of Men" before the "'Women's Club,' Tremont Place."]

7. Within a few years William M. Tweed and his Tammany Hall henchmen were exposed and crushed.

8. The story is told pretty fully in Mar. 14, 1870.

9. In the margin of this final page Emerson jotted down what seem to be notes intended for expansion later: "I have to spend time on the college Books sent to me Certainly not in this letter shall I open my war Peace proclaims olives of endless age" – and on the opposite side of the page he wrote: "R. W. E. to T. Carlyle." Emerson must have had to exercise some self-restraint to keep back comments on Carlyle's attitude toward America.

## To Edward Everett Hale, Concord, January 26, 1870? [10]

Concord
26 Jan

My dear Hale,

I know by much experience of my own long ago what it is to have Everett on the brain,[11] & you who have it in the blood [12] may easily believe that it could only be "Alaric" [13] that I was crooning at sea. But it was not that, but Milton's "Lycidas" [14] which I told of in a Lecture on Memory, to which I must think you refer; though nothing of it was ever printed or reported that I know, & it must have been read (i.e. the lecture) when you were very young.[15] I ought to be proud that the anecdote could reach you, but the mystery of the Memory interested me much. I wrote you yesterday about Stirling's pamphlet, which I hope will come speedily to you. I do not recall the title, but it was perhaps, *Remarks on Mr Huxley's Protoplasm.*[16]

Yours,
R. W. Emerson

Rev. E. E. Hale

## To Elizabeth R. Fisher, Concord? January *c.* 27? 1870

[Elizabeth Fisher wrote, Wakefield, Pa., Jan. 21, 1870, inviting Emerson and his daughter Ellen to stay with her when they came to Philadelphia on Feb. 7; she wrote again, Jan. 30 following, that the plea Emerson urged against her

10. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL. The year is almost certainly 1870, as evidence cited below shows.

11. *Cf.* the early letters, many of which show this enthusiasm.

12. Hale's mother was Sarah Preston Everett, sister of Edward Everett.

13. Edward Everett's "Dirge of Alaric, the Visigoth" is to be found in Kettell's *Specimens of American Poetry,* III, 53–55.

14. In *Journals,* III, 3, Emerson tells how, during a storm on his first voyage to Europe, he "remembered up nearly the whole of *Lycidas,* clause by clause."

15. According to *Cent. Ed.,* XII, 445, 1857 was the probable date of the first lecture on this subject. Hale was born in 1822.

16. This seems to place the year of the present letter pretty well, though not conclusively. Huxley's essay "On the Physical Basis of Life" was printed in *The Fortnightly Review* of Feb. 1, 1869. James Hutchison Stirling's reply, *As Regards Protoplasm in Relation to Professor Huxley's Essay on the Physical Basis of Life,* appeared at Edinburgh and London the same year, with a prefatory note dated October. I conjecture that Hale wanted the pamphlet for a notice in *Old and New.* Very likely it was for use by Francis Tiffany in his "Protoplasm," *ibid.,* I, 791–801 (June, 1870), where, at any rate, this work of Stirling's is mentioned. But the subject continued to be of interest and reappeared in Hale's magazine in 1871 and in 1872.

Hale, in a letter dated Boston, Nov. 26, 1869, had asked Emerson to send in a paper of his own, "whether in poetry or in prose."

proposal only made it more desirable to show him how great a pleasure "trouble" would be to her.]

### To Fields, Osgood and Company, Concord? January 28, 1870

[Printed by Orlin M. Sanford in *The Pittsburg Index,* May 2, 1903, p. 9. Though dated simply Friday, Jan. 28, this letter clearly belongs to 1870, when Jan. 28 was Friday. Fields, Osgood & Co. did not become James R. Osgood & Co. till Jan. 2, 1871 (*Boston Daily Advertiser* of that date), and Sanford is apparently wrong in indicating that the latter firm is addressed. As this letter refers to the proof sheets of "Success" in *Society and Solitude,* it may be the same as the one of Jan., 1870, listed in Anderson Auction Co., Dec. 17, 1906, without the name of the correspondent and described as referring to the essay on "Success."]

### To Ednah Dow Cheney, Concord? January? *c.* 28? 1870

[See the note on Jan.? *c.* 25? 1870?]

### To James Russell Lowell, Concord? January? 1870?[17]

My dear Lowell,

I send my thanks if late for the good gift you sent me & which could well wait for a week as it imperatively asks time for its appreciation. It makes a more serious demand on the reader than any poetry we have seen for long, & is thought & wakeful in every line. I think you are bent on winning every prize in the games to conquer Aristophanes & Lucian[18] must not only found a new & more effective satire but a new style of adequate criticism & now invade the mystic landscape of Wordsworth,[19] also. I who am always demanding *things* in the poetry I read am really gratified with that merit in this poem Here are manly thoughts new, & sharply put, all which & singular I read gladly. The expression is not always flowing rather has a little of the haughtiness of Landor's Muse content to please himself, for who the devil is the reader? You are ever intent on showing us new powers & adequateness to whatever task I am very proud & glad of all your benefactions if you will not quite like all my favorites & if you still insist on astonishing us every year with new gifts & styles. I do not know but we have seen such

17. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is an unfinished rough draft; I have not, however, kept the canceled passages. The date I have given is based upon the conjecture that the "good gift you sent me" was a copy of *The Cathedral,* which, according to H. E. Scudder, II, 139 and 441, was issued as a book at Christmas, 1869, with the date 1870.

18. That is, in *The Biglow Papers,* of course.

19. This would fit *The Cathedral,* whose opening pages seem to recall the first book of *The Prelude,* both in subject and in manner.

admirable finish in contemporary verse that the like limpidity will be required as well as the force & condensation

To Samuel Bradford, Concord, February 4, 1870

[MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Printed in *Records of a Lifelong Friendship,* pp. 149–150.]

To James Elliot Cabot, Concord, February 4, 1870 [20]

Concord
Friday Night, 4 Feb$^{y}$

My dear Cabot,

I should much prefer to go to the Examiner Club,[21] & thence home with you, than to go to Philadelphia, where I am promised on Monday.[22] I found or fancied many attractions in the names of your members & am sorry for the contretemps which I did not think of when I fixed the day for my journey. I mean to try for a little while to be a member, though it is not very compatible with my twenty miles. Thank you for your attractive invitation, which I shall not refuse but only postpone accepting. The poor little book has come to an end of all demands on me.[23] Ever yours,

R. W. Emerson

J. Elliot Cabot, Esq

To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, February 12, 1870 [24]

Concord 12 February
1870

Dear Will,

Thanks for your two notes received yesterday on my return from Philadelphia; [25] one containing Mr A. Jackson's cheque for $62.50

20. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL. The year is fixed by evidence cited below.

21. For the Examiner Club, some years earlier, see Edward E. Hale, Jr., *The Life and Letters of Edward Everett Hale,* 1917, I, 366–367. The MS memorandum book for 1869 notes Emerson's attendance on this club, or purpose to attend it, in entries of Nov. 1 and Dec. 6. W. P. Atkinson, n. p., Nov., 1874, shows that Emerson was still an honorary member.

22. Emerson read "Social Life in America" in the Star Course at the Academy of Music on Monday, the 7th (*The Press,* Philadelphia, Feb. 7 and 8, 1870).

23. See a note on Jan. 12, 1870.

24. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

25. *Cf.* the letters of Feb. 4, 1870.

on account of Plymouth rent; & the second more surprising containing Mrs Parkman's balance of $35. to the account of your wonderful invention of the Reading Class of last winter.[26] Of all the Humane Societies I have heard or read of this today appears to me that which out of the slenderest material has reared the solidest benefit to one person: and I ought to write a grateful letter to the committee of of friends, Mrs Parkman, Mr Thayer, & yourself, who invented & executed the scheme. I shall keep the Account you send me enclosed in colored ribbons which Ellen must come home to tie.

I was already in receipt of your note describing the prosperous look of the Missouri & Nebraska Bonds.[27] But it is in vain to expect me to answer such questions as you therein put to me. It is you & not I that must say what I shall do thereon.

So with renewed thanks, always yours,

R. W. Emerson

W. H. Forbes.

### To Evan Randolph, Concord? February *c.* 22? 1870

[Randolph wrote from Philadelphia, Feb. 14, 1870, that Emerson's last visit there was too little advertised and asked for another. He mentioned his cousin Richard, presumably the Richard Randolph of other letters. (For Emerson's recent lecture in Philadelphia, *cf.* the letters of Feb. 4, 1870.) Randolph, Feb. 25, 1870, expressed regret at learning that Emerson would not return soon but hoped for another visit after the Harvard lectures were over.]

### To Charles Eliot Norton, Concord, February 23, 1870

[MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL. Incompletely printed in *Letters of Charles Eliot Norton*, I, 340–341. The omissions there indicated are of the following passages: " his contemporaneous letter to you sent hither & *re*shipped to you, & your prompt answer enclosed by him in " and " I have not yet spoken of it to Mr Eliot, though I have talked with George Curtis & Elliot Cabot a little about the design. Samuel Hoar told me yesterday, that Lowell is at his father's house in Washington, & that President Grant came to see them, & the three spent a long time together." At the end Emerson wrote " C. E. Norton, Esq." *Cf.* Mar. 14, 1870.]

### To ————————, Concord? *c.* February? 1870?

[Mentioned in June 13? 1870; to some member of the Parker Fraternity.]

26. See Nov. 22, 1868, and later letters. W. H. Forbes, Boston, Feb. 7, 1870, inclosed $35, the final payment from Mrs. Parkman on account of the readings.

27. Perhaps the " B. & M. in Nebraska " mentioned in June 8, 1870.

## To Robert Dale Owen, Concord, March 1, 1870[28]

Concord 1 March 1870

My dear Sir

Forgive, I pray you, my long delay to answer your note. I have been a traveller to Philadelphia,[29] & my correspondence is ever in arrears.

The paragraph you have seen is in an old address to the Divinity College, Cambridge, printed more than thirty years ago.[30] As I have no copy of the pamphlet, I shall load you with a volume that contains it, &, may I leave it addressed to you at the Bookstore of Fields, Osgood & Comp$^{y}$ Tremont St, Boston?

With great regard, yours,

R. D. Owen, Esq. R. W. Emerson

P. S. On looking at the passage in the book, your newspaper slip appears not to be quite exact.

## To James Thomas Fields, Concord, March 1, *c.* 1870?

[MS listed, without year, in American Art Association, Feb. 12–13, 1923, where it is described as inclosing "Prof. Whitney's letter." The year remains extremely doubtful, but, since the letter is to Fields, most probably falls somewhere in the 1860's or 1870's. Whitney, I conjecture, may have been William Dwight Whitney, the philologist, whose interest in Oriental literature might have brought him into contact with Emerson and with Emerson's publisher. Fields retired from his publishing business early in 1871 (*cf.* a note on Jan. 28, 1870).]

## To William Torrey Harris, Concord, March 3, 1870[31]

Concord

3 March 1870

My dear Mr. Harris,

It is with much remorse that I have no record of any payment made by me on the third volume of the Journal of S.

28. MS owned by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; ph. in CUL. Robert Dale Owen, congressman, reformer, and spiritualist, was the son of Robert Owen of the New Harmony experiment.

29. *Cf.* the letters of Feb. 4, 1870.

30. See July 28, 1838, and later letters.

31. MS owned by Miss Edith Davidson Harris; ph. in CUL. This is a copy typed by Miss Harris. What is probably the original envelope is still in her possession (ph. in CUL). The typed copy bears a notation showing that the original letter was sent away on Oct. 25, 1917, to be given to a Mr. Martin Littleton.

Phil'y.[32] I have received the first number of the Vol. IV I enclose $5.00 for the 2 vols which are too cheap at that price.

We have no news yet to give you of real progress in Speculative Philosophy in Mass^tts^. It is a good sign surely the courage of our new President at Cambridge in establishing University Lectures; and he is this year making a direct attempt to bring Mr Stirling from Edinburgh. I think it good that Mr J. E. Cabot reads lectures in these weeks on Kant. The classes are very small.[33] It was a mistake to make the price of admission too high. I have put my three vols. of the " Journal " to be bound and mean to read them much in the next month. Thanks especially for Hegel in No 12, and for Mr Davidson's " Parmenides." [34] This last is a wonderful piece of Greek precocity.

Always with great regard, Yours,

[35] R. W. Emerson

W. T. Harris, Esq.

## To Charles William Eliot, Concord, March 14, 1870 [36]

[1]Concord, 14 March, 1870

To President Eliot,[1]

Harvard College.

[11]Dear Sir,

I am requested to communicate to you, & through you to the Corporation, the desire of Thomas Carlyle, Esq. of London, to give to Harvard College, by a bequest in his Will, the books named in the enclosed Catalogue. I know not how I can explain his wishes so well as by citing some extracts from his letters.

32. *The Journal of Speculative Philosophy* is mentioned in earlier letters.

33. *Cf.* June 17, 1869, and later letters. According to *A Catalogue of . . . Harvard University, for . . . 1869–70,* 1869, p. 103, only seven students registered for the course in philosophy given by exactly the same number of lecturers, of whom Emerson was one. But Emerson's own part of the course did not begin till late in April (see a note on Apr. 23, 1870, to Lowell).

34. This number (the fourth of Vol. III, 1869) contained two translations, one from Hegel by Harris himself and the other an " Analysis of Hegel's Æsthetics," from the French. " Parmenides," by Thomas Davidson, was in the following number, the first in Vol. IV (1870). Emerson had, as we know from earlier letters as well as from other testimony, no great liking for Hegel; and his unfavorable comments in *Journals,* X, 318, seem to have been inspired by the French article here mentioned.

35. Here the typed copy has " (Signed)."

36. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I–XVII are in the *Harvard University Bulletin,* II, 166 (Apr. 1, 1881). The books here described are now in HCL. For Norton's part in arranging for the gift, see Feb. 23, 1870, and, especially, *Letters of Charles Eliot Norton,* I, 336 ff.

In a letter to me, dated 5 Cheyne Row, Chelsea, London, 18th November, 1869,[37] Mr Carlyle writes;

"For many years back a thought which I used to check again as fond & silly, has been occasionally present to me, of testifying my gratitude to New England ( x x x x x x x x ) by bequeathing to it my poor Falstaff regiments of Books, — those I purchased & used in writing *Cromwell* & *ditto*, those on *Friedrich the Great*.

'this *could* be done,' I often said to myself — 'this *could* perhaps, & this would be a real satisfaction to me! But who would march through Coventry with such a set!' The extreme insignificance of the gift, this & nothing else always gave me pause. Last summer, I was lucky enough to meet with your friend[II] Charles E. Norton, [III]& renew many old Massachusetts recollections in free talk[III] with so genial, gracefully social, intelligent, & cheerful a man. [IV]To him I spoke of the affair candidly describing it, especially the above questionable feature of it, so far as I could: & his answer then, & more deliberately afterwards, was so hopeful, hearty & decisive that in effect it has decided me, & I am this day writing to him that such is the poor fact, & that I need farther instructions on it so soon as you two have taken counsel together. To say more about the infinitesimally small value of the books would be superfluous. Nay, in truth, many or most of them are not without intrinsic value: one or two are even excellent as Books: and all of them, it may perhaps be said, have a kind of symbolic or biographic value, & testify (a thing not useless) on what slender commissariat stores considerable campaigns — 12 years long or so, may be carried on in this world. Perhaps you already knew of me — what the Cromwell & Friedrich Collection might itself intimate, — that much buying of books was never a habit of mine, — far the reverse, even to this day. — Well, my friend, you will have a meeting with[IV] Norton early, [V]& let me know what is next to be done."[V]

The above letter was written in the belief that Mr Norton was at home in Cambridge. And we were to arrange this affair on the ground of Mr C.'s conversations in London with Mr N. Unfortunately, Mr Norton was in Europe, & for an indefinite time.[38] Then the letter does not indicate any one institution to which Mr Carlyle proposes to offer the gift, but only "to New England." Beside these causes of hesitation,

37. In *C–E Corr.* The passage omitted shows that New England meant mainly Emerson himself to Carlyle.

38. He did not actually return till May, 1873, when he was a fellow passenger with Emerson (*Letters of Charles Eliot Norton*, I, 502–514).

this letter found me under new engagements to my publishers to finish a book at a fixed date which for the time left me no leisure. For these & other reasons [VI]my reply to Mr Carlyle [39] was delayed for several weeks.

But on the same day on which his letter to me was written, Mr Carlyle wrote to[VI] Mr Norton, to the same purpose, [VII]a letter[VII] which reached him in Florence, & [VIII]to which he replied immediately,[VIII] making some important suggestions.

Mr Norton writes, Dec 31, 1869, to T. C. Esq. " It occurs to me to say that if your precious gift take the form of a testamentary bequest, it will be best that it should be made directly to the University itself. under such conditions as you may deem best, not merely that it may have a certain dignity as a public act, but also because the University is entitled under our laws to receive such a gift without payment of taxes or import duties."

[40] After adding particular information, for his guidance, Mr Norton continues, —

" Your intention toward the University which embodies the best spirit of New England touches me very deeply, & hereafter will move many others, as it now moves me. You could not, I am sure, place these books anywhere where such intrinsic worth & literary interest as they have would be more highly appreciated or where they would be regarded from their association with your life with more grateful & reverent honor than among the students & scholars of Cambridge. Such a pledge of confidence is no slight bond between the people of the two Englands."

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[IX]On the 4th January, 1870,[41] Mr Carlyle sends me[IX] Mr Norton's [X]letter, and himself writes; —

" Mr Norton's hints are such a complete instruction, that I see my way straight through the business, & might by Note of Bequest, & memorandum for the Barings, finish it in half an hour.[X] Nevertheless, I will wait for your letter, & punctually do nothing till your directions too are before me." xxxxxx [XI]" I have now got two Catalogues made out approximately correct, — one to lie here till the bequest be executed; — the other, I thought of sending you against the day?[XI] This is my own invention since I wrote last. Approve of it, & you shall have

39. See Jan. *c.* 23, 1870.
40. A broken line sets off this paragraph from the preceding one.
41. This letter from Carlyle is in *C–E Corr.*

your copy[42] by Book-post at once. [XII]Approximately correct; Absolutely, I cannot get it to be. But I need not doubt the pious purpose will be piously & even sacredly fulfilled, & your Catalogue will be a kind of evidence that it is."

Immediately on the receipt of these letters, I wrote to Mr Carlyle,[43] expressing my hearty satisfaction in this unlooked for beneficence to the Country & the College,[XII] & concurring with Mr Norton's views which had anticipated mine at all points; [XIII]and declared my readiness to communicate his decision to the President & Corporation[XIII] of Harvard College [XIV]as soon as he should authorize me.

On the 24th February, 1870, Mr Carlyle[44] writes[XIV] in reply from Chelsea, & sends the promised Catalogue.

[XV]"Your copy of the Catalogue which accompanies by Book Post today, is the correctest I could manage to get done. All the books mentioned in it I believe to be now here. (and indeed, except 5 or 6 *tiny* articles, have *seen* them all, in one or other of the three rooms where my books now stand, & where I believe the insignificant trifle of *tinies* to be);[XV] All these I can expect will be punctually attended to when the time comes & proceeded with according to Norton's scheme & yours, [XVI]&, if any more tinies which I do not remember should turn up, (which I hardly think there will) those also will class themselves (as *Cromwelliana* or *Friedrichana*) & be faithfully sent on with the others.[XVI] For benefit of my survivors & representatives here I retain an exact copy of the Catalogue now put into your keeping so that every thing may fall out square between them & you when the time shall arrive. I mean to conform in every particular to the plan sketched out by Norton & you, unless in your next letter you have something other or farther to advise: & [XVII]so soon as I hear from you that Harvard accepts my poor Widows-mite of a bequest, I will proceed to put it down in due form, & so finish this small matter, which, for long years, has hovered in my thoughts as a thing I should like to do."

The Catalogue inclosed carefully enumerates the authors translators or editors of the books & in some instances adds a distinct opinion from Mr Carlyle on the literary value of the book. There appear to be in all about 325 volumes.

I believe, Mr President, that the Corporation will be gratified[45] by

42. This came to HCL and is listed in William C. Lane, *The Carlyle Collection (Library of Harvard University. Bibliographical Contributions*, No. 26), 1888, p. 22.

43. See Jan. *c.* 23, 1870, and note.

44. In *C–E Corr.*

45. The rest of the story is told in Mar. 21, 1870.

the good will to our people herein signified by this eminent man & writer who could hardly have chosen a more significant mode of conveying his sympathy & hope for the virtue, the intellect & the culture of America.

I am, with great respect,
Yours
R. W. Emerson[XVII]

To Thomas Carlyle, Concord, March 21, 1870

[MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL. Printed, with slight changes, in *C–E Corr.*, 1883. Opposite the signature Emerson wrote " Thomas Carlyle, Esq."]

To Elizabeth Ripley, Concord, March? 23? 1870?[46]

Wednesday P M

Dear Elizabeth,

I have a telegram from Groton which releases me tonight. So we shall not put you to the disturbance & privation your goodness had incurred. If the weather were better, I think I should have suppressed this note so to secure a kindly evening & breakfast with you here.

Your affectionate Cousin
Waldo E.

To Mary Elizabeth Wyer, Concord, March 31, 1870[47]

Concord
31 March, 1870.

My dear Cousin,

It is very kind & lovely in you to send me this charming gift, which

46. MS owned by Professor James B. Thayer; ph. in CUL. The date is extremely doubtful. The Ripleys had moved to Concord from Waltham in 1846, taking possession of the Old Manse some months after Hawthorne's removal (see Oct. 2, 1845, and *Worthy Women*, pp. 185–186). As various letters show, Elizabeth remained at the Old Manse after the death of her father and of her mother. In June 8, 1871, she appears as Emerson's hostess there. The highly conjectural date I have given for the present letter is suggested by an entry in the MS memorandum book for 1870. The extant MS memorandum books mention several engagements at the Grotons, but the only one, I believe, for a Wednesday is for the reading of " Classes of Men " at Groton Junction, Mar. 23, 1870; and this engagement, Emerson indicated, was doubtful.

47. MS owned by Mrs. James Leonard; ph. in CUL. A copy in the hand of Mary

ought to have been acknowledged on the instant, but has had to lie still — making praise & affection for you in my wife & me — whilst I have been pressed by a more than usual routine of affairs & writing — Meantime however my son Edward — who draws, & even paints rudely sometimes, — came home for a day from his Medical College,[48] & admired the wonderful work, & sharpened our eyes by his own. The poor little verses never came to such honor before, and I read them with pride in the gold & the flowers.[49] And yet we have only begun to see their shrine, & are to have it every day & always. But I wish to see my cousin the painter, & hate to think of the thousand miles between us. The remembrance of your mother is always dear to me, & I am glad & grateful that you have found out how to telegraph us again into communication. I wish you to tell her that my five minutes interview at Northfield station in ten years was a very short & scanty consolation & I thank this act of yours & what you tell me of your sister & your family as a good sign that we may see & love one another yet. When all or either of you shall come to Massachusetts again, I entreat you to study your railroad Guide, & come by the Fitchburg road to Concord, where we have room & affection & curiosity too waiting for our cousins. Too few of them are left for my eyes. In a few days I shall send to your

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Elizabeth Wyer is also in CUL. The following letter accompanied the gift here acknowledged:

" St. Paul, March 12, 1870

" My dear Cousin

" Will you accept the designs (my own) accompanying this note, as a token, not only of the sincere pleasure I have received from your poems, which I will venture to say few have enjoyed more than myself, but also as a sign of the affectionate regard with which my mother has taught her children to consider you — for although the intercourse between your family and ours has been so infrequent of late years, yet among her relatives there is not one whose name has received more frequent or more kindly mention than your own; & since I commenced designing, she has always been desirous that I should attempt the illustration of one of your poems. The one I have chosen has been long one of my favorites, and I learned it by heart years ago. The drawings I send are all of Minnesota flowers, many of them blossoms of the prairie. The purple flower on the last page, the Anemone Pulsatilla, is the " Blanket Flower " of the Indians, so called from its down, of which they make great use in keeping the " pappooses " soft and warm. . . ."

48. The Harvard catalogue for 1870–1871 shows that he was a student in the Harvard Medical School during the preceding academic year.

49. The late Miss Wyer informed me that the gift was an illumination of " The Humble-bee." For earlier mention of her as a teacher of drawing, see the letter of Feb. 1, 3, and 6, 1867, where the interview with her mother, a first cousin of Emerson's, is also recorded.

address my new book, of which the first edition [50] is all gone, & we must wait a week for another.

With affectionate regards,

Miss Mary E. Wyer R. W. Emerson

## To Ellen Emerson? Concord? April *c.* 3? 1870 [51]

Mr Fields on Saturday said, he would ask Fechter whether he should play Hamlet on Saturday 16th, as well as Wednesday 13th; [52] I telling him that our party were good for that day. I suppose Mr Fields will send me word of the answer. If not soon Edward must call on him & inquire Edward will be here on Fast Day.[53] But you are surely coming home on Saturday night 9th. I do not know but the School Committee

50. According to the *Boston Daily Advertiser* of Mar. 5, 1870, *Society and Solitude* was published on that day. Holmes wrote in acknowledgment of the copy he received:

"Boston March 8th 1870

"Dear Mr. Emerson,

"I am going to thank you for your book without even making the pretence of having as yet read it. But this is what I have done – I have opened here and there at random and have lingered on every page with new pleasure whether I had heard its words from your lips before or not. It is always the same lift, the same suggestiveness, the same subtlety, the same shrewd simplicity, the same diaphanous clothing of the best English speech, with here and there a quaint ornament which whether it came from Persia or Hindostan or Sinaitic inscription or the border-life of Nevada always fits in its place. One can read little or he can read much – it is good for a draught – it is good for a bath.

"But as soon as I begin saying these things I want to turn them prettily and that is not what I wish to want, but to tell you once more that I count myself among those who esteem your writings as the most vivifying and ennobling that have seen the light among us.

"Believe me

"Always truly yours

"O. W. Holmes."

51. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The date "April 1870," which has been supplied, is correct, as evidence noted below shows. As this is written on the same sheet with a fragment of a letter in the hand of Lidian Emerson, it is in all probability to one of her daughters, and likely, I think, to Ellen.

52. Fechter was to play in *Hamlet* for the last time on Wednesday, the 13th; on Saturday, the 16th, he was to appear, but not in that play (*Boston Daily Advertiser*, Apr. 13 and 16, 1870). Longfellow had lunched with Fields to meet Fechter on Feb. 25; had had the tragedian as his own guest on Mar. 1; had seen him in *Hamlet* on Mar. 3; and by Apr. 20, wished he would leave town (Samuel Longfellow, *Life*, n. d. [c. 1891], III, 144–148).

53. Apr. 7 (see the letter of Apr. 5, 1870).

will come to meet the train, the schools following.[54] But the skies must first relent, & the sun shine. R. W. E.

## To Frederic Henry Hedge, Concord, April 5, 1870[55]

Concord
5 April

Dear Hedge,

I did not mean this spring to lose the privilege we had repeatedly manufactured out of your old custom of visiting the Ripleys on the Fast Day,[56] & securing you to dinner, but had fully relied upon it. But I accepted the other day a proposition from Mr Gurney to meet a College Committee on an affair of some importance, & dine with them at his house on Thursday of this week,[57] — not a moment mistrusting that it was the Fast, which I had fancied was further on in the month. Only since this meeting was all settled did I learn by chance that I had forfeited my own desired day. You must give my revenge for this loss a little later — say, whenever both you & I shall be out of our several woods & you are not to mutter or murmer but only to say Yes, like a good man, when the day comes to your affectionate

F. H. Hedge. R. W. Emerson

## To Thomas Carlyle, Concord, April 8, 1870[58]

Concord, April 8, 1870

My dear Carlyle,

Wo is me when you are anxious, — & more & worse when on account of me. I know myself the slowest of men yet did not suspect the vice in the sending of my last letter.[59] Yet I believe it took ship only on the very day on which your new letter of inquiry is dated.[60]

54. The meaning is not clear. Neither Emerson nor Ellen seems to be named in *The Annual Report of the School Committee of Concord, Mass., for the Year 1869–70.*

55. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year is fixed by the engagement with Gurney.

56. The custom frequently appears in letters of earlier years.

57. The MS memorandum book for 1870 has for Thursday, Apr. 7: "fast at Mr E. W. Gurney's." Emerson, as earlier letters show, was an overseer of Harvard, and Gurney was President Eliot's new dean.

58. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

59. Of Mar. 21, 1870.

60. Carlyle's letter of Mar. 24, 1870, is in *C–E Corr.*

That missive went not, I hope, in any foundering bark but in a good mail-bearing steamer respected by men & the sea-gods. I can not now recall on what day your letter accompanying the " Catalogue " arrived in this house but I sat down gladly as soon as a sinful man might to write out a fitting recital to the Corporation of the College of the message with which I was charged.[61] I remember that I had to think before I went to Cambridge whether it were a day on which the President would be surely at home & I may have lost a day on such a contingency. But the interview with Mr Eliot was entirely satisfactory, & since the Corporation then stood advised not to meet for a fortnight, he decided that he would not wait, but wd. call a special meeting in the next week, that he might communicate your proffer to them. I came home & waited for his Report, & as soon he sent me the Corporation's vote, I wrote you a letter[62] saying these things I am now repeating, & enclosed the Report & the President's letter to me, which I hope & trust you have received safely. Nay, I confide that I shall myself have your own word to that effect ten days hence. I hate that you should have grief & trouble growing out of your excellent deed, & that I should be the cause of it more than once — were unpardonable. I sent you my little book[63] by

61. For the books Carlyle was giving to HCL, see Mar. 14, 1870.

62. The " last letter " mentioned above.

63. For *Society and Solitude cf.* Mar. 31, 1870. Carlyle wrote, nearly two months later, with his own hand:

" Chelsea, 31 May 1870.

" Dear Emerson, — In great *haste,* fruit of my miserable & scandalous indolence and dreamy waste of this fine last May morng, I do manage to announce, in one brief word to you, that the first copy of yr *Solitude & Society* has never come to hand, but that a *second* duly *has,* — three days ago, all safe & right; a much handsomer copy, and better for my old eyes: whh shall enjoy that in time coming, to exclusion of the other, perhaps to *benefiting* of some third party by the other. Thanks; double thanks for this double punctuality.

" Some ten days ago, having fallen in with a brand new *Chapman's Homer* (2 vols. just out, *improved* or not), and finding a bit of reference to yrself, I bethot me that there was an older copy here, suffict & more for all my wants with it, and that I cd send *you* this new one. The Piccadilly Chapman people got it accordingly; it was to go (infallibly, *these* Chapmns said, but only the Pope is infallible!) *along* with yr *4th vol of Cromwell;* and I hope it will, — if only as a punisht for yr praise of that monstrous *Homeric* Individl; whom, after repeated trials, I have found that I cannot stand at all. More like a *leprosy* of Homer than a new skin to him; the most intolerable of all the ' translations ' I have seen.

" I hear of you lecturing at Harvard College, with immense acceptance, *well-*merited, I do believe. Good speed, good speed! — My own days here are fallen weak and empty; seems as if the fewer days I had to live, the more inane they grew! Filled only with sombre solemn recollection, and do do dreamy contemplatns; nothing

aid of Fields & Co (I should think on the 7th March) & you must tell me if it failed to reach you. I had three days ago your Inverness newspaper which my wife reads with due interest.

Yours affectionately,
R. W. Emerson

Thomas Carlyle, Esq.
I thank & prize my new correspondent, Mary Carlyle Aitken [64]

To Annie Adams Fields, Concord? April 11, *c.* 1870?

[MS listed, without year, in American Art Association, May 7–8, 1925. The year might, so far as I know, be almost any from about 1860 to 1880.]

To Sarah Swain Forbes, Concord, April 17, 1870 [65]

Concord
April 17
Sunday Evening

Dear Mrs Forbes,

I thank you for your very kind offer to send me the volume of Bunsen.[66] I am hardly entitled to hold it against any one who studies

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of worth in them except the sorrowing *Love* whh Time only strengthens, and (I think) only Death Eternal cd kill.

"Adieu, dear Friend
"Yours ever as before
"T. Carlyle"

64. Carlyle's niece, who wrote down some of his letters from dictation.

65. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Apr. 17 fell on Sunday in 1870, the year of the first course of lectures at Harvard. With this letter at present is a small slip of paper on which Emerson wrote his lines there entitled "Inscription for Mrs Forbes's Memorial Fountain":

"Fall, Stream! from Heaven to bless: return as well:
So did our braves: Heaven met them as they fell."

In *Cent. Ed.*, IX, 376, "braves" is changed to "sons" and the title to "Inscription for a Well in Memory of the Martyrs of the War." The two lines actually carved on the watering-trough which was still standing a few years ago on Adams St., near the top of Milton Hill, are substantially those of the *Cent. Ed.* The trough was, according to another inscription, below Emerson's lines, given to the town by Sarah S. Forbes. On the opposite side what seems to be the date of erection is recorded as 1866. On the top of the hill to the north still stands the large brick house where Mrs. Forbes and her husband, J. M. Forbes, lived and where Emerson was often a visitor. Near it is the old home of Edith Emerson Forbes.

66. Perhaps Mrs. Dall's English résumé (see May 30, 1870, to Mrs. Forbes), though possibly Charles H. Cottrell's translation, *Egypt's Place in Universal History*, 1848.

Egypt much. But I should like very well to have it for a time – say after the first of June, when my college work ends,[67] & I will gladly surrender it afterwards to the best claimant.

Yours gratefully,
R. W. Emerson

Mrs S. S. Forbes.

P. S. But do not keep it for me till June, if you see the right reader sooner.

## To Emma Lazarus, Concord, April 23, 1870[68]

Concord, 23 April,
1870

Dear Miss Lazarus,

I send back the Orpheus[69] with great humiliation. I told you in advance I was not to be trusted for any reading for months, & I have found my bondage worse than I then thought, nor shall I escape out of it for six weeks yet[70] I have read a few pages of the MS. & shall have much to say to you, I see, about poetry. I do not like to wait long to say it but dare not begin tonight. I received also your overestimate of the little book of " Society &c[71] which would blush if it could & were not too red. Continue to esteem & forgive me my many shortcomings.

Ever your friend,
R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

## To James Russell Lowell, Concord, April 23, 1870[72]

Concord, April 23, 1870

Dear Lowell,

You did me the honor some time ago to ask me to send one of my cards for the Philosy Course[73] to Mrs Lowell. I enclose one today, with

67. See a note on Apr. 23 following to Lowell.
68. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.
69. " Orpheus " is on pp. 27–59 of *Admetus and Other Poems*, 1871.
70. See a note on the letter of this date to Lowell.
71. *Cf.* Mar. 31, 1870.
72. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL.
73. Emerson's University Course on " Natural History of the Intellect " was announced to begin on Tuesday, Apr. 26, at 3 p. m., and to continue on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays for six weeks (*Boston Daily Advertiser*, Apr. 22, 1870). *The*

kindest regards to her, yet do not dare promise her good entertainment.

Affectionately yours,
R. W. Emerson

James Russell Lowell, Esq.

### To James Freeman Clarke, Concord, May 3, 1870[74]

Concord
3 May 1870

Dr J. F. Clarke.

My dear Sir,

I hoped to have found you at the Meeting of the Academical Committee at Mr Adams's house[75] the other day. Mr A. summoned us with a hope to receive reports & to notify the sub committees that the visitations must be made during the now current month of May.

The sub-committee on Modern Languages consists of yourself Mr Perkins & me. Mr P. has wished to resign: I have begged him to persist in trying to serve & he will I think remain I wish to entreat you to take up the task with him I shall not be able to go for an hour to any class during this month. I have three lectures each week to read at Cambridge,[76] & their preparation over occupies all my time. After I had accepted this work my publishers pressed me with proposals that I should revise my six books & prepare a new edition for last October[77] and a collection of unprinted papers for January.[78] Both of these tasks took much more time than was counted for at first, and my new book was not published until March. Then much that had been neglected in correspondence & affairs remained to be done & though I begun as

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*Harvard Advocate* of the period seems to pay no attention to this course. The title of each lecture is given in *Journals*, X, 317. The MS memorandum book for this year lists the lectures by number and date, Apr. 26 to June 3, but indicates that those of the last two Fridays were omitted, so that the number was reduced from eighteen to sixteen.

74. MS owned by Mr. James F. Clarke; ph. in CUL.

75. Charles Francis Adams is named first among the members of the Committee to visit the Academical Department in the *Forty-fifth Annual Report of the President of Harvard College*, 1871, p. 75, where Emerson and Clarke, but not Perkins, also appear. But in a letter dated Wednesday (endorsed Oct., 1870), Charles C. Perkins told Emerson of visiting certain classes in the languages and gave his views on the teaching of languages.

76. See a note on Apr. 23, 1870, to Lowell.

77. *Cf.* July 26, 1869.

78. *Society and Solitude*, mentioned in earlier letters.

soon as I could to think how I could work properly on Philosophical Lectures the 26th April found me in a most unprepared state And in my beginnings I have doubts if continuance is practicable. At all events, I must think of nothing else & hence this appeal to your goodness to join Mr Perkins & lead the work. I can take my part in seeing the Examination papers later.

I throw myself on your goodness. R. W. Emerson

## To Caroline Sturgis Tappan, Concord, May 9, 1870 [79]

Concord
Monday Eve. 9 May

Dear Caroline,

I would gladly come to your house on Thursday, but my tyrant the Fitchburg Railroad will not permit; the first down-train, after the morning ones, being at 1.30, which leaves me at Porter's Station only at 2.20 or 2.25 not too early to set out on my walk to the College.[80] It has been & is a great grief to me that you should have been all winter in Cambridge & I should not once have found your house — but it could not be helped, & you will come again to Cambridge, & I never expect to be such a slave to my tasks hereafter as I have been & am in these weeks & months.

I have wished much to see Ellen in her new independence; & Mary [81] with whom I made a step nearer to acquaintance at Mrs Cabot's.

Always yours,
R. W. Emerson

## To J. K. Leeson, Concord? May 17, 1870

[MS listed and partly quoted in Maggs Bros., catalogue 203 (1904); Emerson mentions his lectures at Harvard.]

79. MS owned by Mrs. Gorham Brooks; ph. in CUL. May 9 fell on Monday in 1870, the year of Emerson's first course at Harvard.

80. Where he must arrive by 3 p. m. (see a note on Apr. 23, 1870, to Lowell). The train leaving Concord for Boston at 1:30 p. m. duly appears in the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, May 11, 1870.

81. For Caroline Tappan's daughters, see July 2, 1865. The "new independence" suggests a time after Ellen Tappan's marriage to Richard Cowell Dixey (on Apr. 15, 1875), but the evidence of the Harvard duties is, I think, conclusive.

## To William Hathaway Forbes and Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord? May 23, 1870 [82]

Monday Morn.

Dear Will & Edith,
We are rejoiced in the good tidings you send us & send all blessings to the boy R. W. E

## To Sarah Swain Forbes, Concord, May 30, 1870 [83]

Concord May 30 1870

Dear Mrs Forbes,,

I send my special thanks for your kind & persistent care in transmitting to me this valuable book of Bunsen.[84] Tis not quite June [85] yet for for me, & I dared only open it & peep in. But Ellery Channing seized on it at once, &, as archaeology is at this moment his forte or foible, I did not hesitate to yield it to him for a time. Mr Reuben Rice too has lately lent me his illustrated Rosetta Stone Book,[86] so that who knows but Concord may come to hold a parley with Mrs Dall? [87]

We are very happy in your news, & all the news we have, of Edith & her babes: And we give Mr Forbes joy of his victory in the Legislature over Hartford & Erie.[88]

Your affectionate
R. W. Emerson

82. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. William Cameron Forbes, Emerson's grandson, was born May 21, 1870; the news came to Concord in a letter from William H. Forbes written from Milton on that day.

83. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

84. *Cf.* Apr. 17, 1870.

85. When the lectures at Harvard were to end (*cf.* a note on Apr. 23, 1870, to Lowell).

86. One possibility would be the curious illustrated *Report of the Committee Appointed by the Philomathean Society of the University of Pennsylvania to Translate the Inscription on the Rosetta Stone* (c. 1859).

87. Caroline Healey Dall had published *Egypt's Place in History*, Boston, 1868, a résumé and defense of Bunsen's book.

88. The Massachusetts legislature had just voted against granting further aid to this road (*Boston Daily Advertiser*, May 28, 1870).

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, May 30, 1870 [89]

Concord 30 May
1870

Dear Will

I received with much satisfaction your note [90] & its enclosure of $237.80 from Mr Jackson, & the accompanying account. It relieved us from the fear that after such delays some catastrophe might impend. I return the Account as you request; & hope you will not yet despair of the Court Street problem.[91]

I am beginning to see daylight under the edges of this week & hope to find my way to Milton before many days. Dear love to Edith, & to the small people.

Affectionately,
R W Emerson

W. H. Forbes.

## To J. F. Williams, Concord, June 5, 1870

[MS owned by the Minnesota Historical Society; printed by Hubert H. Hoeltje in *Minnesota History*, XI, 148 (June, 1930).]

## To John Murray Forbes, Concord, June 6, 1870

[MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Printed, except for the name "John M. Forbes, Esq." at the end, in *Letters and Recollections of John Murray Forbes*, II, 174.]

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, June 8, 1870 [92]

Concord
8 June 1870

Dear Will,

I have been studying your two letters off & on up to this time, & am not yet master of the affairs. One thing is sun clear to me that in regard to B. & M. in Nebraska, you kindly offer to lend me money, & so protect my chances of gain by allowing me to hold my stock intact, – for which goodness of yours I send you my hearty thanks. But I will not have a dollar on such terms. I am always poor, that is,

89. MS owned by Mr. William H. Forbes; ph. in CUL.
90. Dated Boston, May 27, 1870.
91. *Cf.* June 8, 1870.
92. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

always overspend a little, & sometimes more than a little my income, but mean always to be solvent. And certainly you suggest very sensible & ready means of helping myself now by selling part of these bonds or stocks,[93] enough to pay the assessments due, & to give me, say, $200. or $300; which I think will carry me over any bars till July & October. Yes, that appears to be the plain way, if the present good prices are still offered. But you will have to determine what is to be sold, whether bonds, or whether stocks. And I will come to your office on any day you will name, & sign such power of attorney as you shall require. If this investment be & should remain as good as you describe it now, I am only the more indebted to your hands for guiding me to it.

For the Court Street Estate, it is not so plain which of the two alternatives you offered should be taken. On paper & with our experience it looks best to go to the Court at once & ask for a decree authorizing a sale. But I think it may be important that I should have a conversation with Dr & Mrs Jackson first, to impress on them the importance of our joint action; – & this may turn out not to be easy or possible to them in their relations to Mr A. J. This conference is the less easy that they are at Cohasset.

However, if you will fix an hour when I can find you at your office for the Nebraska matter, I will try to make a first step in this also.

Tis very good & lovely in you to remember us to Waterford & seashore, to the old paint & the waterspout & we prize all these tokens.

Always yours,

R. W. Emerson

W. H. Forbes.

I inclose a copy of a memorandum of Mrs E.'s Plymouth woodlots [94] furnished me by Abraham Jackson, Sen[r] (father of A. J. Esq.) in 1842; 134 acres. She has never since sold any part of them.

### To Elizabeth W. Stevenson, Concord? June 8, 1870

[In the unpublished portion of a passage dated June 9, 1870, Emerson wrote: "I have answered, on 8 June, Miss Elizabeth W. Stevenson's letter which accompanied P. P. R.'s papers" (typescript *Journals* for 1868–1870). The rest of

93. Forbes had written, Boston, June 6, 1870, urging Emerson to sell some of his shares in "Nebraska," which had increased much in value, and, with the proceeds, invest in vacations for himself and his wife, closing the Concord house meantime, as it needed repairs. He suggested the seashore for Lidian Emerson and Waterford, Me., or the mountains for Emerson himself.

94. *Cf.* the letters of Dec. 12, 1870, to Forbes and Jackson.

this entry, which comments upon the papers mentioned here, is printed in *Journals,* X, 319–320. Philip P. Randolph appears in a number of earlier letters.]

## To John S. Rogers, Concord, June 13? 1870 [95]

Concord
Monday Morn.g 14 June,
1870

My dear Sir,

The meeting of a committee at Harvard College requires my attendance at Cambridge this afternoon, & will deprive me of the pleasure of joining my friends at Walden.[96]

But I use the occasion to say that I received some months ago from a member of the Parker Fraternity a request that I would send him the Letter of Rev. D. P. Faure,[97] of Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope, (which I had read to the company at Walden Pond, last summer,) that the letter might receive some consideration & reply from the Fraternity. I was forced to reply [98] to my correspondent, that the letter was mislaid, &, after much search, I could not find it. I have lately recovered the letter, & herewith send it to you, though I do not at this moment remember who was my correspondent who asked for it.

With great regard, Yours,
R. W. Emerson

John S. Rogers, Esq.

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, June 14, 1870 [99]

Concord, 14 June, '70

Dear Edith, I send you 77 letters of Carlyle to be copied by your scribe, & paper whereon they should be written. He should leave say an inch & a half margin on the left of each sheet, so as not to interfere with the binding of the book.[100] No pages need be left blank, – but a space

95. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Probably Emerson meant June 13, which was Monday in 1870. John S. Rogers was treasurer of the Gillespie Governor Co., in Boston (*The Boston Directory* for the year commencing July 1, 1870).

96. Apparently for a picnic of the Parker Fraternity.

97. Faure was at this time and later a rather common name in South Africa, though I have not found it with the initials given here.

98. Letter of *c.* Feb.? 1870?

99. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

100. I have not found this book.

should be left above the beginning of each Letter. In case he cannot make out a word, he must leave a blank, which I will fill when the sheets come back. I have written out in pencil some words that might puzzle him. I have kept here more paper of the same ream in case this package should prove insufficient I send you, say 77 letters, out of 90,[101] which I have counted, & will, by & by, add these last.

I want every word & figure to be written.

I shall be glad if you will make whatever you think a just bargain with Mr[102] , & I will duly pay the bill. I have been reading over a great many of these letters, & am delighted with the hope of having them in a book to which I shall make an index.[103]

Affectionate Papa.

101. Norton printed, in his editions of *C–E Corr.*, a total of ninety-nine letters from Carlyle earlier than June, 1870.

102. Emerson left a blank space but apparently failed to recall the name.

103. It is not clear whether Emerson owed to his daughter Edith the idea of a book of letters from Carlyle; but it was, at any rate, because of her initiative that both halves of the remarkable correspondence, not far from complete, were finally brought together and remain together today. A letter Carlyle dictated and signed some years later records his willingness to grant her request:

"5 Cheyne Row, Chelsea
"2 April 1875.

"Dear Mrs Forbes,

"It is some days since I received your Letter; the request contained in which was from the first moment granted; and only the consideration how that fact should be put on record, in my now want of useful hands, occasioned any delay. This morning the great feat has been accomplished the record of it reposited in its due place; and you are now to consider that your Father's Letters are to be punctually transmitted to you, so soon as my Executors have done with what little they may want with them. A certain number of these Letters, chiefly or altogether of later date, lie in a bundle accesible to me; but ever since the year 1833, he has been in the habit of writing to me, greatly to my comfort & profit; and I certainly never destroyed with my will any scrap of paper his hand had been on. There is a strict search & examination to be gone into for these letters; and as above said, they are wholly to belong to you. Except therefore some little delay, that may occur after I am gone in finding and examining (for their own behoof on the part of my representatives) your Father's Letters to me, all of them now anywhere in my possession are as good as yours.

"I wish you had told me something about your Father's health & procedures in these his years of rest; but I always vaguely hear from time to time that he still keeps his health tolerably and of his constant friendship to me and the kind of silent but sacred covenant that exists between us two to the end & has at all times been so precious to me, I never have any questioning.

"Nay, I myself am the *culpably* silent this time. Several months ago his bookseller here sent me the excellent & opulent Book called *Parnassus* out of which my niece often reads to me at dinner, and to herself, I suppose, at other times; and which you may tell him is a beneficence of his not to me only but to the whole world.

## To Thomas Carlyle, Concord, June 17, 1870

[MS owned by RWEMA; printed in *C–E Corr.*, 1883.]

## To Julia? Ward? Howe, Concord, June 22, *c.* 1870?

[MS listed, without year, in Anderson Galleries, Dec. 20–21, 1917, where it is described as an invitation to "Mrs. Howe" to visit at the Emerson home. If Julia Ward Howe was the person addressed, such an invitation might belong to any one of a wide range of years, though the late 1860's or the 1870's would be the most probable period.]

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, June 27, 1870[104]

Concord
Monday Evening
27 June

Dear Will,

I have a note this afternoon from Dr Jackson saying that he & Mrs Jackson will come hither tomorrow in the 5.30 P. M. train,[105] & spend the night. So you must let us depend on your sacrifice of a night in the wilderness, so far from wife & babes. Yet I hope nothing will prevent you from coming & carrying your good work[106] a step nearer to completion. The Doctor, who I suppose had been looking at his barometer, says, "Unless there is a tempest." But I hope not.

Always Yours,
R. W. Emerson

W. H. Forbes.
You must come out earlier with Edward.

## To Maria Ellen MacKaye, Concord, June 27, 1870

[MS copy, not in Emerson's hand, owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Printed, presumably from the original, in *The Atlantic*, LXXIII, 281 (Feb., 1894),

"Offer my best wishes to Ralph and tell him to grow big and wise and good; to Ralph's excellent Father say that I remember him with kind respect; and that I wish him & his at all times all manner of good You yourself, dear Mrs Forbes, I remember as if I still saw you; & will say only at present, God bless you, and farewell.

"T. Carlyle"

104. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. June 27 fell on Monday in 1870, the year supplied; and evidence cited below confirms this dating.

105. The *Boston Daily Advertiser* of June 27, 1870, shows that there was then a train leaving Boston on the Fitchburg road at 5:30 p. m.

106. In June 8, 1870, to Forbes, the problem of Lidian Emerson's Court St. property is noticed and there is mention of the need of a conference with Dr. and Mrs. Jackson.

where the name of the correspondent is omitted. John Tyndall to Mrs. MacKaye, London, June 2, 1870 (MS copy), recalls his meeting with her on the Riffelberg and their reciting Emerson's poetry as they came down the slopes from the glacier.]

## To Edward Everett Hale, Concord, June? 30? 1870? [107]

Concord
Thursday Night

My dear Sir,

Not a moments time & yet will say that the sermon I heard from Mr Finney was in Park Street Church after Furness had described to me in Philadelphia the wonderful effect of his sermon there [108] from the text " The wages of sin is death," [109] & with particular enumeration of the great points & charged me to hear him if I could. He came to Boston & I took courage & went. His text was, " The wages of sin is death," and I recognized in succession all the topics & treatments the assembled universe of souls & whithersoever they looked on the arch of Heaven they read Wages Wages Wages —

I recognized all but the effect which my friend had reported. I think this must have been preached in Park Street about 1829 or 1830; [110] but cannot without more research than I have time for certify the date. It was twenty five years later, as I remember to have counted at the time, when I next saw Mr Finney, soon after his return from London, that I found myself on a Sunday in Rome, New York, & learned that he was to preach there.[111] I went, & his text was " The Wages of sin is death " & the sermon in the main & I suppose in all particulars the same. Wages Wages was written as before on the arch of the Universe. It was plain that he was as bad as a hack lecturer like myself.[112]

107. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL. The conjectural date is based entirely upon the following endorsement: " [Written at my request by R. W. Emerson, as memorandum of a conversation.

" E. E. Hale]

" July 2. 1870."

108. A very general account of Finney's preaching in Philadelphia, 1827–1828, is to be found in *Memoirs of Rev. Charles G. Finney*, 1876, pp. 242 ff.

109. *Romans*, 6:23.

110. Finney's Boston visit of 1831 is recorded in his *Memoirs*, pp. 313–319. Emerson was then pastor of the Second Church.

111. The letter of Feb. 18, 1855, gave an account of this sermon on the day Emerson heard it.

112. Emerson did not sign the letter.

## To Moncure Daniel Conway, Concord, July 18, 1870[113]

Concord
18 July, 1870

My dear Sir,

Though I am glad to hear from you by your letter[114] received this morning, the news you send me is far from pleasing me.

At the urgent request of my publishers, Fields & Co., in the last Autumn I undertook to revise carefully some old pieces printed in the Magazines, & some unprinted ones, to make the new volume of " Society & Solitude." I soon saw that the papers I selected, — MSS. & printed, — divided themselves into two volumes, one to be called " Society &c ";[115] — the other consisting mainly of Criticism, which I propose soon to publish,[116] & which will give me an opportunity to revise very carefully & probably to enlarge two articles printed in the " Dial," & called respectively " Landor " & " Carlyle." It would be simply odious to me to see these papers snatched from me & printed in England, rude as they are, & wanting the proposed additions & modifications. It is particularly cruel in regard to this " Dial," which was almost a private pamphlet, written by & circulating among personal friends, — not a single article being paid for, — & I remember to have myself paid a consider-

113. MS owned by Mrs. Mildred Conway Sawyer; ph. in CUL.

114. Conway had written, London, July 4 (1870), explaining the events leading up to the matter here discussed. John Camden Hotten, the English publisher, had desired to bring out an English edition of Emerson's recent contributions to *The Atlantic*, and Conway had consented to furnish an introduction. When *Society and Solitude* appeared Conway called Hotten's attention to the fact that some of these *Atlantic* things were in that book and so could not be reprinted. Then it came to light that Hotten had collected some of Emerson's papers in *The Dial* and was making a book of them and that by this time he had Conway's introductory paper in type. Conway then corresponded with Ireland about the matter and expressed doubts to Hotten, who, however, pointed out that if he did not bring out the book, another publisher would. So Conway had to allow the project to go forward, but meanwhile thus stated the facts to Emerson and reported Hotten's promise of a fair share of the profits. Further details of the story are to be found in Conway's *Autobiography*, II, 395.

115. Published some months earlier (see a note on Mar. 31, 1870).

116. With Cabot's aid, Emerson finally completed and published *Letters and Social Aims* some years later; and Cabot's preface to this volume in his own edition of Emerson's works, published in 1883, explained how the book had grown out of the correspondence with Conway about Hotten's scheme. The articles from *The Dial* which are mentioned below — " Walter Savage Landor," Oct., 1841; and " Past and Present," July, 1843 — did not, however, reappear in *Letters and Social Aims* but in the posthumous volume *Natural History of Intellect*.

able sum to relieve it from debt. I know nothing of Mr Hotten, except that he was once so good as to send me a copy of Mr Carlyle's "Edinburgh Address"; [117] but I wish you would say to him, if he is a good man, that I shall esteem it an act of humanity in him not to drag out of darkness these rough papers of thirty years since until I can send him a corrected copy of them.[118]

I had just been reading with great interest your paper on the Isle of Wight & John Sterling, in Harper,[119] & was glad to receive these unexpected additions — & important ones — to my knowledge of that ardent soul.

With kind regards & good hope
Yours,
R. W. Emerson

My wife comes into my room, & insists on being kindly remembered to you, & on sending her love & admiration to Mrs Conway, & wishes & hopes to see her & her children.

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, July 28, 1870 [120]

Concord
28 July 1870

My dear Will,

Mrs Emerson has read the draught of a letter which you enclosed, & fully approves it, & desires you to send it to Mr Isaac Jackson, with such modification of the sums named as the conference with your father, which you propose, may suggest. She is very much gratified to see a step taken which appears effective, after so many disappointments, & she thanks your kind care.

Ever yours
R. W. Emerson

W. H. Forbes.

117. Carlyle's inaugural address at Edinburgh was published in 1866, with a memoir of Carlyle by Hotten.

118. For later delays and for the agreement with Hotten, see letters of Sept. 29, 1870, and Nov. 15, 1871.

119. John Sterling, Emerson's correspondent of earlier years, was noticed in the fifth of Conway's "South-Coast Saunterings in England," in *Harper's* for Mar., 1870.

120. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. William H. Forbes's aid in the settlement of questions concerning Lidian Emerson's property is mentioned in many earlier letters.

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, August 1, 1870[121]

Concord
1 August 1870

Dear Will

I enclose the memorandum which I suppose you ask for, but I have mislaid the last, which I think was contained in a letter to Ellen, being a draft for a sum not exceeding I think $14. & I do not think I was what right I had to it but I read in the letter that you had discovered an omission. Still I am uneasy at not finding the receipt of the sum recorded in my own journal The happiest visit to Naushon for you & yours![122]

R. W. E.

W. H. Forbes

Please save these memoranda for me & tell me at once if they do not contain the item you want.

## To Ellen Emerson, Concord, August 8? 1870[123]

Dear Ellen,

Your mother opened these letters, & I believe only read one, — of Alice Forbes. The house is as firm as usual, & the inmates as burly & defiant: The Prussian victories[124] surprising & far more welcome than French could be. Your box goes tomorrow morn to N. Y. with prism & webs. The failure of Horatio Woodman[125] is a painful & wide disaster & as yet wholly unexplained. If you are tired & not strong let them bring you down the mountain in a litter & come home by the first train.[126]

R. W. E.

Monday Eve.

121. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The word " what " begins a page.

122. *Cf.* Aug. 10, 1870, to Edith Emerson Forbes.

123. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This seems to precede Aug. 10, 1870, to Ellen Emerson; that month and year have been supplied on the MS; and the evidence cited below points to Aug. 8 or 15 — more strongly to the earlier date, I think. Obviously the letter was not written before the 8th.

124. The victories of early August were Weissenburg, 4th, and Wörth, 6th. Sedan was to come on Sept. 2.

125. The *Boston Daily Advertiser* of Aug. 8, 1870, told the story of this failure. Woodman had been friend and professional adviser of many of the best-known citizens, and his collapse had caused surprise little short of consternation. His liabilities would reach upwards of a quarter of a million. He was the real founder of the Saturday Club and appears in earlier letters.

126. This advice would more likely have been sent soon after Ellen had reached Monadnock, I think, than just before her return. She planned to come home by the 17th anyhow (see a note on Aug. 10, 1870, to her).

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, August 10, 1870 [127]

Wednesday Night
10 August

Dear Edith

[1]You are bound to be healthy & happy. I expect so much of you, of course, & neither allow for nor believe any rumors to the contrary.[128] Please not to give the least countenance to any hobgoblins of the sick sort, but live out of doors, & in the sea bath, & the sail boat, & the saddle, & the wagon, &, best of all, in your shoes, so soon as they will obey you for a mile. For the great mother Nature will not quite tell her secret to the coach or the steamboat, but says, One to one, my dear, is my rule also, & I keep my enchantments & my oracles for the religious soul coming alone or as good as alone in true-love.[1]

But for this debility of today it will not stay, & we will only get Ann Kelley as soon as the day shines to come & nurse you. If only we knew her address in Boston; — if you do, Will should telegraph it to Court Street, & she could be informed at once of your need, & sent.

If Malcolm [129] is not at Court Street, telegraph to me her address, & I will go to Boston & send her, if she will go. Will's despatch did not come to me until 6 o'clock P. M., too late for any available communication with Boston. In the morning we will experiment. Tell Will, that I received the letter due from Mr A. Jackson, on Monday Evening, 8th inst: & I recd a letter from W. H. F. with Ellen's a/c yesterday.[130] With dear love to you & yours

R. W. Emerson

127. MS owned by Mrs. Eric Schroeder; ph. in CUL. Excerpt I is in Cabot, II, 650. Aug. 10 fell on Wednesday in 1870, the year which has been added to Emerson's date line. The letter follows naturally that of Aug. 1, 1870; and other evidence, cited below, confirms that year.

128. William H. Forbes, Naushon, Aug. 9, 1870, had reported his wife suffering from a sore throat and had asked Emerson to lend her Anne Kelly, whose name is differently spelled in the present letter. On Aug. 11 following he wrote that his wife was better and would not need this servant; and he mentioned Emerson's "despatch," which had arrived that day — possibly a telegram or, perhaps, the present letter.

129. Forbes's brother.

130. *Cf.* the letter of the same date to Ellen Emerson.

## To Ellen Emerson, Concord, August 10, 1870 [131]

Concord, Wed$^{y}$ 10 Aug.

Dear Ellen,

Two letters went up to *Troy*,[132] this morning, for you, one, I believe, from Edith Davidson; and this morn we learn from your letter [133] – perhaps re-learn – that your post is Fitz William. We are relieved by not hearing that you were carried up in a litter, & that you have water & berries: – May they both be multiplied to you & to us. We are in sore need of the first. There came from W. H. F. yesterday to me a note containing your Account with him,[134] which I will keep here. Whitwell's [135] telegram, I forgot to add, said, "When do you leave Monadnoc?" Your Mother corresponds in these days with Cohasset. Plutarch creeps [136] imperceptibly slow, but is yesterday encouraged by the arrival of a pamphlet Table of Contents. There are no other arrivals here, unless it were Mr A. J.'s [137] expected letter which came on Monday night. Love to Edward & health to the whole party. R. W. E.
I think another letter went to Troy, on Saturday night or Monday.

## To Emma Lazarus, Concord, August 19, 1870 [138]

Concord, August 19, 1870

My dear friend,

I have not known how to write to you since I received your painful note. I had seen the bulletin in the journals [139] without a sus-

131. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Aug. 10 fell on Wednesday in 1870, the year fixed by evidence noted below.

132. Troy, N. H., near Fitzwilliam and Monadnock; apparently neither letter was from Emerson himself.

133. At least two letters to Emerson about this time give news of the doings of the Monadnock party – Ellen's dated (apparently with a slight error) Monadnock, Aug. 8, 1870, and "Monday morning"; and Edward's, Monadnock, Aug. 11, 1870. The party planned, as Ellen's letter showed, to remain till Aug. 17.

134. *Cf.* Aug. 10, 1870, to Edith Emerson Forbes.

135. William Scollay Whitwell was in the medical school with Edward Emerson and is listed in the Harvard catalogue for 1870–1871. *Cf.* the letter of May 20 and 22, 1871.

136. *Plutarch's Morals*, tr. by "Several Hands" and revised by William W. Goodwin, with an "Introduction" by Emerson, appeared a few months later, in five volumes. The *Boston Daily Advertiser* of Dec. 13, 1870, announced the work as published.

137. Abraham Jackson's.

138. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.

139. This refers, doubtless, to the murder of Benjamin Nathan on the night of

picion that it touched any friend of mine. You know how the eye learns to rush over these records of outrages which we cannot hinder or in any manner repair. Your letter was a dreadful surprise I think very sadly of the desolation which this shock must bring to your peaceful house & to yourself. I can easily see that this ghastly incident will for a long time refuse to be forgotten or hidden or veiled. It will force seriousness & searching insights into the common day which can hide such grim contingences in the current of life which flowed so softly. One can hardly help giving a self application to a terror that thunders like this. Life is serious: Only principles, — nothing less than relations to heaven itself can keep our serenity amid these horrors. I know how we hate & shun the dismal. It seems rather to lead *from* than *to* thought, & so wastes the Soul. But that doleful tract is part also of the Universe, &, if patiently watched, grows translucent presently, & its news is at last good.

But I ought not to add words. In the presence of dismaying events we must be as self-collected & sane as we can, & await the return of the Divine Soul which will not forget us in these extremes. Perhaps the best facts in history are the triumphs of the will of the sufferer in fiercest pain. In my childhood my ear was filled with such examples by my guardian Aunt: but in my stagnant life they have been only pictures. Perhaps each of us is to pass somewhere through each experience once. I shall gladly hear from you when you are at liberty to write. Meantime, I beg you to offer my respect & sympathy to your parents & sisters.

Your friend,

R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

To ———— Dixwell, Concord, August 19? 1870 [140]

Concord
Sunday, August,
1870

Dear Mrs Dixwell,

Your letter containing news the most interesting to me came to me immediately, but was entirely a surprise to me, & besides that it

July 28–29. Emerson may have read the account in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* of July 30, 1870, and further news of the event in several later issues of the same paper. The mother of Emma Lazarus was Esther Nathan.

140. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is an incomplete rough draft bearing Emerson's endorsement: "Letter to Mrs Dixwell—" and the date "Aug.

found me pressed by some affairs which carried me all day to the city, I was quite too thoughtful of these tidings to be able to write to you at once. I have known Abby ever since she was ten years old,[141] & seen the gentle little girl without a fault grow up to womanhood expanding each year in grace & goodness, contented with the love & confidence of her quiet family, & the growing circle of her acquaintance from year to year. The life of the house was so even, & such changes as occurred so gradual, that there hardly seemed any call for strong character or great resources. But I have delighted in the singular & perfect dignity of her manners, her directness of speech & action, & her uniform goodness — just the things that every one happily placed ought to have, but oftenest has not. I think her manners perfect, & happy is he that beholds them. To be sure I have only seen her in her home-circle, & do not know whether she condescends to shine in society. Of course I have awaited with much interest what connection she would form, & sometimes have feared that the growing disinclination of her Uncle to society in his later years might re-act on his family & especially on Abby's general intercourse unfavorably. But all this is past. And now you send me word of the new leaf that is turned. Well I ought to have known Dr Faulkner as many years as I have hours in order to a just judgment. I am very glad to have had at least this pair of hours that we spent together so pleasantly at Nantasket & on the drive. I am glad to have seen in him the skilful decisive yet domestic man. Yet I wish him to know that I value this lady who gives herself to him for qualities so rare that the best society might be searched without surpassing or equaling them; that — beside all her advantages of fortune, — he marries one of Nature's queens, and that all her friends will love & honor him in the precise measure in which he secures her happiness.

I do not fail to see the important protection & benefit this event may bring to my friend Mrs Adams for I suppose that Dr Faulkner will presently join them in Switzerland[142] & he better I doubt not than any other person can make their safe return possible & speedy. You shall

1870." The Bluebook List describes this draft — on what authority I do not know — as of Aug. 19, 1870, and, in another entry, as to Mrs. J. J. Dixwell, Aug., 1871. The 19th, however, was not Sunday but Friday. *The Boston Directory*, 1869, shows that John J. Dixwell, president of the Massachusetts National Bank, lived at Jamaica Plain. His wife, therefore, might have known Abby Adams as a neighbor.

141. *Cf.* Dec. 2, 1833, and the many other letters to her or to her "Uncle" Abel Adams in earlier years. She was born in 1823, as is shown in a note below.

142. I am uncertain whether the Adamses had returned from Europe since 1868 (see May 21 of that year to William Emerson).

please add my kind regards to Dr F. and I must write to Abby my congratulations on making at last a home.[143]

To John Greenleaf Whittier, Concord, August 24, 1870

[MS listed in George H. Richmond, undated catalogue; described there as referring to a proposed visit from Bayard Taylor and the expectation of a later one from Whittier himself.]

To John Murray Forbes, Concord? August 31, 1870

[The "despatch" — perhaps a telegram — of "Wednesday," mentioned in Sept. 3, 1870. The Wednesday preceding Sept. 3 was Aug. 31.]

To John Murray Forbes, Waterford, Maine, September 3, 1870[144]

Waterford Me
Sept 3 1870

My dear friend,

I know not when I have so hesitated & so reluctantly written a despatch as mine of Wednesday to refuse to come to Naushon. But I had been dreaming lately by day as well as by night of this old mountain town of my relatives, — near & in sight of Mount Washington, which promised me some informations that I wanted, & also, I hoped, some inspirations & some healthier tone; & I had little time to change my plan. And your island, it seems, keeps always a kind door ajar for me. So it is only an adjournment. We have had one good day here, & this evening shall go to Gorham, & perhaps climb the great hill,[145] without staying long from the road to Massachusetts, trusting surely to find Will & Edith & their babes at Concord. With kindest regards to all your household, R. W. Emerson

John M. Forbes, Esq

To James Russell Lowell, Concord? September 10 and *c.* 13? 1870

[MS listed in American Art Association, May 2, 1923. According to the description here given, the letter concerns a request Emerson wished Lowell to execute

143. George Faulkner, physician, 51, of West Roxbury, Mass., and Abby Larkin Adams, 47, of the same town, were married on Nov. 18, 1870, by Frederic Henry Hedge (MS *29th Registration. 1870 Marriages,* CCXXVII, 354, in the State House, Boston). Probably Emerson wrote the letter of congratulation, but I have no proof.

144. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

145. Gorham, N. H., is near Mt. Washington. An account of Emerson's journey of Sept. 2–7, with his son, is in *Journals,* X, 327–328.

and, as a notation of Emerson's indicates, was not mailed till "a few days" after the main message was written.]

To ————————, Concord? September 13? 1870

[Mentioned in Sept. 13, 1870.]

To James Thomas Fields, Concord, September 13, 1870[146]

Concord
Sept. 13 1870

My dear Sir,

I send you a letter I received yesterday which I beg you to read. I know nothing of the writer, & doubt a little of *its* sex & even the postmark on the envelope would not permit me to know whether it were from Mass$^{tts}$, Pennsylvania, or elsewhere; & as one should know accurately who it is, that, if the request is granted, it is for cause, I send it to you with my reply, which please to read, & then send it to the Post Office; & then add the favor of your opinion to

Yours ever,
R. W. E.

J. T. Fields, Esq

To Samuel Bradford, Concord, September 13, 1870?[147]

Concord
Tuesday Eve. 13 Sept

My dear Sam,

I am very glad to hear that you are so near me. Come by all means on Thursday by the 11 o'clock train. But have you not wife[148] & bairns with you? bring them without fail. You are in good time for we are all at home just now, — Edith Forbes & her babes included.

Ever your affectionate
Ralph Waldo

Sam Bradford.

146. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL.

147. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year 1871 has been supplied, but after the marriage of Edith Emerson Forbes Sept. 13 fell on Tuesday only in 1870 and 1881. The hand is not that of 1881, nor were Edith's children "babes" in that year. In 1870, however, there were three children, all under five years of age.

148. He had married Elizabeth Ann Wood in 1835 (*Some Incidents*, p. 67).

## To John Murray Forbes, Concord, September 27, 1870[149]

Concord, 27 Sept
1870

My dear friend,

Naushon & your household are always magnetic to me even when I cannot quite touch them. But Hughes cannot go to you on the 11 October, as that is his lecture Evening in Boston.[150] Nor can I be absent from an "Overseers' Meeting of H. C." on the fourteenth,[151] where I happen to have particular duties. If Mr H. would go to Naushon with me on the afternoon of the 14th, or what is doubtless the proper time, the morning of the 15th, I would gladly accompany him, or if he will go alone on the 12th or 13th & let me find him there, & bring him back on Saturday. But in these days though I know it would be good for my body & & very cheering to my heart to breathe your air, it is by no means easy or prudent for me to leave some tasks, which are petty enough, — Heaven knows — but which must be done. And so I will wait to know.

With constant heart to the people of Naushon,
R. W. E.

For the Walden Pond tis fine of you who have dazzled my country eyes with your fine estimates now to inquire them of me. If another had asked me I should have told him, as you bade me, that I would sell all mine on both sides of the pond at $100. per acre: but that we proposed to sell together, & he must consult you. I am willing to let my land lie, in spite of the Fitchburg R. R. so long as it continues to give me 40 cords of wood every winter. R W E

149. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. A part of the fourth sentence was written to the right of its context and was set off with an irregular line, which I have not reproduced.

150. Longfellow heard Thomas Hughes, of *Tom Brown's School-days,* give his lecture that evening. "John to Jonathan" was, says the diary, a good, straightforward account of England's position during the American Civil War. (Samuel Longfellow, *Life,* n. d. [c. 1891], III, 159.) In his *Vacation Rambles,* 1895, pp. 137 ff., Hughes tells how he had met Emerson and others at the Saturday Club, had visited the Forbeses at Naushon, Aug. 27–30, and had dined with Emerson at Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar's, in Concord, on Aug. 31. Forbes's desire to bring Hughes to Naushon for a second visit is mentioned again in Oct. 3, 1870.

151. Meetings of the Board of Overseers on Oct. 12 and 15, but not on Oct. 14, are reported in the *Boston Daily Advertiser,* Oct. 13 and 17, 1870. At the second meeting the appointment of Elbridge Jefferson Cutler as professor of modern languages was referred to a committee of which Emerson was a member.

## To Moncure Daniel Conway, Concord, September 29, 1870 [152]

Concord Sept. 29 1870

My dear Sir,

I can do nothing with this proposition of Mr Hotten.[153] His first act is distressing to me. I proposed, as I believe I told you,[154] to revise & correct some of my old papers in the Dial & elsewhere, omitting much & hoping to add something important to each, & to print with them new matter of a like class. But to have the selection made in the dark by some person necessarily ill-informed, & possibly inserting papers not mine, or only partly mine, & papers that I wish to forget, — is distressing to me. I shall denounce the book in the London papers, only to clear my skirts of these impending contingences.

As to the bookseller's proposition that I shall adopt the book, & so make it what I want, — that course is not open to me at present, because I cannot for months command the time, being occupied with duties imperative this autumn & winter. If Mr Hotten, with this honorable proposition, will wait a year or less, I could make, I doubt not, a much better book than he proposes, & with good will on all sides.[155]

Ask my dear Mr Ireland, & ask yourself to insist on this modification

of your obedient servant,

R. W. Emerson

My paper is shockingly blotted as I wrote but I will not lose the mail by copying it.

Mr Conway. R. W. E

152. MS owned by Mrs. Mildred Conway Sawyer; ph. in CUL. An incomplete rough draft of this letter owned by RWEMA (ph. in CUL) expresses Emerson's feeling about Hotten's scheme more vigorously than does the letter actually sent.

153. This is in answer to Conway's letter written from London, Sept. 13 (1870). Conway said he had been on the Continent when Emerson's letter of July 18 arrived, but that his wife copied the important part of it and sent it to Hotten and to Ireland, whose correspondence about it resulted in delaying the book. When Conway returned, he at once consulted both Hotten and Ireland and now reported his findings. Hotten knew he could publish the old magazine articles and that another publisher was already on his trail. Furthermore Hotten had already invested over £200 in the project. Both Conway and Ireland now thought the best thing for Emerson to do was to adopt, revise, and add to the book. Conway inclosed a copy of a letter from Hotten offering Emerson half a crown for every copy sold after the work should pay for itself.

154. In July 18, 1870.

155. For succeeding chapters in the story of Hotten's project, see the letters of Nov. 11, 1870, and Oct. 2, 1871.

## To James Russell Lowell, Concord, October 3, 1870 [156]

Concord
3 October

Dear Lowell,

Mrs Dallas (Glyn) brought me letters of high recommendation from Mr Tom Taylor [157] & from an excellent Mr Rawlins whom I knew in Liverpool.[158] She writes me a note, since I called on her that she is very ambitious of having Mr Lowell & Mr Longfellow present at her first reading, which takes place on Wednesday night.[159] I don't know whether she has had the wisdom to send you tickets, but I give you the benefit of her desires, and from the woman's courage & confidence in her own powers, I could heartily wish that – if it comports with your manifold engagements – you would gratify her. Longfellow met her the other day in Fields' shop, & it appeared they had met in England. If you see him pray tell him of this note of hers.

Mr John Forbes is still hungry for Mr Hughes [160] who had partly promised him a second visit to the Island. I am to go with him if I can, but do not yet know of his return to Boston.

Always yours,
R. W. Emerson

J. R. Lowell, Esq

## To Thomas Carlyle, Concord, October 15, 1870

[MS owned by RWEMA; printed in *C–E Corr.*, 1883. An incomplete rough draft was listed and partly quoted in American Art Association, May 2, 1923.]

156. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL. The year is obviously 1870.

157. Tom Taylor, the playwright, wrote from London, Aug.? 1, 1870, recalling the pleasant day he spent with Emerson at Cambridge, England, and recommending Mrs. Dallas, who was visiting America for the first time as a reader. For Emerson's earlier meeting with Taylor, *cf.* July 6, 1848.

158. Charles E. Rawlins, Jr., whom Emerson knew in Liverpool in Nov., 1847, had had a part in the initial stages of the American lecturer's friendship with Clough (see *Emerson-Clough Letters,* note on Letters 1 and 2).

159. The *Boston Daily Advertiser* of Wednesday, Oct. 5, 1870, announced that Miss Glyn, " Greatest Living English Actress," would begin her series of Shakespearean readings at the Tremont Temple that night. Emerson was present and wrote, in an unpublished entry of the following day, his mainly favorable criticism of her interpretation of passages from *Antony and Cleopatra* and his wholly unfavorable opinion of her audience: " Her audience was not worthy of her reading, impertinently read newspapers & had a trick of going out. I am afraid they would have done the like to Siddons herself, until they had been told it was Siddons, & so had been afraid of being found out." (Typescript *Journals* for 1870–1875.)

160. *Cf.* Sept. 27, 1870.

### To George B. Neal, Concord? October 22, 1870

[Neal, Charlestown, Mass., Oct. 27, 1870, acknowledged this letter, containing a check for $21.02, principal and interest on a note of Mrs. Emerson's.]

### To Mary Fiske Sargent, October 24, 1870?

[MS listed and partly quoted in American Art Association, Feb. 8–9, 1927, and in Thomas F. Madigan, Feb., 1928. The year is not given, but in the former the day is given as Monday. After the founding of the Radical Club, Oct. 24 was Monday only in 1870 and 1881, and 1881 is too late to be at all probable.]

### To Lee, Higginson and Company, Concord? October 26? 1870

[Lee, Higginson & Co., Boston, Oct. 27, 1870, acknowledged receipt of power of attorney for twelve shares of B. & M. R. R. in Nebraska to be sold by them for Emerson.]

### To Moncure Daniel Conway, Concord, November 11, 1870

[MS listed and partly quoted in American Art Association, Jan. 5–6, 1927. Emerson acknowledges Conway's letters, which are a welcome relief; praises his behavior and that of Ireland and Hotten; and promises, in spite of the course he must give at Harvard the following spring, to hasten work on the book in which all of them are interested. *Cf.* Sept. 29, 1870.]

### To Ida Agassiz Higginson, Concord, November 11, 1870 [161]

Concord, 11 Nov^r^ 1870

Dear Mrs Higginson,

I ought instantly to have obeyed your rightful & kind request, — but Edith being here with some notes to the same purpose, took the matter in charge, & only now has called for my pen.

Tis very sad to think that France can need this sympathy & aid of its friends in New York.[162] The whole history is distressing.

161. MS owned by Goodspeed's Book Shop; ph. in CUL. The Ida Agassiz of earlier letters had married Henry Lee Higginson, the soldier and banker, in 1863. She and her father, Louis Agassiz, were naturally intensely interested in the events leading to the complete humiliation of France at the hands of the Germans. Emerson, however, seems to have leaned pretty definitely toward the German side, as the letter of Jan. 5, 1871, shows.

162. Julia Ward Howe had issued her "Appeal to Womanhood throughout the World" in September of this year, and her international peace meeting was to be held in New York on the 23d of the following December (Laura E. Richards and Maud Howe Elliott, I, 301–304); but it is not clear whether Emerson referred to her propaganda. The "two or three drops of ink" inclosed in this letter may well have been autograph copies of verse to be offered for sale.

I hear with joy that your father's health is really improving, and I hope the news of a peace in Europe will speedily come to comfort him & complete the cure.

I enclose my two or three drops of ink.

Yours affectionately,
R. W. Emerson —

Mrs Ida Higginson

To Franklin Benjamin Sanborn, Concord, November 13, 1870

[MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. Reproduced in facsimile in Sanborn, *The Personality of Emerson*, opposite p. 104; printed *ibid.*, pp. 105–106.]

To James Bradley Thayer, Concord, November 16, 1870[163]

Concord
16 Nov[r] 1870

My dear Mr Thayer,

I pray you to bear it in mind & in heart that Thursday week is Thanksgiving,[164] & that you fail not to keep it with us, you & Sophy & your children.

Yours affectionately
R. W. Emerson

James B. Thayer, Esq.

To Ednah Dow Cheney, Concord? November? *c.* 25? 1870

[Mrs. Cheney, Jamaica Plain, Mass., Oct. 4, 1870, asked Emerson for a paper at the "Club." She wrote again, Nov. 28, 1870, that she had received his note and was glad to find it did not contain an absolute refusal; she would assign him the first Monday evening in May if that was agreeable. *Cf.* Jan.? *c.* 25? 1870? where Mrs. Cheney appears as representative of the New England Women's Club.]

To Samuel Eliot, Concord, December 2, 1870[165]

Concord
2 Dec[r] '70

Dear Sir,

I am sorry that I cannot attend the meeting of the Academical

163. MS owned by Professor James B. Thayer; ph. in CUL.
164. The *Boston Daily Advertiser* of Thursday, Nov. 24, 1870, notices the occasion.
165. MS owned by the Boston Athenæum; ph. in CUL.

Committee tomorrow [166] but I shall not refuse to take my part in its labors, if needed.

With great regard,
R. W. Emerson

Samuel Eliot, Esq

To Henry James, Sr., Concord? December 2, 1870?

[MS owned by Mr. Henry James; Emerson will not accept the offer of a room in James's home this week or the next.]

To Anne Charlotte Lynch Botta, Concord, December 8, 1870 [167]

Concord, 18 Dec' '70[1]

My dear friend,

I had your kind letter many days ago but have been such a slave to my petty work in the late weeks that I only read letters & cannot reply. It was not the less good but the more that you still remember & will befriend me. I rely on seeing you without fail in a fortnight but my two or three days then in N. Y.[168] have been long bespoken by the two Wards, – Sam. G. & George,[169] who, indeed, I believe, urged the

166. For Emerson's service on this committee, *cf.* May 3, 1870. That Samuel Eliot was now in charge is clear from a report of the meeting of the overseers on Dec. 15, 1870, printed in the *Boston Daily Evening Transcript* of that day.

167. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I–II are in *Memoirs of Anne C. L. Botta,* p. 342.

168. It was on Dec. 21 that the first attempt was made to celebrate the landing of the Pilgrims; but a gas pipe burst at Association Hall, causing a fire and endangering life, so that the meeting for that night came to an end before Emerson could speak (*The New York Herald* and the *New-York Tribune,* Dec. 22, 1870). On the evening of the 22d, however, the Society succeeded in holding its annual reunion and dinner at Delmonico's, and Emerson's address on that occasion is printed in the New York papers, including the *Tribune,* Dec. 23, 1870, p. 5; in the *Sixty-fifth Anniversary Celebration of the New-England Society in the City of New York,* n. d., pp. 30–33; and in *The New England Society Orations,* ed. Cephas and Eveline Brainerd, 1901, II, 394–396. Finally, on the 23d, the principal celebration was held at Steinway Hall and Emerson delivered his delayed oration. The version printed in the *Tribune,* Dec. 24, pp. 3 and 7, is there described as "the best that a corps of phonographers not to be excelled in this city could make, under the very unfavorable circumstances," for "Some whimsical notion led the janitor to interfere with them . . ." The version in *Orations,* II, 373–393, is partly from the incomplete original MS and partly from newspaper reports.

169. The New York directory for 1869–1870 gives Samuel G. and George C. Ward as bankers at the same address. Doubtless there were letters to one or both of them about this time, but I have found none.

Pilgrim Celebration with this whim in their head: or perhaps t'was only George W., who is an officer of the Association. II I read last night in Mrs Hunt's little book her lines to yourself[170] with real pleasure, & found them all true. Then I ran along through much more & with great pleasure in the truth & the originality of the writing. It has what I think a high merit the necessity of insight in the reader. Each poem is a riddle which only thoughtful people can solve. But of this & much more I shall hope to talk with you soon. Yours faithfully,

R. W. Emerson II

Mrs Botta.

## To James Thomas Fields, Concord, December 12, 1870

[MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. All but the salutation ("My dear Sir,"), the signature ("R. W. Emerson"), and the name ("Mr Fields.") at the end is printed in *Life and Letters of Bayard Taylor*, II, 542–543.]

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, December 12, 1870[171]

Concord
12 Dec[r]

Dear Will,

I enclose to you Mr George Jackson's proposition from Mr Lucas to buy Mrs Emerson's woodlots, in Plymouth, for $550. After talking it over, we think it best to accept it. I do not find that we have in this house, nor remember that we have ever had, any Deed. Mr Abraham Jackson Senior, under whose care I suppose the division of the woodlots to the three heirs was made, no doubt held the paper, & tis probable that his son Abraham may hold it today. Will you have the goodness to ask him for it, &, if found, send it to me, & we will have a new deed made out for the buyer, copying the description in the old one. If it is not found, we shall have to write to the Registrar at Plymouth to furnish a copy from his Records. Meantime I think I will write

170. "To A. C. L. B.," lines praising Mrs. Botta's hospitality, are in *Verses. By H. H.*, 1870, p. 75. This book, which also contains (pp. 58–59) a "Tribute. R. W. E.," in Emerson's honor, was published on Dec. 7, 1870, according to the *Boston Daily Advertiser* of that day.

171. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year 1869 has been doubtfully supplied, but the letter of Dec. 12, 1870, to Jackson fixes the date of this. For the Plymouth property, *cf.* also June 8 preceding.

to Mr George Jackson that we accept his offer & are proceeding to give it form.

Ever yours,
R. W. Emerson

Mrs E. does not readily find Mr G. J.'s letter, but it respects 134 acres, all her woodlots.

### To George Jackson, Concord, December 12, 1870

[MS listed in American Art Association Anderson Galleries, Apr. 14 and 15, 1937, where it is described as about the sale of Lidian Emerson's property in Plymouth. *Cf.* the letter of same date to Forbes.]

### To Samuel Eliot, Boston, December 19? 1870? [172]

Parker House
Monday Eveg 19 Dec

My dear Sir,

I am sorry to have missed your organizing meetings of the Academic Committee but could not leave home. I go tomorrow morning to New York,[173] to be absent for the remainder of the week, but, immediately on my return, will endeavor to see you, & the Sub-committee for the Modern Languages.[174]

I remain, with great regard, Yours,

R. W. Emerson

Samuel Eliot, Esq.

### To Pauline Rose Stewart Blaze de Bury, Concord? *c.* 1870?

[Mme Blaze de Bury wrote, Paris, Sept. 22, 1880:

"It is years since we have exchanged letters – but I keep religiously two of your's and in such cases time is of no account – those upon whom has ever fallen the honour of a word from your hand are like the stones struck by lightning – they preserve the trace for ever."

It is clear from her letter that she had never seen Emerson. The dates of her correspondence with him are extremely uncertain.]

172. MS owned by the Boston Athenæum; ph. in CUL. The second digit has been altered, and there is some possibility that Emerson tried to change a "10" to "11." But Dec. 19 fell on Monday in 1870, the year indicated by evidence cited below.

173. *Cf.* Dec. 8, 1870.

174. At the end of the entries of 1870 in the MS memorandum book for 1870–1871, Emerson listed the members of this subcommittee with himself as chairman. For the parent academical committee, *cf.* Dec. 2, 1870.

## To James Thomas Fields, Concord? *c.* 1870? [175]

My dear Sir,

I find on communicating what I supposed would be sad tidings to my household that it is not of the least consequence & therefore I only regret that I should have given you so much trouble. I do not know why I put it on you so coolly only that perhaps you have spoiled me by accustoming me to come to you for whatever I could not do myself. As for this affair I had not thought of going myself, nor could Ellen & Mrs E. & Edward were to go on our part & W. H. Forbes & wife were to go chiefly I believe to carry Mrs E. through. And now it appears each was going for the other & nobody cared.

Gratefully yours,
R. W. E.

Mr Fields.
Thursday Night

## To James Thomas Fields, Concord, *c.* 1870? [176]

Concord Monday Morn

My dear Sir,

Thanks for your telegram indicating kind care of me & mine I shall be at Cambridge tomorrow. Could not come earlier to Cambridge or to Boston. R W E

175. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. The mention of W. H. Forbes and his wife shows that this could not have been written earlier than 1865. The handwriting and the style of the letter might easily belong to any year from 1865 to, perhaps, 1875. Fields lived till 1881, and the other persons mentioned outlived Emerson.

176. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. This was pretty clearly written at a time when Emerson's friendship with his correspondent was well established — in the 1860's or 1870's. I am indebted to Mr. Reginald B. Haselden for his assurance that Fields is the person addressed.

# 1871

## To Herman Grimm, Concord, January 5, 1871

[MS owned by the Goethe- und Schiller-Archiv. Printed in *The Atlantic,* XCI, 478–479 (Apr., 1903), and in *Correspondence between Ralph Waldo Emerson and Herman Grimm,* pp. 85–86.]

## To Theodore Roosevelt, Sr.? Concord, January 11, 1871

[Printed in *The Unity of Italy. The American Celebration of the Unity of Italy, at the Academy of Music, New York, Jan. 12, 1871,* 1871, pp. 70–71. According to *The New-York Times,* Jan. 13 and earlier, 1871, Roosevelt was the chairman of the committee which sent out the invitations and he read some of the replies at the meeting. The letter from Emerson is merely listed with other replies in the *Times,* where, however, the texts of several addressed to Roosevelt are given. The New York celebration was the signal for similar demonstrations elsewhere in this country, and Emerson was one of the signers of a formal "Address from Massachusetts" to Victor Emmanuel II (*The Unity,* p. 196).]

## To John Boynton Hill, Concord, January 12, 1871 [1]

Concord. 12 Jan. 1871.

My dear Hill.

Not my will certainly but a crowd of little affairs held me bound when your letter [2] came, & I have been writing, journeying, visiting, & even receiving & paying moneys since, to the seeming neglect of, but constant will to reply to your welcome letter. I am glad of your tidings & intentions, & good will to the important duties of *Wednesday, 28th June.*[3] Such an anniversary does not come twice to mortal man & we must ride or walk or be carried in a litter to it. I am glad that such

1. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is a copy, not in Emerson's hand.

2. Hill, Mason, N. H., Dec. 16, 1870, inquired about the date of commencement and about several classmates mentioned in Emerson's reply, whose full names are to be found in the Harvard catalogues and in the index of these letters.

3. The *Boston Daily Advertiser,* June 28, 1871, announced the meeting of the class of 1821 on that day. This, the fiftieth anniversary, would "not come twice" for Emerson and his classmates.

approximate solution has been given to the Hatch problem, which in certain company has hitherto been as dark & more interesting than the Northwest passage; & if as much light shall fall on the Blake mystery, Gorham & you & your ally will have no mean claim to the Rumford Medal. As I count twenty seven graduates of the class are still alive on earth. William Pope died in 1867. Hilliard in the last year. But I hope we shall bring together all survivors, who were at any time members of the class, though my memory does not carry well their names: Kingsbury & Prescott are all that I recall at this moment. If you think of any I shall be glad to help if I can to reach them. I am glad to hear of your visit to Upham. I have had a very pleasant mention of it since from Upham, who always shines as a classmate. I paid lately a visit of two days to to Lowell & we talked of the impending meeting, & he will do all that he can for it. He will write to Barnwell & I think of doing so, & I will write to Robert Gourdin, & beg him to come, & bring Belin & Turnbull, if he can. You will like to hear that John L. Gardner has just given 25,000. dollars to the Massachusetts General Hospital, which was in great need, its charity beds having been reduced to a very small number.

With old & constant affection
Yours
R. W. Emerson.

John B. Hill. Esq.

## To James Elliot Cabot, Concord, January 14, 1871 [4]

Concord 14 Jan. '71

My dear Cabot,

I found this fine book of Garbetts supervision [5] & interweaving of his golden threads & have to thank you for the privilege But as there was no note or word in it or spoken concerning it left by you I have a suspicion that you put Garbett's letter into the bundle & it may have dropped out; or you may have meant to put it in, & did not. If you have it please send it to me yet for I have not without it his address, — no, nor the technical words to describe the special Saxon

4. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL.

5. Among Emerson's notes in the MS memorandum book for 1870–1871, under Dec. 19, 1870, is "Garbett, Weales Builder Series." Edward Lacy Garbett's *Rudimentary Treatise*, 1850, mentioned in a note on Jan. 7, 1852, to Greenough, was published in London by J. Weale. But the reference here is apparently to a book only partly by Garbett (*cf.* June 26, 1871).

ruins he deplores.[6] Send me some word of what you think might be done, if anything, in reference to his desire.

Ever yours
R. W. Emerson

I am going on a journey for a few days on Monday[7] P M but will call at the Athenaeum on my way by 2 o'clock P M on Monday.

### To Richard D. Webb, Concord, January 26, 1871

[MS listed in Anderson Galleries, Feb. 23, 1928; described as a request that Webb secure an attorney in Dublin to settle the affairs of the brother-in-law of Lidian Emerson. Webb, Dublin, Feb. 11, 1871, mentions letters of Mrs. Brown (if this is the correct reading) which Emerson had inclosed and states that her husband is a merchant tailor living in one of the best parts of Dublin.]

### To Emma Lazarus, Concord, January 27, 1871[8]

Concord
27 January, 1871.

My dear friend,

I am too well-pleased with your kind & honoring purpose to raise any farther objection[9] to it, since you retain it so steadfastly. It will not, I fear, add any favor to the poem out of a limited circle, and I think the poem has an elevation of of character & sentiment that will commend it to good readers, in spite of my praise of it. I am very glad it is to appear in an independent form, & I shall not fail to call the attention of many persons to it, whom I think fit & desireable readers. You will forgive my slow reply to your note, since I was absent from home, when your note came, & found some imperative duties awaiting me on my first return, as yet but half discharged. I still hope for days of freedom for correspondence & even for conversation with my friends: So you shall not quite renounce me. With all kind regards,

R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

6. Perhaps there was eventually a letter to Garbett, but certainly not for some months. In a letter of June 30, 1871, Emerson tells Carlyle about what Garbett had to say, both for himself and, as he claimed, for Ruskin, in defense of "Saxon" buildings in England and suggests doubts as to Garbett's sanity.

7. Monday was the 16th, and according to the MS memorandum book for 1871, Emerson was to lecture at Buffalo on the following day, and, on succeeding days, at Detroit.

8. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL.

9. The title piece of *Admetus and Other Poems*, 1871, is dedicated to Emerson. Hurd & Houghton announced the book in *The Evening Post*, New York, Feb. 24, 1871.

## To Annie Adams Fields, Concord, February 10, 1871 [10]

Concord
10 February

My dear Mrs Fields,

[I]I ought to have acknowledged & thanked you[I] for myself & my wife & Ellen [II]for the plus-Arabian hospitality which warms your note It might tempt any one but a galley slave or a scholar who is tied to his book crib as the other to his oar, to quit instantly all his dull surroundings, & fly to this lighted genial asylum with doors wide open & nailed back.[II] But alas! this dull College Advertisement for February March & April,[11] lies printed before my eyes, & accuses my facility that allowed it once & again to be printed. Well, I hope to live to have my revenge, & I hope the doors will continue open for me, & long after me. Meantime, my wife charges me to send her acknowledgements & affirm her kind regards, & Ellen, hers.

Let me use the opportunity to say, that if you or Mr Fields should have the wish to attend any lecture or lectures in my course, I pray you to come as my guests. I should send you tickets, but none have been sent me, & you will not need them.

Yours with constant regard,
R. W. Emerson

Mrs Annie Fields.

## To ———— Gardner, Concord, February 10, 1871

[MS listed in American Art Association, Mar. 10–11, 1924, where it is described as Emerson's apology to "Mrs. A. T. Gardner" for failing to send her some

10. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I–II are in *Harper's*, LXVIII, 466 (Feb., 1884), and in *Authors and Friends*, p. 101. Mention of Emerson's second, and last, course of lectures at Harvard fixes the year. The first course had been scheduled for Apr. 26–June 3, 1870 (see a note on Apr. 23, 1870, to Lowell).

11. The eighteen lectures on "Natural History of Intellect" were announced to begin in Boylston Hall on Feb. 14 of this year (*Boston Daily Advertiser, e.g.*, Feb. 13, 1871). The MS memorandum book for the same year listed the lectures as follows: Feb. 14 (only the general description "Course on Philosophy" given); 17, "Transcendency of Physics"; 21 (no title given); 24, "Memory No I"; 28, "Imagination"; Mar. 3, "Memory No II"; 7, "Inspiration"; 10, "Common Sense"; 14, "Wit & Humor"; 17, "Genius"; 21, "Demonology"; 24, "Poetry"; 28, "Metres [?]"; 31, "Metres"; Apr. 3, "Will & Conduct of Intellect"; 5, "Conduct of Intellect"; 7, "Relation of Int & Morals." Under Apr. 11 and 14 Emerson again entered "Cambridge" but no subject. Both these entries are crossed out, and under Apr. 11 he wrote, "Left for California at 3 P. M." For the premature close of the course and for the Western journey, see letters of Apr. 10 and later.

verses. I am uncertain whether this is the letter of the same date listed in Anderson Auction Co., Apr. 28–29, 1914, where the name of the person addressed is not given.]

### To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, February 28, 1871 [12]

Concord
Feb 28 '71

Dear Will,

I duly received the Account of Mr Abraham Jackson which you sent us & Mrs Emerson has examined it I believe with some care, & with some questions which she is too unwell this evening to mark for me. So I will keep it for the present. Will you now be good enough to ask him to send me the January rent of the Winslow House in Plymouth, which should amount to $62.50, unless diminished by some expenses.

We wait to hear exactly of your plans for the Florida journey and Ellen I believe proposes to be our messenger.

Always yours,
R. W. Emerson

W. H Forbes.

### To Anne Charlotte Lynch Botta, Concord, March 15, 1871

[MS owned by the Yale University Library; printed in *The Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, XXVI, 478 (Oct., 1927).]

### To James Thomas Fields, Concord? March 22, 1871 [13]

22 March.

My dear Fields,

Unless I am forced to think more stoically tomorrow, & so retract, I propose to indulge myself by accepting your invitation for

12. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

13. MS owned by Wellesley College Library; ph. in CUL. The reference to the "Cambridge lectures" fixes the year, as it was only in 1871 that Emerson was lecturing at Harvard in March (*cf.* Feb. 10, 1871, to Mrs. Fields). The reading of the paper on Mary Moody Emerson at the Fields home was actually delayed for almost a year (see Mar. 19, 1872). That the present letter could not belong to 1872 is, however, clear from two facts: Mar. 22 was Friday in that year and was the day set for the reading; moreover, there were at that time, if the apparently adequate record of the MS memorandum book for 1872 can be taken as conclusive evidence, no Cambridge lectures of any sort in progress. Finally, it is clear from the MS diaries of Annie Fields (now deposited in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society) that

Friday night. But I shall not bring the *Good Aunt,* who would need a little toiletting more than she could find time for between Cambridge lectures; & perhaps I can find an old Journal that would pass for gossip.

Yours ever,
R. W. Emerson

Mrs Emerson sends her thanks, but is still too much an invalid to leave home.

### To John Murray Forbes, Concord, March 26, 1871

[MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Printed in *Letters and Recollections of John Murray Forbes,* II, 175–176, where the name "John M. Forbes, Esq." is omitted at the end of the letter.]

### To Samuel Eliot, Concord, April 6, 1871 [14]

Concord
6 April, 1871.

Dear Sir,

I have found it quite out of my power to add to my Cambridge lectures this term [15] a single hour's visit to the classes in the Foreign Languages, & have had to be contented with the assurances of my colleagues, Mr Coolidge & Mr Bradford,[16] that they would make such visits as they could.

I promised myself that I would try to do my part when the lectures ended, as they should the next week. An unlooked for proposal has just been made to me to join a party to visit California,[17] &, though it at first more shocked than allured me, I have been persuaded by my family & my physician to accept it. It will probably cost me 6 or 7 weeks. Under these circumstances I think the Committee on Foreign Lan-

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Emerson, in accordance with the promise of the present letter, carried part of his journals to the Fields home on Friday, Mar. 24, 1871. Her entry of that date shows that he "came to dine alone with us" and "brought his journal," from which he read passages about De Quincey, Carlyle, and Tennyson.

14. MS owned by the Boston Athenæum; ph. in CUL.

15. See Feb. 10, 1871, to Mrs. Fields.

16. Emerson, T. Jefferson Coolidge, and Charles F. Bradford are all listed as members of the Committee to Visit the Academical Department in the *Forty-sixth Annual Report of the President of Harvard College. 1870–71,* p. 85, where, however, the membership of subcommittees is not indicated. Samuel Eliot, whose name is first in the list, appears earlier as Emerson's correspondent.

17. *Cf.* Mar. 26, 1871, and later letters.

guages ought to have another chairman; &, as the Overseers will meet on Wednesday next,[18] I will beg you to offer them my resignation of the chair. Respectfully,

R. W. Emerson

Samuel Eliot, Esq.
Chairman of Academical Committee

Over –

I was about writing a note to this purport to the Overseers, when it occurs that it is the Academical Committee that have given me this charge, & the resignation should be addressed to them.

Will it suffice, then, that I here notify you, Sir, that, as a journey of many weeks will prevent me from a proper attendance on the duty with which I was charged, I beg leave to resign my seat on the Sub-Committee on Foreign Languages. Respectfully,

Sam[l] Eliot. R. W. Emerson
Chairman of Academical Committee.

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, April 10, 1871 [19]

Concord 10 Apr. 1871

Dear Will,

I am vexed to have omitted to acknowledge the receipt of three hundred & fifty seven $\frac{47}{100}$ dollars from you on account of coupons of B & Missouri Land Bonds & coupons on 500 Illinois Grand Trunk [20] $10.00 all brought safely by Edward. I suppose I was the less careful that I had the impression that Edward had immediately returned to you & reported his mission. I trust to be ready at the Worcester Depot tomorrow P. M. in due time as the journey [21] is looking more illuminated every hour, as the more considered.

Affectionately yours
R W Emerson

W. H. Forbes, Esq

18. The meeting of Apr. 12, 1871, is briefly reported in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* of the following day.

19. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

20. The Illinois Grand Trunk Railroad – like the Burlington & Missouri – belonged to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy system (Vernon, p. 473).

21. For the Western journey, see the following letters; James B. Thayer, *A Western Journey with Mr. Emerson*, 1884; *Letters and Recollections of John Murray Forbes*, I, 8–9, and II, 175–176; *Journals*, X, 351–356; Cabot, II, 644–648; William Frederic Badè, *The Life and Letters of John Muir*, 1924, I, 252 ff.; and Charles A. Murdock, "Emerson in California," *The Pacific Unitarian*, XI, 263–268 (May, 1903).

## To Thomas Carlyle, Concord, April 10, and Chicago, April 13, 1871

[MS owned by RWEMA; printed in *C–E Corr.*, 1886. The "*Wednesday*" of second date line is clearly an error.]

## To Moncure Daniel Conway, Omaha and *en route* Westward, April 16 and *c.* 17? 1871 [22]

Omaha Nebraska T.
16 April 1871

My dear Mr Conway,

You will naturally think me the worst correspondent among

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The story of the journey is told in some detail by entries in the MS memorandum book for 1871: Apr. 11, "Left for California at 3 P. M."; 12, "P M at Suspension Bridge"; 13, "Morning arrived at Chicago"; 18, "Echo & Weber Canons night Salt Lake City"; 19, "Called on B. Young Salt Lake City Tabernacle Left Ogden"; 21, "Cape Horn Sacramen San Francisco"; 22, "Cliff Golden Gate Sealions A drive with Dr Horatio Stebbins, Edith, & Mr J. B. Thayer"; 23, "'Immortality' San Francisco"; 26, "San Francisco Lecture on 'Society in America'"; 29, "San Francisco 'Resources'"; May 1, "San Francisco 'Greatness' [This is written over or under "Character or Greatness"] Pd Pd Eyeglass 1.50 pd Occid House 34"; 2, "Left the Occidental Hotel for Modesto & Yo Semite Roberts's Hotel"; 3, "Coulterville"; 4, Caves Hazle Green took horses Slept at Crane's Flat"; 5, "At the Yo Semite Valley at Leidig's Hotel"; 6, "Yo Semite Mirror Lake To the Crystal Lake Wilkie James & I measured a prostrate Sugar Pine lying near the Leidig Hotel . . . [Emerson here gives measurements]"; 7, "To Nevada Fall and Casa Nevada a day of wonders stripped mountains our best day yet"; 8, "rainbows . . ."; 9 (but the date has been canceled), "Today to Mirror Lake again . . . then to Yo Semite Fall . . . Then to Hutchings House Saw him . . . Mr Roche gave me 6 photographs. . . ."; 10, "Grizly Giant 29 & 31 ft in diameter"; 11, "Galen Clark says the Sequoias reach 272 ft. in height. . . ."; 12, "Spent night at White & Hatch's Hotel"; 13, "Dined at Hornitos Spent the night at Roberts's on the Tuolomne River"; 14, "reached Stockton & the 'Grand Hotel'"; 15, "Monday noon reached San Francisco Occidental Hotel"; 17, "Lecture on Chivalry San Francisco"; 18, "Lecture on Hospitality Oaklands In the morning, drive with Mr. Henry Pierce & Dr Stebbins to Thorpe's Tavern 12 miles out"; 19, "Left Francisco reached Truckee"; 20, "In carriages to Lake Tahoe"; 21, "Lake Tahoe"; 22, "Left Lake Tahoe for Truckee Walked to Lake Donner Left Truckee at 11 P. M. for Ogden &c"; 26, "Omaha Switched off at 3 A. M. Sat., at Ottumwa, the sleeping car containing Mr & Mrs J. M. Forbes & Alice"; 27, "Arrived at Burlington, at 6 A M Left here Wilkie James, & G. Holdredge"; 28, "Arrived at Cataract House, Niagara, Mr Peabody in the train told his story of Dick Pratt, the hunter, in Arkansas . . ."; 29, "Happy at Niagara till 2 o'clock P. M. Then took the train for Albany & Boston"; 30, "Arrived in Boston at 11 o'clock A. M. & at Concord at 3.45 P. M. Slept at Manse the guest of Elizabeth Ripley."

22. MS owned by Mrs. Mildred Conway Sawyer; ph. in CUL. The place and the date of the concluding part of the letter are very uncertain, as the information given in the final paragraph is vague; apparently much of the letter was written *en route*. *Cf.* a note on Apr. 10, 1871.

responsible mankind, & with reason. I received your note [23] long ago announcing Mr Froude's intended visit to America, & the news pleased me well & I turned in mind what inviting possibilities we might have, & how they might be made availing. But I was fastened to my desk, & to my College Lectures then begun, & due in such swift succession as to give no vacation — no space even to consult the right counsellors, & tis only last Friday that the College released me. Meantime I knew that the passing days & weeks were not the season for beginning but for terminating lectures: the new season begins with us about 1 October. On Saturday last I made my first practical step after taking counsel. I called on Mr John A. Lowell, the sole trustee of the Lowell Institute.[24] He recognized at once Mr Froude's claims, & entered with interest into the affair: he said, that the courses for the coming season were partly arranged already, but that room should be made for Mr Froude. I asked him whether it would not be easy to obtain place for the repetition of such a course in the Cooper Institute in New York, which, he agreed, was practicable; & in further conversation, it appeared probable that Mr F. might, if he would, repeat his course in the Peabody Institute in Baltimore, the Smithsonian in Washington, & in the "Star Course," (or whatever name Mr Pugh of Philadelphia gives to his Annual Eclectic Course in that city.) [25] The number of lectures in the course is of some importance in any financial arrangement & perhaps Mr Froude would find it convenient to take a broader title than "Ireland," & offer six, eight, or ten, which, I think, are the usual extents of the "Lowell Courses." Say to him, that it will give me pleasure to aid him, if I can, in his good project,[26] &, when I cannot, to find those who can.

You will wonder at the infantile swaying of my pen, but I have been forced to obey the oscillations of the train which is carrying us westward. I am going with Mr J. M. Forbes & his party to California, & shall not probably return home for 5 or 6 weeks. I consented to join the travellers with much hesitation remembering well my promise to

23. Conway, London, Feb. 4 (1871), told of James Anthony Froude's tentative plan for a year in the United States and for reading lectures here on Ireland and asked Emerson's advice.

24. So designated by the will of his cousin John Lowell, endower of the Institute (Harriette K. Smith, *The History of the Lowell Institute,* 1898, p. 15).

25. Emerson had lectured and was to lecture again in the Star Course, under the direction of Thomas B. Pugh (see a note on Feb. 4, 1870, to Cabot; and *The Press,* Philadelphia, Feb. 11 and Mar. 19, 1875).

26. *Cf.* Oct. 2, 1871.

Mr Hotten,[27] & shall instantly begin to work on the book for London on my return.

I have no apology for my tardiness to acknowledge your own letters & gifts. They were each richly entitled to my attention & response. But I had no choice & have been excluded from all the duties & virtues alike by my debilities & preoccupation for months past. I hope I may yet come to right perceptions & decent recognition of my correspondents & benefactors.

With very kind regards to Mrs Conway yours at this distant point from the named *ubi* of this paper

R. W. Emerson

Rev M. D. Conway.

### To Ellen? Emerson, Salt Lake City, April *c.* 19, 1871

[Ellen Emerson, Concord, Apr. 28, 1871: "Your Salt Lake City letter came last night." She wrote again to her father, May 1, 2, and 3 (1871), that Elizabeth Ripley laughed to hear he had called on Brigham Young. In her letter of Apr. 28, cited above, Ellen had spoken of "a letter from you almost three times a week," but it seems possible that this estimate includes letters from Edith Emerson Forbes, who was with their father during the trip. Edward Waldo Emerson also leaves room for doubt in his statement, Concord, May 15 and 17 (1871), that they had good tidings twice a week "from you, & of you by Edith."]

### To Ellen? Emerson, San Francisco, April *c.* 22, 1871

[Ellen wrote, Concord, May 1, 2, 3 (1871), that on May 3 "your journal of the first days in S. F." arrived, and she implied that it mentioned a visit to the Golden Gate, a place which Emerson noted in his *MS memorandum book* for this year under Apr. 22.]

### To Lidian Emerson, Calistoga, California, April 27, 1871 [28]

[1]Calistoga, Cal.
April 27, 71

Dear Lidian, We live today & every day in the loveliest climate. Hither today from San F. by water & by rail[1] ( [29] miles) and [11]this a village

27. *Cf.* Sept. 29, 1870, and other letters.

28. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I–VI are in Cabot, II, 645–646. For many places, persons, and events mentioned in this letter, see especially the entries quoted from the MS memorandum book in a note on Apr. 10, 1871.

29. Emerson failed to supply the number, which is about 73.

of sulphur springs, with baths to swim in, & healing waters to drink, for all such as need such medicaments, & you may judge how religiously I use such privilege, — as that word *wont* has two meanings. Last night, I read a lecture in San F.; & day after tomorrow should read a second, & perhaps still another,[30] later, for even in these vales of Enna [31] & Olympian ranges, every creature sticks to his habit. Our company is, as you know, New England's best, the climate delightful, & we fare sumptuously every day. The city opens to us its Mercantile Library & its City Exchange, — one, rich with books; the other, with newspapers; & the roads & the points of attraction are Nature's chiefest brags. And if we were all young, — as some of us are not, — we might each of us claim his quarter-section of the Government, & plant grapes & oranges, & never come back to your east winds & cold summers, — only remembering to send home a few tickets of the Pacific Railroad to one or two or three pale natives of the Massachusetts Bay, & half-tickets to as many minors.[II] Thank Ellen for filling my trunk & valise so richly & skilfully: the only fault is in one or two neglects of my own. [III]Of course, in our climate & condition, the leanest of us grows red & heavier. At the first Dearborn's balance that we saw, Mr Thayer & I were

30. The *Daily Evening Bulletin* of Apr. 27, 1871, reported the reading of "Society in America" at Dr. Stebbins's Unitarian church on the 26th: Arrangements for the lecture had been completed only that morning, yet there was a large audience. Emerson, "tall, straight, well formed, with a head constructed on the utility rather than the ornamental principle," was, in spite of his "suit of black," said the reporter, "refreshing to look upon." He accidentally overturned a vase in the pulpit, then descended, gathered up the flowers, and replaced them while the audience applauded. His style was "entirely colloquial," but the audience listened "with rapt attention." On May 1, the same paper reported "Resources," read at the church on the 29th. Emerson made no effort at oratory, and "the audience would not dream that he had said anything during the whole evening which he thought particularly worthy of being said. His notes lie before him — a bulky mass of manuscript. On commencing his discourse he fingers them over backwards and forwards, as if at a loss whether to commence in the first page or the middle; and finally selecting a good starting point, he begins in a conventional tone of voice to read. He is so familiar with them that he does not confine himself closely to them. . . . Sandwiched in between his selections from his manuscript are interpolations improvised for the occasion. . . . But the difference between hearing him read his works and reading them one's self is certainly in favor of the latter." The *Daily Alta California* of May 2 stated that "Character," read on May 1, was replete with anecdotes and concluded with a tribute to the resources of California. Emerson would lecture again on his return from Yosemite. The same paper announced on May 15 following that he would read "Chivalry," as the last of his course, at the Unitarian Church, Geary St., on the 17th.

31. Emerson was doubtless thinking of *Paradise Lost*, IV, 268–269.

weighed with the rest, & each of us counted the same pounds, 140½. I have not tried my luck again, but shall dare to, by & by.[III] Alice F. weighed 157 & W. H. F. 170. Ralph Emerson came to us from his town [32] — — W^m D. Bliss, from his. He is a great farmer as well as lawyer. Mrs Georgiana Bruce Kirby sends me invitation to Santa Cruz.[33] We are invited visit ranchos. Mr & Mrs Forbes & Mrs Russell [34] are on their way to the Geysers with Alice & Sarah — hot mudsprings, &c. [IV]I stay mainly by San F., until the whole party shall go to the Yo Semite, which it were a little premature to seek at once; & the Mammoth Groves are in its neighborhood.[IV] The only real cross in all this prosperity is a word in Malcolm F.'s telegram that "Edward is better." We had not heard that he was worse, or bad or sick at all. Edith has been well & wise & brilliant all the way in the house & on the road. Comfort me by writing that the rash boy takes more care of himself, & is not rash & a tempter of Providence. If Ellen will find Mrs Neal's letter in my letter-rack against the wall, probably, or else in some latest files, & give me her initials & her husband's,[35] I will write to her even now. R. W. E. [V]But I have not said what was in my mind when I begun that *we three* went to San Rafael, on Tuesday, to the Barbers, & spent the day & night. there It is a charming home one of the beauties of this beautiful land.[V] Mrs Susan Jackson, Mr Barber & Lizzie, & the two children, Alice & Mary,[36] [VI]all shone with hospitality & health They showed us every kindness. The house is new, & perfectly well built & appointed. His place has 71 acres of plain & wood & mountain & he is a man of taste & knows & uses its values Three or four wild deer still feed on his land & now & then come near the house. The trees of his woods were almost all new to us, live oak, madrona,[37] redwood, & other pines than ours; & our garden flowers wild in all the fields.[VI] We spent two or three hours in a drive through the neighboring beautiful country, &, after a gay six

32. Ralph Emerson, mentioned in early letters as living in Paris and elsewhere, was now at Oakland, Cal. (*cf.* May 20 and 22, 1871). His long residence in California is mentioned in Mar. 1, 1861.

33. See Apr. 28, 1871.

34. Mary Forbes Russell, daughter of John Murray Forbes (see a note on Feb. 3, 1864). Her sisters Alice and Sarah (later the wife of W. H. Hughes) are mentioned in earlier letters.

35. Ellen Emerson wrote, May 10, 1871, that Mrs. Anna M. Neil's husband was named John.

36. Elizabeth Bartlett Jackson, daughter of Emerson's sister-in-law Susan Bridge Jackson, had married William Barber, California lawyer, in 1862; their two children were Alice and Mary (*Genealogy of the John Bridge Family*, pp. 324–325).

37. Madroña, or madroño.

o'clock dinner Miss Tompkins sister of Susie Emerson [38] & Mrs Tompkins her brother's wife came & spent an hour. and a Rev Mr Lee,[39] episcopal clergyman, grandson of the owner of Lee's Hill in Concord [40]

## To Georgiana Bruce Kirby, San Francisco, April 28, 1871

[MS listed and partly quoted in American Art Association, Apr. 30 and May 1 and 2, 1924; declines Mrs. Kirby's invitation mentioned in Apr. 27, 1871.]

## To Ellen? Emerson, Yosemite Valley, May *c.* 6? 1871

[Ellen Emerson, May 20 and 22, 1871, mentions, under the first date, "Your beautiful Yo Semite letter" and, under May 22, "Your second Yo Semite letter." For the days at Yosemite, see a note on Apr. 10, 1871. Emerson apparently had no need to write in reply to the enthusiastic welcome John Muir wrote in his note dated simply Monday night (clearly, I think, May 8, 1871):

" { Yosemite Valley
  { Monday night

" Mr R W Emerson

" Dear Sir I rec'd to-day a letter from Mrs Prof E Carr of Oakland Cal stating that you were in the Valley & that she expected to see you on your return Also she promised that she would write you here & send you to me. I was delighted at the thought of meeting you but have just learned that you contemplate leaving the Valley in a day or two

" Now Mr Emerson I do most cordially protest against your going away so soon, & so also I am sure do all your instincts & affinities I trust that you will not 'outweary their yearnings' Do not thus drift away with the mob while the spirits of these rocks & waters hail you after long waiting as their kinsman & persuade you to closer communion

" But now if Fate or one of those mongrel & misshapen organizations called parties compel you to leave for the present, I shall hope for some other fullness of time to come for you.

38. Susan Tompkins, wife of John Haven Emerson (see a note on May 21, 1868, to William Emerson). Dr. Haven Emerson informs me that her sister here mentioned was probably either Helena or Ruth Tompkins and that her sister-in-law was Harriet, wife of M. M. Tompkins, for many years a resident of San Anselmo, near San Rafael.

39. Apparently David J. Lee, missionary of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Sonora, Cal. (*The Church Almanac for the Year of our Lord 1871*), though Sonora is a long way from San Rafael. For the changing name and ownership of Lee's Hill, see Grindall Reynolds, *The Story of a Concord Farm and its Owners*, n. d., and Alfred S. Hudson, *The History of Concord*, 1904, I, 295.

40. Emerson did not sign the postscript, but his daughter Edith, who was a member of his party, added this: "I enclose the notices in the morning paper E. E. F."

" If you will call at Mr Hutchings mill I will give you as many of Yosemite & high Sierra plants as you wish as specimens.

" I invite you join me in a months worship with Nature in the high temples of the great Sierra Crown beyond our holy Yosemite It will cost you nothing save the time & very little of that for you will be mostly in Eternity

" And now once more, in the name of Mts Dana & Gabb — of the grand glacial hieroglyphics of Tuolumne meadows & Bloody Canon, — In th nam of a hundred glacial lakes — of a hundred glacial-daisy-gentian meadows, In the name of a hundred cascades that barbarous visitors never see, In the name of the grand upper forests of Picea amabilis & P. grandis, & in the name of all the spirit creatures of these rocks & of this whole spiritual atmosphere Do not leave us *now*

" With most cordial regards I am yours in Nature

" John Muir "

According to the account given by Badè, I, 254, the welcoming note brought Emerson to Muir the next day and the two men saw each other every day while Emerson remained in the valley. The experience was a memorable one for Muir, who wrote again (in the same year, as Emerson's endorsement shows):

" Yosemite July 6th

" Dear Emerson, You are in the calm of home & perhaps will be glad to hear this small echo from our Mariposa trees. Here is Samoset with whom you are acquainted & with whom I spent a night & day. He is noble in form & behaviour as any Sequoia friend that I have — less proper, — less orthodox than his two companions but has more dignity — more freedom, wh' he manifests by the curving & thrusting of every limb.

" All three touch & intermingle at the top — at least when breathed upon by the winds

" Some spirey, arrowey firs are poised about his brown trunk which makes a magnificent background for their level benchs of silvery spray. Among his other friends living far below in his shadow are the Ceanothus & the rose & the lupine & violet & the broad shouldered breckan

" And little mosses & lichens also — humblest children of the Kingdom, meet King Sequoia & dwell with him & they paint his grand column with their green & gold as big congregations of social flowers color the flutings of a hillside

" I remember that some of your party remarked the silence of our woods & the absence of birds. Well, ere you were half way down the hill a gush of the richest forest song that ever tingled human soul came in grand confidence from the whole grove choir of trees, birds, & flies. When you went away I walked to the top of the ridge commanding a view of the arterial grooves of the Fresnoe, to calm, & when I returned to the grove near Samoset I was welcomed by five or six birds. The magnificent pileated woodpecker eighteen inches in length came right up to me & turned round & round as if anxious that I should know all his gestures & notes & observe the color & polish of every feather. A little brown specky titmouse was building a house near the ground beneath a flake of Sequoia bark & she allowed me to remain within five feet of her building without ceasing her work only pausing an instant now & then to look at me.

Also a very shy slim ashcolored bird about the size of the robin shewed himself occasionally. He is swift & impulsive in flight & frequently hovers about the ends of spruce boughs like a humming bird A lot of chickadee like birds flitted about like moths & one with a rich flutey voice approached in the Ceanothus tangle but did not show himself & after all these were sleeping a big-voiced owl echoed the solemn grove from end to end, & next day as I drifted slowly down to the lower trees I saw birds everywhere: – the Grizzly Giant was full of birds, & as I was about to start for Clarks while I lingered among farewell impressions at the base of the last Sequoia a bird came down to one of the lowest branches near my head & uttered loud & clear a bosomful of the most startling worded song that I ever felt From first to last all of Nature seemed to hear the call of another King David & joined in one grand rejoicing. There was the sweetest wavings & hushings of trees hummings of insect wings – open jointed warblings of birds & the rocks too pulsed to the general joy, & every crystal & individual dust –

" In a few days I start for the high Sierra East of Yosemite & I would willingly walk all the way to your Concord if so I could have you for a companion – the indians & hot plains would be nothing In particular I want to study a certain pinetree at different elevations, & the lavas of Mono.

" The dear Mother has told me one magnificent truth since you were here. Two years ago I crossed the basin of Yosemite creek a mile or two back of the top of the falls & observed what appeared as indications of a glacier, & again about a month ago I was upon Mt Hoffman & on my return to the Valley crossed the Yosemite basin & received still more satisfactory hints of the former existence of a glacier wh flowed at right angles to those later & larger ones of the summits

" Now there is a very deep canon on the left of Yosemite falls wh has compelled me to think to it every day for more than a year & I could not account for its formation in any other way than by supposing the existence of a glacier in the basin above as one of the conditions Last Sabbath the big truth came to the birth. I ran out of the Valley by Indian Canon, & round to the top of the falls – said my prayers in the irised spray & started for the upper end of the basin ten or twelve miles distant hoping somewhere to discover positive evidence of my missing glacier in the higher, deeper portions of its channel where it would linger longest, or where it had been compelled to wedge through some narrow place thus hardening & more deeply grooving the granite wh then would not be so susceptible of disintegration

" Well I had not gone four miles ere I found all I had so long sought & you might have heard a shout in Concord

" This glacier was about 12 m's in length by about 6 in breadth. Of the depth I have as yet no data. Its course was nearly at right angles to the summit glaciers & perhaps it was not born quite so early as they. & I am sure that it died long before they were driven from the canons of the Tenaya & Nevada streams. I have just finished a first reading of your Society & Solitude. The poems I have read several times. I have been very deeply interested with them & am far from

being done with them Excepting the woodnotes wh Mrs Carr read me & the Burly bumblebee I had not seen any of your poems before

" Since I cannot have yourself I want your photograph

" Ever Yours

" John Muir "

It is not quite clear whether Emerson answered this, but he did write to Muir, we know, as early as Feb. 5, 1872.]

## To Ellen? Emerson, Yosemite Valley, May *c.* 9? 1871

[See the note on the preceding letter. It seems barely possible that this was the same letter as that mentioned in May 20 and 22, 1871, as mailed at Stockton. For Emerson at Stockton on May 14, see a note on Apr. 10 preceding.]

## To Lidian and Ellen Emerson, Truckee and Lake Tahoe, California, May 20 and 22, 1871 [41]

More Notes for Mamma & Ellen

[1]Truckee 20 May

254 miles East from S. Francisco

We begun our homeward journey yesterday morning from San Francisco, & reviewed our landscapes of 4 weeks before. The forest has lost much of its pretension by our acquaintance with grander woods, but the country is everywhere rich in trees & endless flowers, & New England starved in comparison. Another main advantage is, that every day here is fair, if sometimes a wind a little raw & colder blows in the afternoon. The soil wants nothing but water, which the lands call aloud for, & the immense herds of horses sheep & cattle are driven to the mountains as the earth dries. Steps begin to be taken to meet this want of the plains & cities, which the sierras that keep their snow tops all summer stand ever ready to supply. Tis a delightful & a cheap country to live in for a New Englander, though costly enough to the uproarious unthrifty population that drift into it. One of my new acquaintances, Mr Peirce,[42] a large owner & very intelligent much-travelled man, thinks California

41. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I–III are in Cabot, II, 646–648. The " 1871 " may possibly be Emerson's but I think not. For some of the events recorded here, *cf.* the notes on Apr. 10 preceding.

42. Probably Henry Augustus Peirce, who was born at Dorchester, Mass., in 1808, was a California pioneer, and became American minister at Honolulu in 1869; but he had a son, Henry Marcus Peirce, born in 1846 (E. W. West, *The Peirce Family Record*, 1894, pp. 39–41). In his MS memorandum book for this year, Emerson writes the name " Henry Pierce."

needs nothing but hard times & punishment to drive it to prudence & prosperity, — the careless ways in which money is given & taken being a ruinous education to the young. Its immense prospective advantages only now beginning to be opened to mens eyes by the new Railroad are its nearness to Asia & S. America; & *that* with a port such as Constantinople, plainly a new centre like London with immense advantages over *that,* is here. There is an awe & terror lying over this new garden — all empty as yet of any adequate people, yet with this assured future in American hands, — unequalled in climate & production. Chicago & St Louis are toys to it in its assured felicity. I should think no young man would come back from it.

Lake Tahoe. We have driven thro' 12 miles of forest to this fine lake, 20 or more miles in diameter, with sulphur Hot Springs on its margin, & mountains for its guardians, — yet silver trout, I suspect, were the magnet in the mind of our commanders.[I] And already Alice & Sarah & Anna Anthony are being rowed on the water. [II]It would have an additional charm for me, if it were not a détour instead of an advance to the blue northeast, which can only be reached by retracing our way to Truckee. Friday night I went to Oaklands, (the Brooklyn of San F.,) to read a [43] lecture;[II] there returned the calls of Ralph Emerson, (saw his wife & children,) Dr & Mrs Carr, (old friends of mine at Madison College, Wisconsin,) [44] Professor Swinton,[45] (historian of the War,) at whose house I shook hands with R. Waldo E. Swinton, a young scholar of 13 years, saw Prioleau, a southern Lawyer, whom I knew at Cambridge,[46] & met at dinners in London; [III]& returned at 11 o'c P. M. by rail & boat to St F. . Edith had packed my trunk in the meantime, & we departed for these places at 8 in the morn.[III] In Oaklands, & in Stock-

43. The *Daily Alta California,* May 18, 1871, announced that the lecture in Oakland that evening was said to be the last opportunity of hearing Emerson, as he was " ticketed for his home in the East by to-morrow morning's train." San Franciscans could, the paper stated, attend the lecture and return by the 10:20 p. m. train. The *Daily Evening Bulletin,* also of San Francisco, reported on the 19th that " Homes, and how to Make them Happy " was read on the 18th to an audience, not large but above the average, at Brayton Hall in Oakland.

44. See the second letter of Feb. 6, 1867. Ezra Carr was now professor of agriculture and other subjects at the University of California (*Register of the University of California,* 1871, p. 5).

45. William Swinton was now professor of English and other subjects at the University of California (*ibid.*) and was known as a writer on the Civil War and on literary subjects. *Cf.* Aug. 26, 1856, to Swinton, for his earlier relations with Emerson.

46. The Harvard records show that a Samuel Cordes Prioleau, of Charleston, S. C., graduated in 1824, but died in 1831. I have found no other person of this name.

ton, every house has its garden, & the wonderful vegetation aserts itself, & every house keeper is a botanist, with his agaves, figs, vines, & incomparable flowers. One feature is, in every yard, a wind-mill, which pumps all day & irrigates. In Stockton, an artesian well, over 1000 ft deep, which spouts up a fountain 17 ft high, & feeds all.

This morn. we had, in Truckee, your letters to Edith & me, and I ought to have reared a column there to your unrivalled punctuality. I have received all your letters. The last I sent you [47] was put in the mail at Stockton & contained a draft on the Atlantic Bk. which you were to fill with an amount to be obtained by ciphering on the inside cover of my "*Journal*" & subtracting 100.00 from my credit at Atl. Bk & the remainder will be my credit there. That is I drew 100. on the day of my departure from Concord & Mr Heywood [48] will draw it & pay it to you, if you make it payable to him. This I hope will last you till my return, if Abr. Jackson has not already paid Court St dues. Of course we are relieved by better news of Edward, & today George Holdredge informs me that Whitwell is another victim of the same varioloid.[49] I do not think it honors the Hospital, or the Faculty that controls it, that these accidents should happen in their precinct.

But the driver is hitching his horses to return to Truckee Edith is very well & enjoys the days & the letters & comforts all the circle of good people that surround her

R W Emerson

## To Ralph Emerson Forbes, Lake Tahoe, May 21? 1871 [50]

Lake Tahoe, California.
May 1871.

My dear Ralph,

I promised Mamma that I would write you a letter, and tell you about the sea-lions that we saw at San Francisco. The day that we

47. Perhaps the letter of May *c.* 9? 1871, or possibly a later one of which I have no other evidence. Emerson was at Stockton on May 14 (see a note on Apr. 10).

48. Doubtless George Heywood, president of the Concord National Bank for many years (George B. Bartlett, *The Concord Guide Book,* 2d ed., n. d. [c. 1880], p. 119).

49. Ellen Emerson wrote, Apr. 24, 1871, that the doctor now thought her brother's trouble to be varioloid instead of malaria. Both William Scollay Whitwell and George Ward Holdrege were members of the class of 1869 at Harvard, and Whitwell was later a student with Edward Waldo Emerson in the medical school of the same university.

50. MS owned by Mr. Edward Waldo Forbes; ph. in CUL. This is a typed copy,

arrived in that city Mr Stebbins came to see us and asked us if we would go with him the next day Saturday morning and he would drive us out of the city to the shore of the Pacific Ocean two or three miles, to a hotel called the Cliff-House. We said we would go gladly. So the next morning he came and took Mamma and Mr Thayer and me in his carriage and he drove through several great streets, one of which was called the Chinese quarter, where are all the Chinese shops, – butchers and vegetable and flower-shops, and shoe-shops, and all the China-men dressed as they are in China, with long queues reaching almost to their feet, and in blue robes. But we drove on, and pretty soon came in sight of the Pacific Ocean, and keeping on till we came to the shore we did not stop till we arrived at a handsome white house where the ostler took charge of our horses and we went up the stairs to a balcony which went all round the house and going to the back of the house we saw under us and before us the Ocean and not far in front of us a rocky island. The top of the rocks on it was covered with sea-birds which looked like ducks, but lower down we presently saw the sea-lions, – long creatures as large as bears, and much longer than bears. Some of them are twelve feet long, that is, if they could stand upright on their hind-feet they would be twice as tall as I am. They were lying about on the rocks and some of them all the time trying to crawl up on to the rocks from the water and sometimes a big one would lie on a low rock partly in the water and push every sea-lion off that tried to get up on it. Now and then they roar loudly as if they would make more noise than the waves rushing up the rocks do and as if they wished to be heard by the people on the Cliff House balcony who [51] gazing at them through spy glasses. We talked loud but they did not seem to mind what we said about them I dont think they understand English not even when we talked about Ralph and Edith and Cameron, for they had their young sea-lions with them, and had taught them how to swim. The Government of the State of California finding that fishermen killed the seals and sea-lions to get their oil have made a law that none of the sea-lions on the island near

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on pp. 449–451 of the typescript volume of *Letters of R. Waldo Emerson* already described. The date is not earlier than May 20 nor later than May 22 (see the letter of May 20 and 22 and a note on Apr. 10, 1871, which fix the time of the visit to Lake Tahoe). For persons and places mentioned here, *cf.* the letters preceding and notes on them.

51. Perhaps a word was omitted by the typist.

San Francisco [52] shall be killed. So these are safe and wailing [53] for you to come and see them one of these days. I hope that your father and mother and I shall soon see you at Concord again. Goodbye says Grandpapa

R. W. Emerson

To Ellen Emerson, Milton, Massachusetts, June 5, 1871 [54]

Milton
Monday Morn

Dear Ellen,

I hope to hear from you today or tomorrow that all is prospering with you to the end of bringing your mother & yourself hither on Wednesday noon. I shall go to Boston on that day & because I have an engagement with Mr J. M. Forbes at 11 o'clock, shall not meet you at your arrival at that hour, – but shall go to the Old Colony Depot at 1 o'clock to see you,[55] & take back to Concord your latest instructions. Edith thinks that Cousin Elizabeth R. will take me in as a boarder [56] and that suits me well. Edward is doing I hope as well as he should May you all be well!

R W E

To Ellen Emerson, Concord? June 8, 1871 [57]

Thursday 8 June

Dear Ellen,

I send you my letter & cheque for Dr Miller, whose address I cannot fix,[58] whether at Neponset, Dorchester, or Jerusalem. You were

52. *The Penal Code of California*, 1872, p. 140, says " within one mile of the Cliff House."

53. Probably the typist's error for " waiting."

54. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. For the date, this letter clearly precedes that of June 8, 1871; and the only Monday preceding that date after Emerson returned from California, on May 30, was June 5. The MS memorandum book for this year, which shows he reached Concord on the 30th, also notes, under June 2: " At Milton."

55. June 8, 1871, alludes pretty definitely to the failure of this plan. The train leaving Boston for Neponset over the Old Colony & Newport Railway at 1 p.m. is listed in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* for June 5 of this year.

56. See June 8, 1871, for Emerson at the Old Manse and for Edward's health.

57. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year is fixed by evidence cited below.

58. Ellen replied from Milton, Mass., June 9, 1871, stating that she would send

ingenious in your method of making it impossible to meet you yesterday.[59] I was the more inconsolable, that your Concord friends affirmed that you were never so handsome as at this time. I made an attempt to arrange my own nest in my own chamber but the cook assured me that your mother had locked up the room, & that it was not in order: So I not only supped with Cousin Elizabeth, but, after a call through the rain on Mr Ireson,[60] at Mr Reynolds's returned to the manse for a bed, and agreed with Cousin E. to receive me for the present as a boarder.[61] This morning I picked the lock of my chamber, & now have a choice of two. Cousin E. goes to Europe in July. with Mrs Fiske.[62] I have today arranged my business matters with the Collector of Internal Revenue, with Mr Hobson, Mr Heywood,[63] & others, & if I can find Mr Staples, may make a step toward the painter. Not till tomorrow do I begin with *Parnassus* in earnest. Every body from Dr Bartlett down eagerly inquires for Edward's health. Louisa Alcott is at home,[64] & her father very happy.

Papa.

What shall I do with a jingling letter addressed to Mrs Austin, in my upper drawer?

R. W. Emerson

## To James R. Osgood, Concord, June 9, 1871

[MS listed in American Art Galleries, Apr. 21–23 and 25–30 and May 2–5, 1910, where it is described as acknowledging payment for an edition of *Society and Solitude*. This may or may not be the same as the letter to J. R. Osgood & Co. listed and partly quoted in Goodspeed's Book Shop, Nov., 1915; the letter described in that catalogue and there dated only 1871 acknowledged a check for $30 and inclosed an order for the printing of 150 copies of the second series of *Essays*.]

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the check to Dr. Miller, who lived at Dorchester – perhaps Erasmus D. Miller, a prominent physician resident in that town for many years (William D. Orcutt, *Good Old Dorchester*, 1893, p. 458). It is not clear whether "my letter" means a letter to Miller.

59. *Cf.* June 5, 1871.

60. Just possibly Iveson. A Samuel Edwin Ireson had graduated from Harvard in 1853 and lived till 1875. But I have no proof that he was the man here mentioned. Reynolds was doubtless Grindall Reynolds, the Concord pastor.

61. *Cf.* June 5, 1871.

62. See the note on June 30, 1871, to Carlyle. Apparently the plan was somewhat changed. The Mrs. Fiske here mentioned was probably Hannah Bradford Fiske, Elizabeth Ripley's aunt (see *Worthy Women*, p. 115).

63. Perhaps the Heywood mentioned in the letter of May 20 and 22, 1871.

64. From her European travel (*cf. Louisa May Alcott*, ed. E. D. Cheney, 1890, pp. 258–259).

## To W. T. Pattison, Concord? June 9, 1871

[Pattison, Cimarron, N. M., July 10, 1871, said that Emerson's "letter of the 9th ultimo" had been forwarded to him and that he was glad to hear Helps's package had safely arrived; Helps, he added, was now living in a cottage given him by the Queen, in Kew Gardens.]

## To Ellen Emerson, Concord, June 11, 1871 [65]

Concord
Sunday Night 11 June
'71

Dear Ellen,

Your account of Edward [66] made him worse than I looked for, as, though one of his nights scared me, yet in the days he seemed mending. I trust that the relief by this lancing is real & for the whole. Tell him to please himself — & his Doctor, if he will — in his arrangements for the summer; for a sick man must consent to be idle, & must please himself in the style of his idleness, — to get well.

Mrs Beale sends me word by John, this afternoon, that she is lame or somehow ill, & cannot come on the days you ask for. She said nothing about it to me, last night, except that she would send word today. Elizabeth Ripley has today let her house to Miss Stearns, — an old acquaintance, a travelling lady, — for the two months that she vacates it in her proposed European trip.[67] I live very comfortably at the Manse by day — or rather three times each day, — & the rest of the time in my library. Tomorrow Mr Bradford [68] goes to Newport on a visit, & so I lose him. There is no need of your coming back here on my account, for a week yet, unless you want to board also at the Manse. But tell Mamma that she shall have strawberries tomorrow or any time thereafter when she will come. Love to Edith, & tell her that I get on with the book,[69] which appears to be good, or certainly her work does her honor. I trust that Will & she found their house satisfactory, — but how can they leave such a nest of comfort & blessing as their Milton home is? I will try to inclose Dr Miller's [70] account

R. W. Emerson

65. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.
66. In her letter of June 9, 1871, from Milton, Mass.
67. See the note on June 30, 1871, to Carlyle.
68. George P. Bradford, no doubt.
69. Evidently *Parnassus*, with the making of which she had much to do. *Cf.* June 14, 1871.
70. See June 8, 1871.

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, June 14, 1871 [71]

Concord
14 June '71

Dear Edith, What has become of all or most of the *Shakspeare Selections*? [72] They do not appear in the portfolio I brought from your house I remember that I saw & selected from them for the pieces I read one night in the Pullman car, for instance, Ulysses Speech to Achilles, out of *Troilus & Cressida*,[73] Viola & the Duke; Hotspur's story of Henry Bolingbroke, &c but none of these, & none of Cleopatra, or of Macbeth, or Lear, do I find, neither in my trunk, or in your banded collections. I hope they are safe in your closets. I miss also some pieces which we are bound to have, – some of Herberts [74] & of others. If you can find any of these refugees, send them to Webber [75] for me & if not I will pick out the *must bes* from Shakspeare himself.

Today I saw Will, to my surprise, on the Common, & was glad he would honor us if it were only by riding in the town, and tonight I hope Mamma & Ellen shall come, & bring still better tidings of Edward than Will gave me, and will tell me what are your dates for staying at home, for coming hither, & & for the Naushon Hegira. Papa.

## To James Elliot Cabot, Concord, June 26, 1871 [76]

Concord, 26 June, 1871.

Dear Cabot,

I hoped to find you on Saturday at the Club [77] & in that expectation left your volume of Garbett,[78] without even a note of my thanks, – at the Athenaeum. It ought to have been restored long ago, & at least when I set forth for California.[79] But that movement was so

71. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

72. Edith Emerson Forbes wrote from Milton, Mass., June 19, 1871, that she and her husband were correcting the Shakespeare every evening and it could probably go home with Ellen.

73. This and all other passages from Shakespeare mentioned in this letter got safely into *Parnassus*.

74. Many selections from George Herbert were included in *Parnassus*.

75. Perhaps Ward A. Webber, of the Concord Express, listed in *The Boston Directory* for 1871–1872.

76. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL.

77. June 24 was the regular day for the monthly meeting of the Saturday Club.

78. *Cf.* Jan. 14, 1871.

79. See Apr. 10, 1871.

sudden & with such various preparation in few days that this neglect was only one of many sins. Of course I did not read the book, but I read excellent things in it, & was curious to know where Garbett begun & where he ended.

I have never answered his letter which you read. At the Saturday Club, – I think in March, – was an English guest, Lord ———, I have lost the name, of whom I made inquiries as to what action Parliament had taken in regard to ecclesiastical buildings, &c. that could have so annoyed Ruskin & Garbett; but he knew of none, & said that he was himself the President of a Society in his own county for the protection & preservation of such buildings.[80] I fear that Garbett has lost his head which was so rare a one.

Meantime you should be merciful to your friends, & come duly to your Club that they may see you when they have things to tell you. Yours always,

R. W. Emerson

J. Elliot Cabot, Esq.

## To Henry Ingersoll Bowditch, Concord, June 27, 1871[81]

Concord
Tuesday Evening, 27 June.

Dear Doctor Bowditch,

I received your friendly letter, this evening, with great interest & gratitude. The succession of serious attacks for two months on Edward's normal health, & the stubbornness now of the abscess, have made his mother & sisters & myself very anxious, & not the less that he inclines ever to put the best face on on his condition. I was the more glad to have him return to you & to Dr Hodges for advice & treatment, and I share his entire satisfaction in the result so far.

But you have added to this benefit a hospitality & tenderness so complete as quite to fill his heart & ours with gratitude to you & to Mrs Bowditch, and I only write now to say so.

I am quite of your opinion that Edward cannot begin his travels[82]

80. *Cf.* June 30, 1871, to Carlyle.

81. MS owned by the Abernethy Library, Middlebury College; ph. in CUL. June 27 fell on Tuesday in 1871, and the letter of July 2 following confirms that year. For Bowditch, a Boston physician, and his wife, Olivia Yardley, see *Life and Correspondence of Henry Ingersoll Bowditch.*

82. *Cf.* the letters of Sept. 4, 1871.

till the wound begins to heal, & I think he also is convinced of that necessity.

Your obliged servant
R. W. Emerson

Dr Henry Bowditch.

### To Thomas Carlyle, Concord, June 30, 1871

[MS owned by RWEMA; printed incompletely in *C–E Corr.*, 1883. Of the passages omitted in that printing, one relates to the illness of Edward Waldo Emerson, another to Mrs. Lowell's visit to Carlyle, and a third is this:

" George Bradford, an early & late friend of mine, who once stopped at your door, & values himself on having seen you, will bring this letter. He is a teacher or tutor of private pupils, for many many years, goes now & then to Europe, to Athens, to Constantinople, &c. & this time only to Switzerland He is a good scholar, and a most worthy man, but sadly a victim of *the blues*. With him is his niece & my cousin, Miss Ripley, of this town, an excellent woman, and, (if you have ever seen Hawthorne's books,) is the owner & occupant of ' The Manse ' in Concord. Let your face shine on her for a moment."

The MS memorandum book for 1871 records, under July 4: " Miss E B Ripley departed for Europe — Letters sent to Carlyle & Mrs Lowell." The *New-York Tribune*, July 6, 1871, noted the sailing of the " China " from New York for Liverpool on the 5th, with a Miss Ripley, G. P. Bradford, and some Fiskes among her passengers. On July 3 Emerson wrote both to Carlyle and to Mrs. Lowell. Probably there was no separate introduction to Carlyle for Elizabeth Ripley.]

### To James Bradley Thayer, Concord, June 30, 1871 [83]

Concord
30 June, 71

My dear Mr Thayer

I received this morning a note from Will H. F. explaining that *he* had sent me the day before the cheques of Mr Jackson in a bare envelope, and that he had received from Mr J an Account therewith; — so that my vexation at Mr J.'s unaccountable conduct [84] was all a mistake, & I regret to have mentioned it to you. Yours affectionately,

R. W. Emerson

83. MS owned by Professor James B. Thayer; ph. in CUL.

84. A marginal note explains, opposite the name " Mr Jackson " above: " Abm Jackson afterward in State Prison." Cf. a note on Aug. 11, 1869.

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, July 2, 1871 [85]

Concord July 2 '71
Sunday Night

Dear Will,

I ought to have acknowledged two days ago at least the receipt from you of two checks signed by Mr Jackson for $245.41
and 62.50
which, however, coming without any written word, & I not examining the envelope at all, I supposed were sent by him to me & that in a pet he had passed over you. I was greatly relieved therefore by your note of the 29th,[86] which acquits him of such crime. Meantime I am glad of the money.

Edward is in good courage, & thinks he has mended & is mending ever since the lancing at Dr Bowditch's.[87] His nurse Ellen confirms his opinion, & we are all so far relieved.

The little Edith [88] manages to get through days & nights very comfortably, with only an occasional sigh for Milton, & is very highly esteemed here. She has walked all the way to "Fairy Land" with Ellen & me this P. M. & brought home a large bunch of flowers.

Yours,
R. W. Emerson

W. H. Forbes.

Ellen adds that Violet has been well entertained, & for the most part has been very happy.

## To Francis J. Nicholls, Concord? July? *c.* 2? 1871

[Nicholls, South Boston, June 26, 1871, said that Emerson was an annual subscriber of $2 for the relief of the Rev. Henry Giles and asked that the money be paid; he also thanked Emerson for gifts amounting to $30 to the "transient fund" for the relief of the same "afflicted scholar." Nicholls, July 4, 1871, thanked Emerson for his "favor" inclosing $5 for Giles.]

85. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.
86. Mentioned in June 30, 1871, to Thayer.
87. *Cf.* the letters of June 11 and 27, 1871.
88. Emerson's granddaughter Edith; *cf.* a note on Nov. 22, 1867. She is the "Violet" of the last paragraph.

### To Thomas Carlyle, Concord, July 3, 1871 [89]

Concord
3 July, 1871.

Dear Carlyle,

Mr George P. Bradford, an old friend of mine, & whom I had the pleasure of introducing to you many years ago,[90] is now on his way to Switzerland, & neither his will nor mine will permit him to pass through London without paying his respects to you.

Always Yours,
R. W. Emerson

Thomas Carlyle, Esq.

### To Josephine Shaw Lowell, Concord, July 3, 1871

[MS listed and partly quoted in P. J. & A. E. Dobell, catalogue 54 (1926); Emerson apologizes for his failure to write a letter of introduction to Carlyle for Mrs. Lowell and explains that he forgot it "in the whirl of our long and wonderful journey to California." In Apr. 10 and 13, 1871, Emerson had told Carlyle of his intention to write a note of introduction for the widow of Charles Russell Lowell, one of the "young martyrs" of the war. Mrs. Lowell, sister of the soldier Robert Gould Shaw, was later known as a philanthropist and as a writer on social and industrial problems. *Cf.* June 30, 1871, to Carlyle.]

### To James Elliot Cabot, Concord, July 4, 1871 [91]

Concord, 4 July '71

Dear Cabot,

I ought to have thanked you for your kindest hospitality at once. But the boy was at his worst only six or seven days ago: but by bolder surgical treatment [92] he appears now to be mending fast, & some day I trust he will come to thank Mrs Cabot & yourself in person.

Yours always,
R. W. Emerson

J. E. Cabot, Esq.

### To W. T. Washburn, Concord? July 12, 1871

[Mentioned in the letter of the same date to Thayer.]

89. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. *Cf.* June 30, 1871, to Carlyle.
90. In Mar.? 28? 1854?
91. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL.
92. *Cf.* June 27, 1871.

## To James Bradley Thayer, Concord? July 12, 1871 [93]

Wednesday Evening
12 July '71.

Dear Mr Thayer,

I send you Mr Washburn's letter, & I think I will also inclose mine just written to him, which you will have the goodness to read, & then close & forward to him. I venture to send you a new bundle of papers, some of which may be essential for your information

Mr Beza Tucker [94] died before my acquaintance with the family leaving a widow who afterwards married Colonel W. A. Kent of Concord, N. H. & five children, namely,

1. George W. } both died soon after him
2. Mary }
3. Margaret died 1833
4. Paulina Nash survives.
5. Ellen T. E. married 30 Sept 1829
died 8 February 1831

Mr Pliny Cutler [95] was the executor of Mr Tucker's estate, & guardian of his children. He died, I think, four years ago. His confidential clerk, Mr Davenport,[96] is now to be found in Mr J. Wiley Edmand's, office, in Kilby Street, & showed me the Leger or Daybook in which the payments I speak of in my letter to Mr W. T. Washburn are recorded. An old lawyer, Mr Josiah P. Cook, has always been Mrs Nash's counsellor, & possibly is the successor of Mr Cutler as Executor. But I dare not believe that you will or can penetrate these antiquities. You must judge by your first attempts.

Yours ever,
R W Emerson

James B. Thayer, Esq

93. MS owned by Professor James B. Thayer; ph. in CUL.

94. See Dec. 24, 1828. Other members of the Tucker and Kent families appear in various early letters. A part of this sentence is written to the right of its context and set off by irregular lines, which I do not reproduce.

95. Cutler appears as executor in a number of much earlier letters.

96. *Cf.* Apr. 12, 1837, for both Davenport and Cook. *The Boston Directory* for 1871–1872 gives Henry Davenport, clerk, at the same address with J. Wiley Edmands, commission merchant.

## To James Bradley Thayer, Concord, July 17, 1871 [97]

Concord, 17 July, '71

My dear Mr Thayer,

I enclose to you Mr Washburn's note received this morning, which, earlier, might have saved you & me much trouble, – you, – especially, if you have had time to turn over my sad bundle of papers. It was only in writing to him the note which I asked you to send, that occurred to me what I suppose may be the key to the affair, – that, not only the sum retained out of my share of the estate of Mr B. Tucker for the Annuities was to be repaid to me, but also a 3d (?) part out of the sum retained for the same purpose, out George W. Tucker's estate, since Ellen T. Emerson was, I suppose, one of three heirs to his Estate, and I, through her, to his *personal* property. At least this explains to me what I did not understand, – Mr Davenport's (clerk of Cutler) statement to me that "his four payments were all I could have received," and my afterward finding one, & I believe two, payments, from Mr Washburn to me indicated in the letters. But I shall try to see you for a few minutes sometime in this week.

R. W. Emerson

J. B. Thayer, Esq.

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Boston, July 18, 1871 [98]

Dear Edith, Boston, July 18, '71.

I am afraid I cannot come to Naushon tomorrow but must wait for the 11 o'clock Providence train on Friday. I think we have pretty nearly finished the bundle of paper,[99] or Miss Weir has, so that it may go to Mr Osgood next week. Not a word else in this corner to add from

R. W. E.

97. MS owned by Professor James B. Thayer; ph. in CUL. *Cf.* the letters of July 12, 1871.

98. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

99. Probably the MS of the early version of *Parnassus*. Publication did not actually occur for some years. Oct. 2, 1871, tells of one of the delays which beset the slow-moving project.

## To Robert Charles Winthrop, Concord, August 1, 1871 [100]

Concord, 1 August
'71 –

My dear Sir,

I am highly gratified with your design of signalizing the Scott Anniversary,[101] & shall heartily concur with you as far as I can. I doubt not that Longfellow & Lowell & Holmes will lend their valuable aid, & indeed so will every good man whom you would think of asking. In this confidence I shall consider the matter settled, unless I hear from you to the contrary.

With kind regards,
R. W. Emerson

Hon R. C. Winthrop –

## To Fanny Metcalfe, Concord? August *c.* 1, 1871

[Mentioned in Aug. 3 following.]

## To Henry James, Sr., Concord, August 3, 1871 [102]

Concord
3 August 1871

My dear James,

I had two days ago a note from Miss Metcalfe (enclosing one from Wilkinson) proposing a visit to my hut, & I replied that I would be at home on Monday, & glad to see her by the 11 o'c. train from Boston.[103] If you can be so generous as to come with her, we will give you some peas & pottage & our hearty thanks. We are all pretty

100. MS owned by the Massachusetts Historical Society; ph. in CUL. Winthrop, Brookline, Mass., July 31, 1871, felt free to ask aid from a member of the Society; Lowell and Holmes would also be asked to participate, but Longfellow always shrank from such an effort.

101. The Scott centenary celebration by the Massachusetts Historical Society on Aug. 15 is reported in the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, Aug. 16, 1871. Winthrop, as president of the Society, presided. Longfellow was present, but Lowell, Holmes, and Bryant sent letters of regret. Emerson's address, not printed in the *Advertiser*, is in *Proc. Mass. Hist. Soc.*, XII (1871–1873), and in *Cent. Ed.*, XI.

102. MS owned by Mr. Henry James; ph. in CUL.

103. James, Cambridge, Aug. 1 (MS owned by Mr. Henry James), said that Miss Fanny Metcalfe, a lady bearing letters from Wilkinson, had written from Providence asking whether Emerson would be at home and visible next Monday.

well. Edward is now at Beverly, with Elliot Cabot, but I look for him on Saturday night. Yours affectionately,

R. W. Emerson

Henry James, Esq.

### To Ellen Emerson, Concord, August 29, 1871 [104]

Concord, 29 Aug$^{t}$ 1871.
10 P. M.

Dear Ellen,

Your mother is gratified precisely to her wish by your history in letter received tonight: and the large remainder of your family here duly sympathized, & dearly congratulate Edith & Will on the advent of the boy.[105] You have not told us when to expect Edward & Anna [106] & your mother has watched for him all yesterday & all today.

Mr Henry Lee called here this morning; had visited Miss Folsom, & regretted to learn that she was going to Germany in company with a lady. Whom can you now recommend?

Your mother adds many errands, if only I could remember one. — Cannot pay some children unless you tell her what to pay, or what Mrs Freeman charges. Papa.

### To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord? September? *c.* 3? 1871 [107]

I have heard nothing from Mr Osgood, since I left the whole MSS with him a fortnight ago,[108] until this letter came today.[109] His proposi-

104. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

105. John Murray Forbes, named for his paternal grandfather, was born Aug. 27, 1871 (*The Ipswich Emersons*, p. 371).

106. Probably Annie Keyes, who later became the wife of Edward Waldo Emerson. *Cf.* the "Anna K." of Oct. 19 following.

107. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The date is fixed approximately by evidence cited below.

108. For the plan to send the MS "next week," see July 18, 1871. There may well have been some delay.

109. The letter here referred to seems to be one I have not found, but it must have been a definite proposition based on a letter Osgood wrote some two or three weeks earlier. J. R. Osgood, Boston, Aug. 16, 1871, recalls his earlier suggestion that the selections (in *Parnassus*) be strung on a thread of criticism or essay. This change would give the book, he says, an importance it would lack as a mere collection and would be important too in sustaining the copyright. Both he and Fields think the book would be tenfold more valuable if this plan were carried out; and it might be

tion is not easy to accept or refuse. You cannot, — with your overpowering babe at your side, — even indulge in an opinion. Yet I believe that both of us will live long enough to see the book in gay binding.

Ellen & Edward & Anna [110] give the best tidings & pictures & analyses of the babe unnamed.

Grand Papa.

## To Thomas Carlyle, Concord, September 4, 1871

[MS owned by RWEMA; printed, not quite completely, in *C-E Corr.*, 1883.]

## To Moncure Daniel Conway, Concord, September 4, 1871 [111]

Concord
4 September 1871

Dear Mr Conway,

I use the occasion of my son's going to England, en route for Germany,[112] to say, that I have been afflicted lately with the fear that a letter which I wrote to you in the train on my way to California,[113] & put into the Post Office, perhaps on a way station, or else in San Francisco, never reached you. It was my answer to your letter to me announcing Mr Froude's intention of visiting America, & his willingness to read lectures in Boston, & in other cities. The proposition was good news to me for the public, & for myself who have very pleasant recollections of Mr Froude, at Oxford, & at London, in 1848.[114] Soon after receiving your letter, I went to Mr John A. Lowell, (sole trustee of the Lowell foundation,) & asked him if he would invite Mr Froude to give a Course of Lectures at the Lowell Institute in Boston, during the next winter. And I read to him a part of your letter. He readily consented & thought it would be easy to secure engagements for Mr F. at the Cooper Institute in New York; at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore;

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delayed another year for this purpose. (From a MS copy apparently made in Osgood's office; he says he has sent the letter to Edith Emerson Forbes, as he wishes her support for his views.)

110. *Cf.* Aug. 29, 1871, where "the babe unnamed" is also mentioned. For the agreement of Ellen's testimony with Edward's, *cf.* Sept. 6 following to W. H. Forbes. The first part of the signature was perhaps an afterthought.

111. MS owned by Mrs. Mildred Conway Sawyer; ph. in CUL.

112. Edward Waldo Emerson was listed as a passenger in the "Malta," which left Boston for Liverpool on Sept. 5 (*Boston Daily Advertiser*, Sept. 6 and 7, 1871).

113. Apr. 16 and *c.* 17? 1871, partly repeated in the present letter.

114. *Cf.* the letter of Apr. 2 and 6, 1848, and later letters.

& the Smithsonian, at Washington; &, no doubt, at the " Star Course " (so called) in Philadelphia; & in Chicago. I was presently & very suddenly invited to join a party going to California, under great advantages, & I left home without writing to you. On my way to San Francisco, I wrote with difficulty in the joggling cars a letter to you, giving such information as I had, & offered my services to Mr Froude in the matter, and addressed the letter to you, " Care of the " Editor of Fraser's Magazine." On my return home, I read in our journals that Mr Froude would not come this year to America: — (no cause for this change of purpose being assigned.) Now my fear is, that my letter from California has never reached you, & my more serious fear is lest that failure may have had some part in Mr Froude's change of mind. I hope it cannot be so. Mr Froude is sure of a broad welcome in all the Atlantic cities, &, I doubt not, in all the country. I have never seen Mr Lowell again but I think it is by no means too late for Mr F. to come to us next month, & find or make his reception sure. Of course the earliest notice possible of such intention should be given. With great regard,

R W Emerson

## To John Forster, Concord, September 4, 1871 [115]

Concord
September 4, 1871

My dear Mr Forster,

My delinquences [116] have grown to be so habitual yet so crying & unpardonable that they begin to darken my old days uncomfortably. I almost never write a letter, & receive from time to time gifts of the greatest value without a word of acknowledgment, so that my only salvation must come from obedience to that precept of Buddh, " Never thank your benefactors." [117] Is it quite too late to make the first step to reform, by saying to you that I received long ago your noble gift of the " Life of Landor," [118] of which I read a large part on its arrival, &

115. MS owned by the Victoria and Albert Museum; ph. in CUL.

116. A similar peculiarity occurs in several letters.

117. *Cf.* the letter of Oct. 11 and 12? 1842.

118. His *Walter Savage Landor,* 1869, was probably the book which Forster, London, June 15, 1869, mentioned as a delayed gift to Emerson. Crabb Robinson's reply was to Landor's charge that Wordsworth had small appreciation for the highest merit in other men. Robinson cared little what a man was *not* but much what he was; and Wordsworth was Wordsworth, author of a hundred poems the least of which Robinson would not sacrifice to give him the openness of heart that Landor required.

many more pages from time to time since, & & still keep it on my table with a security of permanent interest? Only a few days ago, I read with delight one of the best sentences that I have seen for long, – Crabb Robinson's defence of Wordsworth against Landor – Vol II. 316. And the whole book abounds with anecdotes of mark, & with just appreciation & censure. Your kindest note accompanying the book ought to have decided my instant reform, but I am still a slave to my tasks, & my repentance is late & spasmodic. But today my son asks me, if I have any messages for England, through which he is to pass to Germany,[119] – & I am startled effectually to remember several benefactors therein, two & twenty years ago, whom I should not like that he should pass by without a respectful salute. So I hope you will give the boy your benediction, & assure him that his father has your forgiveness.

With very kind regards, yours,
R. W. Emerson

John Forster, Esq^re

## To Arthur Helps, Concord, September 4, 1871

[MS listed and partly quoted in Thomas F. Madigan, May 15, 1926; Emerson tells of receiving a letter from Helps some months earlier, as well as a pair of books sent through Pattison; and he adds that he has instructed his son, Edward, who is about to sail for Liverpool, to pay his respects to Helps. For Pattison and the books, see a letter of June 9, 1871. Helps, London, Sept. 26 following, reported that he had seen Edward.]

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, September 6, 1871 [120]

Concord
6 [121] September '71

Dear Will,

There are great advantages in a feeble condition of health, or in the reputation of it, chiefly in the neglect of all your duties unblamed. I hope you think I have been very ill, since I failed to make any reply to your heart-rejoicing telegrams on & after the 27^th August [122] & your good letters to Concord since; & your note of the 22^d Sept.[123]

119. *Cf.* the letter of the same date to Conway.
120. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.
121. Written over "7."
122. The day of the birth of the child mentioned below (*cf.* Aug. 29, 1871).
123. An error, perhaps for Sept. 2.

to me shows your mercy to me unabated. Be it known then to you & Edith, that I have read & heard with joy every word of household news that has come to us from Naushon, — that the young child is almost as well known & dear to its grandparents here as to you both, or to those small members of your family who treat him so well: that we wait with interested curiosity to learn his name, & the last whispered suggestion pleases us best. Ellen & Edward agree for once in their testimony to his excellent physique.

But how dared you carry your kindness to Edward to such a point of romance? I have read the like in novels, but do not look for it in houses: How dared you too interfere with my cautious & stingy cipher-ing, which was to carry the boy through, as Ellen will tell you his grandfathers were wont to do, by the blessed force of poverty & perse-verance? Well, I hope you will be forgiven for this extravagance, & that the boy will not be spoiled. He is happy in your alliance as is his sister.

But I must not add a word though I took my pen to thank you for your business note & to say what I had done & wished to do [124] but the post will not wait Dear love to Edith

W. H. Forbes. R. W. Emerson

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, September 6, 1871 [125]

Concord, Sept. 6
Evening

Dear Edith, I had not time to finish my letter to Will, this P. M. before mail hour. As it was written to you both, I meant to add that I saw Mr Osgood yesterday, & he read to me out of your letter your consent to his prolonging views.[126] Of course, reprieve is always welcome to me, & I am sure the book will gain much by it, even if it should not gain the amount of critical matter which he desires — making criticism the pudding, & poetry the plums. It certainly is in a state of order & ripeness now, that will make a certain finish & degree of perfection possible, that, I doubt, we should soon miss if we insisted on printing.

Osgood is thinking mainly, of course, of his copyright, which he thinks would be good for little in our present form, & said he should be ready to make me advantageous offers for the book on the better plan.

124. The letters of the evening of the same day attend to the business matters here omitted.

125. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year is obvious.

126. See a note on Sept.? *c.* 3? 1871.

But it is wonderful that you can care for this book, – to have worked so thoughtfully & perseveringly on it & for it, with your husband & your Cupids & Psyches around you, & houses to build & to keep! And Will's own hand I found abundantly in these quires: surely this book is bound to be good.

Ellen has told you, I suppose, of Edward's note that came home in the tug.[127] He had received on board Putnam's letter which he had anxiously expected. Farewell, dear child!

R. W. E.

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, September 6, 1871[128]

Concord
Sept 6 Evening

Dear Will,

I did not have time to add to my note this P. M. that I saw Mr Osgood yesterday & talked with him I have transferred Mr Osgood, &c. to a note[129] to Edith, & will now thank you for your suggestions in your last note in regard to the B. & M. Railroad's propositions. I think I will try to buy the $500 Bond which they allot to me, & the $7\frac{1}{2}$ shares of stock. But my intelligence ends with what they say of the bond; and I cannot understand what they say of the stock. How am I to make my $7\frac{1}{2}$ shares in stocks which they allot, avail me as integers? Must I buy 11 rights more, or only one right? You will have to answer these simple questions, not simple to me. On the three & the five days of payment, I believe I can be ready, but probably not so easily on the one day proposed. If I can buy a half share, or sell a half share, shall I be then competent to take the 8 or 7 shares of stock at their price, $15? We clubbed our rights in this house for me to use, & so I claim on 31 shares of stock, & suppose I have 10 to sell. When you come to Boston, will you not put me through this labyrinth?

At your suggestion, I called on Abraham Jackson & reminded him that you had asked him to send me the July rents. He looked grave, & asked me how much money I wanted. I said, "the amount of the rents. Are they not collected?" He said, "They are not yet collected, & he

127. For the voyage to Europe, *cf.* the letters of the 4th of this month.

128. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This obviously belongs with the other letters of Sept. 6, 1871.

129. Of the same date. This explains why Emerson drew several transverse lines through the preceding sentence.

had had much trouble with two of his tenants." I said, "Then you shall pay me the rent of the Plymouth House, $62.50" which he did.

I saw Edward off yesterday [130] He did not find the Oberlin professor as his room-mate but an Italian priest. The company was good & he believed he could make an exchange between his priest & the inmate of another berth that would fit both the priest & himself agreeably.

Always affectionately Yours

R. W. Emerson

W. H. Forbes.

To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, September 10, 1871 [131]

Concord, 10 Sept '71

Dear Will,

We are all glad to hear steadily good news from you of yourself your wife & the little people. If I were sure of your coming on Monday I should go to Boston on that day; — no, you would not be there in the forenoon; well, then on Tuesday. The best way to be sure is that you should compassionate your rural relatives & come & get your cup of tea & bed here on Monday night, & we will bring all your virtues into exercise to execute our weighty commissions on Tuesday. If you are unequal to such risks as coming to Concord on Monday night, I do not know but I shall venture to come to Boston on Tuesday in trust to find you: So you will not escape me, & had better surrender on Monday Night here.

Seriously your invitation to Naushon is very kind & attractive but is utterly out of my power to accept at present. For just the work I am now doing, all my books & all my MSS must be within my reach & the Azalea [132] could hardly carry them. Tell Edith that we have rested in the conclusion to let Parnassus go to the next year — with great improvements.[133] And that we like well the right name now settled for her boy.[134] Ellen is asleep & cannot send a message even to add the assurance of her love to that of my wife & myself to each & all of you.

R. W. Emerson

130. *Cf.* a note on Sept. 4, 1871, to Conway. Apparently there was no Oberlin professor who actually sailed in the "Malta." The Italian priest may have been the "Rev L Acqurone" of Gloucester named in the passenger list published in the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, Sept. 7.

131. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

132. The Forbes yacht mentioned in a note on Sept. 10, 1869.

133. See a note on Sept.? *c.* 3? 1871.

134. See Aug. 29, 1871.

## To Edward Waldo Emerson, Concord? September *c.* 20? 1871 [135]

Of course Ellen with eyes finds events & persons daily, but the heavy ones at home a plentiful lack of both. Parnassus by advice of Mr Fields, & so of Osgood, is postponed to the next year for the sake of embodying it by the proposed criticisms,[136] & of course I am the last to object to a postponement on whatever ground. I learn from Conway (2 Sept.) that Carlyle has got as far on the way home,[137] as to Caithness; so I trust you will find him now at Chelsea. One cannot every day be in England, so I shall not regret if you are detained by any good reason except health. Tis high time I think that you were furnished with my letters to Mr Bancroft & Herman Grimm on the contingency that you be advised to go to Berlin for a surgeon, before you sit down in Cassel, and I will send them to London.[138] At home one is ever thoughtless, or I should have bethought me of my old convictions that one should not go to Europe without special study & notes beforehand of things & places he must see. Indeed I have now & then made memoranda of objects I have read of, & wished to realize. Well, you will have vacations, & we must each transmit to you our notes that you may see & hear for us. Also if we believe Ellen's fable that we shall yet all go together, — what shall we not see?

Affe[ctionately]

## To Moncure Daniel Conway, Concord, October 2, 1871 [139]

Concord
2 October '71

My dear Sir,

I am as often befals me a little shocked on perceiving that

135. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This letter follows, on the same sheet, a letter from Ellen to her brother dated Concord, Sept. 16, 1871, and "Tuesday" (presumably Sept. 19). Mention of Conway's letter makes it probable that the date of Emerson's writing was as late as the 20th, by which time Conway's letter could surely have reached Concord. Part of Emerson's complimentary close and, presumably, his signature have been cut away.

136. *Cf.* Sept.? *c.* 3? 1871, and later letters.

137. From a trip to the Orkneys, at least so Conway reported (London, Sept. 2, 1871). This letter from Conway presumably came in the steamer "Samaria," which sailed, with mail, from Liverpool on Sept. 7 and arrived at Boston on the 19th (*Boston Daily Advertiser*, Sept. 20).

138. But apparently Emerson delayed sending any such letters for months to come (see Dec. 17 and *c.* 18? 1871).

139. MS owned by Mrs. Mildred Conway Sawyer; ph. in CUL.

my date is just one month later than the date of your note [140] to which I wished to make immediate reply: but I must not waste a line more than to own it. Tis so habitual with me that my correspondents must even expect it. Your note was a great relief to me as showing that you had received my previous reply [141] in regard to Mr Froude. You do not say but my inference now was that you & Mr Froude had understood that our use of " this year " meant 1871 against 1872; when it did mean, with Mr J. A. Lowell & me, the Lecture Year which ended with April '71; & the present month, October 71, begins the new Lyceum year. Mr Lowell had accordingly reserved a course of lectures for Mr Froude to fill, & wrote to me soon after your note arrived to inquire if Mr F. would come & when. I called on him & read to him what you said on the subject. He was sorry for the change of plan, but said that his reserved course was waited for, & would be filled, but it would be practicable to find or make a new course for Mr F. if he should come this Winter. And I doubt not that if he should now send me word [142] that he will arrive here in November or December, he could easily be supplied with audiences in the great cities

For Mr Hotten, — he weighs heavily on my soul.[143] I have been oc-

140. Dated London, Sept. 2, 1871.

141. Of Apr. 16 and *c.* 17? 1871.

142. See the note on Nov. 15 of this year to Froude.

143. Emerson, advanced in age and losing much of his power as a literary craftsman, found it hard to set himself to long tasks and to assume new responsibilities. Earlier letters to Conway show how troublesome John Camden Hotten's insistence on a book was from the first (*cf.* especially Sept. 29, 1870). That Hotten's project continued to make trouble for some time is clear from a fairly complete record contained in extant correspondence. On Sept. 1, 1872, Edith Emerson Forbes wrote from Naushon Island to J. R. Osgood, asking him to try to persuade Conway not to include a long introduction with the book of Emerson's essays then being prepared for publication. She explained that her father never wished to have introductions in his books and hoped Conway could make some other use of what had been written for that purpose. Conway to Osgood, London, Sept. 18, 1872, explained that the introduction he had prepared was intended for a volume of reports of lectures in England, magazine articles, and so forth, which Hotten said he was collecting. Conway had written his introduction for £50, and probably some thousands of copies were already in print; but he would gladly give up his £50 if Hotten would desist. Conway to Osgood, Sept. 21, said he had succeeded in getting Hotten to omit the introduction, which was, Conway thought, quite unsuited to the volume now being prepared (the volume on which Emerson had come to an agreement with Hotten — not the book of magazine articles, and so forth, that Hotten had originally projected).

It is probable, I think, that a complete understanding was reached when Emerson was abroad in 1872–1873. But on July 4 of the latter year, Conway wrote from London that Hotten was dead. On July 26, 1873 (MS owned by Mrs. Mildred Conway Sawyer), Conway entered into a formal agreement with Charlotte Hotten, the

cupied for months with an earlier engagement to Osgood & Co. which, being at last, as I thought, fulfilled, & my work carried to them, they brought such earnest reason for some radical changes in its character & arrangement [144] that I who am always delighted with a delay " till next year " readily complied only regretting that I had thus lost the best time I could have commanded for Hotten's Book. Now I am toiling at that & mean to have some of my best unpublished matter in it but I have been very unfit for work in several weeks & I have discovered with alarm that the " year " was to end in September at least that is the date of his note to me & I suppose that my date must have corresponded. Tell him I do nothing at present but work at that book, in my study hours, &, though I cannot work fast, I count strongly on its being worth waiting for. I hope soon to send him a portion of copy. Yours

R. W. Emerson

It was the unexpected & unrefusable opportunity of my journey to California which took two months out of my working season that has mainly delayed my work.

To Sarah Freeman Clarke, Concord, October 6, 1871 [145]

Concord, 6 October, 1871

My dear friend,

I received two days ago your note & gift, with great pleasure. The two heads help me to see each better, but waken new curiosity to see the old marbles themselves. I shall find the sonnet which it seems

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widow, binding Hotten's heirs and successors to turn over to Conway, on payment by him of £30 to cover the expense of printing and manufacture and the further sum of £45 in settlement of an account, all printed copies of *Emerson and his Friends*, prepared by Conway and Ireland, and never to publish or countenance publication of that work without the consent of the authors. The same memorandum of agreement declared that Hotten's heirs and successors should " not within the next twelve months, or provided that R Waldo Emerson supplies the book herinafter promised, then at no future time – publish any volume of the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson objected to by the said R W Emerson his exors, admin^rs or assigns . . ." This agreement was made for Mrs. Hotten by Andrew Chatto, and, more than two years later, Chatto & Windus finally published the English edition of *Letters and Social Aims*. A printed copy of *Emerson and his Friends* in the possession of Mr. Edward Waldo Forbes bears a notation by Edith Emerson Forbes indicating that the book was never published and was not bound until it came into her possession. There are 139 pages, on the last of which appears Ireland's name and the date June 21, 1870.

144. *Cf.* a note on Sept.? *c.* 3? 1871, and see later letters of the same month.

145. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. For Sarah Clarke as a resident of Italy, *cf.* Oct. 10, 1854; and, in later years, *James Freeman Clarke*, pp. 335 and 337–338.

Alfieri wrote on the "Dying Alexander," [146] which I have never read. He is a chief favorite of Plutarch especially in the "Morals," where are two fine chapters about him.[147] The first glance at the Capitoline head suggests the Belvidere Apollo. This from the Uffizi [148] is specially welcome to me as recalling & completing my little episode of Landor at Florence.[149]

Well, you will go back to your old city prodigally rich, I own, to the imagination in history & biography, in art, yes, & in Nature. Yet I hope you will not stay too long. This forming America is greater, vastly in hope & possibility, which you are bound to help to build. I have few friends & though always hitherto hindered by my fagging occupations from satisfying interviews, have steadily counted on you as one, & the time is always to come when we can be easy neighbors. but you must be long-suffering & kind to

Your bad brother & friend,
R. W. Emerson

Miss Sarah Clarke.

### To Edwin Percy Whipple, Concord, October 12, *c.* 1871?

[MS listed, without year, and partly quoted in C. F. Libbie & Co., Apr. 7–8, 1903; Emerson says he has just been "tampering with verses" and is "not without some envy at the wisdom of adhering to this 'cool element of prose,' in which one need never be ridiculous." The recommendation of prose recalls Whipple's chapter on "Lowell as a Prose Writer" (in *Outlooks on Society, Literature and Politics,* 1888). That chapter may well have been written in 1871, if one may judge by the books on which it is based; but I find no proof that it was published in Emerson's lifetime. The year of the present letter remains, therefore, extremely uncertain.]

### To Ellen Emerson, Concord, October 19, 1871 [150]

Concord, 19 Oct '71

Dear Ellen,

Nothing has occurred in Concord of mark except the Chicago

146. "Alessandro Magno moribondo" (p. 454 in the Naples edition of the *Opere,* 1861); but frequently printed without a title.

147. The two orations on Alexander the Great are in the first volume of the Boston edition of *Plutarch's Morals,* for which Emerson provided the introduction (*cf.* Aug. 10, 1870, to Ellen Emerson).

148. Probably the bust in the Uffizi doubtfully called "The Dying Alexander" in Augustus J. C. Hare, *Florence,* London and New York, n. d., p. 43.

149. *Cf.* letters of May, 1833, and later.

150. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

meeting,[151] last night, which was well attended, Judge Hoar presiding, Mr Fay, who had just returned from the ruins, reciting to the company his experiences of a fire reaching say, from Concord to Lexington, & one mile wide. He told them well: & answered questions A committee was appointed of one from every school district, (Mr Reynolds from ours) was appointed to solicit subscriptions. The Michigan & Wisconsin sufferers[152] were also to share in the contribution. Yesterday Bret Harte departed[153] with Mr Keyes,[154] at 11 o'clock, to take the train from Lexington, – an easy, kindly, well-behaved man, who interested your mother by his account of his wife, who is a despairing invalid.[155] Mr Channing positively refused to have any part in his reception, guidance, or dinner. Mr Keyes brought him therefore exactly at 2 o'c to dine carried him to his house to tea & brought him back to sleep & again yesterday took him in a boat on the the river. Yesterday morn came Edward's letter to me from Cassel, Oct. 3)[156] with details of London; a letter also for Anna K.[157] I think Edith must wait for mine till you come home, & perhaps, too, tis safest to keep it here, that she may be surer to come on Monday – (is it not?) with her welcome household. Give my love to Will & her. Somehow your stamps got postponed!

R. W. E.

## To Anna B. Bull, Concord? October 30, 1871

[Anna (Mrs. C. H.) Bull, in a letter to Emerson from Quincy, Ill., Nov. 11, 1871, said she was glad to learn from his of Oct. 30 that Chicago friends were brave in the midst of calamity, was pleased with the prospect of seeing him in Quincy, and hoped to hear from him as soon as his plans were definite. Probably he wrote again soon afterwards. The Chicago fire is mentioned in Oct. 19, 1871; and the visit to Quincy, in Dec. 17 and *c.* 18? following.]

151. The great Chicago fire had broken out on Oct. 8 of this year. The area burned was about three and one-third square miles.

152. *The New York Herald*, Oct. 15, 1871, told of widespread desolation caused by fires in various parts of Michigan and estimated the area burned in the region of Green Bay, Wis., at three thousand square miles and the number of deaths there as from a thousand to two thousand.

153. In *Journals*, X, 362–363, Emerson recorded something of his conversation with Harte. Henry Childs Merwin, *The Life of Bret Harte*, 1911, p. 227, quotes Howells on the younger man's amusement at Emerson's jest about a wet night over a glass of sherry. *Cf.* also George R. Stewart, *Bret Harte*, 1931, pp. 202–203.

154. Perhaps John S. Keyes.

155. Anna Griswold Harte survived her husband (Merwin, p. 279).

156. This date was written in the left margin, doubtless as an afterthought; and only one parenthetical mark was needed to set it off.

157. *Cf.* a note on Aug. 29, 1871.

## To Anne Whitney, Concord, November 12, 1871 [158]

*Concord*
November 12, 1871.

Dear Miss Whitney,

Your note is very kind, interests me, & should be commanding. And still I have grave reasons that appear to threaten disobedience. I never find myself in my face, — dislike, almost to pain, every copy or photograph of it that has been taken, — two busts included, and must believe that the fault is not in the copies, but in the subject.

If I should waive this objection, because truth is more important than good looks, — I should have then to consider that I have no time to sit for months to come, being now under engagements for work that should be done in December, & will not be ended, I fear, before February.[159] And now lastly, Mr Phillips pressed me many months ago, urging the wishes of Mr Milmore, (of whose wishes I had heard much earlier,) to sit to him.[160] At last I promised to go & see Mr M., & see some of his works. I went once & failed to find him: but I still hold myself bound to visit him, & should find it embarrassing to refuse him, except on the ground that I would not sit at all to a sculptor. For I have heard of his desire for years. So bad is my case. It occurs to me the question — Is it possible to sit to you, & to Milmore, at the same time? in the same room? Or is this only comic, with the addition to the humour, that the sitter knew that his figure might sorely disappoint the genius of the artists. I have given you the whole of my dilemma. It only remains to thank you heartily for the feeling that prompted your valued note.

With great regard, Yours,
R. W. Emerson

Miss Anne Whitney.

158. MS owned by Mr. Oliver R. Barrett; ph. in CUL. Anne Whitney, an American sculptress, was about fifty years old at this time. She wrote again, Boston, Nov. 16, 1871, urging Emerson to sit for his bust.

159. Even the later date was too hopeful an estimate.

160. Wendell Phillips, June 17, 1870, had asked Emerson to call sometime on Milmore, who wished to show his busts of Boutwell, Phillips, and others. Phillips wrote again, Sept. 8, 1872, asking an opportunity for Milmore to finish his bust of Emerson before the sculptor should leave for Rome. A fragment of Emily Mervine Drury's diary now in CUL contains this comment:

"Mr Wendell Phillips says that Ralph Waldo Emerson's head is a very difficult one to render in marble but that Milmore's bust of him is serene, full of force, with 'just that suspicion of a smile which always lingers round Emerson's mouth and softens the vigorous whole of a head fit to hold that marvelous genius.'"

## To James Anthony Froude, Concord? November 15, 1871

[Mentioned in the letter of the same date to Conway and acknowledged in Froude, London, Dec. 3 (1871). Froude said that he would make use of the suggestions regarding arrangements for the lectures he had planned to give in America on the history of the English in Ireland and that he would be glad to renew his acquaintance with Emerson, "to whom I lie under deeper obligations than to any other living writer except Carlyle."]

## To Moncure Daniel Conway, Concord, November 15, 1871 [161]

Concord
15 November '71

My dear Sir,

I have been very slow in writing to you when I had much reason for writing to acknowledge your great kindness to Edward,[162] who did not fail to send home word of all the pleasure & benefits you had added to his visit to London. He was very sensible of your kindness, as all in this house also are. Your letter [163] brought relief also to me in saying that Mr Hotten did not yet revolt on account of my slow performance. Please to tell him that I shall have to try his patience yet longer I have spent a good deal of time to finish the first paper for the Book: [164] it has grown a much longer chapter than I intended, but it is an important one, & I cannot afford to slight it. I see plainly however that Mr H. must still add to his patience since in the firm belief that I should have my work ended by 1 December I long since promised lectures in Baltimore Peabody Institute,[165] & in some western cities,[166] for December & for January, which will force me to suspend my work at this book for some weeks. But I shall not rest until this book is finished.

My intention is to have the book printed here by Osgood & Co. & carefully corrected by me; then to send the corrected proof sheets to Mr Hotten, & keep our plates ready, & when he informs me of the day

161. MS owned by Mrs. Mildred Conway Sawyer; ph. in CUL.

162. *Cf.* Sept. 4, 1871, to Conway.

163. Conway, London, Oct. 16, in answering the letter of Oct. 2, 1871, says it will no doubt reassure Hotten, who was excited by a news paragraph stating that Emerson's book was immediately forthcoming.

164. Apparently the first paper ready, and the only one ready as late as the summer of 1872, was "Poetry and Imagination" (Cabot, in his *Standard Library Edition*, VIII, ii).

165. See letters of Jan. 4 ff., 1872.

166. See Dec. 17 and *c.* 18? 1871.

when he is ready to publish, we shall proceed to press at the same time. I shall be peremptory in keeping back the book here until his day.

Mr George Bradford brings me very pleasing accounts of yourself & of your family & your large activities & success.[167] I am only sorry to pester you with my literary dolours.

With great regard, yours,
R. W. Emerson

I have written a note to Mr Froude to put him in correspondence, if he will, with a "literary Bureau" here which may be important to him in the prospect of his visit to us.

## To James Bradley Thayer, Concord, November 15, 1871 [168]

Concord, 15 Nov^r '71

Dear Mr Thayer,

All this family entreat all of yours that you will come duly to Concord & to us on Thursday 30^th^ instant, to keep the Thanksgiving Day.

Your affectionate
R. W. Emerson

J. B. Thayer, Esq.

## To Edward Waldo Emerson, Concord, December 17 and *c.* 18? 1871 [169]

Concord, 17 December, '71

Dear Edward,

I have not written to you, of whom I think day & night, only for the reason that I write with difficulty any line not absolutely necessary, in these months occupied & darkened by successive tasks, as, the "Parnassus," now reprieved, – the Hotten book,[170] – the Chi-

167. For Bradford's travels in Europe this year, *cf.* June 30, 1871, to Carlyle.

168. MS owned by Professor James B. Thayer; ph. in CUL.

169. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The third mention of the letter to Grimm (Dec. 18, 1871), as inclosed, and the statement "I write my page by scraps" indicate a period of writing longer than one day.

170. Earlier letters of this year have much to say of both *Parnassus*, which had recently encountered a fresh delay, and "the Hotten book."

cago,[171] & now, the Baltimore 4 lectures,[172] & scores of special ever-arriving letters. — And now, on my new return from Quincy,[173] & Dubuque,[174] &c.[175] I learn with alarm that you are off for Berlin, & have not even a note for Messrs Bancroft[176] & Grimm. You will not need them, since Mr Bancroft will be sure to find you, & will have introduced you to Grimm, I doubt not, before you read this line. Your letters have cheered & delighted us all, approving your good eyes & skilful artistic hands. Excellent was the march from Liverpool to London, wherein your favorite readings served you so well. I regretted nothing but that you should not in my name have waked up some one at Oxford, if it were only Dr Pusey, who must have been at home, & would remember the token he sent me at New Year's;[177] &, at Coventry, Mr Charles Bray, a silk or a ribbon manufacturer, is a steadfast friend of mine for twenty years,[178] & has just sent me his books, & would have carried you over to Stratford upon Avon, as he did me, to Mr E. F. Flower, once, & perhaps now, mayor of S., & my good friend.[179] He once dined with us here.

171. Emerson read "Nature and Art" in the Star Lecture Course on Nov. 27. A local paper reported that a "coldly-intellectual" audience greeted the lecturer with mild applause. He gave the impression of belonging to an earlier age. "His clothes were clerical, and without wrinkle. His linen was without spot. The buttons were pearl. His hair was long, white, thin and combed closely to his head, as in early colonial days. His manner was slightly stiff and awkward but that of the true gentleman." At the close of his lecture he read a poem from John Sterling, "Dædalus," which, no doubt, he had already determined to include in *Parnassus*. (See the *Chicago Tribune*, Nov. 25 and 29, 1871.)

172. See letters of Jan. 4 ff., 1872.

173. The *Daily Evening Call*, Dec. 1, 1871, announced that Emerson would lecture that night for the benefit of the Quincy Library but gave no subject. The same paper for the following day stated that he would give a "conversation" on men and books at the organ rooms of Whitney & Holmes that evening. The MS memorandum book for 1871 gives the subject for Dec. 1 as "Art & Nature," mentions "Readings" for the afternoon of Dec. 2, and adds "Immortality," also for Quincy, under Sunday, Dec. 3.

174. According to Hoeltje (*The Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, XXV, 273–275), Emerson read "Greatness" at Dubuque on Dec. 8, gave a private lecture and conversation at the home of Austin Adams there on the following evening, and spoke the next morning (Sunday, the 10th) on "Immortality" at the Universalist Church.

175. The only lecture engagement listed in the MS memorandum book for 1871 and not mentioned in this letter is for Springfield, Ill., Dec. 5 ("Greatness").

176. George Bancroft, whom Emerson had found in 1847–1848 as the American minister at London, now served in the same capacity at Berlin.

177. See the letter of 1871? to Pusey.

178. *Cf.* Mar. 28, 1854, to Bray, who was the author of some philosophical works.

179. *Cf.* July 10, 1848.

But I ruin all my friendships by not writing. I must try not to lose yours. Ellen will have told you of our Thanksgiving feast, which I lost for the first time in my life (when in the continent), through falsehood, as I believe, of my Chicago correspondent, who insisted that he had my signature to a paper promising to come thither 27 Novr, — whilst my record & his Boston agent's read 4 Decr On his repeated telegraph statements to this effect, I went at last, & being there demanded the signed paper, which he promised three times to bring, & came three times, but never brought; — with uplifted eyes & hands of despair, each time, "had forgotten it." Great damage to the proprieties & to self respect, & to comfort. And you kept yours in Berlin! I am very happy to hear of your mending health, which you must carefully respect over all the studies & professors in the world, since it has been once so severely shaken, & you the only male heir of your line, & with two & now *three* [180] sisters to live for. How dare you be reckless? I must write herewith to Herman Grimm to admonish you. Tell him too that I wish he would nudge the learned continuators of Grimm's Worterbuch [181] to finish the 4th & 5th volumes at least. I have only now got the 3d vol. complete & bound, — the three first. Of the other vols. only lieferungen, & of course useless. I wish I could write German, were it only to correspond with Herman Grimm. Mr Channing's "Wanderer" prospers,[182] I learn, pretty well. The whole edition, Mr Sanborn thinks, is sold or nearly, & Mrs Tappan, Mrs Hunt, & other good readers take pleasure in it. But Howels in the Atlantic gives it a shabby notice.[183] Ellen, I believe, has sent you your copy. Shall I send you our "Atlantics," or does Mr Bancroft show them to you? The new one for January has Dr Holmes's first number of his series. & Bret Harte, & Hawthorne's

180. Perhaps a reference to Anna Keyes, mentioned in earlier letters of this year.

181. The third volume of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm's *Deutsches Wörterbuch* was published some years earlier; the first part of the fourth volume, by Jacob Grimm and his successors, did not appear till years after the present letter.

182. A copy of William Ellery Channing's *The Wanderer. A Colloquial Poem*, Boston, 1871, is still in the Emerson library at the Antiquarian House. The preface is by Emerson. Sanborn was the anonymous editor. According to some unpublished jottings dated Nov. 15, 1871, Emerson received several copies of the book from the publishers on that day. Succeeding notes show how some of these were disposed of. One is recorded as "to E W E." (Typescript *Journals* for 1870–1875.)

183. *The Atlantic*, XXIX, 109 (Jan., 1872), is rather severe on the tone of Emerson's preface as well as on the poem itself. The January number of that magazine was ready, it seems, by the middle of the preceding month (*Boston Daily Advertiser*, Dec. 14, 1871).

newly found story [184] other good matter. It occurs to me suddenly that perhaps I never answered your question what should you do with the letters [185] to Carlyle & Forster, which you took to London? If you have not sent them, send them now: Forster's specially, which was important as an apology. I don't remember what was in Carlyle's, & if nothing but introduction, tis less matter. I found at home, on my return, eleven new volumes to complete the Thirty of the Library Edition of his Works,[186] & must write immediately to acknowledge them.[187] So you need not send his letter, if it has no specialty. I enclose introductory letters to Messrs Bancroft & Grimm, which should go to them (whether you already know them or not,) on my own account; & since it is so easy to send letters to & from Cassel, I shall have confidence that I can send a book or books to Berlin to Mr Grimm, with safety, which I have rarely done, uncertain that my things reached him. For your Accounts with Barings, I have not yet added a dollar to W. H. F.s investment, because of the necessity of paying the instalments at Mr Denison's [188] office which are not yet complete. but in January I shall hope to begin to do my part. And if Mr Wellman shall tell me that the account runs low, I shall make haste.

I write my page by scraps as things occur to me. I grieved the other day that you should have passed through Cologne,[189] unwarned by me that it is that city to which Professor Walraf presented a wonderful antique bust of Medusa Rondanini, which he mortgaged his salary so long as he should live, to buy, & the account of it deeply interested me long ago in a traveller's book, — I think, "Diary of a Physician." [190]

184. Holmes's "The Poet at the Breakfast-table," Harte's "Grandmother Tenterden," and Hawthorne's posthumous "Septimius Felton; or, the Elixir of Life." For Emerson's interest in Harte, *cf.* Oct. 19, 1871.

185. Of Sept. 4, 1871.

186. The collected works, published by Chapman & Hall, 1869–1871.

187. Jan. 5, 1872.

188. See Apr. 4, 1867, to W. H. Forbes.

189. Ellen Emerson, Dec. 4 and 7, 1871, told her father of receiving a good letter from Edward with an account of Cologne.

190. It is barely possible that Emerson may have had a confused recollection of Samuel Warren's *Passages from the Diary of a Late Physician,* the second series of which (Leipsic, 1844, p. 19) alludes to Medusa but not at all to the Rondanini Medusa or imitations of it. Furtwängler, p. 156, describes a colossal mask in Cologne as having only a very distant dependence on the Rondanini mask now in Munich. Ferdinand Franz Wallraf's legacy was the beginning of what is now the Wallraf-Richartz Museum, but Wallraf's gift was mainly of paintings (Émile Michel, *Le Musée de Cologne,* 1884, pp. 8 and 10).

I wished to take ship & sail for Cologne. Then I have marked, in Vol X of Varnhagen von Ense's Tagebücher, one or two surprising *Echoes,*[191] which he mentions in German towns, & which I mean to give you exact notes for, when I go to the Athenaeum. When Edith is ready to go I hope I shall have collected more notes of the kind.

Meantime I can only say with great content that every one who knows you takes pleasure in assuring me how dearly you are remembered.

Affectionately, R. W. Emerson

### To William Henry Furness, Concord, December 17, 1871

[MS owned by Mr. Horace Howard Furness Jayne; printed in *Records of a Lifelong Friendship,* pp. 152–153.]

### To Herman Grimm, Concord, December 18, 1871

[MS owned by the Goethe- und Schiller-Archiv. Printed in *The Atlantic,* XCI, 479 (Apr., 1903), and in *Correspondence between Ralph Waldo Emerson and Herman Grimm,* pp. 89–90.]

### To George Bancroft, Concord? December 18? 1871

[Mentioned in the letter of Dec. 17 and *c.* 18? 1871. Edward Waldo Emerson, Berlin, Feb. 18, 1872, said he had given his father's letter to Bancroft.]

### To Benjamin B. Wiley, Concord, December 29, 1871[192]

Concord
29 Dec. 1871

My dear Sir

I send by mail with this note, 2 copies of the old photographs of my head, — one for you, one for Rev. Laird Collier.[193] They

191. Emerson probably found much to interest him in *Aus dem Nachlass Varnhagen's von Ense. Tagebücher von K. A. Varnhagen,* 1861 and later, where there are many interesting comments on Bettina von Arnim and several on Emerson himself. In X, 196 (published 1868), he probably saw the note on Laacher See — "Wunderschöner Wiederhall in der Kirche."

192. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is a copy, not in Emerson's hand.

193. The MS memorandum book for 1871, entry of Nov. 30, shows that Emerson celebrated Thanksgiving in Chicago at the home of Robert Laird Collier, who is not to be confused with Robert Collyer, also a Unitarian minister for some years in Chicago and likewise known to Emerson. In the same entry is Wiley's address. The unpublished portion of a diary entry dated Dec. 14, 1871, includes the reminder that "I am bound to send Southworth's large photograph" to both Collier and Wiley (typescript *Journals* for 1870–1875).

would have gone earlier, but I have been little in Boston since I saw you, & needed to find the artist. Thanks for your note, – for the goodness of yourself, & for the surprising news of St. Charles[194] – I had thought he would content himself with dreaming, that is creating his Europe, without descending to the vulgar method of eyes. But he actually went to the war,[195] & why not now to London? But being there, I doubt his early return. Nothing but bad news from his bankers would bring him home, him for whom old civilization has an endless charm, & America onla[196] a solitude. I should be well content that he should stay until I get through my enforced tasks, – to the end of which I fancy I can see, – then I believe I could joyfully see & adequately entertain him.

With all kind regards
R. W. Emerson –

B. B. Wiley Esq.

## To Edward Bouverie Pusey, Concord? 1871?[197]

My dear Sir,

I ought long since to have acknowledged to you the surprise & pleasure which the arrival of your gift on a New-Year's morning, brought me – The giver, the book & the oracular inscription,[198] combined to make a unique experience which still charms me. – I do not easily remember a kindness more pleasing, certainly none more surprising.

This confession will only show you how remote from the influences of the English Church my youth & manhood passed,[199] that I can be

194. Wiley, Chicago, Dec. 22, 1871, said he had learned that Charles Newcomb was in Europe. For his residence there some months later, *cf.* the note on Sept.? *c.* 23? 1872.

195. *Cf. Journals,* VI, 162.

196. The spelling is doubtless the copyist's.

197. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is an undated copy, not in Emerson's hand. The copyist indicates the person addressed. The date is pretty clearly earlier than that of Emerson's third visit to Europe but is not earlier than 1871, as is shown by evidence cited below.

198. *Journals,* X, 349–350, mentions the gift of "*Lectures on Daniel and the Prophets*"– presumably *Daniel the Prophet* is meant – and records the "oracular inscription" but indicates that the book arrived, not on New Year's Day, but about the first of March, 1871.

199. In spite of his mother's sympathy with that church (*cf.* Nov. 22, 1858, to Ward).

astonished when its most eminent & committed prophet salutes me as I pass, — me so ignorant of all his ecclesiastic annals & centurials & their results at this moment. — his friendly eye in despite of the difference of ritual & method detecting unity of essence & aim in our far-separated paths.

I have often recalled a moment in my visit to Oxford in 1848, (whilst I was the guest of Arthur Clough, then a fellow of Oriel) [200] when J. A. Froude, in giving me some sketch of his then recent experience, pointed out to me a window in your chambers & said, " From that window came all our light " [201]

And I am the more deeply grateful, by the magnanimity that gives me right to claim its later rays as falling on me also. I know well what profound affection & respect those friends of mine bore to you, & I am sure it would be to them a satisfaction that their kindness to myself had this authorization from your own large heart.

The history of religion was never more deeply interesting than in our days. & I suppose that every mind in proportion to its insight & virtue, has pondered the arrived & the threatened revolutions without any loss of faith in the eternal pillars which we so differently name, but cannot choose but see their identity in all healthy souls. —

With very kind regards

R. W. Emerson.

To Pauline Rose Stewart Blaze de Bury, Concord? *c.* 1871?

[The second of two letters mentioned in the note on *c.* 1870? to Mme Blaze de Bury.]

200. See the letter of Apr. 2 and 6, 1848.

201. This anecdote is told in the *Journals* entry cited above.

# 1872

## To Lidian Emerson, Baltimore, January 4, 1872 [1]

Barnums Hotel
Baltimore
4 Jan$^{y}$ '72

Dear Lidian,

Tell Edith that with all her care to give me the name of the right hotel, I had lost all memory of it when I arrived, &, asking of the conductor the names of the good houses, I fancied " the Maltby " might be it; but he assured me that could not be, as it was a second class house. Was it St Clair? I did not know, &, in the doubt came to this house, whither I had come twice before, long since, & of course am well entertained. Mr Morison came to find me, & all went easily enough. I have seen Mr Guild [2] the Unitarian clergyman here, whom I knew already; Mr Cole, & others whom I remembered, – and tonight at my second lecture, Walt Whitman presented his picturesque person, with Mr Burroughs [3] the author of " Wake-Robin," Whitman bringing Sumner's invitation that I should come to him tomorrow. As I am now free

1. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The *Baltimore American and Commercial Advertiser* of Jan. 1, 1872, gave the schedule of Emerson's course at the Peabody Institute: " Imagination and Poetry," Jan. 2; " Resources and Inspiration," 4; " Homes and Hospitality," 9; " Art and Nature," 11. N. H. Morison, Provost, signed the advertisement. The subjects and dates given in the newspaper also appear in the MS memorandum book for 1872.

2. Edward C. Guild (*Woods's Baltimore City Directory* for 1872).

3. In a letter to Edward Dowden, Jan. 20, 1872, Whitman sent an account of Emerson's recent lectures and recorded his dissatisfaction because the lecturer showed no signs of adapting himself to new times and events but had " about the same attitude as twenty-five or thirty years ago " (*With Walt Whitman in Camden*, I, 321). Burroughs, who had gone down to Baltimore, " dragging Walt " with him, to hear Emerson, told a friend of the accidental meeting with the lecturer at the entrance to the hall, of the conversation there, of another meeting at Washington, and of the impression the lectures made: Burroughs agreed with Whitman that the lectures were not relevant to the great issues of the time and was " utterly tired of these scholarly things " (Clara Barrus, *Whitman and Burroughs*, 1931, pp. 65–66, where the year is wrongly given as 1871).

until next Tuesday, I shall probably go tomorrow to Washington,[4] & any letters to Mr Sumner's care will be likely to reach me, if sent the next day after your receipt of this. Later, direct to *Care of N. H. Morison, Provost of Peabody Institute, Baltimore, Md.* The Tiffanys, too, I have seen, and the fine drawings of the artist Tiffany.[5] Hither came tonight a letter from Tom Ward asking me to call on Miss Howard,[6] & giving her address; & at Mr Morison's tea table, I found a cousin of hers (who is the wife of Mr Morison's son,) who offers to guide me to her house. I regret to learn that Miss Howard is a Catholic. What fatalities surround that noble youth! I grieve at the pain this fact will give his father.

Baltimore is a fine city as large as Boston is now, & with a new prosperity since the war which had stopped its growth.

On the whole, it is not worth while to send me any letters that arrive for me, unless they are important. I must be here on Tuesday & Thursday next, & on Friday shall go to Philadelphia or New York, & on Saturday night shall be at West-Point, where a letter will find me, *Care of Captain O. H. Ernst, Capt. of Engineers, U. S. A.*[7]

You had better send this letter to Ellen. With love to Will & Edith, who are perfect in goodness, yours affectionately,

R. W. E.

## To Thomas Carlyle, Baltimore, January 5, 1872

[MS owned by RWEMA; incompletely printed in *C–E Corr.*, 1883.]

## To Lidian Emerson, Baltimore, January 9, 1872[8]

Barnum's
Baltimore, 9 Jan. '71

Dear Lidian,

I am sorry to say I cannot reach home sooner than Thursday, 18th, or so it looks today; for my engagement at New Brunswick is

4. The MS memorandum book for 1872 has for Jan. 5: "At Washington, at Charles Sumner's . . ." For the lecture there later and an informal address, see Jan. 9 following.

5. Several Tiffanys are listed in *Woods's Baltimore City Directory* for 1872, but not Louis Comfort Tiffany, the artist.

6. See Jan. 11, 1872.

7. The same address is given under Jan. 13 in the MS memorandum book for this year. Oswald H. Ernst was an instructor at West Point and commanded a company of engineers there.

8. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Emerson's year is clearly a "January error." For lectures at Baltimore, see a note on Jan. 4, 1872.

altered to Monday, 15th;[9] & I have been coaxed last night by a Washington committee into coming back to W. on the night of the 16th[10] so that[11] after I had consented to come to them on an earlier day, — which is, it seems, impossible to them. My visit to Sumner, who sent a messenger (no less than Walt Whitman)[12] to invite me to his house — was throughout interesting & agreeable. He lives alone in a charming house filled with pictures, sculpture, & prints, & at each meal with friends: he works incessantly at his desk with a selfpossession that no company can disturb, & yet fails not to supply every want, convenience, & furtherance to his guests. Reporters, clients, & visiters come in & consult him at breakfast, &c. & seem never to be excluded. Mr S. Hooper[13] carried me on Sunday to Arlington, & the National Cemetery; &, in the afternoon, I called on Professor Baird,[14] the ornithologist, who had come to me the day before, & had a valuable conversation with him on the present aspects of science, Darwin, Agassiz, &c returned to Sumner's to dine with Sir Edw- Thornton the English minister Mr Hooper, George Curtis,[15] Senator Anthony, & others. A very pleasant party. Early in the morning I had been carried to General Howard's Freedmen's Institute, an important college for the colored men, & compelled by an artifice to speak to them.[16] Nevertheless I survived. Yesterday Congress reopened after the vacation, & Sumner carried me to the Senate Chamber,[17] & introduced me to several senators, Trumbull, Schurz, Morrill & others. Wilson I saw, &c. &c. but rushed out at the end of a half hour, to catch the

9. Professor Oral S. Coad informs me that *The New-Brunswick Daily Fredonian* of Jan. 15, 1872, announced " Attractive Homes " for that evening, under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A., and that the same paper reported, on the following day, a large audience fully up to the average intelligence but unable to appreciate Emerson.

10. *The Daily Patriot,* Washington, Jan. 16, 1872, stated that Emerson would read " Greatness " in the G. A. R. course that evening.

11. Apparently Emerson suddenly changed the structure of his sentence but failed to alter what he had written.

12. *Cf.* Jan. 4, 1872.

13. Congressman from Massachusetts.

14. Spencer Fullerton Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution.

15. George William Curtis was a member of the advisory board which prepared regulations for appointments to the civil service of the United States (Edward Cary, pp. 216–225).

16. I have found no Washington paper that notices this address; but it is printed, apparently in full, in the *New-York Tribune,* Jan. 11, 1872, p. 5 — " What Books to Read. By Ralph Waldo Emerson. An Address Delivered before the Law Students of Howard University." It is here dated Jan. 7, and the MS memorandum book for 1872 confirms this date.

17. The MS memorandum book, under Jan. 8: " At the Senate House Returned to Baltimore." Lyman Trumbull was from Illinois, Carl Schurz from Missouri, Justin Smith Morrill from Vermont, and Henry Wilson from Massachusetts.

Baltimore train, — so did not go into the House. On Saturday, I had already visited the Capitol thoroughly, with the guidance of Major Poor; [18] & found my old friend Spofford,[19] formerly of Cincinnati, now for many years the valuable Librarian of Congress. Then to the Smithsonian Institute, & saw that.

But no more now. I fear that Ellen has no money for her household scrip. She must, of course, ask Will H. F. to pay her what she needs from my coupons of B. & M. which I doubt not do yield something 1 Jan.[y]. Dear love to you all.

R. W. Emerson

## To Ellen Emerson, Baltimore, January 11, 1872 [20]

Barnum's Hotel —
Baltimore, Jan. 11, 72

Dear Ellen,

I believe I told your Mother my short system of the next days. I have read, this ev.[g], my fourth lecture here, & tomorrow, after making my calls, shall make my journey to New York, not being due at West Point until Saturday night. Thence to Washington on Monday night, & mean to leave that city the same night for home, but have not yet ciphered the sum to compute the hour of creeping into Bush.[21] Of course shall endeavor to arrive at the [22] hour of your ball or Theatricals. Tom obeyed your commands & sent me a note giving me Miss Howard's address,[23] & asking me to call upon her. I arranged with her cousin, Mrs

18. Probably Ben Perley Poore, major in a Massachusetts regiment during the Civil War and now the Washington correspondent of a Boston paper (*Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia*, 1872).

19. Ainsworth Rand Spofford appears in various earlier letters.

20. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. For the lectures at Baltimore and Washington and for the visit to West Point, see earlier letters of this month.

21. "Bush" was, in Emerson's later years, and is still, a name used in the family for the Concord home. In earlier letters Emerson has various similar humorous epithets for his village.

22. Here an asterisk has been added, referring to this marginal note, apparently in Ellen Emerson's hand: "* This is only a reference to past sad experience." At the top of this first page of the MS is a notation describing the contents of the letter: "Tom Ward's wife Visit to Washington & Baltimore."

23. The preceding note explains Tom Ward's anxiety that Emerson should meet Sophia Howard, and the MS memorandum book for 1872 records Emerson's visit to her on Jan. 10. The "Mrs Morison, Jr." here mentioned was, I conjecture, the wife of Ernest N. Morison, whose address was the same as that of the provost mentioned in Jan. 4, 1872 (*Woods's Baltimore City Directory* for 1872).

Morison, Jr. to go with her yesterday at 4 o'c. I was a little uneasy at her cousin's description of her, as devoted to society, no recluse, no reader, indeed nothing marked. But she received me with perfect grace & simplicity – She is handsome, has good sense, perfect frankness, & listened eagerly to all I said to her of Tom's genius & character, – confessed to knowing little about him, but to loving him much. I believe my eyes watered a little in charging her to study & to cherish him as a lonely unknown treasure, & she showed curiosity & tenderness. I stayed to lunch, & saw her mother (Mrs Reed) [24] & her own sister & brother. This evening I found her again at Mr Morison's, drank tea there, & walked with Sophia to my lecture, & she talked with a pleasing diffidence of herself. So I left her with very good auguries.

I inquired yesterday whether she had heard from Mr Ward. " O yes, very good letters; he had written to her that he had lost his heart to her before Tom had."

Tell Mamma that I have a very good letter from her, & congratulate her on her magnificent expectations from the " Jarndyce vs. Jarndyce " [25] property, which however behaves so well now that it deserves great respect. I am glad you found how to pay Hosmer, & if Will does not demur to your doings, I will not send you any money now that I am so near to the end of my travels. I am happy in your enjoyment of the Lowells & Hoopers.[26] Mr Hooper was very polite to me at Washington, &, if I see him on my short second visit, perhaps I shall show him a part of your letter. Sumner's hospitality was perfect, & his house a library & picture-gallery.

R. W. Emerson

Ellen T. Emerson

24. The MS memorandum book for this year gives, under Jan. 4, the address of F. S. Reed as 210 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore. The initials " S. G." written above " Mr Ward " in the following paragraph of the MS letter are apparently not in Emerson's hand.

25. The suit of Jarndyce and Jarndyce seemed endless in Dickens's satire on the delays of the law, in *Bleak House*. The property here referred to was no doubt that in the care of the troublesome Abraham Jackson, often mentioned in earlier letters.

26. Ellen wrote, 56 Beacon St., Boston, Jan. 6 of this year, that she was at Nina Lowell's, and had much to say about Alice Hooper and her mother. *The Boston Directory* for 1871–1872 shows that 56 Beacon St. was the home of Francis C. Lowell. For Samuel Hooper and for Sumner, see Jan. 9, 1872.

## To Thomas Carlyle, Concord, January 19, 1872 [27]

Concord
19 January '72

My dear Carlyle,

I send my son-in-law, Col. William H. Forbes, & my daughter Edith, his wife, to see your face, & crave your blessing. Colonel Forbes was an officer in the Mass$^{tts}$ Cavalry, & did good service in Virginia, in the War of the Rebellion. His father is one of the best men in Massachusetts, with whom your friends the Amberleys were well acquainted,[28] & the son is very dear to us. Edith has known you all her life as one of our Penates, & I trust she will find you in London, & that you will go & bless her babes. They are on their way to France & Italy, & Germany, & I have charged them to see you, and if not now, then on their return to London. They will appreciate any counsel you shall give them as to places & things in London, or out of it, which they ought to see: and I believe I shall give Edith a secret counsel, which, if she obeys, I hope you will be good, & permit her to carry out.

I wrote you a note, the other day, from Baltimore,[29] to assure you of my reception of the entirety of the "Library Edition," which now greets my eyes proudly yet kindly at home again. I have just now counted them over again,[30] and find 31 vols. and the Index; 32 in all. I am not sure that this agrees with my former count. As I approach my freedom, I shall count them more inwardly.

After reading some lectures to the George "Peabody Institute" in Baltimore, I spent a few days in Washington, with Sumner, & saw many men & some good ones,[31] but am gladly home again.

Always affectionately yours,
R. W. Emerson

Thomas Carlyle, Esq.

27. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. For the voyage of the Forbeses to England, *cf.* other letters of this day and later letters of this year. Their visit to Carlyle is mentioned in Apr. 30, 1872.

28. *Cf.* Nov. 10, 1867, to Sarah Swain Forbes.

29. Jan. 5, 1872.

30. *Cf.* the letter of Dec. 17 and *c.* 18? 1871.

31. See earlier letters of this month.

## To Alexander Ireland, Concord, January 19, 1872 [32]

[I]Concord
19 January, '72[I] —

My dear Ireland,

[II]I wish that my son in law, Col. W. H. Forbes, & my daughter, his wife, should not fail to see you if they reach Manchester in their passage through England to the Continent. They know well your steadfast good will & good action at one time & at all times to me & to my friends, & I have charged them not to fail of seeing you on their way, or else certainly on their return through England. You must show them the specialties of your great city, & you must make them acquainted with Mrs Ireland,[33] whom I have never seen, though I keep her photograph. Tell them, I pray you, all that I should hear from you, & believe me ever yours affectionately,[II]

R. W. Emerson

Alexander Ireland, Esq.

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, January 19, 1872 [34]

Concord 19 Jan[y]

Dear Will,

Thanks for your note. I shall obey your counsel about the writing to Mr Jackson at once.[35] For coming to Milton, I mean to go thither tomorrow, & shall stop at Sears' Building [36] on my way, to find you if you are in town & find you at home, if not in town. Cannot yet promise for Sunday, but will see if that can be. I will bring my letters [37] with me. I am only just finding out how helpless I shall find myself in

32. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I–II are in Ireland, *In Memoriam*, pp. 86–87.

33. Alexander Ireland had married in 1866, as his second wife, Annie Nicholson, later biographer and editor of Jane Welsh Carlyle.

34. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. An "1872" added to the date line is in different ink from that used by Emerson but is obviously correct. Other letters of this date tell of the impending departure, and the MS memorandum book for 1872 records under Jan. 22: "W. H. F & Edith, with their family departed for N. Y. & England."

35. It is not clear whether Emerson wrote.

36. *The Boston Directory* for 1871–1872 shows that the firm of John M. Forbes & Co., of which W. H. Forbes was a member, had an office in the Sears Building.

37. Perhaps business correspondence, or the letters of Jan. 19 to Carlyle and Ireland.

all my affairs whilst you are gone. We shall count the weeks, & not add one to your furlough.

Affectionately [38]
R. W. E.

## To Friedrich Max Müller, Concord, January 21, 1872 [39]

Concord Mass[tts]
21 January, '72

My dear Sir,

I am ashamed that I have let a year pass [40] without acknowledging a token which delighted me in the reception, & still delights me, — the "*Deutsche Liebe*," [41] with your *Vorwort;* and the "Introduction to the Science of Religion." [42] I had been an instructed & grateful reader of your books for years, but had not dreamed of a personal relation, which thus your kind heart gave me. Though an idle man, I have, for a twelvemonth back, been delivered from one task only to another, & thence again to a new, & so have grown a reprobate to my correspondents. Forgive me, & hereafter I shall hope to be better. I am glad to believe that your results are probably known & read by as many souls in America, as in England, though probably here through the public libraries, & not as there from their own. History never had problems more interesting than those on which you have thrown so much light, & we hold you bound to complete their investigation. We have all of us a deep stake in your life & health & happiness.

With very kind regards, Yours,
R. W. Emerson

Professor Max Muller.

38. The spelling is doubtful.

39. MS owned by Sir William Grenfell Max-Muller; ph. in CUL.

40. See *Journals,* X, 350, where Emerson records the gift of a book from Max Müller.

41. The second edition of Max Müller's *Deutsche Liebe,* Leipsic, 1867, has a "Vorwort" dated Jan., 1866.

42. Max Müller's lectures at the Royal Institution in Feb.–Mar., 1870, were printed, within a few months, in *Fraser's Magazine.* In the 1873 edition (*Introduction to the Science of Religion,* pp. vii–viii), the author tells the story of earlier reprints. Emerson probably read the lectures as they appeared either in the privately printed edition or in the American reprint. The letter of Aug. 4, 1873, seems to show that he did not see them in *Fraser's* but is obviously not an entirely accurate statement.

I send this note by the hand of my daughter Edith, who, with her husband, Col. W. H. Forbes, is passing through England,[43] & will be happy to see your face.

### To Henry Adams, Concord? January? *c.* 30? 1872

[Mentioned in Feb. 2, 1872.]

### To William Torrey Harris, Concord, February 2, 1872[44]

Concord
2 February '72

My dear Sir,

I wrote to Mr Henry Adams,[45] the Editor of the "N. American," & he replies that he wishes me to assure you that every communication from Dr Stirling will find access to the Review, & adds, "I will write to him myself in case I can manage to arrange for the publication at any fixed time." I know not exactly what the last lines mean, — perhaps only the doubt whether the paper is ready, & when it can arrive.

By all means urge on Dr Stirling the quick sending of the paper to you or me or the Editor, before he gives it up to a British Journal.[46]

Ever yours,

W. T. Harris, Esq. R. W. Emerson

### To John Muir, Concord, February 5, 1872

[Printed in Badè, I, 259–260. For Emerson's meeting with Muir in California and for early letters from Muir, see the note on May *c.* 6? 1871. The present letter is in reply to one from Muir of nearly a month earlier:

43. *Cf.* the letters of Jan. 19, 1872.

44. MS owned by the Honorable Theodore Harris; ph. in CUL.

45. Letter of Jan.? *c.* 30? 1872. For Adams's editorship of *The North American Review*, see *The Education of Henry Adams*, New York, 1928, pp. 293 and 307.

46. James Hutchison Stirling appears in a number of earlier letters. Harris, St. Louis, Feb. 7, 1872, said he wrote that evening to Stirling, asking him to send his article directly to Emerson. Stirling's appraisal of a new edition of Henry Thomas Buckle came out in *The North American Review* for the following July. Emerson was able to aid the Scottish philosopher, a few years later, in securing publication of more of his work in America (see the letters of July 26 and Nov. 13, 1875, both to Harris).

" Yosemite Valley
" January 10th 72

" Dear Emerson, Here is a sheaflet of winter wheat, ripe & mellow from fields of snow — a plume of Libocedrus golden with staminate cones — It will give you a tingle of beauty, & I will be glad. —

" Would you were here to sing our Yosemite snowbound — to bathe in these fountain lights — to warm in these fountain loves. What prayers push my pen for your coming, but I must hush them all back for our roads are deep blocked with snowbloom

" Farewell, J Muir "

And Muir wrote again in March:

" Yosemite Valley
" March 18th '72

" Dear Emerson, Come to our mountain fountains, Come to Yosemite. Last year you left against law, & I turn to you now in your town & up the Valley to Tissiack to see if there be no misunderstanding betwixt you. There are no apologies in Nature else you would owe her one.

" You cannot be content with last years baptism 'Twas only a sprinkle. Come be immersed. Your hitherward affinities are not half satisfied. I can't understand the laws that control you to Concord. You are called of the Sierras — an atom elect Strange you come not to your magnets. If you will come about June & stay untill October I will have a hut & horse ready for you. You will see not only Yosemite so-called but a hundred others besides & all their compassing Sierras. Yosemite is only one of many & we will dwell with the whole Merced brotherhood, & we will know how they were made, & how they are now changing from glory to glory. You will lose no time, nothing but civilized sins. Think of the soul lavings & bathings you will get Think of the glow of your afterlife. You have been able to look past the fogs of culture to the fountain loves & lives beyond. Here those fountains are bare & unmingled. Here are the shores of all our eternities How blessed 'twill be after all your hard toils to rest hushed & soothed on those plain spirit shores. I do not beckon you here because mountains are more glorious than plains, but because they are less glorious, because they are simple & absorbable. Here we may more easily see God. I know smooth places on the mountains & you will never be wearied. You will have a tent & be warm every night in a sheltered grove or on the plushy bank of a glacier meadow. Do you know the manners of mountain clouds? those angels of lakes & streams? — We will travel like them lingering about rockwalls & brows — waving softly along glacial curves from mountain to mountain, from dome to dome, halting about the skirts of forests, poising on slender peaks in full exposure to the powers of fountain light. If you come in June we will witness grand upheavals of mountain ranges in the sky, cloud Sierras close allied to the granite at their feet. We are a kind of cumulus cloud ourselves, sun-thrilled vapors condensed at this terrestrial temperature to degrees that we call solid & liquid. Sky clouds may come as glaciers & go about the mountains dense as we.

" Your daughter could not come at all last year. May she not come now.

The mountains will make her strong. She will dwell in rayless atmospheres of the very Soul of Light. Tell her that, & she will not be weary, for these mountains dissolve human bodies She will go about effortless & free., & her body will follow light as mist. People speak of sitting in their bones We will have both bones & flesh melted off & sit in our souls. If Shakspeare were with us we would teach him how to get out of a mortal coil without shuffling. Tell her that she will see glossy glacier polished domes of porphyritic granite so full of life that she will touch them tenderly as if made of nervous shrinking flesh, & she will see countless daisied gentianed meadows beautiful beyond thought & crystal lakes & cascades & falls innumerable spread everywhere like lace, & confiding russet sparrows on the highest summit peaks, & crimson butterflies not found in all the world besides, & she will see the Williamson spruce the most graceful tree creature of the Sierras, & Cassiope the blessed with her showers of purple urns, & she will see sunsets not purple & golden belonging to Earth but of a transparent spirit kind that are windows of heaven. And tell her that angels are abundant everywhere. Above all tell her of the light. She will bathe in holy mountain Light.

" Is it her husband that is so fond of hunting If so the Tuolumne Canon wh. is an immense Yosemite over twenty miles long, is full of bears & deer that are never disturbed & to a bold hunter it will be a paradise & the grandeur of its scenery in wh I mingled for the first time last Nov' will make it interesting for all. —

" I am glad you call me to your house. I will come, but first I have two or three years work to do here on glaciers & mt'n structure. I was about done for myself but Prof Runkle of Boston & Mrs Carr are making me study it into shape for others, & of course a great deal of arithmetic is involved. I have a low opinion of mountain books, they are like Signal smokes to call attention, little more. No amount of engraving on language or wood will ever make a single soul to *know* these mountains. As well try to warm the naked & frost bitten by lectures on caloric, or painted fires. One days *exposure* will do more than cartloads of books. No photographers plate is so sensitive as those of the human soul provided only that they are pure.

" A little time ago a friend sent Tyndalls Hours of Ex' in Alps. wherein he speaks doubtfully gropingly of mountain structure. It is astonishing to see how little the greatest know in this field. If Tyndall would leave his lectures & books & dwell with the Alps he would finally make a speech or book of everlasting worth, but he does not allow himself time to fill

" I wish you could bring him with you. Do you know him? There is a glorious feast here for him. He would emerge from our fountains a new creature. So also would Agazziz & Gray notwithstanding all they have enjoyed

" Prof Runkle was here last fall. I beckoned him back among the wombs of Yosemite glaciers. He saw hosts of icy ghosts & belived our glacial theory of mt'n structure etc I only made gestures & pointed to rockforms & canons, & spoke a few broken words about Yosem' formation. He soon said ' It is true.' receiving knowledge by absorption past all his flinty mathematics quite forgetful of his ghaunt rawboned Euclidal ' Wherefors ' He thinks that if the damp mosses & lichens were scraped off I might make a teacher — a professor faggot

to burn beneath their Technological furnaces. All in kindness but I'd rather grow green in the sky.

"Thanks for the books & for your generous words. Your time is precious & all the world wants it. My letters look for but little answer, only an electric tap or two of your busy pen to make me feel that we see each other. Let me hear soon concerning your coming. Most cordially yrs John Muir —"

Muir's enthusiasm for both Emerson and California was irrepressible, and before the end of the same month, he once more addressed Concord (Mar. 26, 1872), repeating his invitation for another visit to Yosemite and describing an earthquake then in progress there. On Apr. 3 following he wrote again, this time to acknowledge the gift of two books. On May 9, 1874, he told of the series of magazine articles called "Studies in the Sierra" that he would publish during that year. What replies, if any, Emerson sent to these later letters, I have been unable to discover.]

## To Herman Grimm, Concord, February 14, 1872 [47]

Concord 14 Feb.y 1872

My dear Mr Grimm,

Miss Alice Wheildon,[48] a valued friend of my daughter Ellen, must go to Germany & to Berlin, it appears, for the love & the study of music. We are truly sorry to part with her, for she is justly dear to her friends. I entreat your kind regards & your advice to her on any needed points, — which may easily be of great importance to so young a traveller. I hope earnestly too that she may find my friend Gisela Von Arnim Grimm at home, & in health, to shine upon & counsel her.

My son sends me welcome tidings of your better health & of your great goodness to him [49] & to his mortifying ignorance of the language. He seems to be getting over his first despair, &, no doubt, will triumph in his turn, one day, over his father's bad German, — since I can only read in silence, never speaking a word.

Yours always, with grateful regards,

R. W. Emerson

Dr Herman Grimm.

47. MS owned by the Goethe- und Schiller-Archiv; ph. in CUL. The letter is of some interest as being later than any published by Holls in his *Correspondence between Ralph Waldo Emerson and Herman Grimm*.

48. The daughter of William Willder Wheildon, of Concord (*Memoirs of Members of the Social Circle*, 3d series, p. 201).

49. *Cf.* Dec. 18, 1871.

### To William Bull Wright, Concord? February 15, 1872

[Wright, Buffalo, Feb. 14, 1872, said he hoped his failure to appear had not caused Emerson any inconvenience; he had, he said, now abandoned medicine and was a teacher in a normal school at Buffalo. He wrote again, Apr. 1, 1872, saying that Emerson's letter of Feb. 15 had just arrived, after a tedious migration. He was delighted at the thought of a meeting some day next summer but was vexed to learn that he had caused Emerson to wait two hours in vain. He had recently sent off a MS volume of verse to James R. Osgood for inspection but had not yet received a reply. Wright appears as poet in earlier letters.]

### To Henry James, Sr., Concord, February 17, 1872

[MS owned by Mr. Henry James; printed in R. B. Perry, I, 102.]

### To ————————, Concord, February 19, 1872

[Incompletely printed in the *Boston Daily Advertiser,* Mar. 22, 1881, p. 2; answers an editorial inquiry about the circumstances under which Emerson helped get Carlyle's books through the press in America.]

### To Annie Adams Fields, Concord, February 24, 1872 [50]

[1]Concord, 24 Feb.[y] '72

Dear[1] Mrs Fields,

[11]You are always offering me kindness & eminent privileges, & for this courageous proposition of "Conversations on Literature with friends at Mechanics Hall! " [51] I pause & poise between pleasure & fear. The name & the undertaking are most attractive: but whether it can be adequately attempted by me who have a couple of tasks which Osgood & Company know of,[52] now on my slow hands — I hesitate to affirm. Well, the very proposal will perhaps arm my head & hands to drive these tasks to a completion. And you shall give me a few days' grace, and I will endeavor to send you a considerate answer[11] For the "Evening at Home " [53] I will try to obey, if I can alight upon any thing not too grave for the occasion.

My wife & my daughter send you cordial thanks for your renewed

50. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I–II are in *Harper's,* LXVIII, 463 (Feb., 1884), and in Annie Fields, *Authors and Friends,* p. 88.

51. For this course as given, see a note on Apr. 12, 1872, to J. T. Fields.

52. *Letters and Social Aims* and *Parnassus,* as earlier and later letters show.

53. *Cf.* Mar. 19, 1872.

hospitality. Indeed we think that your house should have that name inscribed on it – " Hospitality."

With all kind regards,
R. W. Emerson

Mrs Annie Fields.

To Julia Caroline Ripley Dorr, Concord, March 6, 1872 [54]

Concord, 6 March '72

Dear Mrs Dorr,

If I were not grown a hardened sinner on the point of omissions I should pour out my penitence to you for more than one failure to acknowledge your kindnesses. And it would not help the cause of the delinquent with you to know that he is equally guilty towards many many correspondents besides: nay, that he is grown hardened in sin & even tries to believe he is too old too fagged with miscellaneous tasks & relations than that he can write letters. But I will leave all this – to thank you for your repeated goodness in remembering me. I should be glad to see again that friendly & well placed house & household of yours, commanding the view of Mount Mansfield, if I rightly remember the summit.[55] I did receive the " Poems," [56] & immediately sought & found the poem " *Outgrown,*" which had been my favorite before, & am again struck with its vivacity & perfect tone. Through all the volume I find extraordinary facility of versifying, good taste, & easy command of poetic material. If we rhymers had not fallen into times when a large part of the population have undertaken to rhyme also, our chance for an audience would be better. As it is, the Muse is a great comfort & refreshment to the singer's self, & later, – it may well happen, – to many friends, & a growing audience. I shall not fail to try some of the poems in this little book on good readers, as I have opportunity

With grateful regards, yours,
R. W. Emerson

Mrs Julia C. R. Dorr.

54. MS owned by the Abernethy Library, Middlebury College; ph. in CUL.

55. Emerson had seen Mt. Mansfield (*cf.* Aug. 24, 1868) but not from Mrs. Dorr's home. For the visit to her home, see a note on Oct. 14, 1865.

56. Julia C. R. Dorr, The Maples, Centre Rutland, Vt., Dec. 1? 1871, said that the Lippincotts were about to publish a volume of her verses, including lines Emerson had praised, and that a copy was to be sent to him. "Outgrown " is praised in Feb. 25, 1867. It is easily available in the *Complete Edition* of the *Poems* which appeared in 1892.

## To Annie Adams Fields, Concord, March 19, 1872 [57]

Concord –
March 19– '72

[I]Dear Mrs Fields,

I mean surely to obey your first command namely for the visit to you on Friday Evening next – and I fully trust that I wrote you [58] that I would[I] – but I fear that I must come alone My wife sent & sends her kind regards & thanks, but thinks herself too much an invalid to make the visit. Ellen is in Boston with Mrs Louis Cabot,[59] & is engaged for Friday evening to dine with her friend Miss Nina Lowell, so that I must come without my guards, & trust to you to defend me from my critics. [II]For the proposed " Conversations," which is a very good name, I believe I must accept your[II] & Mr Fields' [III]proposition frankly,[60] though the second week of April looks almost too near.[III] But I shall be glad to settle that point with you at your house. [IV]And now I will untie the papers of Amita, & see if I dare read them on Friday [61] or must find somewhat less nervous.[IV]

With all kind regards from me & mine, Yours,

R. W. Emerson

Mrs Annie Fields.

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You were good also to include Annie Keyes in your invitation but we have not seen her, as she is detained at the house & bedside of her grandmother, Madam Keyes,[62] who is believed to be dying.

57. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I and IV are in *Harper's,* LXVIII, 462 (Feb., 1884); and II and III are *ibid.,* p. 463. The same excerpts are in Annie Fields, *Authors and Friends,* pp. 86 and 88.

58. Feb. 24, 1872, promises conditionally.

59. *The Boston Directory* for 1872–1873 lists a Lewis, not Louis, Cabot, at 3 Chestnut St. For Nina Lowell, see a note on Jan. 11, 1872.

60. *Cf.* letters of Feb. 24 and Apr. 12, 1872.

61. The MS memorandum book for this year notes, under Friday, Mar. 22, Mrs. Fields's " 'At Home' " and " Read 'M M E.' " Under the same date Annie Fields recorded the event in her MS diary (now deposited in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society): " We made an audience of nearly 40 persons to listen to *Amita,* an extraordinary picture of a strange stoical noble character . . . The company enjoyed it to the full – . . ." Doubtless the paper was much the same as that which Emerson had read earlier to a women's club in Boston (*Cent. Ed.,* X, 399–433 and 596).

62. But Ann Shepard Keyes lived till Dec. 14, 1881, when she was nearly ninety years of age (MS *Deaths Registered in Concord, Mass.,* in the Office of the Town Clerk, Concord).

## To Oliver Wendell Holmes, Concord, April 1, 1872? [63]

Concord
1 April, Monday Eve

My dear Doctor,

I am delighted with possessing this excellent photograph, and your friendly words relieve the fear I had begun to feel that I had been a little hasty in begging one, when I remembered the multitude of rightful claimants who must inevitably surround you But here in the meadows it will be seen by fresh & unsated eyes which have every right by reading & sympathy to see the effigy of their benefactor. — I am sorry I have no holiday verses for the fair English eyes in whose behalf you send to me, but I venture a morality.

With very kind regards,
R. W. Emerson

## To Edward Waldo Emerson, Concord, April 12, 1872

[MS owned by Mr. Raymond Emerson.]

## To James Thomas Fields, Concord, April 12, 1872 [64]

[I]Concord, 12 Apr. '72

My dear Fields,

I entreat you to find the correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune[I] L. C. M. (a lady, I suspect it is,) [II]who reports Miss Vaughan's, & Henry James's lectures,[65] in Boston,[II] in the "*Weekly Tribune*" of Wednesday, 10th April, [III]& adjure her or him, as he or she values honesty & honor, not to report any word of what Mr Emerson may[III] read or [IV]say

63. MS owned by the Library of Congress; ph. in CUL. Apr. 1 fell on Monday in seven different years after Emerson moved to "the meadows." But it seems unlikely that he would have asked for a photograph of Holmes earlier than the late 1850's, when the two men began to meet frequently as fellow members of a club. The years 1861, 1867, 1872, and 1878 would remain. Of these 1872 is perhaps most likely on the evidence of the handwriting, though a picture reproduced as the frontispiece to Vol. VIII of the *Standard Library Edition* of *The Works of Oliver Wendell Holmes* belongs, it seems, to 1878.

64. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I–IV are in *Harper's*, LXVIII, 463 (Feb., 1884), and in Annie Fields, *Authors and Friends*, p. 89.

65. The *New-York Tribune*, Apr. 6, 1872, printed a report, from its Boston correspondent, of Virginia Vaughan's lecture "Poetry of the Future" and of the "brilliant paper on Emerson" read by Henry James, Sr., at Sargent's — apparently the paper which was to appear in *The Atlantic* for Dec., 1904, or an early form of it.

or do at his coming Conversations.[66] Tell the dangerous person, that Mr E. accepted this task proffered to him by private friends on the assurance that the audience would be composed of his usual circle of private friends, & that he should be protected from any report: that a report is so distasteful to him that it would seriously embarrass & perhaps cripple or silence much that he proposes to communicate; and if the individual has bought tickets these shall gladly be refunded. & with thanks & great honor of your friend,

R. W. Emerson[IV]

James T. Fields, Esq.

## To James Thomas Fields, Concord, April 18, 1872[67]

Concord
April 18 1872

My dear Sir,

I have already acknowledged the receipt from you, on account of the "Conversations,"[68] of six hundred dollars. It remains to say that I have now received seven hundred additional dollars, making in all thirteen hundred of those useful & comfortable possessions. I return new thanks to you, & to my first correspondent & proposer of the adventure Mrs Fields. I shall certainly accept your invitation for next Monday at 5 o'clock P. M.[69]

& remain yours
R. W Emerson

J. T. Fields, Esq

66. The *Boston Daily Advertiser* of Apr. 15, 1872, announced the six conversations on "Literature," at Mechanics' Hall, beginning on that afternoon at 3 and continuing on succeeding Monday afternoons. The same paper told its readers that "In compliance with Mr. Emerson's request, no report will be made of these lectures." The MS memorandum book for this year lists these subjects and dates: "Books," Apr. 15; "Poetry & Imagination," 22; "'Poetry & Inspiration' concluded," 29; "Criticism," May 6; "Culture Egremont," 13; "Morals. Religion," 20. An unpublished passage in the diaries gives Apr. 23 and 30 instead of 22 and 29 and mentions some of the readings planned or actually used for each of the six weeks (typescript *Journals for* 1870–1875). Emerson's request to the *Advertiser,* and probably similar requests to other papers, may have been made directly or through the Fieldses or other friends.

67. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL.

68. See a note on Apr. 12, 1872, to Fields.

69. For the evening at the Fields home following Emerson's second "conversation," see *Memories of a Hostess,* pp. 96–99. The "conversation" itself is outlined in Annie Fields, *Authors and Friends,* pp. 90–91.

## To William Torrey Harris, Concord, April 19, 1872 [70]

Concord, Massachusetts,
Friday night April 19/72

Dear Mr. Harris

Until this hour I hoped to see and hear you on the morrow at one or both houses to which I was summoned. But the muses have been cruelly unpropitious and have put a penalty on my leaving my desk tomorrow which I cannot meet. I send the letter of Stirling which was read by Mr. Alcott, Mr. Cabot, as well as myself with interest and hope.[71]

Should you be in the city on Monday perhaps you will look in to my lecture room.[72]

With high regard, Yours,

R. W. E.

## To Alfred? Porter? Putnam, Concord, April 27, *c.* 1872?

[MS listed, without year, in John Heise Autographs, catalogue 2463; described as on educational matters. If this "Rev. Dr. Putnam" was Alfred Porter Putnam, preacher and author, the year is probably not earlier than 1871, when he received his honorary degree from Brown University. In a letter dated Brooklyn, Nov. 12, 1873, he asked permission to include some of Emerson's pieces in a volume of hymnology he was preparing.]

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord? April 30, 1872 [73]

30 April '72

Dear Edith

Thanks for your excellent letter just received on my return

70. MS listed in Merwin-Clayton Sales Co., Apr. 18–24, 1906 (Burnett sale). The present text is from a typed copy owned by Miss Edith Davidson Harris (ph. in CUL). This typed copy is made from a shorthand copy on the back of an original envelope (in the possession of the same owner; ph. in CUL). The face of the envelope bears Emerson's superscription to Harris in care of Bartol, in Boston, and this notation in another hand: "This letter given to Swan M Burnett 916 Farragut Sqre Sept 13/03 a copy of it preserved on the back of this envelope."

71. Harris, St. Louis, Feb. 7, 1872, had inclosed a letter from Stirling, to be read by Emerson, Alcott, and Cabot and then returned to Harris. *Cf.* Feb. 2, 1872.

72. A ticket inscribed "MECHANICS HALL. CONVERSATIONS ON LITERATURE, BY MR R. W. EMERSON. COURSE TICKET." is still with this letter. On the back are the same dates listed in a note on Apr. 12, 1872, to Fields, but no subjects.

73. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

home tonight from Boston. It is a joy to me, that visit to Carlyle,[74] with its singular good fortune in bringing Froude & Allingham to you at once. I do not remember whether I wrote a note by you to Froude. I did write to him one letter,[75] – whether by Edward or by mail – on Froude's own affair & his employment of an agent. but I will send with this at once the note which you ask.[76] And tomorrow I think I will send you the note I promised you to one or both of the Forsters. They are nowise related John Forster is Landor's biographer & now Dickens's; & was, when I knew him, a barrister, & Editor of the "London Examiner." Edward Forster was a manufacturer at Bradford, & married a daughter of Dr Arnold & sister of Matthew A.[77] & is now in Mr Gladstone's Cabinet. I rejoice in every step Will & you have taken – wisdom & love have dictated each one, & few travellers can have a better record. Edward's letters tell all that yours do not say, and every bulletin touching the babes has been dear to us. Affectionate remembrance to Will. Good night

R. W. E.

### To Le Baron Russell, Concord? May 10? 1872

[Russell, Boston? May 11, 1872, said he had received Emerson's note that morning and would communicate the agreeable news to his sister, who, it seems, wished to buy a house of Emerson.]

### To James Thomas Fields, Concord? May *c.* 21, 1872

[Incompletely printed in *Harper's,* LXVIII, 463 (Feb., 1884), and in Annie Fields, *Authors and Friends,* p. 91; described as written in May, 1872. As the check mentioned was inclosed in Fields, May 20 (1872), Emerson's letter was probably written on the 21st.]

### To John Langdon Sibley, Concord? June? 1? 1872

[Inclosed in June 1, 1872.]

74. *Cf.* Jan. 19, 1872, to Carlyle.

75. Dated Nov. 15, 1871.

76. Probably such a note was sent, but I have no proof. Probably, too, Emerson wrote to one or both of the Forsters, who appear in earlier letters; but nothing has come to light.

77. William Edward Forster had married Jane Martha Arnold in 1850.

## To Mary Newbury Adams, Concord? June 1, 1872 [78]

Dear Mrs Adams,

I inclose the note [79] for Mr Sibley. I think but am not sure, the library is usually closed from 1 to 2 o'clock, but open till 6 P. M. from 9 A. M. I hope surely to see you again in the next week. With kind regards

R. W. Emerson

Mrs A. Adams.

## To James Bradley Thayer, Concord, June 14, 1872 [80]

Concord, 14 June, '72
Friday Evening

My dear Sir,

I have just received your note & am sorry not to see you before you travel so far. After talking with George Bradford, the other day, of the Cambridge proposition,[81] I wished to come to see you, but have been held at home until I learned that your vacation had already begun. Can you not, when you turn from Quebec, take Concord in your path? Come & spend a day & night with me. I have a more affectionate interest than you would probably give me credit for in such a question of fate. I am quite imperfectly informed of many of the data, but it is full of interest for you & yours, & all of us. I do not know when your decision must be made, but should be glad to discuss it with you.

Yours affectionately,
R. W. Emerson

James B. Thayer, Esq.

78. MS owned by the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa; ph. in CUL. The address on the envelope is to Mrs. Austin Adams, 180 West Canton St., Boston. According to an explanatory note with the original, this letter was written June 1, 1872, to Mrs. Mary Newbury Adams and the letter to Sibley inclosed was an introduction. *The Boston Directory* for 1871–1872 and that for the following year show that Alvin A. Adams, truckman, lived at 180 West Canton St., while an Austin D. Adams, carpenter, changed from one address to another, neither of which was on Canton St. But the Mrs. Adams to whom Emerson wrote was, it seems, a resident of Dubuque, Ia. (see a note on Dec. 17 and *c.* 18? 1871). John Langdon Sibley was librarian at Harvard.

79. Letter of June? 1? 1872. In the following sentence, Emerson interpolated the phrase "but am not sure," setting it off with irregular lines, which I do not reproduce.

80. MS owned by Professor James B. Thayer; ph. in CUL.

81. At the top of the page is a notation, apparently by the recipient of the letter: "As to accepts the offer of the Boylston Profp of Rhetoric." The late Dr. W. S. Thayer

### To Edward Waldo Emerson, Concord, June 24, and Boston, June 25, 1872

[MS owned by Mr. Raymond Emerson.]

### To James Bradley Thayer, Concord, July 3, 1872 [82]

Concord
3 July '72

Dear Mr Thayer,

Come be a brave good cousin, & face our heats & solitudes on Friday eve„g in the Express train at 5.30,[83] & we will give you a cup of tea, & piece of a moon & all the possibilities of Saturday, & you & I will pump each other till we find our last opinions.[84] Please do not fail us, for my wife & Ellen assure themselves of the visit, & your friend,

R. W. Emerson

James B. Thayer, Esq.

### To Henry MacCormac, Concord? July 12, 1872

[Arthur Helps, London, Sept. 26, 1871, inclosed a letter from young Dr. MacCormac, whom he had recommended to Emerson's son. Henry MacCormac, Belfast, July 28, 1872, said Emerson's letter of the 12th was just received; he was delighted to learn that his son had been able to serve Emerson's son in some wise.]

### To James R. Osgood, Concord? July *c.* 23? 1872

[B. H. Ticknor, Boston, July 25, 1872, acknowledged, in Osgood's absence, "your favor to him"; Ticknor hoped that the MS "you have just promised us" had escaped the flames.]

### To John Murray Forbes, Concord, July 26, 1872 [85]

Concord, Friday July

My dear friend,

Your kindest telegram came instantly to us & though we could hear your own voice in it we have not been able to write This is the

told me that his father eventually declined this offer from Harvard. Not long afterward, however, James Bradley Thayer became a professor of law in that university.

82. MS owned by Professor James B. Thayer; ph. in CUL.

83. The express train leaving Boston at that hour is announced in the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, July 3, 1872.

84. Probably about the offer alluded to in June 14, 1872.

85. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year is obviously 1872.

first pen I have dipped since the fire.[86] We know nothing of its cause as it seems to have broken out in the garret above my chamber & there is no fire in these months in this part of the house. But the whole town came to our help & never were household goods from least to largest so tenderly removed & cared for Hearty thanks from all of us to you & yours for your invitation. We have rejoiced in your return[87] & trust to see your face soon: the young people also are soon on their way,[88] & we shall needs come to them, instead of they to us, as we hoped.

My wife has suffered from the disturbance for a couple of days but is mending today. And as soon as we know what we must do we shall all mend. To Mrs Forbes & to Alice & Sarah mine & my wife's & Ellen's affectionate greetings

Yours ever
R. W. Emerson

John M. Forbes, Esq

## To James Elliot Cabot, Concord, July 26, 1872[89]

Concord
26 July, '72

My dear Cabot

Thanks for your kind note & brave offer to lend me your household gods. But our little village holds us fast till we can see what can be done with the house & whether it cannot be re-built in a few

86. The *Boston Daily Advertiser*, July 25, 1872: "A few hours after daybreak yesterday morning the people of the usually quiet town of Concord were startled by . . . a large conflagration . . . which subsequently proved to be the burning of the residence of Ralph Waldo Emerson. The fire was first observed by persons passing by . . . the library and all the furniture of the house were saved [by firemen and citizens]. The house was almost totally destroyed, except the walls of the lower floor . . . In the attic were a number of books and valuable manuscripts belonging to the late William Emerson of New York some of which were badly damaged and others destroyed. It is supposed that the fire originated in a defective flue, that it caught on Tuesday morning and had been smouldering ever since. The value of the house was estimated at $5000, and was insured . . . for $2500." In the MS memorandum book for 1872, under date of July 24, Emerson told the story in three words: "Our house burned."

87. From Fayal, in the yacht "Rambler" (*Letters and Recollections of John Murray Forbes*, II, 170 ff.).

88. Earlier letters tell of the European voyage of W. H. Forbes and his family.

89. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL. Cabot had written from Beverly Farms, Mass., on July 25, offering the use of his Brookline home. For the fire at Concord, see July 26, 1872, to Forbes.

months. Meantime, I am getting my books into the Court-House which now belongs to the Insurance Company, & has room to spare, & we live with my cousin Miss Ripley at the Manse. A fire is a rude experience to an old housekeeper, but was alleviated by the tenderness with which every thing that could be saved was cared for by friends & neighbors.

With affectionate remembrances to Mrs Cabot & to the young people, Yours,

R. W. Emerson

J. Elliot Cabot, Esq.

### To J. C. Sanborn, Concord, July 29, 1872

[In his MS diary (owned by Mr. F. W. Pratt) Alcott wrote some account of the burning of Emerson's home and pasted in the corner of a leaf this newspaper clipping (ph. in CUL):

"Note From Mr. Emerson.

"Concord, July 29, 1872.

"Dear Sir — I desire to express to you, and through you to the engineers and members of the Fire Department of this town, the sincere thanks of myself and each one of my family for the able, hearty and in great measure successful exertions in our behalf in resisting and extinguishing the fire which threatened to destroy my house on Wednesday morning last. We owe it to your efficient labor and skill that so large a part of the building was saved, and let me say that we owe it to your families and a great number of generous volunteers that almost all the furniture, clothing, and especially the books and papers contained in the house were saved and removed with tender care. I hope to have the opportunity of thanking, sooner or later, every one of our benefactors in person.

"Yours, most gratefully,

"R. W. Emerson.

"To J. C. Sanborn, chief-engineer Concord Fire Department."

I have not found the source of Alcott's clipping, but the letter was also published in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* of Aug. 23, 1872.]

### To Anne Charlotte Lynch Botta, Concord, August 1, 1872[90]

Concord
1 August '72

My dear friend,

Your kind letter brought its consoling assurances quickly to us, & my wife insists that she shall write instantly if I delay a half

90. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. Excerpt I is in *Memoirs of Anne C. L. Botta*, p. 178. Mrs. Botta had written from Newport on July 29.

hour longer. I tell her that [1]you were born under Hatem Tai's [91] own star, & like him are the genius of hospitality.[1] But for all that, we must be contented to know that your house is or in ten minutes will be full of friends, whom, with their hostess, we cannot hope to see, — surely not now, & I do not know when. I am, as usual, chained to my chair & table for weeks & months to come. You will be glad to know that we are safe at present in the " Old Manse," with my cousin Miss Elizabeth Ripley, a house & hostess, with which & with whom, we are always at home. I could heartily rejoice to visit you & yours at Newport, or at New York, but can only now thank you for being alive & still befriending us as ever. We are already beginning to rebuild our charred & broken house, & hope some day to persuade you to come into it.

With thanks evermore, & kindest remembrances. to Professor Botta.

Your friend,

R. W. Emerson

Mrs A. C. L. Botta.

My wife says that I have not written half the message with which she charged me, — that she longs to visit you who have sent her so many invitations which she has longed to accept, but cannot hope to do; & that she rejoices to think that some day you will come to her.

### To James R. Osgood, Concord, August 1, 1872

[MS listed and partly quoted in Bangs & Co., May 7 and 8, 1901. This is the same letter listed and partly quoted in Anderson Auction Co., Apr. 11–12, 1905, and there dated simply 1872.]

### To William Henry Furness, Concord, August 11, 1872

[MS owned by Mr. Horace Howard Furness Jayne; printed incompletely in *Memoirs of Members of the Social Circle,* 2d series, 2d part, p. 186 (same page in *Emerson in Concord*), and, without any indication of omission, in *Records of a Lifelong Friendship,* pp. 155–156.]

### To Le Baron Russell, Concord, August 16, 1872

[Printed in Holmes, *Ralph Waldo Emerson,* 1885, pp. 276–277, and in Cabot, II, 706–707. There is an incomplete draft owned by RWEMA (ph. in CUL).]

91. Hatim Ta'i, an early Arabian poet renowned for hospitality. Apparently Emerson got the story from his old favorite Hammer-Purgstall (*cf. Journals,* IX, 539).

## To Lidian Emerson, North Hampton, New Hampshire, August 19, 1872 [92]

Northampton Station
Monday 19 Aug
2½ P. M.

Dear Lidian,

We have just come hither to go to Portland having spent Sat. Night & Sunday at the Ocean House, Rye Beach, with much comfort in that picturesque place, in a crowd of company.[93] Ellen can walk comfortably without crutches,[94] — and I can do as well as I can. This air has certainly been a great satire on Concord air of last week, & at least begins to mend the appetite We have seen many pleasant persons Yesterday heard an excellent sermon in the Hall of the Hotel, from Rev Dr Eliot of St Louis.[95] If Waterford [96] gives us a little improvement of still cooler weather from the Mountain breath we may begin, Ellen to dance & I to sing. This promises to be a capital leisure for making plans & Ellen will doubtless make some more than I can spoil. We will send you better bulletins as soon as we get better ink.

Yours in good
or bad, —
R W E

92. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year is fixed by evidence cited below.

93. The MS memorandum book for 1872 has, for Aug. 17, "Ocean House Rye Beach . . ."; for Aug. 18, "Rye Beach"; and under Aug. 19, "Portland Preble House." Rye Beach, midway on the short New Hampshire coast line, is only a few miles from North Hampton, a little distance back from the sea.

94. The sprain is again mentioned in later letters of this year.

95. On the same sheet with Emerson's letter is the end of a letter written home at this time by Ellen: "Of course when Rock of Ages was selected I had been afraid Father would squirm under it; so I was astonished that he had enjoyed it. The sermon was a distinctly Christian sermon, and I expected that sooner or later Father would say a word against it; on the contrary he called it noble, and afterward said it was sweet & that he told Dr Eliot he didn't believe a sweeter sermon had been preached in the whole country. After church we went down to the sea . . . My ancle greatly enjoyed lying in the warm sand . . . The afternoon too was spent on the beach, & Father after I came in sat with me an hour & I canvassed going to Europe with him, he refers to that in his letter." Emerson had taken a special liking to William Greenleaf Eliot nearly twenty years earlier (see Dec. 31, 1852, to Lidian).

96. The MS memorandum book for this year has, among the items for the trip after Portland: Aug. 20, "Norway, Maine Waterford Houghton's Bear-Mountain House . . . (J. H.) ? Mead wished to be remembered to his schoolfellow Longfellow"; Aug. 23, "By boat by Sebago Lake &c to Portland. By rail to Boston . . ."; Aug. 24, "Concord."

To Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar, Waterford? Maine, August 20, 1872

[MS copy owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Printed in Cabot, II, 708–709.]

To William Henry Furness, Concord? August 25, 1872

[Bluebook List.]

To George Barrell Emerson, Naushon Island, August 31, 1872

[Printed in G. B. Emerson, p. 154.]

To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, September 13, 1872 [97]

Concord
Friday Night
13 Sept, '72

Dear Will,

Thanks for your kind telegram which saves me from a false step I should pretty certainly have made towards the Old Colony R. R. on some day at 11.30. I am to be detained on Monday in Boston by Dr Bartlett, perhaps all day, &, if no longer, shall probably take the 8 o'clock Old Colony train, on Tuesday morning.[98] I am glad to learn from Anna,[99] this evening, the so-far-good telegram from Edward to you, & trust that the earlier good signs shown in the letter she received from him today will ripen to the best. A visit of Mr George B. Emerson to him, at Morley's Hotel, has surprised & delighted him.[100] Mr Keyes carried me today all over the house,[101] which shows very good work, & progress, & certainly praises Mr K.'s care & oversight & Mr Cutler's work. Mr W. R Emerson is expected tomorrow The slaters have done their

97. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

98. That is, on the way to Naushon Island (*cf.* Sept. 20, 1872).

99. Apparently Annie Keyes, who was engaged to Edward Emerson about this time; the form of her name used here is very unusual, though a few earlier letters seem to refer to her in the same way.

100. George B. Emerson, Hamburg, July 22, 1872, told of his plans to continue his European tour, visiting several countries, including Great Britain.

101. For John S. Keyes as superintendent of the rebuilding and for William Ralph Emerson as architect, see *Emerson in Concord*, p. 185. For W. R. Emerson, *cf.* also Jan. 1, 1857. On Aug. 7, 1872, he wrote from Boston that he had heard the house was to be rebuilt and that he wished to offer his services as architect as a labor of love.

part & gone. Mrs Sally Emerson [102] & Mr George Bradford are here with Miss Ripley, and Mrs Thayer carried away her three children today. With love to all your household & yourself, R. W. Emerson
W. H Forbes.

## To Charles Eliot Norton, Naushon Island, September 20, 1872 [103]

Naushon
September 20 1872

My dear Norton,

Your very kind & welcome letter [104] came to re-assure me — had I needed re-assurance — of your steadfast wakefulness for your friends. If I were not a reprobate so hardened that no generosities can reform me, I should be saved by the magnanimity you have shown in thus pardoning my dumb goblin, & still holding out the friendliest hand. To be remembered still in the midst of your happy, & also of your saddest experiences,[105] has given me joy as well as remorse. It is no whim but a solid fact that we exult in the powers & virtues of the good who shame our own short-comings. You must believe then that I am not past the possibility of reform, & you must continue to shine on me.

For my recent disaster — it was of course a rude shock to an old householder who had hoarded all his books & papers & stuffs & trinkets & day-labors & habits in fixed corners, to find them or lose them thrown out on the grass in his door-yard: but the ready & tender care of friends & neighbors saved all that could be rescued, & conveyed them into houses, or barns, or wagons, &, after two or three days, by some wonderful benefaction he found himself richer than he had ever been before.[106] He was even urged that the best use he could make of the time it would require to rebuild his house was to run across the sea, & rest & repair

102. Probably Sarah Gibbons Emerson, the widow of Emerson's nephew William. Elizabeth Ripley is mentioned in letters of June, 1871, as mistress of the Old Manse at Concord; and her sister Sophia, wife of James Bradley Thayer, appears frequently in the letters.

103. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL.

104. Norton, Saint-Germain-en-Laye, Aug. 8, 1872, expressed sorrow at hearing news of the burning of Emerson's house.

105. Norton's wife had died at Dresden in Feb., 1872 (*Letters of Charles Eliot Norton*, I, 415).

106. On Aug. 14, 1872, the sum of $10,000, the gift of friends, was deposited to Emerson's account; in October the total rose to $11,620 (Cabot, II, 703–709). But this total does not seem to include Bancroft's gift mentioned in Sept. 21, 1872.

his old age by journeys abroad: & it is not unlikely that I shall be credulous enough to obey the counsel. Edward is in England, & his health – broken a year ago by varioloid, – is still delicate, & my daughter Ellen & I are proposing to find him in London, & there consider what is best to do & whither to go. Who knows but I may meet you before your return home?[107] – I pray you to present my respectful regards to your Mother, & to thank her & your sisters, for their kind remembrance.

Yours affectionately
R. W. Emerson

Charles E. Norton, Esq.

## To George Bancroft, Naushon Island, September 21, 1872

[Printed, apparently incompletely, in Howe, *The Life and Letters of George Bancroft*, II, 261–262; acknowledges $1000 which Bancroft had sent as a gift when he heard of the burning of Emerson's home.]

## To Charles King Newcomb, Naushon Island? September? *c.* 23? 1872

[Newcomb, London, Aug. 23, 1872, offers a gift or loan of money to aid Emerson in rebuilding his house; he also tells of his own travels abroad. Newcomb, London, Oct. 21, 1872: "On learning from you that Edward was here in town . . ." I conjecture that Emerson had chided Newcomb for not living a more active life and fulfilling his early promise – for so Emerson deemed it – of achievement as an author. Newcomb seems to be on the defensive in his reply. He mentions "dreams, of which you speak" and explains that he has at least kept a diary.]

## To Richard Henry Dana, Jr., Naushon Island, September 24, 1872[108]

Naushon
Woods Hole
Sept 24

My dear Sir

I am very sorry that my absence from Concord prevented my receiving your note[109] in time to make good use of it. I do not

107. Emerson and Norton sailed home together (see a note on May 14, 1873).

108. MS owned by the Richard H. Dana Estate; ph. in CUL. Evidence cited below fixes the year.

109. R. H. Dana, Jr., Boston, Sept. 21, 1872, says a meeting of the overseers is called for the 25th and supposes there should be a committee report on the proposal for local examinations for young women; he suggests a meeting in advance of the

carry a recollection of the question submitted to the committee sufficiently clear to send you my vote on it, & I shall not be able to attend the meeting. If it were practicable at this time to fill a vacancy in the Board, I should resign my seat, as I am proposing a voyage.[110]

With kind regards,
R. W. Emerson

Richard H. Dana, Esq

To James Elliot Cabot, Naushon Island, September 25, 1872 [111]

Naushon
Sept 25 '72

My dear Cabot,

Our high admiral or admirable J. M. Forbes threatens to carry us up to New Bedford in his victorious yacht Rambler, thence to Boston, to the Saturday Club, this week,[112] if you do not earlier appear in person on this island, to which *venue,* I am told, you have been summoned. If you are not obeying the prior appointment, I hope you will surely go to the Club, for we are talking of Europe, & even dreaming of Egypt, & I am the most ignorant of travellers. Please come to the Club, & to Naushon, & advise me to go to Athens, & how to get thither.

Yours always,
R. W. Emerson

J. Elliot Cabot, Esq.

To Henry James, Sr., Concord, September 26? 1872 [113]

Concord
Thursday Night

My best of men, you are to know that Edith Forbes & I have just arrived here from Naushon,[114] she has your note, & rejoices with me that

overseers' meeting. The *Forty-seventh Annual Report of the President of Harvard College,* for 1871–1872, p. 85, names Dana and Emerson as members of the Committee of the Overseers to Visit the Academical Department. Obviously the present letter relates to their duties as members of a subcommittee.

110. *Cf.* later letters of this year.

111. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL.

112. *Cf.* Sept. 26? 1872. The MS memorandum book for 1872, under Sept. 28, names Cabot, Henry James, Sr., Holmes, Fields, and others.

113. MS owned by Mr. Henry James; ph. in CUL. Sept. 26 was the last Thursday preceding the last Saturday in Sept., 1872. The club mentioned in the letter met on the last Saturday of each month, and evidence cited below fixes both month and year.

114. *Cf.* Sept. 25, 1872.

you & William J. consent to visit her enchanted Island.[115] And this, be it known to you, is the programme. Mr John Forbes can not come to the Saturday Club; I shall bring William Forbes as my guest thither. We are to show you & William J. the way to the New Bedford train at 9 P. M.[116] on that evening (Providence R. R.) & on arriving will find the laurelled yacht Rambler at the wharf sleep on board; – she has 14 beds – & the next morning, Sunday, make the one hour's sail to the Fortunate Isles. I have instructions to bring one or two other good men from the Club to Mr J. Forbes's house, – you & W^m^ to ours. Do not, I beseech you, allow any headachs or megrims to spoil our good hope. The Island is one of Nature's miracles.

Your affectionate
R. W. Emerson

Henry James, Esq.

## To Moncure Daniel Conway, Naushon Island, October 1, 1872

[Incompletely printed by Conway in *Emerson at Home and Abroad*, p. 343, and completely reproduced in facsimile in his *Autobiography*, II, between 358 and 359.]

## To Scribner, Armstrong and Company? Concord, October 7, 1872

[MS listed in Anderson Auction Co., May 24, 1911, where the name of the person or firm addressed is not given; described as making arrangements to attend a dinner in honor of Froude. Scribner, Armstrong & Co., New York, Sept. 18, 1872, invited Emerson to attend a dinner in honor of Froude in New York on Oct. 10. Scribner, Armstrong & Co. wrote again, Sept. 21, 1872, stating that the banquet might be postponed to Oct. 15 and asking whether this change would increase or diminish Emerson's chances of attendance. Emerson's brief speech at Delmonico's on Oct. 15 is duly reported in the *New-York Tribune* of the following day. Probably there was more than one letter on this subject.]

## To Le Baron Russell, Concord, October 8, 1872

[Printed in Holmes, *Ralph Waldo Emerson*, 1885, pp. 277–278, and in Cabot, II, 707–708.]

115. This, like the more common epithet "Fortunate Isles" below, has a literary flavor. Emerson was thinking perhaps of Prospero's island in *The Tempest*.

116. Henry James, Sr., Saturday (endorsed Sept., 1872), regrets that he is totally unfit to leave home, even for today's Club dinner; he asks Emerson to thank W. H. Forbes for him.

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, October 20, 1872 [117]

Concord, Sunday Night,
20 October, '72

Dear Will, You have shown so much mercy & tenderness to the wants & caprices of age & sickness, that you have drawn upon yourself only more & more loads to bear. And I am well aware how much vexation the multitude of my chores will give you in adding Concord to your Boston & Milton charge. But I have no choice & throw myself on your magnanimity. I have obtained from Mr Wellman a letter of credit on the Barings for £400.[118] & paid him $546. for £100. to begin with. I have 13 sovereigns in my pocket for landing, and I leave say 1149.00 in the Atlantic Bank; with no debts, I believe, except those I have set down in the inclosed paper, as I have been paying in all directions. The taxes of the three towns should I suppose be paid in November. The note of Mr Bancroft will, I suppose, be payable at the Atlantic Bank Boston on the 26th November, & if my demands from Europe, & Mrs Emerson's here, should be larger than I count upon, you must sell such stock as you think we can best spare. Mr Keyes thinks that the insurance & a sum of $600. which Judge Hoar holds for me [119] will suffice to pay our building expenses

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I have, since I begun this note, given Mr Keyes a cheque to draw what sum is left in the Concord Bank for Mrs E., & shall now send her a cheque for $50. on the Atlantic Bk In the enclosed leaf I believe you
fifty dollars
will find all my debts that remain unpaid. John Clahan [120] will now & then hire a hand to help him for a day or two perhaps. But my one share in the Pullman Car Co. may suffice to pay this contingence.

I do not remember any more ounces to add to your load & think I have burdened your benevolence sufficiently. Always your debtor & lover,

R. W. E.

William H. Forbes, Esq.

117. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

118. The first digit is blurred and is doubtful.

119. *Cf.* Aug. 20, 1872.

120. Mentioned in many earlier letters; and he remained in later years, I learn from Mr. W. Cameron Forbes, as the choreman and caretaker of the Emerson house.

### To Lidian Emerson, New York, October 22, 1872 [121]

Dear Lidian, I told you I think that I believed there were $137. in the Concord Bank which I would draw for you. for present needs. I found it necessary to draw on it a checque at the station for Keating's bill. The remainder I asked Mr Keyes to draw for you & I now enclose a cheque on the Atlantic Bank which, if give to Mr Keyes, or carry yourself to the Bank, Mr Walcott [122] will give you the amount. We are all ready to sail tomorrow [123] with good hope of finding you better & stronger, by want of *all* care, in a few short months. Affectionately,

R. W. E.

### To Lidian Emerson, on board the "Wyoming," October 31 and November 2, 1872 [124]

Steamer Wyoming,
October 31, 1872

Dear Lidian,

Our floor & table tip a good deal, & perhaps our pens will refuse a straight line: but we are recovering our own personality, & mean to remember our relations. On the whole, the sea has been merciful, & for myself I have not had a sick hour. Ellen has not been so stout, but has found the steamer a far better floor than her beloved barque

121. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This follows, on the same sheet, a letter from Ellen Emerson to her mother dated New York, Oct. 22, 1872. The reference to the sailing shows Emerson's own writing was of the same date.

122. Henry J. Walcott had succeeded John M. Cheney, Emerson's college classmate, as cashier of the Concord National Bank after the latter's death in 1869 (*The Concord Guide Book*, p. 119).

123. The *Boston Daily Advertiser*, Oct. 24, 1872: "Mr. R. W. Emerson sailed from New York yesterday for England, accompanied by his eldest daughter, and will spend the winter abroad. After visiting some of his English friends, he purposes to travel in Italy, Greece and Egypt, returning to Concord in the spring, and entering then into his rebuilt house. . . . He has no intention of lecturing during this journey, and his absence from our lecture course, this winter . . . is probably an indication that he withdraws from the lyceum, once for all; though he may hereafter give readings or have classes for special lectures." The *New-York Tribune* of the same date recorded the sailing of the steamship "Wyoming" for Liverpool on the 23d. Emerson's own record in the MS memorandum book for this year was written under the 23d: "Wyoming Sails."

124. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. For the sailing of the "Wyoming" from New York on Oct. 23, see a note on Oct. 22, 1872.

Fredonia.[125] We have a quite amiable ship's company, & no social difficulties. Tis now our eighth day & we are promised, perhaps flatteringly, to reach our port on Sunday. We run about 260 or 270 miles per day. My well known orthodoxy, you will be glad to know, is walled round by whole families of missionaries, & I heard two sermons, & the English service, & many hymns on Sunday.[126] But the liberal ocean sings louder, & makes us all of one church. Our ladies are very amiable & keep us civil. You will have heard from Edith & Will of our auspicious departure from Boston & from New York. I do not think that any travellers have departed under such galaxy of gifts & kindness. You will be waiting to hear of our plans or schemes, but though Ellen is such an eager organizer, the next months are hardly sketched yet, & Edward doubtless will have much to say. The very peculiarity of our adventure is that it offers such liberty of choice for the next months, & my rainbow of Athens & of Egypt grew more realizable in New York, on learning that many American travellers were abroad with the same design.[127] Meantime I trust that George Bradford has succeeded in finding you a good home in Boston for your visit, which, if not found, you must supplement by the Parker House, which, if less agreeable, is yet always certain & secure. For your affairs, Will is the king of men & the best of bankers, & will, I know, serve you wherever Edith can not. When have you known me write so long a letter? If the voyage permits, perhaps it will have a postscript.

Affectionately

R. W. E.

November 2d.

We have finished our 2680 miles today noon, & are now land-bound, having passed Cape Clear, — are to coast along the Irish shore all day tomorrow,[128] & reach Liverpool at evening. Ellen has, I think, acquired a saintly reputation on board, by cherishing, blanketing, & coaxing the

125. In which she had voyaged to Fayal and back (see a note on Oct. 29, 1868).

126. Lidian Emerson, Milton, Mass., Nov. 25, 1872, remarked that Emerson must have felt his heresies in peril with all those religious people aboard and that he was probably glad to escape with his philosophy "(Transcendental — is it?) unharmed — if indeed it remains undamaged."

127. Here Ellen wrote, between her father's lines: "In other words, Mr Geo. Ward said Mr S. G. W. & another man were going to E. this winter." For Samuel Gray Ward in Egypt, see Dec. *c.* 15? 1872.

128. The *New-York Tribune,* Nov. 5, 1872, reported the "Wyoming" at Queenstown on the night of Nov. 2.

sick, tucking them up in her own chair, – which itself has proved a precious piece of furniture at sea, tell Edith. Our plans are still somewhat loose, but will crystalize as soon as we reach Liverpool, London, & Edward.[129]

To Lidian Emerson, London, November 8, 1872 [130]

[I]London Nov. 8, '72[I]
At Mrs Bennet's, 11 Down St.
Picadilly

Dear Lidian,

Last night, received your welcome letter. Edward brought us hither the evening before, & sails toward you on Monday.[131] My letter may therefore well be shorter, as he will bring you the whole of our little history. Everything is favorable to us on our arrival excepting Ellen's sprain, which is still vexatious. [II]Yesterday I found my way to Chelsea, & spent two or three hours with Carlyle in his study. He opened his arms & embraced me after seriously gazing for a time, " I am glad to see you once more in the flesh," – & we sat down & & had a steady outpouring for two hours & more on persons, events, & opinions,[II] & I could heartily wish that I could render his words to you as Ellen would, had she been there. [III]As I was curious to know his esti-

129. The MS memorandum book for 1872 records, under Nov. 3, " Arrived at the Docks, Liverpool," and, under Nov. 4, " Found Edward. Chester. Called on Bishop Jacobson." Edward, according to a note in *Journals,* X, 395, was then a student at St. Thomas's Hospital in London.

130. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I–III are in Cabot, II, 658. The jumble of events and persons recorded in the MS memorandum book of this year from Nov. 5 till Emerson's departure for Paris is hard to reduce to orderly summary: Nov. 5, breakfasted with Bishop Jacobson, attended Archaeologic, Architectural and Historic Society meeting (Nov. 13, the date given in *Notes and Queries,* 11th series, IV, 198, seems to be an error), saw Mrs. Clough and daughter, and Thomas Hughes (not " Tom Brown," as the letter of Aug. 26, 1873, shows); 6, left Chester and arrived in London, at Mrs. Bennet's, Down St.; 7, visited Carlyle and received Alexander Ireland; 8, at the Barings' office and at Kensington Museum; 9, dined at the Inner Temple with Thomas Hughes (Allingham and Carlyle are named in the same entry but not connected with the dinner); 10, William MacCormac, Charles Norton, Jane Norton, and Henry Lee mentioned; 11, Sir Frederick Pollock, Mrs. Arthur Clough, W. H. Channing, Charles K. Newcomb, Edwin Arnold, Thomas Hughes, and others named. *The May Edition of the Post Office London Directory, 1872,* gives Richard Andrews, keeper of a lodging house, at 11 Down St. Perhaps Mrs. Bennet subleased rooms from him.

131. Edward sailed in the " Batavia " from Liverpool on Tuesday, Nov. 12, with Mark Twain as a fellow passenger, and arrived at Boston on the 25th (*Boston Daily Advertiser,* Nov. 26, and *Boston Evening Transcript,* Nov. 25, 1872).

mate of my men & authors, of course I got them all again in Scottish speech & wit, with large deduction of size. He is strong in person & manners as ever though so aged looking, & his memory as good.[111] I saw his niece, & he & she also are to call upon Ellen,[132] who cannot so easily go to him. I have not yet made any other call except on the inevitable Barings. Mr Russell Sturgis who takes the place of the late Mr Bates,[133] remembered our playing together in Chauncy Place, & thinks that my father baptized him as he certainly did all his younger brothers. He has not lost his manly beauty: he presented me to his partners — Mr Baring, Mr Hodgson, whom I had met at Mrs Dorr's in Boston, — & another, — & gave me needful advices for my travels. Mr Hodgson told me that Tennyson is his nearest neighbor, &, if he is now at home, promises to bring us both to dine with him, — which I suppose Ellen will not disdain. Edward surprised us with his good looks & strength & skill as a guide in London, & we shall, no doubt, find travelling very uphill work when he is gone. But there was no contesting his fixed impressions as to his own interest & duty. Send me early word of your surely returning strength. Affectionately, R. W. E.

### To Blanche Smith Clough, London, November 12, 1872

[MS owned by Mr. Arthur Clough; ph. in CUL. Printed in *Emerson-Clough Letters.*]

### To Lidian Emerson, Rome, December *c.* 15? 1872[134]

Rome December, 1872

Dear Lidian

We have had uniformly easy & prosperous journeys from London to Paris where we lodged comfortably with James Lowell &

132. In response to a note from Edward, Allingham called at 11 Down St. on the evening of Nov. 9 and found that Carlyle had called there earlier the same day (*William Allingham a Diary,* pp. 216–217).

133. For Joshua Bates, *cf.* the letter of Mar. 8 and 10, 1848. The Hodgson mentioned was presumably Kirkman Daniel Hodgson (1814–1879), described in Frederic Boase, *Modern English Biography,* as a partner in the firm of Baring Bros. & Co.

134. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. For the date, Emerson and Ellen arrived in Rome on Nov. 30 and left about Dec. 19; they spent their last week with the Hoffmanns here mentioned (*cf. Journals,* X, 399). The main events and persons recorded in the MS memorandum book of 1872 for the period between Emerson's departure from London and his arrival in Egypt are: Nov. 15, arrived in the night at the Hôtel de Lorraine, 7 rue de Beaune, Paris, and found Lowell and wife and John Holmes there; 17, visited the Chapelle Évangélique de l'Étoile; 19, at the

wife, & John Holmes for fellow boarders[135] with the gay advantage of their knowledge of the city & of their wit. Charles Emerson & his wife came to dine with us, & we were pleased with the last as a good affectionate & honorable woman. We dined out but once, with the Laugels.[136] The injuries done to the great city were insignificant to our eyes in its splendor today. From Paris to Marseilles was too long a ride far into the night to be very entertaining, but the city gave us a good outlook in the morning & our journey the next day to Nice was all picturesque. Nice charmed us with gardens palm-trees, pepper trees, & & the Mediterranean washing the picturesque shore, on our Sunday, &, the next morning being beautiful weather we took the steamer for Genoa having heard bad news of the roads on account of the great rains. That whole day on the Mediterranean was full of beauty, as we were passing ever in sight of castles towns & villages on the shore.

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Louvre with Henry James, dined with Charles and Therchi Emerson; 20, dined with Laugel; 21, left Paris; 23, at Marseilles; 24, at Nice; 25, by steamer from Nice to Genoa and thence, all night, in a steamer to Leghorn; 26, by rail from Leghorn to Pisa and from Pisa to Florence, Hôtel du Nord; 27, at Florence, Uffizi Gallery; 28, at Florence; 30, arrived in Rome; Dec. 13, at "Diocletian," the Pantheon, and the Palazzo Pamphili-Doria. There are also a number of addresses at the end of the book, including those of Baron R. von Hoffmann, Villa Celimontana; Miss S. (Sarah) Clarke, Via Quattro Fontane; J. R. Tilton, Palazzo Barberini; and Hon. George P. Marsh, 8 San Basilio.

135. Norton, in London, had sent Emerson to Lowell in Paris (H. E. Scudder, II, 161).

136. Auguste Laugel, author of *Science et philosophie,* 1863, had been a visitor to America in 1864, and had described Emerson as "an exquisite, poetical, active mind . . . a moralist rather than a philosopher, a sort of Montaigne" (Laugel, *The United States during the War,* London, 1866, p. xi). A letter to Emerson from Elizabeth Laugel, Paris, Monday (Nov. 18, 1872), throws much light on his failure to see many French persons of note during this visit to Paris. She invited Emerson and his daughter to dinner on the following Wednesday but regretted that nearly all the friends she had hoped to have them meet were out of town or otherwise unavailable: the Renans were traveling, Montégut was in the country, the Lasteyries and Prince and Princess Orloff were likewise out of reach, Ivan Tourguéneff was in bed with the gout, and Mme Viardot had been vainly depended upon to sing. But Emerson was in Paris again the following spring; and Elizabeth Laugel wrote again, Tuesday (probably Mar. 18, 1873), to tell of another effort. This time she suggested Thursday the 27th, choosing the distant day in the hope of rallying a few friends. I conjecture that Hippolyte Taine met Emerson at the Laugels' on the appointed day, for he wrote in French, presumably to Elizabeth Laugel, a letter dated merely Mar. 28 in which he asked that his correspondent give an accompanying copy of his history of English literature to Emerson, who, he said, told him he had read only parts of that book. The copy of *Histoire de la littérature anglaise,* 2d ed., Paris, 1866 and 1869, still in the Emerson House is inscribed: "Offert à Monsieur Emerson par l'auteur, H. Taine."

It was night by the time we reached Genoa & we were hindered from paying our respects to the memory of Columbus, by being put on board a steamer bound to Leghorn instantly to paddle all night, & find Pisa in the grey morning. At Pisa – but undoubtedly Ellen has told you all this, & much more – our sojourn in Florence, & arrival here. Every thing has favored us, & we are now waiting for the missionaries [137] to arrive with whom we talked at Florence of joining company for Egypt But yesterday Lily Ward von Hoffmann [138] told us that her father writes from Cairo that there is a report of cholera in Egypt, – & we shall therefore wait till Sunday for his next letter.

All things heretofore & here have justified our travelling to see them – Ellen's sprain alone excepted, which yet promises every other day to heal. She is as quick in languages as in arithmetic, – as quick as I am slow. The advantage of being here is that if we go no farther, Rome has abundant compensations which it seems impossible to exhaus [139] in months.[140]

To Sarah Freeman Clarke, Rome? December? 15? 1872?

[MS listed in Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, Mar. 10–12, 1920, where it is described as "to Miss Clarke" and dated only "Sunday evening." Obviously there is no satisfactory basis for a conjecture as to the date, but Sarah Clarke was much abroad and her Rome address appears in the MS memorandum book for 1872 (see a note on Dec. *c.* 15? 1872).]

To Lidian Emerson, Cairo, December 28, 29, 30 and 31? 1872 [141]

New Hotel –

Cairo, 28 Dec^r '72.

Dear Lidian,

Just to try whether I have forgotten how to write, you shall have our date & place in this pandaemonic corner of the world. If you

137. Possibly some of those mentioned in the letter of Oct. 31 and Nov. 2, 1872.

138. *Cf.* a note on May 5, 1859. Baron R. von Hoffmann, Villa Celimontana, Rome, Nov. 12, 1872, introduced himself as the husband of Lily Ward; he said he had learned that the Emersons were coming to Rome and he offered them any service he could give; he added that S. G. Ward and wife and Bessie had left Rome a week earlier for Egypt. For Samuel Gray Ward's visit to Egypt, *cf.* a note on the letter of Oct. 31 and Nov. 2, 1872, and see Feb. 19, 1873.

139. This word ran over the edge of the paper.

140. This is at the bottom of a half sheet, and there may or may not have been a continuation and signature.

141. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The MS memorandum book for 1872

could look into the mob of all colors & all costumes & of no costume at all who crowd the streets & lanes of this aged city, you would be sure you were dreaming, & rather more wildly than is pleasant. Turk, Copt, Arab, Nubian, Italian, German, English & American men & women fill the narrow unpaved streets & lanes of this old town with all their own costumes & colors & languages & manners Nothing is so odd as to attract more than a moment's attention where the next moment brings a new wonder and in every corner a new novelty, outdoing the last. 29 Decr

The gay carriages of the rich are preceded by gaily drest runners who keep ahead of the horses, shouting aloud as they run, to keep the street clear of obstructing carts, donkeys, or passengers. Boys with donkeys at every corner cry to every foot passenger to offer their little beast, & then run along beside him to do the whipping. Ellen accepts this saddle in preference to a carriage. In every street we meet camels loaded with heavy burdens. From our windows we daily see the two great pyramids, which are six miles off, & which we shall visit, when the Whitwell ladies [142] arrive. Good fortune has brought Mr Bancroft to this very Hotel of ours, a day before our arrival. With him I visited the Museum which is in regard to Egyptian antiquities the best in the world [143] with the commanding advantage that the persons in charge of it are eminent Egyptologists & can read hieroglyphics as readily as Mr Chapman [144] his telegram.

Mr Bancroft brought me yesterday an invitation from the Khedive to breakfast with him, at his palace, at 12 o'clock today. Of course I owe this grace to Bancrofts intervention.[145] We went in Mr B's carriage

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has nothing for Egypt; but, according to an editorial note in *Journals*, X, 399, Emerson had stopped at Naples for four days on his way from Rome and was in Alexandria by Christmas.

142. May and Bessie Whitwell and their mother (*Journals*, X, 406). In a letter dated San Francisco, May 5, 1881, Edward Waldo Emerson tells of seeing Dr. William Whitwell, his old classmate at the medical school and son of the Mr. and Mrs. Whitwell with whom Emerson sailed up the Nile.

143. According to *A Handbook for Travellers in Egypt*, 4th ed., London, John Murray, 1873, pp. 144–151, the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities was even then, except for historical papyri, the most valuable collection of its kind in the world.

144. Stationmaster at Concord; *cf.* Sept. 10, 1869.

145. George Bancroft, at this time American ambassador to Germany, told his wife in a letter dated Dec. 30, 1872, how he got the invitation for Emerson and what happened at the breakfast (Howe, *The Life and Letters*, II, 271).

Mr B., General Stone,[146] (American, & now the head of the military department here,) & I, — and had a stately feast. The Khedive appeared to great advantage, — a well built superior man, perhaps 43 or 45 years old, — converses freely in French, — talked with Mr Bancroft who sat next him chiefly, — one or the other of the seven or eight guests occasionally adding a remark or a question, the subject being his own projects for the engineering in upper Egypt on the cataracts, & the planting of lower lands. His son Prince Hassan came in & was introduced to us, a handsome youth fresh from Oxford,[147] where he has been for the last three years. Then a servant announced that breakfast was ready & the Khedive led the way into the hall whispering to each of us by what person we should sit — to me that I should sit by his son. Bancroft sat by the Khedive, & I opposite to B., by the young prince. The breakfast was precisely an elegant dinner. I had a fair share of the young prince's conversation, who had much to say of his boating at Oxford, & knew little of Pusey or of Ruskin. He is, I believe, the third son, & his brothers or certainly one of them has been sent to Oxford before. General Stone gave me afterwards an account of the Khedive's dealing with himself, which did the greatest honor to his good sense & ability. He considers him the best sovereign person on any existing throne. Mr Bancroft left Cairo this morning[148] for Naples sent down to Alexandria in the Khedive's own boat. He has been a chivalrous angel to Ellen & me. I found an excellent opportunity to tell General Stone & our Consul General Beardsley[149] in Mr Bancroft's presence his magnificent behavior to me in this & in old years. You will be glad to hear that Ellen's most untimely sprain is at last healed. Since we left Naples it has not reappeared. Affectionately,

R. W. Emerson

I fear I have not given you any word of my visits & walks with Carlyle in London.[150] Perhaps I shall have reminiscences on the Nile to supply the want.

146. C. P. Stone, Cairo, Jan. 1, 1873, invited Emerson and Ellen to dine at his home that evening. Nearly nine years earlier Emerson had written a plea on Stone's behalf (May 7, 1864, to Sumner).

147. For Prince Hassan at Oxford, see Edwin de Leon, *The Khedive's Egypt*, New York, 1878, p. 249.

148. On Dec. 30 (Howe, II, 271).

149. See Feb. 17, 1873.

150. See Nov. 8, 1872.

Shepherds Hotel.[151] Here whither we have removed yesterday night from the grander house we find Charles Leland whose account of Jeff Davis Edward will remember & who is a joyful companion & Mrs Hare[152] George B. Emersons stepdaughter & her husband & daughter on their way also up the Nile. I have met them with great pleasure. Many other Americans also.

151. This new heading seems to indicate a later date than the 30th, the day of Bancroft's departure. *A Handbook for Travellers,* p. 115, describes Shepheard's Hotel as one of the most frequented by English and American families and as charging sixteen shillings a day for a room and three meals. At the New Hotel, owned by the Khedive, the terms were then " the same as at Shepheard's." Charles G. Leland, *The Egyptian Sketch Book,* 1874, pp. 49–51, recalls his meeting with Emerson at Shepheard's Hotel; and in *Memoirs,* London, 1893, II, 128, he tells the story of his denial of friendship with Jefferson Davis, the incident to which Emerson may refer here.

152. An editorial note in *Journals,* X, 406, mentions Augustus Julius Hare but no Mrs. Hare. It seems possible, however, that the name given there is an error.

# 1873

## To Lidian Emerson, Thebes, Egypt, January 21? and Keswick, England, May 11? 1873[1]

Thebes Jan 73

Dear Lidian,

We enjoy heartily this watery journey, & have spent the last two days[2] in the colossal temples on the two sides of the river here. Every day is clear & hot, the sky rich, the shores lined with palm groves, the birds innumerable, the ibis, the penguin, the hawk & the eagle, with vast flights of geese & ducks & flocks of little birds of sparrow size who fly in a rolling globe, whirl round & return again every minute. The crocodile is promised to us a little higher up the river,[3] but not yet seen. The Nile has daily the appearance of a long lake whose end we are always fast approaching, but the shores separate as we come to them opening new lakes of which we choose the broadest. Egypt is nothing but a long strip of land lined with a rocky desert on either side, & the river brings down each year the mud from the unknown regions in the South to give these wretched ribbon strips three harvests instead of one. The people are negroes in color, & often in the whole head & face, but are called Arabs, speak Arabic, and have excellent forms. The men at work

1. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The dates are approximately correct, as is shown by evidence cited below and by the MS memorandum book for 1873, partly, it seems, in Ellen's hand. For Egypt, this record includes the following events, persons, and places: in spaces above date Jan. 1, breakfast with the Khedive, and Shepheard's Hotel, Cairo; 4, visited the Pyramids and the Sphinx; 7, sailed from Cairo in the "Aurora"; 21, Karnak; 22, Tombs of the Kings; 23, Karnak, sailed; 24, sailed, Esna; 28, Assuan, G. L. Owen; 29, Philae, at night sailed for Cairo; 31, Edfu (Apollinopolis); Feb. 1, Thebes; 3, Elliot and Owen's party; 4, left Thebes; 5, Dendera; 6, Abydos, Tablet of the Kings; 10, Siut tombs and bazaar; 11, Roda; 13, Cairo; 15, Alexandria.

2. As Emerson recorded his arrival at Thebes on Jan. 19 (*Journals*, X, 409), and two days had since elapsed, the probable date of the first part of this letter is Jan. 21.

3. It is clear from this that the first part of the letter was written on the upward voyage. In the preceding sentence, "penguin" must be a slip of the pen or of the memory. Possibly "pelican" was intended.

in the fields or at the little aqueducts all along the shores are naked, with a rag tied round their loins: the women wear some kind of blue or black sheet about them, but the forms of the men are admirable, & their walk & action perfect.

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Alas, dear Lidian, since the above lines were scratched, a long idleness – say incapacity to write any thing has held me; – not a line in my diary, not any syllable that I remember unless a word or two to the bankers, or unavoidable billets in reply to notes of invitation here or there [4] has been written. You have been good & forgiving, & have sent me welcome letters, & must try to believe that this rest or absolute indolence was unavoidable & medicinal. Ellen has been a good angel here as always, & so acknowledged & received wherever we have gone – Skilful in business, perfect in temper, a welcome guest in every house we have entered, so that I have not needed to put off my solitary & silent ways. Then she has written letters by day & by night in steamboats & in trains so that there was no need for me to fight my dumb daemon.

Here we are at last on Scottish, yesterday, & today on English ground, at Keswick; & promising tomorrow to reach Manchester; &, on Wednesday, Liverpool, where our Steamer awaits us.[5] I hope we shall both bring home better health. – Ellen certainly is no longer lame, but needs to be checked from overdoing continually. She makes friends everywhere, & all the more they must be prevented from drawing on her limited strength.

We have heard gladly of your comfort & good deeds in the long exclusion from home, & soon, I trust, we shall meet with renewed strength & unbroken faith in the heart as in the house. Your affectionate

R. W. E.

## To Richard Owen, Cairo? February 14, 1873

[Partly printed in R. Owen, *The Life of Richard Owen*, 1894, II, 220. Owen also tells (p. 222) of an incident which makes it almost certain that Emerson revisited Malta on the way to Italy. Emerson, Owen says, provided carriages

4. Probably there were a few letters I have not recorded, but the evidence is vague.

5. The MS memorandum book for 1873, which gives a rather full record for the period Apr. 5–May 7, in England, ending with Durham, May 7, has only two further entries for the European visit – Edinburgh is noted for May 8 and Mrs. Williams, 153 Duke St., is listed under May 14. The letter of May *c.* 11, 1873, however, fixes the approximate date for Keswick and for the latter part of the present letter. For Manchester and Liverpool, see May 14, 1873.

for a drive to " that part of the coast where St. Paul was wrecked," and read on the spot the account of the shipwreck in *The Acts,* which brought the whole scene " plainly and vividly before our eyes." Emerson's earlier acquaintance with the British scientist is recorded in several letters of 1848.]

## To Richard Beardsley, Alexandria, February 17, 1873

[Beardsley, Cairo, Feb. 14, 1873, said he would like to have Emerson's address in order to send later any money due from the New Hotel if it could be collected. Beardsley, Mar. 4, 1873, acknowledged " Your very pleasant note from Alexandria under date of the 17th ult." He had, on receipt of Emerson's letter, inquired into a dispute between Emerson's dragoman and his servant. The money due from the New Hotel would be sent to Emerson in the near future. *Cf.* also a note on Feb. 19, 1873. Beardsley, whose title was Agent and Consul-General, is listed in the *Register of Officers and Agents . . . of the United States . . . September, 1873.* His station was Alexandria.]

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Alexandria, February 19, 1873 [6]

[1]Alexandria
19 February. 1873

Dear Will,

I ought to have long since acknowledged your letters one & two [7] so kindly ventured to an old scribe who, for the first time in his life recoils from all writing. Ellen sits daily by me vainly trying to electrify my torpid conscience & mend my pen, but the air of Egypt is full of lotus, & I resent any breaking of the dream. But today we are actually on board of the Rubattino Line steamer for Messina & Naples, & though to this moment of writing she refuses to lift her anchor, — the sea being too rough outside for the pilot to return in his boat, I can believe that the dream is passing, & I shall return to honester habits. Egypt has been good & gentle to us, if a little soporific. Nothing in our life, habit, company, atmosphere, that did not suffer change.[1] Ellen I suppose was the only traveller on the Nile who clung strictly to her own personality & régime, & made some heroic attempts to save other souls. Our whole voyage up & down the river was full of agreeable incidents, — we met

6. MS owned by Mrs. William B. Bowers II; ph. in CUL. Excerpts I–III are in Cabot, II, 661–662. According to the MS memorandum book for 1873, Emerson had reached Alexandria by Feb. 15. In reply to the letter of Feb. 17, R. Beardsley wrote, Cairo, Mar. 4 following, that he had supposed Emerson sailed on the 18th — " I afterwards learned however that you were detained one or two days at Alexandria by the storm . . ."

7. His letters dated Boston, Dec. 2, 1872, and Jan. 7, 1873, are probably meant.

good company, – among them an English Mr Owen,[8] who made two or three days kindlier to me. It was a great disappointment not to find Mr Ward.[9] He remained long at the First Cataract, as I learned from every returning Darbeeah,[10] & I hoped that he would still stay one day more, but just before we arrived there I had a letter from him that the prohibition to ascend the river was removed, & that he should go up at once. He did not know that we were so near him, & to reach Assuan the next day. [II]But I am not so blind or dependent but that I could wake to the wonders of this strange old land – alone, or with such friends as we brought with us or found here. These colossal temples scattered over hundreds of miles say like the Greek & like the Gothic piles, O ye men of the Nineteenth Century here is something you cannot do, & must respect. And tis all the more wonderful because no creature is left in the land who gives any hint of the man who made them. One of the wonders is the profusion of these giant buildings & sculptures – sphinxes & statues by fifties & hundreds at Thebes. The country too so small & limitary – no breadth – nothing but the two banks of the long Nile. Forgive me for teazing you with this old tale. But I believe I have written nothing about it, & tis all we have had to think of. Continue to be a good angel to me. With dear love to Edith & the children, Yours,[II]
William H. Forbes, Esq. [III]R. W. Emerson[III]

## To Margaret Foley, Rome, March 8, 1873[11]

Hotel des Etats Unis
March 8, '73

Dear Miss Foley,

I have not thanked you for the precious little photograph you sent me, the other evening, when I had hoped to see yourself. It is a precious copy of the picture which I yet promise myself to see with eyes at Perugia & shall see all the better for this introduction. I have always

8. Emerson had met George L. Owen at Assuan (see a note on the letter of Jan. 21? and May 11? 1873; and *cf. Journals*, X, 410). Shortly before he left Egypt he met another English Owen – Richard, the scientist – (see the note on Feb. 14, 1873).

9. *Cf.* Dec. *c.* 15? 1872.

10. There are numerous spellings current, but this one seems definitely unorthodox.

11. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The superscription, "Miss M. F. Foley, 26 Quattro Fontane," is with the letter. R. C. Hall, Liverpool, May 9, 1873, said he had heard from Rome of Emerson's visit to "Miss M. F. Foley . . . old friends of ours." According to *A Woman of the Century*, 1893, which gives her a paragraph, her name was Margaret E.; but this middle initial seems to be an error. Born in New Hampshire, she became a self-taught sculptress, and after some hard years in Boston,

heard that these earlier masters had & painted with more religion than their later followers, & so more truly. Tis very kind of you — now & formerly when you sent me the head of Alexander,[12] — to attempt my education in Art, & I hope your pains will not be quite lost. But I grieve to hear that you should be a sufferer from ill health even for a single day, & I confide that I shall see you before I leave Rome in good health.

With very kind regards,

R. W. Emerson

Miss M F. Foley

### To Baring Brothers and Company, Rome, March 9, 1873

[MS listed in Maggs Bros., catalogue 181 (1901).]

### To Edward? Waldo? Emerson, Paris? March? *c.* 30? 1873

[Edward Waldo Emerson, Concord, Apr. 18, 1873: "Your letter was a joy to us all . . ."]

### To Moncure Daniel Conway, Paris, March 31, 1873

[Partly printed in Conway, *Emerson at Home and Abroad,* p. 344. This letter refuses the honor of a banquet which Conway had proposed, London, Mar. 28 (1873), on behalf of a number of gentlemen; Emerson was asked to choose a convenient time for the banquet. The envelope, bearing Conway's London address in Emerson's hand and postmarked Paris, Apr. 1, 1873, is owned by Mrs. Mildred Conway Sawyer (ph. in CUL).]

### To William Allingham, London, April 14, 1873

[MS reproduced in facsimile in *Lettres autographes composant la collection de Madame G. Whitney Hoff,* Paris, 1934, opposite p. 64. The date line has only "Monday, 14 Apr.," but the year is obvious. Because of his daughter's "difficulty in fixing a day . . . when she can surely share in your promised guidance to the Seven Wonders," Emerson says, "she prays you to let the appointment lie until we come to you on Saturday next." Allingham had written, London, Apr. 9, 1873, asking Emerson and Ellen to dine with him at the South Kensington Museum on Apr. 19. On Apr. 15 he wrote again; Browning, he said, would dine with them on Saturday (the 19th) and would be the only other guest.]

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migrated to Rome, where she lived out the rest of her professional life. There are only a few entries in the MS memorandum book of 1873 for Italy, but they indicate that on Mar. 8 Emerson was at Baron von Hoffmann's and on the 9th at William Wetmore Story's, and that on the 10th he left Rome and arrived in Florence.

12. It seems just possible that Emerson was thinking of a gift received from, or at least through, Sarah Clarke (*cf.* Oct. 6, 1871).

## To Friedrich Max Müller, London, April 15, 1873 [13]

15 April '73 –
16 Down Street, Piccadilly

My dear Professor,

Thanks for your brave proposal touching the lectures, – it is very kind of you, – but do not think of it. If I were at Oxford with any leisure, & could believe that I could interest young men there, I should willingly read something to them, but certainly not for a fee. I go to see

13. MS owned by Sir William Grenfell Max-Muller; ph. in CUL. Some correspondence, as we have seen, had already passed between Emerson and Max Müller before the former returned to England in 1873. The story of their friendship is of special interest in the light of Emerson's long-lived enthusiasm for the sacred books of the Orient. Probably there were other letters to the famous Oxford scholar in Apr., 1873, in addition to those included here, and there may well have been some correspondence on both sides a few days before the following letter was written:

" 11 April

" Dear Sir;

" I find that Professor Ruskin does not lecture till the 2d of May. If that is not too late for you, we should be delighted if you and Miss Emerson would pay us a visit about that time. But even without Ruskin's lectures, I hope you will spend a few days with us at Oxford, and I should be glad if you could let me know the day when we may expect you here, so that I might secure some friends whom you might wish to see, to dine with us while you are here.

" My wife looks forward with great pleasure to your visit, and will do all she can to make you and Miss Emerson comfortable in our small house.

" Yours sincerely
" Max Müller "

In all probability Emerson wrote a reply, though his daughter may have done so or there may have been other means of communication, before Max Müller wrote this note, marked " *Private* & *Confidential* ":

" 13 April 73

" My dear Sir,

" My wife and I are delighted at the prospect of your visit. I write today to ask you *quite privately* whether, if the Vice Chancellor of the University invited you to deliver two lectures at Oxford, you would consent to do it. I cannot take any steps before ascertaining your own view on the subject. We have at the Taylor Institution a small fund for lectures to be delivered on Modern Literature by men who are not members of the University. We have had M. Taine who gave a course on French literature in French, and Klaus Groth, the Low German poet, who lectured on Lessing in German. The fee is small compared with your American fees, something like £10 or 15 for each lecture. The appointment is made by the Vice-Chancellor, & the Curators of the Taylor Institution of whom I am only one, so that it is always possible that there may be a difficulty: but at all events, nothing will be known in public till the appointment is made. I myself have no doubt that the Curators will be delighted to ask you, and your reception in the University would be such as you

& to hear, & so pray you to secure me a corner in your Lecture-room & Ruskin's.[14] Yours gratefully,

Professor Max Muller. R. W. Emerson

## To Edward Fordham Flower, London? April *c.* 19, 1873

[Flower, Stratford-on-Avon, Apr. 17 (1873), asks that Emerson and Ellen come out and spend a few days. Celina Greaves Flower, Stratford-on-Avon, Apr. 21, says they will be delighted to see Emerson at the time he names — apparently May 2. *Cf.* Mar. 12, 1874.]

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deserve it. Please let me know Yes or No, and I shall have a meeting of the Curators convened at once. I shall be at Birmingham to morrow, but hope to be back here on Tuesday Evening.

" Yours very sincerely

" Max Müller "

On Apr. 18 following H. G. Liddell, Vice-Chancellor of the University, wrote from Oxford, inviting Emerson on behalf of the curators of the Taylor Institution to deliver one or more lectures on any subject he might choose; Liddell stated that there would be a small honorarium. On the same day Max Müller wrote again:

" 18 April

" My dear Sir

" The Vice Chancellor will have written to you to ask you in the name of the University to give us one or two lectures during your stay at Oxford. I hope you will be able to comply with his request. The resolution was unanimous, and all will go off smoothly, I believe. Anyhow, it seems worth an effort to show to the world at large, that there exists at Oxford a kindly feeling for America, and a wish to do honour to the foremost representative of American genius. Such acts of international goodwill and courtesy tell often far more widely and powerfully than special embassies and treaties.

" I have asked some friends to dine with us on the thirtieth. On the first of May I thought we might dine at my College, All Souls. I shall probably give a lecture on the first ' On the Origin of Language.' Mr. Ruskin will lecture on the 2d of May, and I hope he will meet you at dinner on the 30th. I have asked Jowett, Bernard, Dr. Liddell (the Vice Chancellor), Dr. Acland & some younger men. Is there any one in particular you would wish to see at Oxford?

" Looking forward with very great delight to your visit here I remain

" Yours very truly

" Max Müller "

Emerson's reply was the letter of Apr. 22? 1873.

14. Ruskin was now Slade Professor of Art at Oxford and had drawn large numbers to his lectures. Letters of earlier years show Emerson's interest in him, which seems to have reached a high point shortly before the European visit of 1872–1873. Ellen wrote to her brother, Sept. 16, 1871, that their father was now reading *The Two Paths,* which he praised at every meal; Ruskin was, she said, the man in England he wished to see. A letter from Emerson to an unnamed correspondent, dated Concord, Mar. 17, n. y., was included in the sale of the MSS and library of Ruskin (Sotheby & Co., May 18, 1931) and may, I conjecture, have been written to him, perhaps in 1872 or some time after 1873.

## To Friedrich Max Müller, London? April 22? 1873 [15]

April

My dear Professor Muller,

I fear I have been unpardonably negligent in replying to your last kind note. – Let me at least say now that I hope to dine with you on the 30th, and to hear your lecture on the 1st May, & Mr Ruskins on

15. MS owned by Sir William Grenfell Max-Muller; ph. in CUL. The year is obviously 1873. For the day, this letter is pretty clearly an answer to Max Müller's of Apr. 18 (see a note on Apr. 15, 1873) and must have incited the following reply, which mentions Pusey:

"23 April

"My dear Sir,

"I regret extremely that my little conspiracy about the Lectures has failed, and I promise to conspire no more.

"Mr. Ruskin I am sorry to say, will not be here before the 2d; but he writes 'Perhaps Mr. and Miss Emerson may be able to do me the grace of letting me show them my schools in the forenoon of Saturday.

"Dr. Pusey, too, has not yet returned to Oxford, as far as I know, though Dr. J. H. Newman whom I saw last week at Birmingham told me that he would soon be back.

"Our plans for the present are as follows:
30th April – Arrival, & dinner in the Eveng
1st May. Lecture at 1. At 2.15. Prince Leopold will have luncheon with us. He is a young, good-hearted and intelligent prince, and looks forward with much pleasure to making your acquaintance. (He is a great collector of autographs). In the Evening, dinner at the Deanery.
Friday – Ruskin's Lecture. Evening, Dinner (young men) at home.
Saturday. Dinner at All Souls' – Ladies staying at home.
Sunday. Day of rest.

"Believe me, my dear Sir,

"Your sincere admirer of now 25 years' standing
"Max Müller."

It is probable that Emerson wrote again before this came from Oxford:

"27 April 73

"My dear Sir,

"I hope you will consent to stay at least till Saturday Morning. If you wish to hear Mr. Ruskins Lecture and see something of him, you could not get away on Friday before 5.25 p.m, reaching Warwick at 7.28, and you would still have your drive to Stratford on Avon. While if you really must leave on Saturday, there is a train that leaves Oxford at 8.10, and brings you to Warwick at 10. a.m. We asked a number of friends to dine with us on Friday and others to come after dinner, and they would never forgive me for having asked them to a party which would be indeed 'Hamlet without the Geist.' So please to confer with Miss Emerson, and let us have one line to say whether we may count on you for Friday Evening. I dare not plead for Saturday though I am sorry I cannot have you as my guest at my College.

"Yours very truly
"Max Müller"

The MS memorandum book for this year gives Apr. 30–May 2 to Oxford and men-

the second, & do rejoice like a boy in these expectations. Very welcome to me are the names of the friends you name, & I have none to add — though I mean to ask you to introduce me to Dr Pusey.

With great regard,
R. W. Emerson

Professor Muller.

## To Frances Elliot Russell, Countess Russell, London, April *c.* 23? 1873

[Lady Russell, Pembroke Lodge, Richmond Park, Apr. 10, 1873, said she herself was too unwell to receive guests but asked Emerson to call on Lord Russell. Lady Russell, Apr. 25, 1873, hoped that Emerson would, in accordance with the intention expressed in his note, pay another, and longer, visit to Pembroke Lodge. The Russells were the parents of Lord Amberley, who appears in several earlier letters and whom Emerson also saw, it seems, in 1873. There was almost certainly some correspondence with the Amberleys about this time.]

## To John Forster, London, April 24, 1873 [16]

Thursday, 24 April
16 Down St.

My dear Mr Forster,

I grieve & have grieved to be here & not to see you — was told that you were an invalid at this time & could not easily be seen, — yet have had a fixed mind that I must see you before I could leave London. And now comes your kind bidding to your house & hospitality and this bidding finds me engaged for that exact day to Mr Playfair at the same hour.[17] I am the most unskilful of travellers & have no faculty to deal with [18]

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tions Jowett under the first date and Ruskin under the last. Max Müller recorded his own much later memories of the visit in his "Literary Recollections," *The Living Age*, for June 5, 1897, pp. 628–629; *cf.* also the letter of May 1, 1873.

16. MS owned by the Victoria and Albert Museum; ph. in CUL. The year is obviously 1873, when Apr. 24 was Thursday.

17. Forster replied, Apr. 24, from his Kensington home, sending several pictures, regretting that there could be no meeting for the present, but suggesting that Emerson and his daughter should come on Sunday evening. That Emerson did call upon Forster before leaving London is clear from *Journals*, X, 417. Lyon Playfair, the chemist and liberal politician, was postmaster-general in 1873–1874 and was later created Baron Playfair. The MS memorandum book for 1873 mentions breakfast at his home on Saturday, Apr. 26.

18. Ellen added a note explaining that her father "was here interrupted by a call and borne away to a breakfast" but that he intended to call that afternoon or next day.

### To Ernest S. Emerson, London? April? *c.* 25? 1873

[Ernest S. Emerson, London, Apr. 22, 1873, asked whether Emerson was the son of the person of their name who once resided in Bristol. He wrote again, May 14, 1873, acknowledging "your favor."]

### To Alexander Ireland, Oxford, May 1, 1873

[Incompletely printed in Ireland, *In Memoriam,* p. 87. Ireland had written, Bowdon, Apr. 29, 1873, asking Emerson and Ellen to come to him at the end of the next week. Ireland wrote from London on May 6 following, acknowledging the letter from Oxford and expressing his pleasure that the Emersons would come to Bowdon on the 12th.]

### To Edward Waldo Emerson, Durham, May 6, 1873

[MS owned by Mr. Raymond Emerson.]

### To Alexander Ireland, Edinburgh, May 8, 1873

[Incompletely printed in Ireland, *In Memoriam,* p. 87.]

### To J. S. Ainsworth, Keswick, May *c.* 11, 1873

[Ainsworth, Carnforth, May 3? 1873, recalled his visit to Concord in 1870 and invited Emerson to visit him and his father. Ainsworth, May 12, 1873, said Emerson's note reached him that morning. If he had only known the day before that Emerson was at Keswick, he and his brother would have gone there.]

### To James Russell Lowell, Inglewood, Bowdon, Cheshire, May 14, 1873 [19]

14 May '73

My dear Lowell,

Here in his house let me by letter introduce to you my old friend Alexander Ireland, Esq. the Editor of the Manchester

19. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL. The full heading I have given is printed on the sheet Emerson used. The MS memorandum book for 1873 shows that after his Oxford visit Emerson was at Stratford May 3–5, at Durham May 6 and 7, and at Edinburgh May 8, but has only one further entry for the English visit – Mrs. Williams, 153 Duke St., is named under May 14. The letter of May 8 had fixed the time for arrival in Manchester, for a visit with Ireland, as Monday (May 12) and had set the following Wednesday as the day of departure. But there was apparently some change in the schedule; and Ireland says in *In Memoriam* that Emerson spent his last two days in England with him and the last hours before sailing, with R. C. Hall, an old friend, in Liverpool. In his letter endorsed Apr., 1872, Ireland had described his home as in a retired district eight miles from Manchester, close upon a beautiful park.

Examiner the stout ally of of Cobden & Bright, of all good North America in the last war, & of particular Americans before & since. and who well knows how to make Manchester & Liverpool kindly to them.

With good hope to see you not long hence at home,[20] Yours affectionately,

R. Waldo Emerson

James R. Lowell, Esq.

### To James R. Osgood, Concord, May 28, 1873

[MS listed in C. F. Libbie & Co., May 28, 1902; acknowledges the receipt of a check.]

### To ————————, Concord? May 29, 1873

[MS listed by Francis Edwards, on p. 34 of a catalogue whose dated pages I do not have.]

### To Edward Waldo Emerson, Concord, June 4, 1873

[MS owned by Mr. Raymond Emerson.]

### To Thomas Carlyle, Concord, June 20, 1873[21]

Concord
20 June, 1873.

My dear Carlyle,

An old friend of mine from childhood up to this day, — Mr George P. Bradford, — leaves this town tomorrow on his way to England,[22] and as he knows your mind better than most Americans, though he has never seen your face,[23] I trust he will find you at home & at

20. Emerson and Ellen left Liverpool on the Cunarder "Olympus" May 15 and reached East Boston on the evening of May 26, the day after his seventieth birthday (*Boston Daily Advertiser,* May 27, 1873). Norton was a fellow passenger and has given some account of conversations with Emerson during the voyage (*Letters of Charles Eliot Norton,* II, 12). The MS *Autobiography* says: "27 May Arrived home at Concord, with Ellen, & most kindly recieved by our townsmen & brought home to our rebuilt house."

21. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

22. The *New-York Tribune,* June 26, 1873, names G. P. Bradford among passengers who sailed in the "Russia" for Liverpool on the 25th.

23. Pretty clearly an error; see the letters of Mar.? 28? 1854? and Sept. 5, 1854; and *cf.* letters of June 30 and July 3, 1871, both to Carlyle. And the description of Governor Bradford, in the following sentence, is slightly inaccurate.

liberty. Mr Bradford is the lineal descendant of William Bradford, first Governor of Plymouth Colony, & has inherited I believe all the virtues of his ancestor, & more. As he is a far better scholar than I, & is one of the three companions I find in Concord, I trust you will treat him kindly, & send him home soon.

Affectionately,
R. W. Emerson

Thomas Carlyle, Esq.

## To William Batchelder Greene, Concord, July? *c.* 5? 1873

[MS listed and partly quoted in C. F. Libbie & Co., Apr. 26–29, 1910, where it is dated only as to year; Emerson thought George Ripley, George William Curtis, or William Henry Channing could give a good sketch of *The Dial* but doubted whether any of them would do so — " and the poor little book may as well be forgotten." Greene had written, Jamaica Plain, Mass., July 3, 1873, on the blank leaf of a prospectus of the work later issued as *Johnson's New Universal Cyclopædia,* and had inclosed a letter (doubtless F. A. P. Barnard to Greene, New York, June 18, 1873) requesting an article on *The Dial* for the cyclopedia. For his special interest in Transcendentalism, *cf.* May 2? 1843? He was a contributor to *The Dial.*]

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, July 21, 1873 [24]

Concord, July 21.

Dear Edith,

We all grieve at every pain you bear. Yet every new note brings us word of some new good in you or to you, so that, with what ever griefs, you appear born to happiness. We sit here confiding, & watch your joyful star. But I have never thanked you — no nor even named to you my daily joy & comfort in the two cabinets which suddenly appeared some weeks ago under the windows in my study. No carpenter, no Mr Cutler [25] can possibly have built — no carpenter's plane or chisel or hammer could design or finish or smooth them, — nothing but beautiful love could work the miracle. A joy & comfort & reminder of you they are, every hour of every day.

We send a blessing every hour to the new born babe.[26]

Papa.

24. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year 1873, which has been supplied, is undoubtedly correct.

25. A carpenter, it seems, who had helped rebuild Emerson's house the preceding year (see Sept. 13, 1872).

26. Edward Waldo Forbes was born at Naushon Island on July 16, 1873.

To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord? July? 31? 1873

[Ellen Emerson, Naushon Island, Aug. 2, 1873: "Will received your letter about Aunt Susan last night."]

To Ellen Emerson, Concord, August 1, 1873 [27]

Concord, 1 August – '73

Dear Ellen

I am sorry you get so few letters for your liberal ones, but there are none but old people at home – except your mother – & they do not find any day long enough to do anything except to count how many necessary duties & debts impend which remain & promise sturdily to remain undone. We need that gilded whip which you carry to wake up our sleeping souls. Meantime we do not forget you, or Edith, or Will, or your five wards [28] born under happy stars. Continue to give us your daily Report of Facts & Probabilities till we have something half as good to send. Love to you & yours & ours.

Papa.

To Friedrich Max Müller, Concord, August 4, 1873 [29]

Concord Mass^tts^
August 4, 1873.

My dear Professor,

I confess with shame that I have let weeks pass since your welcome book with its honoring Dedication [30] came to my hands from over the sea. I sat down at once & read it from the beginning to the end, – here pausing, – there rushing, – – sitting still awhile at p. 149 to explore Schelling's rather nebulous light, then hailing the subtle courage

27. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

28. Emerson means the five children of his daughter Edith.

29. MS owned by Sir William Grenfell Max-Muller; ph. in CUL.

30. Max Müller's *Introduction to the Science of Religion*, London, 1873, was dedicated to Emerson in memory of his visit to Oxford in May, 1873, and in acknowledgment of constant refreshment derived from his writings during twenty-five years. The quotation from Schelling on p. 149 was more pertinent to the fundamental attitudes of American Transcendentalists than Emerson probably realized in his old age: "'A people,' as Schelling says, 'exists only when it has determined itself with regard to its mythology. . . .'" On p. 190: "We now come to the third nucleus of language, and, as I hope to show, of religion also – that which forms the foundation of the Turanian world."

(p. 190) that will find order & relation in the Turanians. I am happy that you will make yourself responsible for these symmetries, for we all hate Chaos. The book is all new to me, who had not even known that you had been printing in Fraser, or I should have sought the papers as they came.[31] The old Essays on the "Science of Language" & the "Chips &c," [32] I had long known & prized. From their novelty & wealth they will continue to have the first claim. I need not confess how bad a reader of criticism I am,, knowing no word of Sanscrit, except what I read in your page. All my interest in the Aryan is old reading of Marsh's Menu,[33] then Wilkins's Bhagavat Geeta; [34] Burnouf's Bhagavat Purana; [35] & Wilson's Vishnu Purana,[36] – yes & a few other translations. I remember I owed my first taste for this fruit to Cousin's sketch,[37] in his first Lectures, of the Dialogue between Krishna & Arjoon, & I still prize the first chapters of that Bhagavat as wonderful, & would gladly learn any accurate date of their age. Tis curious that in all these books

31. Emerson had forgotten that he had seen the work in an earlier form (*cf.* Jan. 21, 1872), though he may not have found the instalments which appeared in *Fraser's* in 1870.

32. There had been an American edition of *Chips from a German Workshop,* published in two volumes at New York in 1869. This work, also, had contained some essays on the science of religion. The two series of *Lectures on the Science of Language* had appeared in 1861–1864.

33. Apparently there was never a Marsh's Menu. I conjecture that Emerson had a hazy memory of Joshua Marshman, editor of Confucius, whose work he indeed read about the same time he was reading from a translation of the laws of Menu, or Manu (*cf. Journals,* IV, 10 and 57, and see Oct. 16, 1863). It is barely possible too that some vague recollection of James Marsh, the Vermont scholar (see a note on May 31, 1834), may have helped the confusion. That Emerson had at least some indirect knowledge of the Hindu book long before 1836 is indicated by an unpublished entry in the diaries which is undated but must belong in the period 1820–1822 and presumably to 1822: Enlightened morality, he says, was taught in India as long ago as Menu. Then he quotes a passage on the uselessness of a pilgrimage to the Ganges for a righteous man and adds that these Indian doctrines are quoted in notes to *The Curse of Kehama.* (Typescript *Journals.*) Obviously his source was Southey's note on the third section of Part XII.

34. *Cf.* May 30, 1845.

35. *Le Bhagavata Purana ou histoire poétique de Krichna,* tr. Eugène Burnouf, Paris, 3 vols., 1840, 1844, 1847.

36. The copy of *The Vishnu Purana, a System of Hindu Mythology and Tradition,* tr. H. H. Wilson, London, 1840, is still in the Emerson library at the Antiquarian House and contains the record of its passage through the hands of Thomas Cholmondeley into the possession of Thoreau and from Thoreau to Emerson.

37. See a note on May 24, 1831. Doubtless Emerson first read Cousin's résumé of the famous dialogue in the French of *Cours de philosophie,* Vol. I, but he apparently soon had this résumé in Linberg's English translation, Boston, 1832, pp. 71–73 (*cf.* Mar. 5, 1832).

are passages of grandeur, as if written by one majestic person, & closely followed by commonplace superstition. I must believe they have been interpolated by foolish hands. I count them all potential corrections of our old narrow history of religions; and I suppose their effect will appear more conspicuously in America than in England, as the State does not here back up the creed, as with you. The effect is inevitable. Of course I think it the best result of your possession of India, & a counterbalance of much bad politics & sad history there. In my limited experience you are the first writer who has treated Eastern matters with vivacity, which results perhaps from writing in England, & not in India, & I shall await with interest your future results.

My daughter & I delight in our recollection of our visit to you,[38] which was & is full of excellent fruits. My England would have been very imperfect without it. You certainly played the part of the most intelligent benefactor, & we pray you to assure Mrs Max Muller of our lively gratitude to her, who gave our hours the value of days. To your children we send our affectionate regards; & now we await your visit to America, which you must not long postpone. With affectionate regards,

Dr Max Muller. R. W. Emerson

### To M. L. Simons, Concord, August 6, 1873

[Listed in Anderson Galleries, Feb. 1–3, 1926, and partly quoted in Thomas F. Madigan, Sept. 22, 1926; refers Simons to James R. Osgood & Co. " on the matter of printing any new papers of mine."]

### To Susan Bridge Jackson, Concord? August? 6? 1873?

[Susan Bridge Jackson, Thursday noon (Aug.? 7? 1873?), said she received Emerson's note that morning; to vindicate herself from Abraham Jackson's charges, she would go to Concord on the following day and would be happy to meet William Forbes, as she needed an adviser. *Cf.* July? 31? 1873.]

### To Anne Charlotte Lynch Botta, Concord, August 9, 1873

[MS listed in American Art Association, Mar. 3–4, 1926. Described in Anderson Auction Co., Jan. 18, 1910, as acknowledging Mrs. Botta's invitation to visit her and telling of Emerson's daughter and grandchildren.]

38. See the letters of Apr. 15 and 22? 1873.

### To John Greenleaf Whittier, Concord, August 22, 1873

[MS listed and partly quoted in John Anderson, Jr., Feb. 6, 1903; printed incompletely in Samuel T. Pickard, II, 577. Whittier, Amesbury, Mass., Aug. 23, 1873, thanked Emerson for a note containing an invitation to Concord, which he could not accept. "When I was there before," he added, "that wise, wonderful Thoreau was with us."]

### To Rebecca Duncan, Concord, August 26, 1873

[MS listed in Goodspeed's Book Shop, Jan.–Mar., 1922, where it is dated only as to year and is described merely as relating to Emerson's visit to Chester; printed, without year and with the omission of the name of the person addressed, in *Boston Evening Transcript*, July 12, 1897, p. 6. Rebecca L. Duncan, Grafton, Vt., Aug. 24, 1873, said that Edward Eggleston was there and had made known several of the characters in his novels. Eggleston, she learned, once drove many miles to hear Emerson's voice away in the West. He had a delightful letter from Thomas Hughes, which bore the stamp of the author of *Tom Brown's School-days* on every page and mentioned both Emerson and Lowell; but a friend had said it could not be from that Tom Hughes. She wished Emerson's verdict on this point. She wrote again, Aug. 29 following, thanking him for his prompt reply. Eggleston, she said, was grateful for the information but sorry to find that his letter was not from Tom Brown. Emerson, in his letter, if the *Transcript* version is as nearly complete as it seems, showed no interest in Eggleston, but had much to say about Thomas Hughes of Chester, England, whom he had met there in Nov., 1872.]

### To Corinne Frazar Chamberlaine? Concord? August? 1873? [39]

Dear Mrs Chamberlain,

I think you should not hastily take so important a step. The picture has a greatly increased value in America over its worth in Europe & should not be hidden. It is not quite certain until we have looked the new Library carefully over that there is a fit & adequate place even for proper space & light for it and since Harvard College was its first destination we must not hastily withhold a noble gift from the noblest

39. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL. The date Aug., 1873, has been supplied and is probably correct. In a letter of Sept. 20, 1873, to an unnamed person, A. P. Chamberlaine, presumably the husband of Emerson's correspondent, wrote that he was donating to the Concord library a copy by Raphael Mengs of Titian's "Columbus" (*Dedication of the New Building for the Free Public Library of Concord*, 1873, p. 30). He wrote to Emerson, Venice, Oct. 4, 1878, about books he wished to buy for the Concord and Harvard College libraries. Mr. Robert Lovett informs me that the record book kept by the secretary of the Harvard class of 1847 mentions the marriage of Augustus Porter Chamberlaine to Corinne Frazar, in 1855. *Cf.* May 25, 1876.

receiver. I cling to my first proposed middle course. Pay the Library of Concord the fine compliment of the exhibition of the picture for a year, & let Cambridge & Boston come up hither to see it, and you will be free thereafter to give it to the College when the alumni have learned its high claims. I have been unusually been kept at home today by unforeseen duties or I should already have brought my friend to your house. I shall still seek an early opportunity to do so. With kindest regards to Mr Chamberlain & yourself,

Tuesday P. M. R. W. Emerson

To John Greenleaf Whittier, Concord? September? 1? 1873

[Whittier, Amesbury, Mass., Sept. 2, 1873, acknowledged Emerson's note and that of J. M. Forbes; he wished to accept their invitation but was prevented by a cold.]

To ———— Doll, Concord? September? *c.* 10? 1873

[Mentioned in Sept. 10, 1873. For the Boston Dolls, see a note on that letter.]

To ———— Watson, Concord? September? *c.* 10? 1873

[Mentioned in Sept. 10, 1873. Whether this was to the Mary Watson, of Milton, Mass., who had sailed to Fayal with Ellen Emerson in 1868 (*Boston Daily Evening Transcript,* Oct. 31, 1868), I do not know.]

To Ellen Emerson, Naushon Island, September 10, 1873 [40]

Naushon, 10 Sept '73

Dear Ellen,

I have written to Miss Watson, & also to Doll, & hope to secure combined action & reception. Mr Hunt assured me that he had approved to Doll his proposed style.[41] I keep my corner in Will's &

40. MS owned by Mr. William H. Forbes; ph. in CUL.

41. The passage is, to me, obscure; but there is some very unconvincing evidence that may suggest a possible meaning. The public library at Concord was soon to inaugurate its new building (see *Dedication of the New Building for the Free Public Library of Concord . . . Oct. 1, 1873*). Emerson was a member at this time of the Library Committee; and a William H. Hunt, a member of a committee of the Concord Farmers' Club, wrote to the trustees of the Library on Jan. 30, 1874, asking acceptance of a plaster bust of the Hon. Simon Brown made by Daniel C. French (*Annual Reports of the Selectmen . . . of Concord,* 1874, pp. 48 and 54). It is barely possible that Doll had some duty in connection with this bust. *The Boston Directory* for 1873–1874 is rich in Dolls who might have been needed — one was a marble

Edith's villa, until the answer of Mr Cabot is received to their invitation to come & spend two days – Saturday & Sunday, I believe – with them & me. If he declines, I shall come home tomorrow or the next day. Mr Eliot [42] called on me, & yesterday I visited his tents & he with Mr & Mrs Foote came hither to dine at 3. They interested me as I had known or watched their parents in my youth with special advantage, & now saw these children & their children like a keen Methusaleh. Mrs Foote's eyes sparkled when I told her of my skating all one winter under her grandfather's grand arched bridge in Waltham [43] watched his deer in the park & his swans on the stream in an age when there were no other deer or swans in parks in Mass.[tts] We shall hear today from the Worcester Convention [44] we trust the right result Mr J. M. Forbes is the best patriot in the state, & in his every attitude & action, in his play as as in his sacrifice, a joyful spectacle.

I must end as Edward is hastening to the boat Edith is perfectly well to all appearance & Will ever the same and all the children sound. I fear Mamma has not rec[d] my letter.[45] But then I shall come so soon.

R. W. Emerson

## To Julia Ward Howe, Concord, October 15, 1873 [46]

Concord, 15 Oct. '73.

Dear Mrs. Howe,

I am appalled a little at the distance of the dates of your note and mine. I did not on receiving it feel sure that it related to our

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worker; another, a carpenter; a third, a cabinetmaker; and a fourth, a dealer in pictures. Hunt, however, might conceivably have been the artist, William Morris Hunt, mentioned in earlier letters. If he was, then Doll was doubtless E. Adams Doll, the dispenser of pictures (*cf.* Helen M. Knowlton, pp. 38, 39, and 115).

42. Probably the Eliot of the following note.

43. Possibly Emerson remembered the winter of 1817–1818 (*cf.* Feb. 6? 1818). Henry W. Foote, a minister, later wrote to Emerson, Oct. 25, 1874, and Aug. 11, 1875, about their duties on a Harvard committee. He had married Frances Anne, daughter of the Hon. Samuel M. Eliot; it was her uncle Theodore Lyman who purchased and improved the Gore estate in Waltham, noted for its dam, waterfall, park, and deer (Lyman Coleman, pp. 362, 364, 365, and 367; and *Coll. Mass. Hist. Soc.*, 2d series, III, 272).

44. The Massachusetts Republican state convention was convened there on the day of this letter (*Worcester Evening Gazette*, Sept. 10, 1873).

45. Perhaps the letter had not been written.

46. MS copy owned by Mrs. Henry Richards; a typed copy she has sent me, made from her copy, is in CUL. Unless Emerson misdated his letter, his writing was a

old friend the Woman's Club — which inspires courage; — or was it a club of Art — which inspires fear; and I am all out of practice in all kinds. But my wife assures me that it means the old Tremont Place hospitality, which is tolerant, and excludes reporters, — and that old age may therefore venture old opinions. Yet I indulge the hope that you will find a younger talker in the interim, and drop me.

With all kind regards,

R. W. Emerson.

To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, October *c.* 20, 1873[47]

Concord, Oct. '73

Dear Will,

Your note & its enclosed check for $542.50 came duly,[48] and I thank you for the kind proposition that you make. Perhaps I may yet be glad to accept it in part. But I have just received from the Middlesex Insurance Co. the full amount set down in the policy for Furniture & books,[49] $750.00 which sum I hope will pay my taxes & other debts, & keep me nearly to January. So I re-inclose the cheque, & perhaps before I want the money, one of the Land Bonds will have recovered its former value.

We are gladly relying on a visit tomorrow from Edith, with Ralph, Edith Junior, & the babe,[50] & we hope that you will feel so anxious for their safety as to accompany them. Do so if you can. Mrs E was downstairs yesterday for the first time in the fortnight, & will keep well if you come.

Affectionately,

R. W. Emerson

W. H. Forbes, Esq.

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curious coincidence; for Julia Ward Howe wrote from New York, Oct. 15, 1873, to learn whether he had received her note of "some little time ago to ask that you would kindly speak, lecture, or read for us at the opening meeting of the N. E. Woman's Club . . . the first Monday in November."

47. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Emerson left a blank space in the date line for the day.

48. W. H. Forbes, Boston, Oct. 18, 1873, inclosed the check described here, the amount collected from Emerson's coupons, and suggested that a certain debt due, apparently to John M. Forbes & Co., for credit used abroad during the transatlantic travel of 1872–1873 could be deferred till Emerson was in funds from the sale of the Plymouth or Court St. properties.

49. The burning of Emerson's home is recorded in letters of July and Aug., 1872.

50. *Cf.* July 21, 1873.

### To Charles Eliot Norton, Concord? *c.* October? 1873

[Mentioned as a lost letter in Nov. 11, 1873, to Norton; clearly belongs to the summer or fall of 1873, as it was written after Emerson and Norton returned together from Europe.]

### To Charles Eliot Norton, Concord, November 11, 1873

[MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL. Incompletely printed, with slight changes, in *Letters of Charles Eliot Norton,* II, 137–138. The omission there indicated is of the following passage:

" In our short interview at Miss Ashburner's house & at yours you charged me with neglecting to answer your letter. I was surprised, but did not remember till on my way home that I had soon after receiving your generous poetic epistle written & sent you a letter – which I am very sorry you did not receive. It is possible that I may have mis-addressed it to Ash*land* for Ashfield – as I often hesitate at the name. I do not think of any other probable error.

" Of course the occasion of the letter was to thank you for the delicious verses you had sent me, which were only too kind in their sense, but faultless in form. Then "

The rest is in the printed version, except the " Charles E. Norton, Esq." which Emerson wrote at the end of the letter. The " 11 " of the date line was perhaps inserted by another hand and may have been copied from the Concord postmark on the envelope.]

### To Edmund Clarence Stedman, Concord, November 11, 1873

[MS listed in Charles F. Heartman, Aug. 7, 1926; incompletely printed in Laura Stedman and George M. Gould, *Life and Letters of Edmund Clarence Stedman,* 1910, I, 480–481.]

### To Charles Eliot Norton, Concord, December 2, 1873 [51]

Concord
Dec 2, '73

My dear Norton,

Do not forget that you are coming to dine with me on Thursday, & are to come in the Fitchburg train leaving Boston at 11. A. M. & also to bring Carlyle's letter,[52] & cheer

Your friend,
R. W. Emerson

Charles E. Norton, Esq

51. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL.

52. A notation, not in Emerson's hand, gives the date of this letter as Nov. 3, 1873.

## To Annie Adams Fields, Concord? December 14, 1873 [53]

Sunday Night
14 Decr

Dear Mrs Fields,

Perhaps I shall come to your Tea Party, on Monday Eveg. in spite of my refusal, if you will allow old age to change its mind; and if *you will not mention that I am coming.* I read a page yesterday about the old times & thought of an old verse which made me a little penitent. You shall not keep my room for me at your house, for my wife & daughter are not in condition to come; & I am under some necessity to go to another friend.

With kind regards, yours,
R. W. Emerson

Mrs Annie Fields.

## To Edward Waldo Emerson, Naushon Island, *c.* 1873?

[MS owned by Mr. Raymond Emerson. The date, given only as Wednesday evening, was presumably later than 1865, when Edith Emerson was married. A vague reference to newspaper paragraphs from Huxley and from Lovering offers a clue, but I have been unable to find any evidence pointing to a more definite date.]

53. MS owned by the Henry E. Huntington Library; ph. in CUL. Dec. 14 fell on Sunday in 1873 and 1879 during the years when the allusion to "old age" would have been fitting. An endorsement has: "R. W. E. who came on the 16th and read a poem." The mention of the "Tea Party" seems to fix the year definitely. Emerson read "Boston" at the centennial celebration of the Boston Tea Party in Faneuil Hall, Dec. 16, 1873 (*Cent. Ed.*, IX, 471).

# 1874

## To William Dean Howells, Concord, January 5, 1874[1]

Concord
5 January, '74 –

Dear Sir,

I send you the verses read at Faneuil Hall.[2] Perhaps when you send me a proof, I can add a few couplets by way of refrains, or repeat some of those we have.

For the matter of your note received on Saturday [3] I think I must not venture to promise any thing. I have some records & many recollections of Agassiz but I am not now at liberty to collect or to arrange them – and his memory deserves best forms as well as facts.

With great regard,
R. W. Emerson

Mr Howells.

1. MS owned by Miss Mildred Howells; ph. in CUL.

2. *Cf.* Dec. 14, 1873. In a note dated from the editorial office of *The Atlantic,* Cambridge, Dec. 17, 1873, Howells had asked for this poem:
" Dear Sir:

" Can you not give me for publication in The Atlantic the poem which you read at the Boston Tea-Party?

" Very respectfully
" W. D. Howells.

" R. W. Emerson, Esq."

3. Also written from the editorial office and dated Jan. 2, 1874:
" Dear Sir:

" I want to print in the March Atlantic a paper on Agassiz to be made up of reminiscences of him in some characteristic light or attitude by several of his chief literary and scientific friends. If you can draw from your recollections of him material enough for 3 or 4 Atlantic pages, I shall be very glad, or if you can give your impressions or estimate of the man, I shall be equally obliged.

" Very truly yours,
" W. D. Howells

" R. W. Emerson, Esq."

## To William Dean Howells, Concord, January 19, 1874[4]

Concord, Jan 19 '74.

My dear Sir,

Please send me back my verses & break up the form. I did not doubt that they were to be printed for the February Number, and it would be ridiculous to print so strictly occasional lines after two months, instead of one. Sorry to waste the printer's time, but beg you to return them to me at once.[5]

With kind regards,
R. W. Emerson

W. D. Howells, Esq

## To James Bradley Thayer, Concord, March 10? 1874[6]

Concord 12, March

My dear Mr Thayer,

I hope you have not found time to remember & repeat your

4. MS owned by Miss Mildred Howells; ph. in CUL.

5. Howells replied on the 22d of the same month:

" My dear Sir:

" I hope that on looking at the enclosed proof you may still find it possible to let me have yr poem for the March Atlantic. It seems to me that its interest depends only in the very slightest degree upon the occasion to which it refers. Of course this is a matter for you decide but I venture to say that none of your readers would attach more or less value to *any* poem of yours because it was printed a month sooner or later. — I shall be very sorry indeed if I lose your poem, but I should regret still more the appearance of having been at all wanting in consideration. Let me explain, therefore, that three or four days passed before you consented even conditionally to let me have the piece; a week or more passed then, and when I wrote for your final decision you did not answer me. Finally, on the 5th of January, when the last forms of the February no. were ready for stereotyping, and the proof-reading of your poem would have delayed the magazine several days, you sent the poem. I see now that I should have returned it and asked your consent to its use in the March no., but I never thought you would object. However, the mortification of losing it now will be sufficient penance with me for my over-anxiety to keep it.

" I will return the Ms. as soon as I go to the printers.

" Very respectfully
" W. D. Howells.

" Mr. Emerson."

" Boston " actually appeared, after a delay of two years, in *The Atlantic* for Feb., 1876, and was, it seems, the last poem Emerson contributed to that magazine. A scrap of his MS, showing a few alterations he made in the poem at some time during its long period of growth, is in the Cambridge Public Library.

6. MS owned by Professor James B. Thayer; ph. in CUL. The date Mar. 10, 1874, has been supplied, apparently by the recipient of the letter.

work on our dismal paper [7] but I fear it is too late. to prevent you Last night the naughty careful draught you had sent me before crept out from *under* one of the drawers in which I had carefully laid it weeks ago. It actually seemed to know what I had looked for & was thinking of again at the very moment, when the envelope you had mentioned put your name first under the lowest drawer & was followed by one sheet of the inclosure until all were recovered. Perhaps the sinful *hide & seeks* repented thus late because I had been reading a little, & my wife more, in Mr Denton's Book on Mesmerism,[8] which he has just sent me. If, as I hope, you have postponed on equal mesmeric suggestions your repeating the document, please stop till I see you, & I will respect the Mesmerizers.

Affectionately,
R. W. E.

J. B. Thayer, Esq.

## To Henry James, Sr., Concord, March 11, 1874? [9]

Concord 11 March

My dear James,

I hope you have not forgotten that you promised a night's hospitality to Ellen & myself, a boon gladly held before us here for a month past, and we now mean to ask leave to come tomorrow, Thursday, I to come in the forenoon for College examination visits, & Ellen, (held at home by some ill timed Bible society) not until 7.38 (as the child wickedly reveals at this moment) If you or Mrs James or Alice are otherwise engaged, please send me a word by post, & Ellen at least

7. Various earlier letters mention Thayer's aid to Emerson in business matters. The present letter bears the notation " as to his will "; and the " dismal paper " here referred to was doubtless an early draft of Emerson's will. The final draft, dated Apr. 14, 1876, and now in the Registry of Probate, Middlesex County, is in Thayer's hand and bears his signature as a witness. Emerson's memory was noticeably failing by 1874, and it may be that the paper here mentioned was the same found a few weeks earlier: Elizabeth B. Ripley, Feb. 19, 1874, wrote that her brother Gore was glad Emerson had found his " paper," but that there was no need to apologize for forgetting things.

8. Perhaps one of the several editions, from 1863, of William and Elizabeth Denton's *The Soul of Things; or, Psychometric Researches and Discoveries.*

9. MS owned by Mr. Henry James; ph. in CUL. Of the years when Mar. 12 fell on Thursday, 1868 and 1874 are the only ones at all probable. The date " 1874? " has been supplied; and it is to be noted that Emerson was a member of the overseers' committee to visit the academic department in that year (*Forty-ninth Annual Report of the President of Harvard College. 1873–74*, p. 95).

will postpone her visit to Cambridge, & I will come to you when you are free.

Affectionately yours,
R. W. Emerson

Henry James, Esq.

## To Celina Greaves Flower, Concord, March 12, 1874[10]

Concord, Mass^tts^
12 March, '74

Dear Mrs Flower,

I reproach myself, daily almost, that you have had no line or word from me since I was the happy guest of Mr Flower & yourself for days that shine in my daughter's & my memory.[11] But my sin has become a system since I came home, & I rarely write, alas! even a line that is not peremptorily necessary.

But Ellen tells me that her valued friend, Mrs William Emerson, the widow of my nephew of New York is returning from Italy to London on her way home, & Ellen desires much that you should see this lady, & certainly that this lady should have the privilege of seeing you & Mr Flower. So I hope that she may have the good fortune to find you at home as she passes through the Great City. With kindest remembrances to Mr Flower, your friend,

R. W. Emerson

Mrs E. F. Flower

## To William Dean Howells, Concord, March 14, 1874[12]

Concord
14 March

Dear Sir,

I must not attempt the paper you propose though I should like well to do it & for the Atlantic, but my habit of writing is so irregu-

10. MS owned by the Folger Shakespeare Library; ph. in CUL.

11. Doubtless the days were May 3–5 of the preceding year (see a note on May 14, 1873). The "ten days" of *Journals*, X, 418, is perhaps a typographical error. For Emerson's earlier visits with the Flowers at Stratford and at Concord, see July 10, 1848, and Apr. 11, 1849, to Flower.

12. MS in the possession of the Chicago Book & Art Auctions; ph. in CUL. Howells had written, Cambridge, Mar. 13, 1874, asking for a short paper on Charles Sumner.

lar in these days, & I have so much incomplete work that I must not make new promises.

Yours,

R. W Emerson

W D Howells Esq

## To James Leonard Corning, Concord? March? *c.* 15? 1874[13]

My dear Mr Corning, I send you, with my thanks for your kind remembrance, the autograph which your friend, the Librarian, honors me by asking, &, whilst I congratulate you on the vast advantages that Germany offers to a wise American, pray you to remember that America suffers if he stays a month too long.

With kind regards,

R. W. Emerson

## To W. Robertson Herkless, Thomas S. Blyth, and P. Hately Waddell, Jr., Concord, March 18, 1874

[MS listed and partly quoted in Anderson Galleries, Nov. 10–11, 1924; apparently the same briefly described in Ritter-Hopson Galleries, Mar. 24, 1932. A rough draft is owned by RWEMA (ph. in CUL). Printed in the *Boston Daily Advertiser,* Apr. 21, 1874, p. 2, where it is described as Emerson's "letter to the committee formed to promote his election as lord-rector of Glasgow University" and as "given to the public through the columns of the Glasgow Herald of April 7." In their invitation of Feb. 17, 1874, which the present letter answers, Herkless, the president, and Blyth and Waddell, secretaries of the University Independent Club, dwelt upon the honor and importance of the lord rectorship at Glasgow, an honor formerly accepted by such persons, they recalled, as Edmund Burke, Adam Smith, and Macaulay. In nominating Emerson, the members of the Club were "actuated by the desire to do the highest honour in their power to the first name in the Republic of Letters" and so to add glory to the office and "to strengthen the intellectual Relations between this Country and America."]

## To James Hutchison Stirling, Concord, March 18, 1874

[MS owned by Mr. Owen D. Young; ph. in CUL. Printed in Amelia H. Stirling, pp. 263–264, with the omission of only the name "Dr Stirling," at the end.]

13. MS owned by Mr. Owen D. Young; ph. in CUL. Corning, Stuttgart, Feb. 2, 1874: "The only German in this city who knows English well enough to read & enjoy your writings occupies the position of private librarian to the King. I have procured for him an excellent photographic likeness of yourself from America & he wishes me as a special favor to get your autograph if possible." Corning wrote again, Apr. 17 following, inclosing the card of the King's librarian in acknowledgment of

## To James Hutchison Stirling, Concord? March 18? 1874

[Stirling, Edinburgh, Feb. 18, 1874, told of a memorial the students of Glasgow University proposed to send Emerson — a request that he be a candidate for the lord rectorship there; Stirling asked that Emerson telegraph him the single word "Yes." In his reply dated Mar. 18 following, Emerson said that with that letter and "one to the Committee" he carried his "*Yes*" to the "Boston Ocean telegraph." Stirling wrote again, Apr. 2, 1874, that Emerson's telegram had duly come and that now the letter of Mar. 18 had arrived — "Your acceptance of the Candidature was hailed by the young men with rapturous enthusiasm . . ."]

## To James Elliot Cabot, Concord, March 24, 1874[14]

Concord, 24 March '74

My dear Cabot,

When you go to the Athenaeum will you not authorize me to retain for a second or third week a book which I took out nearly a week since — *Grammaire de Peinture,* par *Charles Blanc.*[15] I borrowed it to lend to Miss Sara Palfrey,[16] at Cambridge, who desired much to see it, & have sent it to her. She may easily wish to keep it longer than a few days. Please remember the club on Saturday. Mr Brimmer[17] wishes to propose Frank E. Parker Esq. as a member; I do not know that there is any objection. I wish that a new & considerate vote should be made in behalf of Dr Gray,[18] who failed of election three months ago, at a thin meeting, I believe, though I was not present, — & the only reason, I learned, was that the club was too large already. The last weeks have sadly reduced our strength.

Yours ever,
R. W. Emerson

J. Elliot Cabot, Esq

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Emerson's autograph. The story of Corning's residence of some years in Stuttgart is told in his *Recollections of a Life,* n. d. (1898?), pp. 84 ff.

14. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL.

15. Charles Blanc, *Grammaire des arts du dessin architecture, sculpture, peinture,* Paris, 1867, still in the Boston Athenæum, was received by that library in 1867. There is a note of it in an entry of May 4 in the MS memorandum book for 1874.

16. A letter of Jan. 10, 1866, is to her.

17. A member of the Saturday Club since 1864 (*The Early Years,* p. 356). Francis Edward Parker, at one time a law partner of Cabot's (*ibid.,* p. 262), apparently never became a member of the Club.

18. The letter of Apr.? *c.* 25? 1874, notifies him of his election. The statement (*Later Years of the Saturday Club,* p. 67) that Gray was elected in 1873 seems to be an error.

## To Octavius Brooks Frothingham, Concord, April 11, 1874[19]

Concord, April 11, '74

My dear Mr Frothingham

I hate to refuse any request of yours, but I am, — I hardly dare say how long in arrears of my promises to Osgood & Company, & through them to an English house,[20] for a book which still refuses to be finished, or to give me leave for any task till it is done. I am always a slow workman, &, in the last year or two, with somewhat broken habits for writing. One of the papers I have thought of putting into the new book is "Persian Poetry," printed in an old "Atlantic"[21] & the very design will show you how niggardly the Muse is. So forgive me, & make the best excuse you can for me to Dr Barnard.[22]

With very kind regards,
R. W. Emerson

Rev. O. B. Frothingham

## To Robert Charles Winthrop, Concord, April 22, 1874[23]

Concord, 22 April.

My dear Sir,

It will give me great pleasure to accept your invitation for Friday Evening.

With kind regards
R. W. Emerson

Hon R. C. Winthrop.

19. MS owned by Mr. Carroll A. Wilson; ph. in CUL.

20. The story of these annoying obligations which Emerson tried to fulfill in old age is told in July 18, 1870, and numerous letters through a period of some years.

21. "Persian Poetry," first printed in *The Atlantic* for Apr., 1858, was reprinted in *Letters and Social Aims*, published late in 1875 (see a note on Dec. 18, 1875).

22. Frederick A. P. Barnard, president of Columbia College, was editing *Johnson's New Universal Cyclopædia* (1875) and had apparently applied, through Frothingham, for some contribution by Emerson.

23. MS owned by Mr. Owen D. Young; ph. in CUL. The year is fixed by Winthrop's letter, Boston, Apr. 21, 1874, inviting Emerson to dinner on Friday evening to meet Principal Tulloch, of St. Andrews, and his friend Alexander Duncan. John Tulloch had been appointed principal of St. Mary's College, St. Andrews, about twenty years earlier. Emerson, according to Tulloch's account of the dinner, talked "not very much, in oracular imperfect sentences" and was "very much interested in being proposed as Rector for Glasgow" (Margaret Oliphant, *A Memoir of the Life of John Tulloch*, 3d ed., 1889, p. 291).

### To Asa Gray, Concord? April? *c.* 25? 1874

[Gray, Cambridge, May 11, 1874, said he was much honored by "your note informing me that I have been elected into the Saturday Club"; he explained that he was away from home when the note came and had since been very busy and had inadvertently neglected to reply. I conjecture that the election had occurred at the regular monthly meeting of Saturday, Apr. 25, 1874.]

### To Christopher Pearse Cranch, Concord, May 2, 1874

[Printed, perhaps incompletely, in Leonora Cranch Scott, p. 281.]

### To Charles Eliot Norton, Concord, May 5, 1874 [24]

Concord, 5 May, '74

My dear Norton,

Is your house full or can you give me a lodging on Tuesday night next? [25] I am to read a lecture to the Divinity School, or to some of the members, on that evening,[26] & my correspondent tells me Professor Everett [27] offers to give me a bed; but as I have no other acquaintance with him except through his good book, I please myself with the hope that you are at home, & not crowded. I will excuse you from the Lecture, & you shall tell me if your guests abound.

With all kind regards,
R. W. Emerson

Charles E. Norton, Esq

### To Frederic Henry Hedge, Concord, May 10, 1874? [28]

Concord, 10 May

My dear Hedge,

Thanks for your kind invitation, which I should accept with joy if I were not already promised to Charles Norton. But I hope

24. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL.

25. Norton replied from Shady Hill, Cambridge, May 6, 1874, that it would be a great pleasure to have Emerson as a guest and asked whether he would come for dinner before the lecture. Norton also said he had a letter from Carlyle to read to Emerson and a little gift for him from the same person.

26. The MS memorandum book for 1874 records, under May 1, a promise to lecture to the students of the Divinity School — "I am to fix the time." Norton wondered what Emerson could have to say to these members of a Unitarian divinity school; he had said his word to them in his beautiful discourse of thirty-six years earlier (*Letters of Charles Eliot Norton*, II, 43). For Emerson's comment on the visit, see May 13, 1874.

27. Charles Carroll Everett had become Bussey Professor of Theology in 1869.

28. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. I conjecture that this refers to Emer-

to see you by night, or in the next morning, if your engagements do not prevent. Affectionately Yours,

R. W. Emerson

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, May 13, 1874[29]

13 May,
Wednesday Night

Dearest Edith,

Your note came to me too late to be obeyed. Also my valise had gone home at noon & I was not in plight to come for the night. I will try to come on Friday, if I can, & spend the night, & plant my tree,[30] or if it appear impossible will send letter or telegraph tomorrow. I have in some sort disposed of my two engagements — at Cambridge & at Boston, & had for the first a good visit to Mr Norton.[31]

The picture of the babe [32] is charming, & your mother finds a strong likeness of Waldo in it. We are relieved in the good news of the children, & trust that Will shall return speedily & find all your household organized as you desire.

We miss Ellen sadly, & threaten to telegraph her any minute to come home.

R. W. E.

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, July 7, 1874[33]

Concord
7 July, '74

Dear Will,

Your welcome note came this morning announcing accurately the sale of yesterday, to the joy of my wife & of us all. Tis a

son's visit and lecture of Tuesday, May 12, mentioned in the letters of May 5 and 13, 1874.

29. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. May 13 fell on Wednesday in 1874, the year added to Emerson's date line by another hand and confirmed by evidence cited below.

30. Edith Emerson Forbes, Milton, Mass. (later dated "Early May 1874"), invited her father to dinner on Friday and for the night and asked him to plant a tree.

31. See May 5, 1874.

32. *Cf.* July 21, 1873.

33. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Apparently Forbes had arranged the sale of a part of Lidian Emerson's property. For a further step toward final settlement, *cf.* Mar. 16, 1875.

great quieting of a long distress, not the least of which has been that you have had to fight the battle & suffer the annoyance in our behalf — my wife says, *for seven years.* But what else are heroes for? We all think the result a great success, & are happy to owe it to you.

Yours affectionately,
R. W. Emerson

William H. Forbes.

## To Frederick Beck, Concord, July 21, 1874[34]

Concord, 21 July, '74

My dear Sir,

I ought to have found time days ago to thank you for the bright book of Landor that you have sent me. I begun to read it at once, & found the old giant as good as when he was new. It will lie on my table this book as a sure tonic from time to time & you must come when your wife is at home again, & bring her here, & we will discuss him, & our common friends. I rejoiced in your visit, but you must shut up those giving hands.

With very kind regards,
Yours,
R. W. Emerson

Frederick Beck, Esq.

## To Susan Lyman Lesley, Concord, July 26, 1874

[Printed in *Memoir of the Life of Mrs. Anne Jean Lyman,* pp. 523–524.]

## To James R. Osgood and Company, Concord, August 29, 1874

[MS listed in American Art Association, Apr. 28 and 29, 1924; printed in *The Pittsburg Index,* May 2, 1903, p. 9. Emerson suggests that *Parnassus* be published early in December.]

34. MS owned by Miss Edith D. Beck and Mrs. Eleanor Beck Tappan; ph. in CUL. The MS memorandum book for this year has this reminder dated July 15: "Write to Mr Frederick Beck to thank him for Landor's book." The book may have been *Cameos,* a volume of selections from Landor edited by E. C. Stedman and T. B. Aldrich, which was dated 1874 and was published early enough to be reviewed in *The Atlantic* for March of that year. Emerson had had some correspondence with Beck as early as 1855.

### To William Cullen Bryant, Concord, August? *c.* 29? 1874

[Concerning his visit to Concord about Aug. 29, 1874, Bancroft wrote that Emerson was gracious enough and "gave me some letters, one to Doctor Draper, and one to Mr Bryant" (*The Works of Hubert Howe Bancroft,* 1890, XXXIX, 339).]

### To John William Draper, Concord, August? *c.* 29? 1874

[See the preceding note. Draper was known as scientist, philosopher, and historian.]

### To James Elliot Cabot, Concord, September 4, 1874 [35]

Concord
4 Sept[r] '74

My dear Cabot,

A young townsman of mine, Daniel French, has made a statue of the *Minute-Man,* which is to be put into bronze & placed on the Battle-ground, on the 17[th] April next,[36] – the centennial aniversary of the Concord Fight. His work is now in plaster at his chamber in the Studio Building Tremont Street, & in a fortnight is to go to (Springfield, I believe,) to be put in bronze. I had told him, when it was complete in clay, that I would ask you to come & see it, – but it was sent away to be put in plaster too soon for my slow recollection. Last night, he came to tell me that it will go in a fortnight to be cast, & to ask me to request you to look at it. He is a good sensible youth, (son of Judge French who was the first Head of the Agricultural College, at Amherst,) [37] – and will be very glad of any suggestion you may give him for the mending of his work. He is in his Studio all the day except from 1 o'clock to 2, (– or is it from 2 to 3? I forget –) but said, he would gladly be there at any hour you would name. I hope you are safely at home from the mountains, & happily.

Yours ever –
R. W. Emerson

35. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL.

36. See Feb. 7? 1875, and notes, for the ceremonies of Apr. 19, not 17. Daniel Chester French was later to become famous as a sculptor. At this time he had a studio in Boston but resided at Concord (*The Boston Directory* for 1874–1875).

37. *Cf.* Oct. 23, 1865.

### To Joseph Emerson, Concord? October *c.* 4? 1874

[Joseph Emerson, New Haven, Conn., Oct. 2, 1874, said that he and his brother Ralph, of Rockford, Ill., wished to call between Oct. 9 and 19 and inquired what would be the best time; he added that Emerson might remember calling upon him at Beloit, Wis., some years earlier. Joseph Emerson, Rutland (Vt.?), Oct. 9, 1874, said that Emerson's letter came duly and that he and his brother would hope to call.]

### To Christopher Pearse Cranch, Concord? October *c.* 12? 1874

[Cranch, Cambridge, Oct. 13, 1874, said he and his wife would be glad to dine with Emerson the following day and would come " by the train you mention."]

### To James Elliot Cabot, Concord, October 21, 1874[38]

Concord, 21 Oct

My dear Cabot,

I send you hearty thanks for your kind interest & assistance for our little monument.[39] I carried your sketch & note to our committee, and they studied both with great interest, & were instructed & gratified. But the hint of the boulder has been emphasised by the discovery of a respectable rock within practicable distance of the spot on which the statue is to stand, & the vote taken at the close of the meeting of the Committee on Monday eve. showed a majority for the boulder.[40] — Tis perhaps a dangerous choice, but at least it avoids the too much ornament of the base. I fear that it may be wrong, because you have not urged it. The Chairman of the Committee begged me to offer you their sincere thanks for the generous interest which you & your friends have expressed in our enterprize.

I am glad to receive your card for the Meeting of the Committee on Philosophy,[41] & mean to obey it.

Yours always,
R. W. Emerson

J. Elliot Cabot.

38. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL. Evidence cited below fixes the year.

39. Emerson had asked for this aid in Sept. 4, 1874.

40. *Cf.* a note on Feb. 7? 1875.

41. *Cf.* the note on Mar. 11, 1874? Cabot and Emerson were both listed as members of the larger committee there named. See also Nov. 7, 1874?

### To George B. Chase, Concord? October *c.* 22? 1874

[Chase, Staatsburgh, N. Y., Oct. 24, 1874, acknowledged a letter from Emerson "as Chairman of the Committee on Rhetoric."]

### To Robert Somers, Jr., Concord? October 26, 1874

[Somers, Brooklyn, Oct. 29, 1874, acknowledged this letter and said he would go to Boston and hoped to see Emerson on the following Tuesday.]

### To Mary Preston Stearns, Concord, October 29, 1874[42]

Concord, 29 October, '74

My dear Mrs Stearns,

Your very kind & noble gift, which Frank brought me yesterday, deserved an instant acknowledgment, but it has values of every kind, and despises hurry. Tis a noble ornament of a house, & suggests grand ideas. Tis strange that I never saw a copy of it in this country. In Florence & in France I saw the busts of Antoninus, and pleased myself with their agreement as confirming their truth. I shall read his book[43] hereafter within sight of his head, & both will gain in value.

This very kind remembrance of yours wakens again my often regret that my solitary habits make impossible for me the habit of society. I go to no houses – tis a little sad to think of – not even to yours, – in which I remember many pleasant hours. But old age is a bad visiter, & thinks you should thank him that he does not come. We were all glad to see Frank in such renewed health & spirit. My wife sends her love, rejoices in Marcus Aurelius, and begs you to come to us & spend a night as well as a day with us – which will be best for all of us.

With very kind regards,

Mrs Stearns. R. W. Emerson

### To Henry James, Sr., Concord, November 3, 1874

[MS owned by Mr. Henry James; answers James's letter of Oct. 31 (endorsed, by Emerson, 1874), about Henry Ward Beecher's difficulties.]

42. MS owned by Mr. F. R. Fraprie; ph. in CUL.

43. The *Meditations* of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus. Emerson had quoted this author in *Journals* as early as 1849 (VIII, 19).

## To James Elliot Cabot, Concord? November 7, 1874? [44]

Saturday, 7 Nov[r]

Dear Cabot,

I hope to join you at Mr Bowen's recitation, on Wednesday, at 10 o'clock.

R. W. Emerson

## To Edith Emerson Forbes? Concord? November? 1874 [45]

I am correcting the 202[d] printed page of Parnassus, & Osgood told me today it will all be printed in a fortnight; & asks if the preface will then be ready? Which may the Muses grant! Papa.

44. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL. Nov. 7 fell on Saturday in 1874, and I conjecture that the visit here in prospect was in connection with Emerson's duties as a member of the committee on philosophy mentioned in Oct. 21 preceding and that the year of this letter may, therefore, be 1874. Francis Bowen was professor of natural religion, moral philosophy, and civil polity, 1853–1889.

45. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The approximate date is clear from the reference to *Parnassus,* which was announced in the *Boston Daily Advertiser,* Dec. 18, 1874, as "*Ready Tomorrow.*" Earlier letters show that Edith Emerson Forbes had much to do with the preparation of the book; and the present letter is, in all probability, to her. Shortly after *Parnassus* appeared, Emerson received letters from many persons to whom he had sent the book. Holmes, for example, wrote this characteristically friendly comment:

"Boston Dec. 19[th] 1874

"My dear Mr. Emerson,

"When I saw 'Parnassus' advertised, I meant to have it as soon as it was out, for I felt that I had rather have your selection of poems than that of any other man, be he who he might. Not that I supposed your taste would always be my own, but I had a feeling that your affinities would have more of the divining-rod about them than any others I knew. Allowing for personal partialities and the kindness that familiar acquaintance with the writers often brings about and which I suppose of course makes you more than good-natured enough to some of us, I think you would not be apt to like any verse which did not betray a thread of living water beneath its surface however slender. I have already found many of my favorites, and the difference between this and any other of the numerous collections I have is that if I do not at first like what has pleased you in any instance, I shall look more nicely to see whether I am not in fault than I have ever done in those other books, — Hazlitts or Campbell's or French's or Roundell Palmers and the rest.

"I did not expect you to send so large and costly a volume, but I meant to buy it and should have been thankful for my chance to do so. It gave me a twinge of remorse to think that my exiguous volume sent a few weeks or months ago might have seemed to call for a return, and that it should come with such usurious interest. But I trust that all the world will buy a collection of verse, with which the gravest fault to be found is that the name of the Editor is not to be found in the list of writers. The golden words of the Preface, however, are so much better than most

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord? December 23, 1874? [46]

Wednesday Eve. 23, Decr

Dear Will,

I have read your letter, & consent to both points or all that is desired by Osgood, so that you do. I will give immediate attention

---

poems, that we can console ourselves to some extent — especially as we have some of the Editor's best poems by heart.

" Believe me
" Always faithfully Yours
" O W Holmes."

*Longfellow wrote promptly, it seems, when he had finished the preface:*

" Camb. Decr 23.
" 1874.

" My Dear Emerson,

" Many thanks for your kind remembrance and present of ' Parnassus.'

" I have read your Preface with great interest and pleasure, but the book itself not yet. That requires more leisure. I hope and believe that I shall find in it many things not to be found easily elsewhere.

" Writing to Judge Hoar the other day, I ventured to suggest the name of Geo. W. Greene, author of the Life of Genl. Greene, as one to be included in the list of invited guests at the Concord celebration in April.

" If you approve of this, will you be kind enough to see it is not forgotten?

" Mr Greene takes a livelier interest in our history than any one I know, and, therefore I have taken this liberty.

" Yours faithfully
" Henry W. Longfellow "

A second letter from Longfellow, more than a year later, was apparently the result of a lapse of memory on either his part or Emerson's — possibly Emerson had sent a new copy of *Parnassus* or, more probably, Longfellow failed to remember that he had written a letter of acknowledgment in Dec., 1874:

" Camb. Jan 24
" 1876.

" My Dear Emerson,

" You must think me very negligent in not sooner thanking you for ' Parnassus.'

" The truth is, I thought it was a gift from Mr Osgood, and only a couple of days ago discovered your name on a blank leaf.

" Accept my sincere though tardy thanks for your kindness in remembering me, and for this welcome gift of Song.

" It is an excellent collection, and I am glad to hear that it has been so applauded by the public, if you care about that.

" Perhaps I ought rather to congratulate you on its beeing so successful in itself.

" Yours faithfully
" Henry W. Longfellow "

46. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. During the years following the dissolution of the firm of Fields, Osgood & Co. (see the note on Jan. 28, 1870), Dec. 23 fell on Wednesday only in 1874. The year, however, seems uncertain; and " 76? " has been supplied. *Selected Poems* was published by James R. Osgood & Co. late in 1876 (see the *Boston Daily Advertiser* for Nov. 4, showing that the volume was then for sale).

to the new edition of Poems which is chiefly to be improved by careful sinking of the poorer & poorest matter, rather than by much addition, though I have a few which I shall like to add. I think the new volume of selected poems will not excede the size of one of the old.

I send you hearty thanks for your sturdy devotion to this wearisome affair which reminds us here of the care & of the success of your labors for us a year ago.

Affectionately,
R. W. Emerson

## To George Bancroft, Concord? December *c.* 24, 1874

[Bancroft, Washington, D. C., endorsed Dec., 1874, says *Parnassus* and Emerson's note both arrived on Christmas Day.]

# 1875

## To May Alcott, Concord? January 3, 1875

[MS owned by Mr. F. W. Pratt; ph. in CUL. Printed incompletely in Caroline Ticknor, *May Alcott*, 1928, pp. 118–119, where the date line – "January 3, 1875" – and the name "Miss May Alcott," at the end of the letter, are omitted.]

## To W. Robertson Herkless, Concord? January? *c.* 5? 1875

[Stirling, Edinburgh, Feb. 24, 1875, acknowledged the letter of Jan. 5, 1875, and said he allowed the Independent Club committee to print it with one which their president, Herkless, had received from Emerson; in the printing of both letters, he said, "there were clauses suppressed." W. Robertson Herkless, president, and John Welwood, secretary, had written from Glasgow, Dec. 23, 1874, expressing their disappointment at the election of Disraeli over Emerson to the lord rectorship and explaining the cause of the defeat – partly, they thought, the influence of the faculty, whose need of money made them favor the first lord of the treasury.]

## To James Hutchison Stirling, Concord, January 5, 1875

[MS owned by Mr. Owen D. Young; ph. in CUL. Printed incompletely in *The New-York Times*, Feb. 14, 1875, p. 5; and in Cooke, *Ralph Waldo Emerson*, p. 180 (a very corrupt text). The most nearly complete printed version I have found is in Amelia H. Stirling, pp. 265–266, where the signature is abbreviated and where Stirling's name and the following postscript are omitted: "Yesterday I believe the steamer sailed which carries a copy of 'Parnassus' of my editing to your address, through Trubner, in London. Send me word if it should not reach you."]

## To James Elliot Cabot, Concord, January 26, 1875[1]

Concord
Jan. 26 75

My dear Cabot,

Please to pity your poor clients watching the post office day by day, – almost hour by hour – to receive your final opinion re-

1. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL.

garding the base of the Statue,[2] so eager that they believe that the precious note has miscarried, or the envious Lexington has snatched it, & so I write only to say that I know you will do the best for your petitioners.

Always yours
R W Emerson

J. E. Cabot, Esq

## To George William Childs, Concord? February? *c.* 4? 1875

[Mentioned in letters of Feb. 10 and 11, 1875; written a "few days" before Feb. 11 and, apparently, before Feb. 6.]

## To James Elliot Cabot, Concord, February 7? 1875[3]

Concord, Feb 7. '75

My dear Cabot,

Your note & enclosure came in good time,[4] & a meeting of our committee was called by Mr Keyes, our chairman, to consider your advice, — which we all found to be good and merciful, and it was unanimously decided to obey it. It was also unanimously voted, that the thanks of the Committee be presented to Mr Cabot, & to Mr Van Brunt,[5] for their generous interest & valuable advice regarding the completion of the monument.[6] — I will write a note of this to Mr Van Brunt.

It is a wonderful relief to a committee, not one member of which was adequate to its charge, — to have escaped from its dangers by your mediation.

Yours ever,
R. W. Emerson

J. Elliot Cabot, Esq.

2. See Oct. 21, 1874, and *cf.* Feb. 7? 1875.

3. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL. It is barely possible that Emerson intended "Feby" and not "Feb 7."

4. *Cf.* Jan. 26, 1875.

5. Doubtless Henry Van Brunt, architect, who practiced in Boston for about twenty years before removing to Kansas City in 1887. Probably Emerson wrote to him, but I have no proof.

6. The *Proceedings at the Centennial Celebration of Concord Fight April 19, 1875*, 1876, shows that George Keyes was chairman of the committee of arrangements (p. 22), tells of the selection of the stone for the base of the monument, and explains that "Finally a plan, kindly furnished the Committee by Mr. J. Elliot Cabot of Brookline, by which they could use this stone, was adopted . . ." (p. 15). Emerson's "Address" is printed *ibid.*, pp. 79–81.

## To William Henry Furness, Concord, February 10, 1875

[MS owned by Mr. Horace Howard Furness Jayne; printed incompletely in Cabot, II, 666–667, and, without indicated omissions, in *Records of a Lifelong Friendship,* 159–160.]

## To George William Childs, Concord, February 11, 1875

[MS owned by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; ph. in CUL. Printed in *The Book-lover,* III, 118 (May–June, 1903).]

## To Samuel Bradford, Concord, March 11, 1875

[MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Printed, with a slight omission and errors, in Bradford, *Some Incidents,* pp. 78–79; reprinted completely in *Records of a Lifelong Friendship,* p. 164. Only a part of a sentence is given in *The Atlantic,* LIX, 664 (May, 1887), and in Cabot, I, 41.]

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, March 16, 1875[7]

Concord, March 16, 1875

Dear Will,

Mrs Emerson & I have received your Account of the Court Street mortgage sale, & its investment, $16504. — and are deeply obliged to you for the care & timeliness & success of the whole transaction. I add my own thanks for your care of $180. paid by Frank Browne for which I have received your checque.

R. Waldo Emerson
Lidian Emerson

W. H. Forbes, Esq.

7. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The MS memorandum book for 1875 gives Mar. 16 to Philadelphia, but this entry is probably an error. At any rate, Emerson read "Oratory and Orators" in the Star Course on the 18th, not the 16th, of that month (*The Press,* Feb. 11 and Mar. 19, 1875). The Court St. property, mentioned in letters of many years, was Lidian Emerson's, and her name is signed on this MS following her husband's. Frank Brown, or Browne, was her sister's son, frequently mentioned in earlier letters. A MS deed in the Suffolk County registry, MCCXLVII, 297–298, signed Aug. 7 and entered Dec. 11, 1874, shows that Emerson, Lidian Emerson in her own right, and Francis C. Browne of Framingham sold to William Carpenter of Boston two undivided third parts of a lot with brick building in Court St. for $63,138.90. Probably the sum mentioned in the present letter was a part of the return from this sale.

### To William Henry Furness, Concord, April 3, 1875

[MS, incomplete, owned by Mr. Horace Howard Furness Jayne; printed in *Records of a Lifelong Friendship*, pp. 167–168.]

### To Wendell Phillips, Concord? April? *c.* 9? 1875

[Phillips, n. p., Saturday (Apr.? 10? 1875), said he valued Emerson's note more than any invitation even Concord could give; he regretted that he must say no and lose the speeches by Emerson and Curtis and "the Anniversary." For the speeches alluded to, see *Proceedings at the Centennial . . . April 19, 1875*, 1876.]

### To James Freeman Clarke, Concord? April 24, 1875 [8]

April 24 '75

My dear Sir

I think we talked of a certain day for meeting in committee to re-consider the nomination of the Professor of Art,[9] but I have no recollection of any time named Will you please come to Meeting of Overseers next Wednesday, say *half an hour before 11 o'clock* on that day, & I will advertise Mr Brimmer of the same hour, to consider the appointment.

Yours,
R W Emerson

Dr J. F. Clarke.

### To John Greenleaf Whittier, Concord, April, 1875

[MS listed and partly quoted in John Anderson, Jr., Feb. 6, 1903; Emerson says he has read that Whittier will go to the Lexington celebration but suggests that "you might come to Concord first, with President Grant."]

### To Henry Lee, Concord? May 1, 1875

[Lee, Boston, May 12, 1875, said he was sorry Emerson's letter of May 1 had lain so long unanswered; meantime, he said, Waldo Higginson had called attention to the qualifications of Cabot by an article in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* and another appeal would come too late. An article signed "Among the Thirties," urging the election of James Elliot Cabot as an overseer of Harvard, had appeared in the *Advertiser* on May 6.]

8. MS owned by Mr. James F. Clarke; ph. in CUL. The MS memorandum book for 1875 notes the "Overseers Meeting" under Wednesday, Apr. 28. Clarke and Martin Brimmer were, like Emerson, members of the board at this time.

9. Norton was appointed professor of the history of art in 1875.

### To Alexander Milton Ross, Concord, May 2, 1875

[MS listed in C. F. Libbie & Co., Apr. 26 and 27, 1904; Emerson thanks Ross for the poems of Carew.]

### To William Henry Furness, Concord, May 7, 1875

[MS owned by Mr. Horace Howard Furness Jayne; printed in *Records of a Lifelong Friendship,* p. 169.]

### To James R. Osgood, Concord, May 12, 1875 [10]

Concord, 12 May,
1875

Dear Sir,

I thank you for reminding me of Mr Conway's suggestion of a promised early copy to be sent to him for the use of the late Mr Hotten's heirs. When your note came I had utterly forgotten that such a condition had been proposed to me, & I believe on good grounds, & certainly I was fully bound to keep them, since my friends, Mr Ireland & Mr Conway, had incurred risk and, I fear, loss also, in procuring the surrender of Hotten's proposed printing of his selection of my papers.

I therefore desire that you will assure Mr Conway that his claims shall be carefully remembered & met as soon as the new book is ready, (or, if it is better to send the parts, as they shall be ready) to his address & control: and therewith the regrets of the tardy author, who must yet try his patience a little while.

With kind regards,
R. W. Emerson

Mr Osgood.

### To James R. Osgood, Concord, May 12, 1875 [11]

Concord, 12 May 1875

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to have been so slow in replying to Mr A. B. Auerbach's friendly proposal to translate my still unfinished book, on

10. MS owned by the Cornell University Library; ph. in CUL. The negotiations with Hotten and with his heirs are mentioned in a number of earlier letters, but see especially Oct. 2, 1871, and notes. For the publication of *Letters and Social Aims* after long delays, see Dec. 18, 1875.

11. MS owned by Mr. W. T. H. Howe; ph. in CUL. The progress and publication

its completion, & to print a German edition. It will be a great satisfaction to me to put it in his hands with my recollection of his agreeable visit at my house, & — what I well remember, — his good acquaintance with English speech. Of course I readily accept his terms. And for the book, I now hope not to keep yourself or him long in waiting.

With kind regards
R. W. Emerson

Mr J. R. Osgood —

### To Mary? Fiske? Sargent, Concord? May 20, 1875

[MS listed and partly quoted in Rains Galleries, Jan. 27 and 28, 1936; Emerson says that he will cheerfully meet "the young ministers" if they "really wish the reading of which you speak." The MS memorandum book for 1875 gives May 26 to "Mrs Sargent," doubtless the old friend of that name to whom earlier letters are addressed.]

### To William Cummings? Concord? May? *c.* 20? 1875

[H. H. McIntire, New Hampton, N. H., May 24, 1875, said Emerson's "communication" was submitted to "our Societies" by the chairman of a committee, William Cummings; the societies were glad to secure Emerson's services; the time was June 30, 1875. The MS memorandum book for this year notes, under Apr. 22, that William Cummings, New Bedford, Mass., asked for a lecture before the two societies connected with New Hampton Institute, N. H., on June 30 next. For the lecture at New Hampton, see July 26, 1875, to Harris.]

### To the Mayor of Boston, Concord? June? *c.* 1? 1875

[MS listed, without place or date, in Goodspeed's Book Shop, Jan.–Mar., 1922; described as written in the third person and as accepting an invitation to attend the centennial celebration of the Battle of Bunker Hill. This was Emerson's reply to the Mayor's formal invitation dated Boston, May 25, 1875. The anniversary of the battle was June 17.]

### To William Henry Furness, Concord, June 2, 1875?

[MS owned by Mr. Horace Howard Furness Jayne; printed in *Records of a Lifelong Friendship*, p. 170, with letters of 1875.]

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of *Neue Essays*, the German translation of *Letters and Social Aims*, is recorded in the letters of Sept. 27 and Dec. 26, 1875, and notes. Perhaps Emerson wrote directly to Auerbach at this time or later, but I have no proof that all his dealings with the German publisher were not through Osgood.

## To Grindall Reynolds, Concord, June 7, 1875 [12]

Monday, 7 June.

Dear Sir,

I ought sooner to have replied to your note that I shall probably be at home all of Tuesday & of Thursday, & shall be happy to see Mr Burghen if he still wishes to come to Concord.

With great regard,
R. W. Emerson

Rev Mr Reynolds

## To W. Gardner Barton, Concord, June 25, 1875 [13]

25 June '75
Concord.

My dear Sir,

Your note is very kind & charming. I am sorry that you did not use your time & your good will & mine to speak to me. I am for my age, & because of my age, a rather busy person, & keep in my study more steadily than good fellowship approves, but wish to keep on good terms with my contemporaries older & younger, therefore the next time you see me, we will shake hands.

With kind regards,
R. W. Emerson

Mr W. G. Barton.

12. MS owned by Mr. Gabriel Wells; ph. in CUL. No envelope was used, and the one-cent Franklin stamp affixed to the MS seems to show that the date cannot be earlier than 1870 or, probably, than 1873 (*cf. Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue,* 87th ed., 1931, pp. 10 ff.). Between 1869 and the time of Emerson's death June 7 fell on Monday only in 1875 and 1880. It happens that the MS memorandum book for 1875 has, under June 10: "Dr Phil Carl von Bergen 777 Parker St Roxbury." June 10 was Thursday, one of the two days suggested in the present letter for the meeting with "Mr Burghen," who, in the light of many evidences of Emerson's difficulties with spelling in his later years, may be unhesitatingly accepted as identical with Bergen. As the directories give neither form of the name, it is possible that neither is correct. But it seems probable that "Bergen" is the true spelling and that this person was only temporarily in Roxbury. Reynolds, pastor at Concord for many years, appears in earlier letters.

13. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL. Barton, writing from Salem, Mass., on June 15, 1875, said he had visited Concord that day and was almost sure he had seen Emerson, who must have been the man who raised his hat in passing. Barton asked for a note confirming this conjecture. He excused his request on the ground of his great enthusiasm, which, it seems, the writings of Emerson shared with those of Hawthorne and Thoreau.

## To Frederick Beck, Concord, July 7, 1875[14]

Concord, July 7th '75

My dear Mr Beck,

I cannot tell you what mortifcation I suffered last night, on my return from my prolonged journey, with my daughter, in the New Hampshire mountains when my wife informed me that I had failed of my engagement to you!

I had promised to give the retiring class of the New Hampton N. H. Academy their annual lecture on the evening before their Commencement. I knew little of the School except that it was not far from the Mountain region, and my daughter Ellen, who always goes with me when I travel entered heartily into the project of the journey which would lead us to the Notch to the Flume Agiocochook & Franconia, &c. none of which points she had seen. Then I write seldom in these days & a lecture was to be prepared not too old nor too dull Then it slowly was discovered that the day 30 June was the very day of the Harvard Commencement & of the elections wherein I had special interest in certain candidates Phi Beta too must be sacrificed It was too late to repent we must go & went. The N. H Academy or College held us also on the day following which was their Commencement. We must speak there too, & badly. But we managed to reach Plymouth that night climbed the hills & gathered strawberries the next morning on the hills & reached the Flume House before night. I had seen nothing of the local wonders for forty years they were far better than I remembered, &, day & night were too charming to think of aught else we reached Fabian's the next night but the rain would not let us behold the Profile Rock as we passed it, nor hear the voices of the Echo Lake as we passed it, and even those of Fabian's – which I well remembered in my youth – were now recusant to the horn blower whom we persuaded to go out & wake them. Thence to Crawford's; thence, the next day, to Wolfborough, &c &c & I never remembered my engagement for 4th July, till my wife at home last night scared me with my broken faith. I shall come to you quickly to ask forgiveness, & a new day. Yours penitently,

R. W. Emerson

14. MS owned by Miss Edith D. Beck and Mrs. Eleanor Beck Tappan; ph. in CUL. In misspelling the word "mortification" Emerson first wrote the second "i," then changed it into the "c" which should have followed. For the visit to New Hampton, see a note on July 26, 1875, to Harris. Emerson's impressions of the White Mountains "forty years" before are recorded in Sept. 6, 1839. Beck, whose full name is given in the superscription, appears a number of times in earlier correspondence.

### To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, July 7, 1875[15]

Concord, July 7, 1875

Dear Will,

I have just received your account of your collections for Mrs E., myself, & Ellen, and find them very satisfactory, and we are all happy to be in such good hands.

I have looked in my little trunk in which I keep deeds & my contracts with the booksellers, & do not find that Osgood & Company have sent me the rectified contract for the book "Parnassus," and I infer that it has never been sent to me. So I hope it will be in your power to remind Mr Osgood of the promise of the thorough correction of the contract & the making it conform to the terms of "Society & Solitude."

I always grieve to teaze you with my affairs, but when we find a general we must load him with the war. R. W. E.

### To James R. Osgood, Concord, July 7, 1875

[MS listed and partly quoted in Anderson Auction Co., May 24, 1911; declares Emerson's intention of completing a book (*Letters and Social Aims,* no doubt) by October.]

### To Charles Ryan, Concord? July? *c.* 25? 1875?

[Ryan, Weymouth, England, Aug. 11, 1875, said he received this note on Aug. 10 and was honored by Emerson's acceptance of his little picture. Walter Smith, in a letter which he dated Boston, June 25, 1872, but which Emerson endorsed "June, 1873," had given Ryan's address. The confusion of dates is not satisfactorily cleared up by an unpublished diary entry dated June 23, 1873, in which Emerson records the corrected address of Ryan and notes that the water-color sent by him is brought by Walter Smith, who "gives me another sketch painted by *J. A. Benwell*" (typescript *Journals* for 1870–1875). *Cf.* July 29, 1875, for Smith's interest in paintings.]

### To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, July 26, 1875[16]

Concord, 26 July, '75

Dear Will,

I acknowledge the receipt of $170. from Phil. Baltimore, &

15. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. For the difficulty about the contract for *Parnassus, cf.* Apr. 29, 1876? *Society and Solitude* was published by Fields, Osgood & Co. in 1870 (*cf.* Mar. 31, 1870).

16. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The $170 mentioned was doubtless from the Philadelphia & Baltimore Central Railroad described in Vernon, p. 240. The Burlington & Missouri appears in earlier letters.

M.d. with thanks, & read with contentment the advantageous exchange of the B. & M. Bonds for the C. B. & Q. 7% bonds, and am well content to invest the $150. of principal, & the $175. of interest, in what new security you may advise. Your care & skill have given me the easiest year for money that I have ever known.

We have all rejoiced at the safe return of Malcolm & his party for them, & for your house.

Affectionately,
R. W. Emerson

## To William Torrey Harris, Concord, July 26, 1875 [17]

Concord, 26 July, '75
Mass.[tts].

My dear Mr Harris,

I have a sad tale to tell you which I have postponed not only from unwillingness but also because I hoped every day a better fortune. Your letter containing the letter of Dr Stirling [18] and that of Mr Adams [19] I received just before I was leaving home to go New Hampton in Northern New Hampshire,[20] to read a discourse to the students who were leaving the Academy to enter the Colleges. I believed I carried the letters with me to read again for better consideration. My daughter was with me, & I used the opportunity at the end of the second day, to set forth on a visit to the White Mountains, which she had never seen. I searched for the letters in pockets, trunk, & haversack before leaving N. Hampton, &, not finding them, comforted myself that I should find them safe on my return home. We were absent seven days. On reaching home, I searched with diligence and anxiously for them, but, hitherto, utterly in vain. It is, I trust, possible that they may yet turn up here, or else by the finding of some traveller in New Hampshire with thoughtfulness & conscience.

17. MS owned by Miss Edith Davidson Harris; ph. in CUL.

18. James Hutchison Stirling to William T. Harris, Apr. 16, 1875, said Emerson's proposals about publishers and royalties appeared good.

19. *Cf.* Feb. 2, 1872, for earlier negotiations, on Stirling's account, with Henry Adams, editor then and in 1875 of *The North American Review*.

20. New Hampton is actually in central New Hampshire. H. H. McIntire wrote from that town, May 24, 1875, acknowledging the letter of May? *c.* 20? 1875, and noting that the date for Emerson's address was June 30 following. Under the latter date in the MS memorandum book for this year the New Hampton Institution is duly set down. Frank H. Kelley, *Reminiscences of New Hampton*, 1889, pp. 78 ff., gives a sketch of the school, the name of which changed from time to time.

Meantime, I have reflected on the matter of the letter you wrote, & talked with Mr Cabot, & not arrived at any satisfactory solution. We could neither of us suggest any Journal to which Dr Stirling's MS.[21] could be offered with good hope. Yours is the only one that deserves it, & in which it could find good company. I believe I read in Dr S.'s letter that he wished to print it hereafter with its belongings in a book; otherwise we might print it here as a book with good hope. If you choose to print it in your Journal, I will venture to send you fifty dollars to send to him as part of the Journal's acknowledgment, &, when the paper appears, perhaps we can find some enthusiastic philosopher here who will subscribe more, & require new copies of the Journal.

Meantime, I remember that I have repeatedly resolved to inquire how my own account stands with the Journal of Specve Philosophy which comes to me down from Heaven like the cakes to the Jews in the desert and I do not know how long it has come to me unpaid. I cannot remember that I have paid a cent since my return from England, nor whether it continued to be sent to me here whilst I was abroad. By way of beginning to be honest, I will send $20. in this sheet, whilst waiting for the full bill.

With all kind regards,
R. W. Emerson

W. T. Harris, Esq.

## To Walter Smith, Concord, July 29, 1875

[MS listed in C. F. Libbie & Co., Dec. 14, 1897; described as relating to some water-color paintings. *Cf.* the note on July? *c.* 25? 1875? There are several earlier letters from Smith, director of art education at the State House, Boston, which offer some difficulties as to dates but show that he tried to interest Emerson in more than one British artist. Probably Emerson wrote more than once to him, but the evidence is not conclusive.]

## To William J. Rolfe, Concord? August 5, 1875

[Rolfe, Cambridge, Aug. 30, 1875, said he had just found Emerson's note of Aug. 5 on returning home from a five weeks' absence, and presumed that Emerson's report (perhaps in connection with Harvard) had already been forwarded to Dana. Rolfe also noted many misprints and wrong readings in the second edition of *Parnassus*.]

21. For the article probably referred to here, see Nov. 13, 1875, in which Emerson inclosed the fifty dollars promised. The "cakes" of the following paragraph are doubtless the manna of *Exodus*, 16.

### To Henry W. Foote, Concord? August *c.* 5, 1875

[Foote, Manchester, Mass., Aug. 11, 1875, said he had been absent from this summer home and so had not answered Emerson's note of "last week"; he regretted that he had not performed his duties as a member of the committee on rhetoric and English.]

### To Alexander Milton Ross, Concord? August? *c.* 8? 1875

[Ross, Toronto, Aug. 12, 1875, acknowledged Emerson's letter just received; he said he intended to sail for Europe about Oct. 1 and would surely visit Emerson *en route*. Apparently this is the letter partly printed, without date, in Ross, *Memoirs of a Reformer*, 1893, p. 169.]

### To James R. Osgood and Company? Concord, August 13, 1875

[MS listed and partly quoted in C. F. Libbie & Co., Mar. 3–4, 1915. Emerson said he was constantly at work on his new book and meant to send soon the rest of "Poetry and Criticism" and, later, various other essays (all of which, with only one change of title, were to appear in *Letters and Social Aims*). He added that he wished to secure the interests of Conway and Ireland, who had defended him against Hotten. According to the description in C. F. Libbie & Co., May 1, 1912, the letter also contains a reference to *May-day*. *Cf.* Sept. 27, 1875.]

### To E. Norman Gunnison, Concord? August *c.* 21, 1875

[Gunnison, York, Pa., Aug. 6, 1875, recalled that when, thirty years earlier, he was a farm boy in Concord, Emerson had prophesied a good future for him; he had never got an education but wrote poetry and would like to get his MS to the right publisher in the hope of obtaining money for college. Gunnison, Aug. 30, 1875, told of receiving Emerson's reply, with some money inclosed, "last Monday" (Aug. 23). He said he was sending advance sheets of his poems and would send a bound copy later.]

### To Mary S. Withington, Concord? September *c.* 9, 1875

[Mary S. Withington, Dorchester, Mass., Aug. 31, 1875, said her father was Emerson's classmate who had corresponded with him in early years; she asked permission to call. She wrote again, Sept. 10 following, to acknowledge receipt of Emerson's note that morning and promised that she would meet him in Boston on Wednesday, as he had suggested. On the 16th of the same month she wrote of her disappointment that the conversation at their meeting had run on nothing but her father's misfortunes. *Cf.* Nov. 24, 1868.]

## To James R. Osgood, Concord, September 27, 1875 [22]

Concord
Monday Eve 27, Sept

Dear Sir,

I sent you this noon by express all the printed part, old & new of "Poetry & Criticism," and almost all the rest in manuscript. I now send an addition to the 7th section, "*Bards and Trouveurs,*" to finish that chapter. also, the chapter of *Morals* (No. 8) I send entire; and the whole of Transcendency, No. 9, which finishes *Poetry & Criticism* [23] I trust you recieved the package safely and we are now diligently at work & mean that you shall not have to wait long for us again.

An important fact I have to add. Young Mr Auerbach (the son of the novelist) [24] who visited me when he was in this country, — perhaps a year ago, — has since written me to request me to allow him to translate our new book into German, and offered a price if I would send him the sheets as fast as they are corrected — so to secure him from competition in Germany. I consented,[25] and he has sent his money.[26] I must there-

22. MS owned by Goodspeed's Book Shop; ph. in CUL. Sept. 27 fell on Monday in 1875, the year fixed by evidence cited below.

23. This part of *Letters and Social Aims* was printed under the new title "Poetry and Imagination." The sectional headings of this part were kept as here given.

24. Berthold Auerbach was the author.

25. In the second letter of May 12, 1875.

26. Auerbach had written:

"Stuttgart, Aug. 25th, 1875.

"Dear Sir!

"Enclosed please find draft on $100.00 Cy, which is payment for the advance-sheets of your new book, to be published by Osgood & Co. of Boston. I am very much obliged to you for your kind and ready acceptance of my offer; I hope, I shall be able to get the book translated in a manner which will not only please me, but you too. It is a favorite idea of mine, to have more of, perhaps all your other writings — although most of them are already translated — translated for the first time or anew, and published in uniform style. It will afford me a very great pleasure, if I shall be able to carry out this plan, which would be a pride to my firm and which I would consider but a poor token of the sincere gratitude which I personally owe to one of the finest and profoundest thinkers of our age.

"With the greatest respect
"I am
"Sincerely yours,
"Aug. B. Auerbach.

"Please be so kind as to give order to Mess. J. R. Osgood & Co., to send me the sheets regularly and as early as they can; also please acknowledge receipt of this in a few lines.

"To
"R. W. Emerson Esq.
"Concord, Mass."

fore ask you after each batch of proofs is corrected to send them him a clean copy. His address is

———————

But I cannot at this moment find it, and will send it to you at an early day.

With great regard,
R. W. Emerson

Mr J. R. Osgood.

Forgive the paper whose oil I have just discovered.

To ————————, Concord, September 28, *c.* 1875?

[MS listed and partly quoted in C. F. Libbie & Co., Nov. 21–22, 1901, where it is undated as to year. Emerson says he has searched in vain "for the notes of the little speech which you overpraise, but which I could not recall" and adds that he is very busy, as he has promised the publishers a new book "at an early day" and it refuses to be ready. The year is extremely uncertain. In Sept., 1875, Emerson was trying to finish *Letters and Social Aims,* which was to be published in the following December.]

To Richard Monckton Milnes, Concord, October 4, 1875

[Printed in T. Wemyss Reid, *The Life, Letters, and Friendships of Richard Monckton Milnes,* II, 318.]

To Richard Monckton Milnes, Concord, October *c.* 5? 1875

[Mentioned *ibid.,* II, 318, as following up the note of Oct. 4, and making his invitation to Concord more emphatic. For Houghton (Milnes was now Lord Houghton), see especially Oct. 5, 1875, and notes on that letter.]

To James Russell Lowell, Concord, October 5, 1875[27]

Concord, October 5

My dear Lowell

I entreat you to come and dine with me on Thursday, 7th Oct. at 2 o'clock, to meet Lord Houghton. I did not know of his arrival in the country till he wrote me that he would come to us on that day.[28]

27. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL. The date is fixed by the reference to Houghton and by a letter from E. R. Hoar, Oct. 7 (endorsed 1875), offering to contribute "to your dinner today" a couple of bottles of choice claret which he had had for the centennial "last April" and which should be devoted to more distinguished guests than he was likely to have again.

28. Houghton wrote from Quincy, Mass., Oct. 2 (the MS is endorsed 1875), that he proposed to visit Emerson in Concord on Thursday next. Emerson wrote to him the letter of Oct. 4, 1875, in reply. The *Boston Daily Advertiser,* Oct. 4, 1875, mentioned Houghton's presence in Boston.

Probably you have already met him He has great social claims, and you shall prove your generosity by coming.[29]

Affectionately,
R. Waldo Emerson

James R Lowell, L.L.D.

## To James R. Osgood and Company? Concord, October 6, 1875

[MS listed in Anderson Galleries, Mar. 31–Apr. 1, 1924; described as to Emerson's publishers. This may or may not be the letter of the same length listed, without date or name of correspondent, and partly quoted in Anderson Auction Co., Jan. 30–31, 1908, and again in American Art Association, Jan. 8–9, 1925. In the letter quoted, Emerson states that the name of his book is *Letters and Social Aims,* promises to return all the proofs soon, and asks for a new copy of an estimate of the number of pages. For the publication of the book, see a note on Dec. 18 following.]

## To William Torrey Harris, Concord, November 13, 1875[30]

Concord, 13 Nov.r '75

My dear Sir,

Forgive me for my long delay in acknowledging your last letter, & the letters of Dr Stirling, which you kindly inclosed.[31] If I do not return them in this note, it is because I wish to look them over once more. I enclose a Post Office order for $50.00 for the benefit of Dr. S. in reference to this paper, The Auflärung,[32] and with thanks to him & you. I should have written to you on this matter earlier, but I have only today sent the last sheets of a new book [33] I have been putting in print with an old man's difficulty and total absorption. You men of might in St. Louis with your incessant power of work can hardly understand the debility of scholars in Massachusetts, but you must pity & forgive

Yours truly
R. Waldo Emerson

Dr William T. Harris.

29. Lowell, Oct. 6, 1875, said he could not come, as he had two classes on the 7th and " I never ' cut.' " He had, he said, met Houghton three times.

30. MS owned by Miss Edith Davidson Harris; ph. in CUL.

31. *Cf.* July 26, 1875, to Harris. Mar. 2, 1876, acknowledges the return of the money mentioned below.

32. Stirling's " Mr. Buckle and the Aufklärung " was printed in *The Journal of Speculative Philosophy* for Oct., 1875.

33. See Dec. 18, 1875, for the publication of this book.

### To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, November 15, 1875

[MS owned by Mr. William H. Forbes. This relates to dealings with James R. Osgood & Co., especially to the matter of a contract for *Parnassus* which Emerson had not yet received. There is also a suggestion that an account of the sales of a miniature edition of a few essays is due from the publishers.]

### To George Partridge Bradford, Concord, November 20, 1875[34]

Concord
20 Nov.r '75

Dear George,

Do not forget that we depend on your presence & aid at our house on Thursday next, at 2.30 P. M.

Always yours
R. W. Emerson

George P. Bradford, Esq.

### To Mary Ripley Simmons? Concord, November 20, 1875

[MS reproduced in facsimile in *The Month at Goodspeed's*, Dec., 1936, p. 149. This invitation for Thanksgiving dinner is addressed to "My dear Cousin" and includes "Elizabeth." Mrs. John W. Ames suggests the possibility that the cousin addressed was Mary Ripley Simmons, daughter of Emerson's half uncle Samuel Ripley, and that Elizabeth was Mrs. Simmons's daughter or, less probably, sister.]

### To William Torrey Harris, Concord, November 27, 1875[35]

Concord 27 Nov.r 1875

Dear Mr Harris

I sent you a letter some days ago dated 13 November '75, containing a money order for $50.00 which I had promised you in an earlier letter to supply, if you should choose to print Dr Stirling's Article Your journal printed it and I used my first opportunity to keep my word. Not hearing from you I fear that the letter miscarried. Our post office in this town assures me that it will not be paid to any other person than yourself.

You must forgive me if neither then nor now have I returned the let-

34. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Thursday, Nov. 25, was Thanksgiving Day, as the *Boston Daily Advertiser* of that date shows.

35. MS owned by the Hon. Theodore Harris; ph. in CUL.

ters of Dr Stirling which you kindly sent me but they are safe & shall soon come back to you.

Yours with great regard,
R. W. Emerson

Dr William T. Harris

To George Edward Ellis, Concord? December 6, 1875

[Incompletely printed in *Proc. Mass. Hist. Soc.*, XV (1878), p. 191.]

To James Russell Lowell, Concord, December 18, 1875 [36]

Concord, December 18,
'75.

My dear Lowell,

I am delighted with the thought that my name is to stand in a book of yours.[37] It is a public sealing of the constant kindness you have shown me for so many years, and will be as dear to my children as to me. I did not receive your note until last night from Boston, where I directed a book [38] to your address which should reach you today.

Affectionately yours,
R. W. Emerson

To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, December 20, 1875 [39]

Concord, 20 Dec. 75

Dear Will,

Your papers came to us last night too late for action until today: and today all our Justices of Peace, viz. Judge Brooks, George Heywood, Mr Thomson, are gone to Boston, and Mr Barrett [40] of the Insurance Office regrets that his Commission of Justice ran out a few days ago, & he has not yet renewed it Tonight we shall try to secure a magistrate, & send you the papers in the morning.

With thanks as always for your kind care
Yours, R. W. Emerson

W. H. Forbes.

36. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL.

37. See Feb. 14, 1876. Lowell, Cambridge, Dec. 16, 1875, had warned Emerson of the impending dedication.

38. According to the *Boston Daily Advertiser* of Dec. 15, 1875, *Letters and Social Aims* was published that day.

39. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

40. For George M. Brooks, George Heywood, and Richard Barrett, see *The Concord Guide Book*, pp. 112–113.

## To Walter S. Perry, Alfred P. Thom, and William Robertson McKinney, Concord? December 21, 1875

[Incompletely printed in Hubert H. Hoeltje, "Emerson in Virginia," *The New England Quarterly*, V, 754 (Oct., 1932). This article has the name "Thorn" instead of "Thom"; but signatures of letters, as well as *A Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the University of Virginia* for 1875–1876, confirm the spelling I have given, though McKinney's name appears as "McKenney" in the catalogue. These men, like Perry, were students of law (*ibid.*, pp. 12–14). Thom later became a prominent lawyer, known especially as counsel to various railroad associations, and died only recently (*The New York Times*, Feb. 16, 1935, p. 13). For further details regarding Emerson's dealings with this committee and regarding his visit to Charlottesville, see the notes on July 2 following.]

## To James Elliot Cabot, Concord, December 22, 1875? [41]

Concord
Wednesday, 22 Dec$^{r}$

My dear Cabot,

I still keep the hope of coming to the spectacle of Friday Evening; & the assurance of remaining

Yours,
R. W. Emerson

J. E. Cabot, Esq.

## To Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, Concord, December 26, 1875 [42]

Concord. 26 Dec./75

x x x x Auerbach (son of the novelist,) was here in my house months ago & asked me to send him the proof-sheets of "Letters & Social Aims" to Stutgard as fast as they were printed here, for him to translate & publish there, which has been done.[43] x x x x

41. MS owned by Professor Philip Cabot; ph. in CUL. The year is a matter of conjecture. Dec. 22 fell on Wednesday a number of times after the beginning of Emerson's friendship with Cabot, in 1845 — in 1847, 1852, 1858, 1869, 1875, and 1880. The size of the sheet suggests 1875 rather than earlier years, but is by no means conclusive evidence. The handwriting might belong, I think, to any of these years as late as 1875.

42. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is an incomplete copy, not in Emerson's hand. I have kept the original marks used to indicate omissions. The copyist gives the initials of the person addressed.

43. See Sept. 27, 1875. The German edition had this title page: *Neue Essays (Letters and Social Aims) von R. W. Emerson. Autorisirte Uebersetzung. Mit einer Einleitung von Julian Schmidt. Stuttgart. Verlag von Aug. Berth. Auerbach. 1876.* Following Schmidt's introduction is the "Author's Note," dated Feb. 24, 1876, showing Emerson's handwriting in facsimile.

Very kind is the tone of your letter. I could well wish that I deserved it better, but Nature made me for solitude, & when I leave it, it is usually to the disadvantage of my companion & myself. x x x x x x

## To Jane Norton, Concord? *c.* 1875?

[Mentioned in *c.* 1875? to Ellen Emerson.]

## To Ellen Emerson, Concord? *c.* 1875? [44]

Tuesday Night

Dear Ellen,

I have written to miss Jane Norton [45] that we agreed to go to her but that I am uncertain whether you have written to her on what day we come — but that you write all my letters [46] — (not to mention all my lectures,) — and that I would write to you at once to name the day. I have just received this evening the cards for the lost veil which your mother tells me is Edith's. — I shall attend to them in the morning. I have once or twice recovered things by going into the chamber of the Fitchburg depot *in Boston, up stairs,* where they gather such foundlings.

Nobody knows in this house where you are, whether at Will's or at Mrs Cary's, or at Mr Cabot's, so we have to address you at the one place we know best.

For Scribner,[47] I never knew before what that demand meant, & supposed it might be for my books sent to England by Osgood through Scribner. I hope I have the bill within reach, I will look for it

R. W. E.

44. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The reference to Osgood shows that the date is not earlier than 1871, when the partnership of Fields, Osgood & Co. was dissolved (see the note on Jan. 28, 1870). Jane Norton died in May, 1877 (*Letters of Charles Eliot Norton,* II, 72). The "books sent to England" might, I conjecture, have been copies of *Parnassus* (*cf.* the note on Nov.? 1874), and, if so, this letter would most naturally fall in the year following publication. But the date remains quite conjectural.

45. Letter of *c.* 1875? to her.

46. It is clear from various evidences that Ellen wrote many letters for her father during the last ten years of his life.

47. Charles Scribner died in 1871, but Emerson might well have referred in this way to Scribner, Armstrong & Co.

# 1876

To Daniel Coit Gilman, Concord? January? *c.* 18? 1876?

[Gilman, Baltimore, Jan. 21, 1876, thanked Emerson for his note calling attention to "a prominent candidate for the chair of Latin here." Gilman was president of the Johns Hopkins University, then only recently founded.]

To Edward Kent, Concord? *c.* January? 1876?

[Kent, Bangor, Me., May 8, 1876, said he was ashamed of his long delay in answering Emerson's note; he had been hoping his financial sky would clear so that he could aid in the relief of the "old hero" of the class. *Cf.* Feb. 4, 1879.]

To James Russell Lowell, Concord, February 14, 1876[1]

Concord
Feb 14, '76

Dear Lowell,

I have read your new book[2] from the first to the last page with honoring delight, grateful for the history, the masterly criticism, — the common sense, the joyful wit, which make the book as charming as it is instructive, and with a feeling that no other man could have written it. I think, as I read, that your poets have never been so inwardly seen & portrayed, and the praise so intelligent. But Mr Masson has a lesson[3] of which I hope he may be young enough to avail himself. A Scotch lady whom I saw lately, is sure that I must have met him at

1. MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL.

2. The *Boston Daily Advertiser,* Jan. 13, 1876, announced that the second series of *Among my Books* was published on that day.

3. "Milton," Lowell's review of David Masson's life and edition of the poet, ridiculed Masson's detailed study of the age in which Milton lived (*Among my Books. Second Series,* 1876, pp. 252–302). According to the reviewer, the reader was blinded by the dust of Masson's old papers only to find out that they had no relation at all to the hero of the story.

Professor Frazer's house in Edinburgh,[4] but I cannot recall the person. I envy the classes that have heard & do hear your readings & criticism at Cambridge, and if ever you lecture at Boston again, I shall go thither if the cars will carry me. I could not but feel the honor you have done me[5] in the kindest words, and I don't know but you have spoiled my humility. Yours affectionately,

James Russell Lowell. R. W. Emerson

## To Horatio Woodman, Concord, February 19, 1876

[MS listed and partly quoted in New York Book & Art Auction Co., Mar. 22, 1938; relates to Woodman's care of Emerson's "lot in Trade Lake, Wisconsin." *Cf.* Hubert H. Hoeltje, "Emerson's Venture in Western Land," *American Literature,* II, 438–440 (Jan., 1931).]

## To George William Childs, Concord, February 21, 1876[6]

Concord, Mass$^{tts}$,
21 February, '76

Dear Mr Childs,

I claim the privilege of age, & for the most part persuade my daughter to write for me; — but she insists, and I shared her opinion, — that your request was not to be denied, and I send you my little poem to fill, — if you approve it, — its few inches in your projected Album.[7]

With very kind remembrances to Mrs Childs and yourself from my daughter and myself,[8]

R. Waldo Emerson.

We must not omit to repeat our thanks for your hospitable invitation, which we dream of accepting at least for an hour.[9]

4. Alexander Campbell Fraser, London, Apr. 18 (1873), had invited Emerson to be his guest in Edinburgh in the following May. For the dinner with Fraser, Scottish philosopher, in that year, see Cabot, II, 664.

5. *Cf.* Dec. 18, 1875. The second series of *Among my Books* was dedicated to Emerson as a mark of "A love and honor which more than thirty years have deepened" and as a "public acknowledgment of the debt I can never repay."

6. MS owned by the Drexel Institute; ph. in CUL.

7. Childs's autograph album of American celebrities, now owned by the Drexel Institute, contains both the present letter and a copy of "Days" in Emerson's hand.

8. Doubtless the Childses saw both Emerson and Ellen in March, 1875 (*cf.* the letters of Feb. 11 and Mar. 11, 1875).

9. The MS memorandum book for this year notes Childs of Philadelphia under Feb. 24, together with an "English Lady at Centennial," W. T. Harris, and Whittier's *Snow-bound,* first published many years earlier. I know of no other evidence of a

## To William Torrey Harris, Concord, March 2, 1876[10]

Concord, March 2

My dear Sir,

I ought many days ago to have acknowledged your note & the return of the $50.[11] I was sorry Dr S. would not be kinder to us; you should not have given any names; — I ought to have warned you of that. In England they have never yet acknowledged his genius though he is a more subtile metaphysician than any other in their island. I long to see him famous. I confess that I have in my drawers some letters of his which you kindly sent me to read, & I hope & even believe that I shall yet return them to you.

With great regard,
Yours,
R. W. Emerson

## To Susan Lyman Lesley, Concord? March? *c.* 2? 1876

[Mrs. Lesley, Philadelphia, Mar. 5, 1876, thanked Emerson for his note she had received two days earlier.]

## To Walter S. Perry, Alfred P. Thom, and William Robertson McKinney, Concord? April 23, 1876

[Acknowledged by Perry, Thom, and McKinney, University of Virginia, May 26, 1876. *Cf.* a note on July 2, 1876.]

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visit to Philadelphia at this time; and the Centennial exhibition was not opened till May, though Emerson might have seen the buildings being prepared for it. An account of his appearance in Philadelphia a few months later, on his way to Virginia, is given in the *Life and Letters of Peter and Susan Lesley*, ed. Mary Lesley Ames, 1909, II, 169–170. *Cf.* also a note on July 2, 1876, for the Southern trip.

10. MS owned by Miss Edith Davidson Harris; ph. in CUL. The envelope still with the letter bears the superscription in Emerson's hand, a Concord postmark dated Mar. 3, and a notation giving the year as 1876, which is confirmed by evidence cited below.

11. Sent by Emerson in the letter of Nov. 13, 1875. Harris had written from St. Louis, Feb. 17, 1876, returning the $50 and explaining that Stirling had refused it with many complimentary words about Emerson. To Emerson Stirling wrote, Edinburgh, Mar. 9, 1876, explaining that he could not accept the money.

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, April 29, 1876? [12]

Concord, April 29.

Dear Will,

I hope for Edith's & all the children's sakes, & your own, & also for mine, that you have got safely home. And for one of these person's sake I write to say that when you have leisure to call on Mr Osgood one or two things should be considered.

Of all my preceding books the plates from which they are printed belong to me, & when any new edition is wanted Osgood writes to me to ask an order on the printer to give him so many copies — say 100 or 250, — & sends me a cheque covering my claim on that number. Of *Parnassus* three editions have been printed, but thus far I have had no written record of the number of copies in each edition. Of course, the expenses of the book would exhaust probably all these editions, but we ought to know at each printing how many are printed, & how the account stands. This book too is printed, I believe, in the same building in which his book store stands — as they have commonly gone only to the farther end of their store to bring me any information I wanted concerning the book, or proofs for examination. This arrangement prevents me from going to the printer to learn if his account agrees with mine, as I could do, (though I never did,) with the Cambridge house of Welsh and Bigelow [13] who hold the plates of all my other books.

Another point. Osgood & Co. have never sent me the corrected copy of the *Contract* (is it?) between us for Parnassus. I forgot to ask for it when I have been there. I think I will not add a third little point that occurs, but ask forgiveness only for these.

Yours affectionately

R. W. Emerson

William H. Forbes, Esq.

12. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year 1876 has been supplied and is perhaps correct, but if the second and third editions of *Parnassus* were no larger than those of other books to which Emerson refers here, they may well have been sold out early in 1875. This letter is obviously related to that of July 7, 1875, to Forbes; but it is not easy to say which was written first. Inconclusive evidence in favor of 1876 as the year of the present letter is contained in a note on Aug. 5, 1875.

13. *Greenough's Cambridge Directory*, 1876, gives the name of this firm of printers, electrotypers, and stereotypers as Welch, Bigelow & Co.

## To Alexander Macmillan? Concord, April, 1876 [14]

Concord, Mass$^{tts}$
April 76

My dear Sir,

You have sent me a noble gift in the new edition of Mr Jowett's Translation of Plato.[15] I return you my sincere thanks. I have already made so much acquaintance with it as to feel its superiority to all our old translations [16] and can remember with pity my early resort to Madame Dacier's French translation, the English version of which was my first approach; then Thomas *Taylor's,* which, though English, seems to have had no English readers, — I remember that Mr Hallam,[17] in London, knew nothing of it, or of him, the translator, I believe the whole edition came to America, & the author was yet a heroic scholar. But Dr Jowett's book has made ample room for itself, and we can now

14. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The conjecture that the person addressed in this fragmentary rough draft was Alexander Macmillan seems warranted by an entry in the MS memorandum book for 1876, under Mar. 2: "Write to Mr Macmillan & acknowledge the 5 vols. of Plato." Macmillan also appears as giver of another gift — the Carlyle medal — in Feb., 1876. This is recorded in *Journals,* X, 449, and in the MS memorandum book under Feb. 27: "The Carlyle Medal received from Alex. Macmillan." Emerson seems to have become acquainted with Macmillan in 1867. Matthew Arnold, London, July 30, 1867, introduced "the well-known publisher," by whom he sent a copy of his own new volume of poems. In the same letter Arnold recorded his appreciation of Emerson: "Your writings have given me and continue to give me so much pleasure and stimulus, that I consider myself almost bound to make an offering to you of any production at all considerable which comes from me; since you are sure to have had some part in it." Perhaps Arnold had then recently read *May-day and Other Pieces.* Professor Arnold Whitridge tells me that he has in his possession the copy his grandfather received from Emerson and that the underscoring of various passages proves it was well read.

15. The five volumes of *The Dialogues of Plato,* tr. Benjamin Jowett, 2d ed., Oxford, 1875, are still in the Emerson library at the Antiquarian House. But it is not clear why Macmillan, himself a publisher, should have sent a work issued by the Clarendon Press at Oxford. Moreover, a paper inside the front cover of Vol. I is inscribed "From the Author." It seems barely possible, however, that Macmillan merely forwarded the books and that Emerson confused him with Jowett.

16. For Thomas Taylor's translations and for André and Anne Dacier, who seem to have been sometimes confused by readers of English translations, see Mar. 17, 1828. In the present summary of earlier translations of Plato, Emerson at first included mention of Cousin — "then we had Cousin" — but he definitely deleted this, doubtless because the work was not in English. The vertical lines drawn across the final sentence do not cancel it effectively.

17. Emerson had met Henry Hallam more than once in 1848 (see the letters of Apr. 25 and May 5, 1848).

spare all its foregoers. It will make a new republic of readers from all English speaking men It is a good gift and I am quite secure of making it an active benefactor to many good readers

### To Corinne Frazar Chamberlaine? Concord, May 25, 1876

[MS listed and partly quoted in Stan. V. Henkels, May 20, 1913, where no initials are given; Emerson sends his thanks for some rhodoras and an æolian harp given him as a birthday present, and he incloses some verses he once wrote on a less perfect harp (in *Cent. Ed.*, IX, 256). I conjecture that the person addressed was the same to whom the letter of Aug.? 1873? was sent and that her last name should have a final "e" not printed in the Henkels catalogue and probably not written by Emerson.]

### To George Parsons Lathrop, Concord? June? *c.* 1? 1876

[Mentioned in Lathrop, "Reminiscences of Emerson," *New-York Tribune,* Apr. 30, 1882, p. 4. Lathrop tells how, in 1876, some proof sheets of a book of his were sent to Emerson by mistake and how Emerson wrote him a gracious apology for any annoyance the mistake might have caused. Emerson, it seems, at first thought the sheets were a part of an essay of his own relating to Brook Farm. For the date, Lathrop's *A Study of Hawthorne* was advertised in the *Boston Morning Journal,* June 24, 1876.]

### To Charles Ammi Cutter, Concord? June 4, 1876?

[MS owned by Mr. Raymond Emerson. Only the last name is given, but the letter shows that the person addressed was in charge of a library which Emerson had the right to use. The final digit of the date line is badly formed, and it may have been intended for "8." Charles Ammi Cutter was librarian of the Boston Athenæum during both 1876 and 1878.]

### To George Frederick Holmes, Concord, July 2, 1876[18]

Concord, 2 July, '76.

My dear Professor,

Your kind letter asked for a line from me announcing the safe return of my daughter & myself.[19] My daughter, I believe, promptly

18. MS owned by the Library of Congress (Holmes correspondence); ph. in CUL. Holmes was professor of history and general literature in the University of Virginia from 1857 to 1897 (*University of Virginia,* ed. Paul B. Barringer and others, 1904, I, 361).

19. The best account of Emerson's Southern visit and lecture of 1876 is Hoeltje's, in *The New England Quarterly,* V, 753–768. Some new details may, however, be worth recording. The story begins with Nov. 25, 1875, when W. S. Perry, Alfred P. Thom, and W. R. McKinney, members of a committee, wrote from the University of Virginia informing Emerson that, at a recent meeting of the two literary societies, he had been unanimously elected orator for their joint celebration on June 28, 1876.

replied for both of us yet though I have almost ceased from all correspondence in these days I must obey your request if only to remind you that yourself & Mrs Holmes both expressed a good will to come to the North, and this year has supreme claims. If you will come to Massachusetts it will give me great pleasure to meet you in Boston & bring you to Concord. You will find that the little town felt a hundred years ago its warm relations to Virginia. With very kind regards Yours, R. Waldo Emerson. The letter so carelessly lost by me on my arrival at your house, I have found since I came home.

---

They asked an early reply; and in Dec. 21, 1875, which Hoeltje prints, he gave his conditional promise to come. In Apr. 23, 1876, Emerson discussed the trip; and on May 26 following, Perry, Thom, and McKinney replied, assuring him that arrangements had been made for the accommodation of him and of his daughter. The MS memorandum book gives June 28 and 29 to the University of Virginia, to the committee, and to two members of the faculty, Holmes and Southall, professor of international law.

*The Richmond Enquirer* of June 30 printed two reports from the University. The first told of the arrival of the "tall, intellectual looking old gentleman"; noted that he "positively declined to furnish a copy of his address" to the correspondent of a New York paper; and briefly described his address to "an immense auditory" attracted by his "wide reputation" as remarkable for peculiar style but also for clear and forcible thoughts. The second report began in only a slightly less friendly tone. It pictured "the gaunt figure of the Abolitionist philosopher of Boston" passing up the aisle to the accompaniment of applause. "He read his address on 'The Natural and Permanent Functions of the Scholar' from manuscript, and in a tone so low that even those who sat within a few feet of him were able only to catch at intervals some terse sentence full of strength and meaning. No one heard the whole address . . .

"The little that was heard only served to increase the desire of every one to hear more . . ."

But here the writer suddenly turned, in the middle of a sentence, to invective which is still difficult to account for: "Emerson has advertised himself and his 'books' in a very characteristic New England style. His visit to the University of Virginia has probably been a profitable one to himself; it has certainly been profitable to no one else as yet. He has seen us as we are; we have paid his expenses, and he has partaken of our Southern hospitality. Now he is about to return to Boston with his address in his carpet-bag, in order to put it 'into a book,' and receive a more substantial return than expenses and hospitality and applause." And there was more which indicated that the reporter had completely misunderstood the spirit in which Emerson had made his visit to Virginia.

It is not surprising to find that the University authorities were, as Hoeltje says (p. 764), "vexed and humiliated" by this exhibition of journalistic bad taste and temper and patent unfairness. As for the committee who had invited Emerson, Alfred P. Thom wrote on their behalf a courteous note dated June 29, 1876, stating that they who had had the pleasure of listening to the address wished to secure the same privilege for others and so respectfully requested a copy for publication. What Emerson replied, I do not know. But the present letter probably indicates pretty accurately his continued feeling of friendliness toward the University and toward Virginia.

## To Samuel Bradford, Concord, July 15, 1876? [20]

Concord
15 July

Dear Sam,

I have your note of yesterday, & am very glad that you will come on Wednesday to us. I hope it means that you will bring wife & daughters with you, & let us show you & them what a spruce little town we have grown to be in the last years. And your children ought to know mine.

Well do not fail to come & as strong as you can.

Affectionately,
R. W. Emerson

## To Emma Lazarus, Concord, July 22, 1876 [21]

Concord
July 22,

My dear Miss Lazarus,

I send you warm thanks for your kind letter & invitation; — but an old man fears most his best friends. It is not them that he is willing to distress with his perpetual forgetfulness of the right word for the name of book or fact or person he is eager to recall, but which refuses to come. I have grown silent to my own household under this vexation, & cannot afflict dear friends with my tied tongue. Happily this embargo does not reach to the eyes, and I read with unbroken pleasure. My daughter Ellen thanks you for kind invitation but is home-bound in these months. No, the right way for you to help us is that you, who, I believe, never have entered Massachusetts, should come & spend a week in Concord, & correct our village narrowness. My

20. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The full endorsement in Sam Bradford's hand — " R. Waldo Emerson July 15, 1876 " — makes the year almost certain.

21. MS owned by CUL; ph. in CUL. The year is fixed by evidence cited below, which Emerson's comment on his " tied tongue " confirms. The friendship between Emma Lazarus and her literary mentor had been sorely tried when she found that, after all his kindly encouragement, he had excluded her from *Parnassus*. She wrote from New York, Dec. 27, 1874, of her " extreme disappointment "; she considered the omission of her work a public retraction of the praise he had written her in earlier letters, passages from which she now quoted. It is not clear whether Emerson wrote a reply to her complaint; but he may have called at her home on his way back from his Philadelphia lecture of the following March, for his MS memorandum book for 1875 gives her New York address under date of Mar. 23. At all events, the present letter shows that the storm had blown over.

Wife joins me heartily in this request. Now to give it practicable form, – I learn from Ellen that I am bound with cords to go to my daughter Edith Forbes, at Naushon Island, in the second week of August, where they claim of us some ten days – other limitations know I none, & the fourth week of August [22] you might persuade Newport to spare you. With very kind regards to your father & your family,

Your friend,

R. W. Emerson

Miss Emma Lazarus.

### To the Public Library, Boston, Concord, August 1, 1876

[MS listed in John Heise Autographs, catalogue 2454, where it is described as a document thanking the Public Library, Boston, for a gift to the Concord Free Public Library and as signed by both Emerson and Ellen F. Whitney, the librarian. This can be called a letter only in the broadest sense of the term but, like Jan. 30, 1879, may stand as an example of its kind, of which there were doubtless many.]

### To Wendell Phillips, Concord? September? *c.* 14? 1876

[Phillips, n. p., Sept. 16, 1876, acknowledged " the letter " and told of his campaign to help " these friendless victims " and of the unfulfilled boast of the U. S. generals that they would exterminate the Indian.]

### To H. C. McDougall, Concord? October 12, 1876

[McDougall, Ann Arbor, Mich., June 10, 1876, asked, on behalf of the students of the University of Michigan, for a lecture. Emerson endorsed McDougall's letter: " Answered Oct 12, '76."]

### To Ella W. Hayden, Concord? October, 1876

[Ella Hayden, Chicago, Aug. 29, 1876, invited Emerson to lecture for the Philosophical Society of Chicago. Emerson's notation shows that he answered in the following October.]

22. Josephine Lazarus, sister of the poet, states that the visit occurred in Aug., 1876, and gives an interesting account based upon Emma's journal, which is said to have contained every incident and detail of the visit and seems to have been dictated by a feeling almost of reverence toward Emerson and his family (*The Poems of Emma Lazarus,* I, 12–15). Unfortunately, I have been unable to discover the present whereabouts of this MS journal. Rachel Cohen (*The Reform Advocate,* LXXIV, 185) said the visit lasted a week and was one of the happiest memories of Emma Lazarus's life. In a letter dated Sept. 14, 1876 (MS owned by CUL), Lidian Emerson thanked Emma Lazarus for letters and for a gift of grapes sent, it seems, some days earlier, and added: " We are truly glad that you enjoyed your visit, and that you remember us so kindly. We also think of you with entire pleasure and interest – " Ellen arrived from Naushon in time to write a note on the same sheet, reporting that " Father says he sends you his abundant regard. I think that's an amusing message! "

## To Harrison Gray Otis Blake, Concord, December 7, 1876 [23]

Concord, December 7, '76

My dear Sir,

I recieved your letter & should have immediately acknowledged it, but waited to go to the Library, & see the Treasure before it is sent. The two boxes containing Henry's Manuscripts are in perfect condition as they came, – and the third containing his surveys.[24] It grieved me to think that they had remained so long so near, & I had never found time to read the books, – ever expecting that the booksellers would come to me to demand in behalf of the public new volumes. I can well understand that he should vex tender persons by his conversation, but his books, I confide, must & will find a multitude of readers. Did I not understand you that you were preparing your own notes of his life & genius? [25]

With kind regards & good hope,
R. Waldo Emerson

H. G. O. Blake, Esq.

## To James R. Osgood, Concord, December 15, 1876?

[MS listed and apparently completely quoted in American Art Association, Mar. 22–25, 1920; Emerson asks that Osgood send him six copies of *Selected Poems* (1876).]

## To Harrison Gray Otis Blake, Boston, December 20, 1876 [26]

20 Dec$^{r}$ 6

My dear Sir,

I have today sent by Adams's Express the two trunks containing Henry D. Thoreau's Manuscripts to your address in Worcester.

23. MS owned by Mr. Owen D. Young; ph. in CUL.

24. For Emerson's sending of these MSS to Blake, see letters of Dec. 20, 22, and 26, 1876.

25. Shortly before Emerson's death Blake began the publication of his four volumes of extracts from Thoreau's journals. In his introductory note to the first of these volumes – *Early Spring in Massachusetts*, Blake tells how the MS journals were bequeathed to him by Thoreau's sister Sophia, who died Oct. 7, 1876, just two months before the present letter was written.

26. MS in possession of Chicago Book & Art Auctions; ph. in CUL. This is written on a sheet with printed letterhead of the Boston Athenæum. To the date line Emerson added only "20 Dec$^{r}$" and "6." For the shipment of Thoreau's MSS, *cf.* Dec. 7, 1876, and the later letters of this month to Blake.

On leaving the Station, I found the two keys of the trunks in my pocket, and propose to send them in this letter if Mr Adams advises it. If not, I shall send them by any the best advice I can find. – I shall be anxious about the arrival of trunks & keys until I hear from you that the entire precious property is safely in your possession

With great regard,
Yours,
R. Waldo Emerson

H. G. Otis Blake, Esq.

### To Harrison Gray Otis Blake, Concord, December 22, 1876

[MS listed and partly quoted in Scott & O'Shaughnessy, Apr. 12, 1917; Emerson says he took the two trunks of Thoreau MSS to Boston two days earlier.]

### To James R. Osgood, Concord, December 22, 1876

[MS listed in Stan. V. Henkels, Dec. 5, 1898; described as thanking Osgood for a copy of Tennyson's *Harold*. I conjecture that a letter listed and partly quoted in Charles F. Libbie & Co., May 25–26, 1888, may be the same, as it acknowledges a copy of *Harold;* but it is there dated only as to year and is without the name of the person addressed.]

### To Harrison Gray Otis Blake, Concord, December 26, 1876 [27]

Concord Tuesday
26 Dec –

My dear Sir,

I am relieved of my fear by your note which I receivd yesterday announcing the arrival of the Thoreau trunks. But it seems my anxieties were founded. The trunks ever since they have been in the Concord Library have been sound, & the locks good. I had the trunks carefully tied up with good ropes by my man John Clahan in my presence, & carried with me to the Fitchburg train to Boston, & took them with me in a coach to the Albany Depot; had them weighed there, (I think they told me 225 pounds) then delivered them to the Adams Express, & paid him. Then, as I wrote you, went to the Court Street Adams Office, – (which I believe is the same company as the Adams near the Depot) & gave him the charge of the keys. I hate to hear that

27. MS owned by Mr. Owen D. Young; ph. in CUL. This obviously follows immediately the other letters of Dec., 1876, to Blake.

the trunks came to you in disorder, & – do I understand you opened? If I had not been in these days very seriously occupied, my own fears would have decided me to carry them to you myself.

R. W. Emerson.

### To Jean Davenport Lander, Concord? December 30, 1876

[MS listed in C. F. Libbie & Co., May 10–11, 1905; described as written in the third person and as regretting Emerson's inability to witness Mrs. Lander's performance in *The Scarlet Letter*. She appeared in this dramatization, of which she was co-author, in the following January (*Boston Daily Advertiser*, Jan. 1, 1877).]

### To Frederic Henry Hedge, Concord, *c.* 1876? [28]

Concord Friday

Dear Hedge,

You did not come to the Athenaeum today & perhaps had found out my blunder of believing that the Overseers should meet on Saturday. I did not discover the truth until I returned from Naushon too late to retrieve it for our company. I went to the Overseers & talked with Eliot & promised him to get the sum of our opinions for him before the next meeting of Overseers on Thursday. I found only Cabot at the Athenaeum, & we went to Cambridge, & only found Peirce of the three we sought. Now we propose a meeting at the Athenaeum, on Monday morning, at 10 o'c. I pray you to come, & we shall probably all meet. & settle on our communication to the President

Ever Yours,

Dr Hedge.

R. W. E.

28. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year probably falls within the period when both Cabot and Emerson were overseers of Harvard, 1875–1879. Hedge and Benjamin Peirce were both professors then as well as earlier. The handwriting would, I think, fit 1876, but it might well belong to some earlier year. The date thus remains very uncertain. Eliot is presumably the president who is mentioned in the last sentence.

# 1877

## To William Hathaway Forbes, Concord, January 11, 1877[1]

Concord
11 Jan '77

Dear Will,

I think you should best put $500 into the Atlantic Bank for me, & buy for me any good stock which you approve with the $250. As for Mr Osgood's making a little book of Parnassus I think it is small enough now, the type is too small for many eyes and though I have not seen Whittier's or Longfellow's new collections I think ours would warrant a larger type & size than it has. But I will take counsel with you in a few days

Always yours, with thanks for your care
R. W. E.

## To Cornelia Frances Forbes, Concord, January 20, 1877[2]

Concord
20 January '77

My dear Miss Forbes,

It was a great kindness to send me these speaking letters from Caroline & her daughters – they show the children to great advantage – to me who have rarely seen them except with their mother, when of

1. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The size of the type page in *Parnassus* seems to have remained unchanged.

2. MS owned by Mrs. Gorham Brooks; ph. in CUL. This, one of the most American letters included in these volumes, is a remarkable piece of writing for a man in his seventy-fourth year. What is said of Caroline Sturgis Tappan and her daughters may also suggest an earlier date (*cf.* July 2, 1865). But the form of the signature and the mechanical details of the letter are evidence that Emerson's heading is correct. Moreover, there are two entries in the MS memorandum book for 1877 which may well refer to this letter. Under Jan. 11 is a reminder followed by a notation obviously written later: "Send home Miss F. Forbes's papers. Sent." Under Jan. 12 is another pertinent entry: "Wrote to Miss Forbes, with her letters returned." This latter record, which would fit the contents of the present letter exactly, might well have been made

course they would leave conversation to her. Here they show themselves & the perception of youth & health & opportunity. I am glad they are enjoying these wonders of Nature & Art at the right age, & with every advantage, & only hope that they will come back soon satisfied & with no wish to return to Europe from their nobler native land. Caroline herself, I fear, may feel more at home in Italy than in Massachusetts, but you & all her friends must agree that we cannot spare her, & that Massachusetts rightly seen & used will deserve & honor all her genius. Noble is the Reims Cathedral & astonishes the eye, and as yet they will find nothing in America to match its ideal perfection, but Nature is grander here than there, & man is or will be, & will doubtless match & surpass in the future these marvels of the past. I ought to have sent home these treasures earlier, but did not like to part with them until my Wife, who has been staying with Edith Forbes, came home, & who with Ellen, has enjoyed them with me.

Gratefully & affectionately
yours,
R. Waldo Emerson.

Miss C. Fanny Forbes –

## To George Stewart, Jr., Concord, January 22, 1877 [3]

Concord Mass$^{tts}$
22 January 1877

Dear Sir,

I have to thank you for the very friendly notice of myself which I find in Belford's Monthly Magazine,[4] which I ought to have acknowledged some days ago. The tone of it is courtly & kind, & suggests that the writer is no stranger to Boston & its scholars. In one or two hints he seems to me to have been mis-informed. The only pain

carelessly under the wrong day of the month by a man of nearly seventy-four. For Cornelia Frances Forbes, see Oct. 9? 1860. Mr. W. Cameron Forbes informs me that she died in 1911, unmarried.

3. MS owned by Mr. W. T. H. Howe; ph. in CUL. Stewart, St. John, N. B., Oct. 30, 1869, had mentioned a recent visit to Boston and meeting with Emerson and had told of mailing the first three numbers of his journal – *Stewart's Quarterly Magazine*, a product of the Dominion. There is also a letter from Stewart, St. John, N. B., Nov. 16, 1877, telling of a projected lecture on Emerson and offering to send a copy of *Evenings in the Library*, to be published the following month.

4. Stewart's "Evenings in the Library. No. 2. Emerson" appeared in *Belford's Monthly Magazine* for Jan., 1877, and was reprinted in his book *Evenings in the Library*, 1878.

he gives me is in his estimate of Thoreau, whom he underrates. Thoreau was a superior genius. I read his books & manuscripts always with new surprise at the range of his topics & the novelty & depth of his thought. A man of large reading, of quick perception, of great practical courage & ability, – who grew greater every day, &, had his short life been prolonged would have found few equals to the power & wealth of his mind. By the death recently, in Bangor, Maine, of his sister, Miss Sophia Thoreau, his Manuscripts (which fill a large trunk,) have been bequeathed to H. G. O. Blake, Esq, of Worcester, Mass[tts], one of his best friends, & who, I doubt not, will devote himself to the care & the publication of some of these treasures.

When your journeys lead you to Boston, it would give me pleasure to have a card from you of your address. With kind regards,

Mr George Steward, Jr.[5] R. W. Emerson

To James R. Osgood and Company, Concord, February 13, 1877

[MS listed and partly quoted in Chicago Book & Art Auctions, Feb. 19, 1931; printed in *The Pittsburg Index*, May 2, 1903, p. 9.]

To William James Linton, Concord, February 17, 1877

[MS owned by Yale University Library; printed in *The Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, XXVI, 479 (Oct., 1927).]

To Elliott and Frye, Concord? February, 1877

[MS listed in Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, July 2–4, 1917.]

To James R. Osgood and Company, Concord, March 26, 1877

[MS listed in Anderson Auction Co., Dec. 17, 1906; printed in *The Pittsburg Index*, May 2, 1903, p. 9.]

To Annie Adams Fields, Concord, April 9, 1877[6]

Concord, April 9th

Dear Mrs Fields,

Mr Fields sends to all of us your kind invitation to come to your house on the evening of the 16th, which, I believe is the time for me to

5. Emerson misspells the name.

6. MS owned by the Library of Congress; ph. in CUL. Excerpt I is in *Harper's*, LXVIII, 467 (Feb., 1884), and in Annie Fields, *Authors and Friends*, p. 106. Neither printed version is dated; but evidence cited below, confirmed by the remark about unfitness for conversation, shows that 1877 is the year.

read an old story.[7] My Wife sends you her thanks, but she is an invalid & stays at home; Ellen is not now at home, but I suppose will be on that day; and I myself am grown so old that though I can read from a paper, I am no longer fit for conversation, and dare not make visits. So we send you our thanks, & you shall not expect us.

R. Waldo Emerson

## To George Frisbie Hoar, Concord, April 19, 1877[8]

Concord, Mass[tts]
Nineteenth April, '77 –

My dear Mr Hoar,

I cannot let this day pass without obeying your request to send you the little verse, – written I suppose twenty years ago, – though printed later.[9] I have never seen any adequate eulogy of your father[10] except in the virtue & works of his children.

Affectionately yours,
R. Waldo Emerson

Hon. George F. Hoar –

S. H.

With beams December planets dart
His cold eye truth and conduct scanned;
July shined in his sunny heart,
October in his liberal hand.

R. W. E.

## To Charlotte F. Bates, Concord, April *c.* 20? 1877

[Charlotte F. Bates, Cambridge, Apr. 6, 1877, begged Emerson to forget her conduct at their meeting of Saturday. She wrote again, Apr. 23 following, returning a note which, she said, Emerson had sent her by mistake; she had, it was true, sent him a letter a week or so ago but it had no reference to the proposed bust of Channing.]

7. The *Boston Daily Advertiser,* Apr. 17, 1877, reported that "Emerson gave in the Old South at three o'clock yesterday afternoon his lecture on Boston, which was delivered to a Boston audience in 1861 and has not been heard since." Its delivery on May 15, 1861, was announced in the *Boston Evening Transcript* on that day. It was thus, in 1877, "an old story." The lecture is in *Cent. Ed.,* XII.

8. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL.

9. In *May-day and Other Pieces;* on p. 171 of the London edition.

10. Samuel Hoar appears in numerous early letters.

To ————————, Concord, May 7, 1877

[MS listed and partly quoted in C. F. Libbie & Co., May 19–21, 1903; states the wish that the two volumes of Wood's *Athenæ Oxonienses* presented by Carlyle should go, after Emerson's death, to James Elliot Cabot. *Cf.* Dec. 27, 1868. The question as to what person is addressed in the present letter is difficult to answer. By his will, dated Apr. 14, 1876 (see a note on Mar. 10? 1874), Emerson appointed his son and his son-in-law as his executors.]

To Ellen Emerson, Milton? Massachusetts, May 24, *c.* 1877?[11]

24 May

Dear Ellen

I have been in doubt where to send the money for Margaret & so have held it. Edith this morning undertakes the direction & I send you the Post Office order My trouble was in not finding you at Milton

R W E

To John Murray Forbes, Concord, May 26, 1877?[12]

Concord
26 May.

My dear friend,

I am very sorry I cannot come to the Club today as I wished, being held at home. I enclose $50. borrowed three days ago from you with thanks.

R. Waldo Emerson

To Robert? Laird? Collier, Concord, June 4, 1877

[MS listed in Anderson Galleries, Dec. 18, 1928; Emerson tells Collier to bring a young Englishman to call. For Collier, *cf.* Dec. 29, 1871. In 1876 he had begun his brief pastorate at the church which Emerson had served nearly half a century earlier (*The Second Church in Boston,* 1900, p. xi).]

11. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. I have no evidence of any considerable weight as to the year. But if the Margaret mentioned is, as the letter seems to suggest, a servant, she may be one of two persons named in a letter from Ellen Emerson dated Dec. 29, 1877. In that letter Ellen inquires whether her father has found a list of directions for Margaret and Sarah.

12. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The club referred to was presumably the Saturday Club, which met on the last Saturday of the month; and May 26 fell on Saturday in 1877, the year which has been penciled after the original date line.

## To William Henry Channing, Concord, June 21, 1877[13]

Concord
June 21, '77.

My dear Channing,

When will you come to make that visit you promised me? I ought to have fixed a time when we met – but you had sad duties then. But you will be at Cambridge in the coming week – I mean to be there on Wednesday & Thursday, though I rarely go to the Commencement, but have promised to make my bow to President Hayes,[14] since I have learned that we were companions many years ago on a visit of a little party from Cincinatti to an old Indian Fort or sacred enclosure forty miles away.[15] – Can you not come home with me after the Phi Beta dinner on Thursday, and I will carry you on Saturday to our "Saturday Club" where you will find I trust very good company.

Yours ever,
R. Waldo Emerson

## To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, July 24, 1877?[16]

24 July

Dear Edith,

I shall gladly come to you on the day you name, but you must be glad to let me run home again very soon after, for I lose my wits such as they are from day to day. But I love good people none the less.

R. W. E

13. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The nature of the letter pretty definitely fixes the identity of the Channing addressed. Additional evidence is afforded by two entries in the MS memorandum book for this year – under June 16, "Mr W. H. Channing Care of E. W. Higginson High St. Brookline Masstts"; and under June 21, "Channing."

14. Hayes and Emerson were both present at the Harvard commencement of Wednesday, June 27 (*Boston Daily Advertiser*, June 28, 1877).

15. The visit to Fort Ancient is mentioned in May 29, 1850. Hayes was at that time a poor lawyer, just starting to practice in Cincinnati; he recorded his attendance at Emerson's lectures there and Emerson's appearance at a local literary club, but, so far as I know, said nothing about the trip to the "old Indian Fort" which Emerson recalls (*cf.* Charles Richard Williams, *The Life of Rutherford Birchard Hayes*, 1914, I, 61–62; and Hayes's *Diary and Letters*, ed. Williams, 1922, I, 299).

16. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The "1877?" which has been supplied fits at least the general tone of the letter; but it would perhaps be impossible to prove a definite year.

TO EDITH EMERSON FORBES, CONCORD, JULY 24, 1877? [17]

Concord
July 24 –

Dear Edith,

I will try to come to you on the day you propose. I shall hardly stay a week, for I am growing furiously old & am learning to protect all good people from that class.

Papa

TO ELLEN EMERSON, BOSTON, AUGUST 16, 1877 [18]

Athenaeum Aug. 16

Dear Ellen,

Tis a great vexation that you do not, – worse that you cannot – come home. I sent my correctid sheets to Osgood & Co, immediately; & only yesterday received your lines & Mr Cabot's corrections.[19] I think the poor Article can ill spare its losses: for instance the striking out of the electric force of a drop of water, – which I took from Faraday's own lips in his lecture in the Royal Institution in London, on Feb 27, 1857 [20]

Here are the words from my note book, – " A grain of water is known to have electric relations equivalent to a very powerful flash of lightning" [21] Nor can I think the seven or eight lines about the *water of the lake.*, on the bottom of the first page & top of the second amiss. But I shall obey your united opinion with thanks & trust. I send you stamps & you must hasten home as soon as your Doctor permits.

17. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. As on the preceding letter, " 1877? " has been supplied and is plausible for the same reason I have cited in the note there. The partial repetition of the message would in no way argue against the plausibility of the same date for both letters.

18. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Evidence cited below fixes the year. The signature was probably forgotten.

19. Ellen wrote her father, Concord, Aug. 9, 1877, that W. H. Forbes had intercepted, at Woods Hole, the proofs of " Perpetual Forces " and sent them to Concord; she asked that her father keep them till her return home the next Tuesday so that she could see them, but added the suggestion that he might send them to Cabot in the meantime. " Perpetual Forces " was printed in *The North American Review* for Sept., 1877.

20. Emerson did not hear the lecture but first learned of it from Clough (see notes on May 8, 1857).

21. *Journals*, IX, 106–107. This passage was restored and is to be found in *Cent. Ed.*, X, 70.

To Thurlow Weed Barnes, Concord, August 23, 1877

[MS listed and partly quoted in Anderson Galleries, Feb. 1–3, 1926; Emerson declines an invitation to lecture and says that "Seventy-four years must stay at home."]

To ————————, Concord, September, 1877

[MS listed in C. F. Libbie & Co., Mar. 7, 1919; described as relating to one of Emerson's articles.]

To Harrison Gray Otis Blake, Concord, October 14, 1877 [22]

Concord, October 14,
[1877.]

Dear Mr. Blake,

I received lately the enclosed letter from Mr. C. M. Skinner [23] of Brooklyn N. Y. and at once saw that it should be sent to you — but the letter quickly disappeared from my table, & I have just recovered it. The writer frankly says what we expected all intelligent readers would say of Thoreau, but which we have waited in vain to hear from the public & rarely from the masters. I hope your reading formerly, & now that you have all his rich manuscripts in your study,[24] — will justify & increase your old affection & estimation of his genius, & perhaps you will find that this new lover of our friend may be a fit trustee or assistant to bring his books to the day.

R. W. Emerson.

To William J. Potter, Concord, November? *c.* 20? 1877

[Potter, Grantville, Mass., Nov. 28, 1877, acknowledges Emerson's letter with its inclosure of $50, a contribution toward the fund for the relief of F. E. Abbot. There were probably earlier letters to Potter, as he had written more than once from New Bedford. The statement in *The Index,* June 29, 1882, that the present letter was the last he ever received from Emerson also implies earlier ones.]

22. MS owned by Mr. W. T. H. Howe; ph. in CUL. This is a copy, and the text is followed by this statement in the same hand: "The foregoing letter fm. Mr. Emerson, I copy to-day, Jan. 12, 1885, that I may send the original to Mr. C. M. Skinner, a gentleman connected apparently with the Brooklyn Daily Times. H. G. O. Blake."

23. *The Brooklyn City Directory* for 1877–1878 lists Charles M. Skinner as a reporter. I omit from Blake's version of this line a canceled "&" and the square brackets inclosing it.

24. *Cf.* Dec. 26, 1876.

# 1878

## To Alexander Milton Ross, Concord? January *c.* 10? 1878

[Ross, Toronto, Jan. 1, 1878, mentioned a facsimile of the first edition of Shakespeare's sonnets which he had sent Emerson. Ross, Jan. 13, 1878, thanked Emerson for an invitation to visit him at Concord.]

## To William Dean Howells, Concord, February 9, 1878[1]

Concord, February 9

Dear Sir,

The paper on the "Future of the Republic" which I am to read at the Old South has not yet been read, as I have been confined to my house by a bad cold for the last fortnight. I suppose the ladies will soon find me another day,[2] & if it prospers in reading, I will send it to you for the "Atlantic" afterwards.[3]

Respectfully yours,
R. Waldo Emerson

W. D Howells, Esq.

1. MS owned by Miss Mildred Howells; ph. in CUL. The year is fixed by evidence cited below.

2. The lecture was finally read as "The Fortune of the Republic," on Feb. 25, and an abstract appeared in the *Boston Evening Transcript*, Feb. 26, 1878. The title of the pamphlet published by Houghton, Osgood & Co., 1878, is in error as to date: *Fortune of the Republic. Lecture Delivered at the Old South Church, March 30, 1878.* Cabot repeats this date (II, 802) but also gives Mar. 8, 1878 – likewise erroneous (II, 677). Corroboration of the correct date, with some interesting reminiscences of Emerson, is contained in the following letter:

"Mr Emerson,

"Boston Feby 25th '78
No 55 Rutland St

"My dear Sir,

"Hearing you lecture this afternoon at the Old South reminds me that many, many years ago I used to go from Charlestown, where I was born at the foot of Bunker Hill, to the North End in Boston to hear you preach in the Secd Church. I remember also that when your little Book, entitled 'Nature' was published I read it with pleasure & commended it highly in a letter to you. In 1835 when you were delivering a Course of lectures in the Tremont Temple I have not forgotten that I travelled on foot to & from Cambridge, sometimes with company, sometimes

## To William H. Babcock, Concord? February 18, 1878

[Acknowledged in Babcock, Washington, D. C., Mar. 3, 1878; Babcock thanked Emerson for offering to send "the poem" to the *Boston Daily Advertiser* and said he hoped to get out a volume of poems next fall. Babcock wrote again, Dec. 1, 1879, recalling Emerson's kindness in reading a poem, "Joseph the Nez Percé," some two years earlier and writing an encouraging letter about it — "You asked in that letter if I would object to your sending the verses to the Boston Advertiser. I of course assented; but I think you must have done still better by me for I soon received a letter of acceptance from Harper's Mag; in which it subsequently appeared." He now sent his volume, which included that poem and others. "Joseph, the Nez Percé" is in *Harper's* for Dec., 1878.]

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alone to hear you lecture. Not long after I entered my Profession, I well recollect being requested to supply the Pulpit at East Lexington and there meeting you, who had come from Concord, fearing the Society would be without a Supply on that Sunday.

"Margaret Fuller was there also, having come *with you,* if I am not mistaken. I surely did not like the idea of preaching before two such cultured & critical persons, but agreed to preach half a day if you would preach the other half, which you very kindly did. We all dined at the same house and I remember well the interesting conversation you & Miss Fuller had on Poetry — on that of Wordsworth & Coleridge &c. Having been on the other side of the *Big Pond* most of the time for thirty years, I have not heard you lecture until today, since the Course at the Temple, unless I except *once* at the Theological School in Cdge — when in company with Mrs John Parkman and William H. Channing Although I have met you occasionally at the Parker House & at the Depot — & on the streets in Concord when I have visited my Brother, & had some little conversation with you, I am not surprised that you found it difficult to identify me when I called a few weeks since to shew you some curiosities in the way of letters from Edward Everett, Wm H. Channing &c &c I desire to say that it gave me great pleasure to see you in the desk again & to hear your voice as of yore. Your eye is scarcely dimmed & your natural strength scarcely abated. You read your notes easily & at a great distance — Your voice is clear & strong — All I noticed was a want of sufficient effort occasionally to send your voice to the extreme parts of the House. Being quite near, I heard you generally remarkably well, although I was on one side of you. You manifest the same keenness of perception, the same vigor of thought — the same terseness of language as in times long gone by. As regards our Country no one can deny the truth of your statements — or the pertinency of your observations. There was a dry humour in some of them quite amusing. You must have been pleased to see the numerous, cultured & distinguished Audience your name had brought together. Though some years younger than yourself, being of the Class of 1829, I am sure you can see to read better than I can & can fill with your voice a larger Building. A much longer life & much happiness do I wish to you. Yours very truly

"Saml A. Devens.

"Please excuse this long & prosy letter —"

3. But see Mar. 6, 1878, to Howells.

## To William Dean Howells, Concord, March 6, 1878 [4]

Concord, 6 March, '78 –

Dear Sir,

I think with you that the closeness of the reports of the lecture at the Old South makes it unfit matter to print in the " Atlantic." So you shall let me keep the Manuscript at home, & I will hope to find sooner or later some other manuscript to offer you.

With kind regards,

R. Waldo Emerson

W. D. Howells, Esq.

## To the Secretary of the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques de l'Institut de France, Concord, March 6, 1878 [5]

Concord, Massachusetts –
March 6, 1878

To the Secretary of the Academy of Moral & Political Sciences, in the Institute of France.

Dear Sir, I send my acknowledgment of your letter received a few days since, announcing my election to fill the place of foreign associate in the Academy, vacant by the death of my friend & countryman, Mr Motley. I desire to express my thanks to the Academy for this honor they have done me, and should I yet have the great happiness of a fourth visit to France its aim will be to meet your august Society.

R. Waldo Emerson

4. MS owned by Miss Mildred Howells; ph. in CUL. *Cf.* Feb. 9, 1878. The lecture did not appear in *The Atlantic.*

5. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is a rough draft but is nearly perfect. The only change made on the MS was the substitution of " France " for " Paris." Another draft, dated Feb. 28, 1878, is also owned by RWEMA (ph. in CUL). Emerson had received his invitation in the form of a presidential decree dated Paris, Jan. 9, 1878, approving " l'élection faite par l'Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques de Mr. Emerson pour remplir la place d'associé étranger devenue vacante dans cette Académie par suite du déces de Mr Motley." John Lothrop Motley had died in May, 1877. The decree shows that Emerson's election occurred on Dec. 29 of that year.

## To Robert Charles Winthrop, Concord, June 19, 1878[6]

Concord
June 19

Dear Mr Winthrop,

It would give me great pleasure to meet you & Mrs Winthrop, and your guests,[7] if I were only one year younger: but my late days & months have teazed me by refusing to give me every alternate word in my sentence. I wish to speak, but out of tenderness to my companion I hasten to leave him.

I had the pleasure of being introduced to Lord Dufferin at our "Saturday Club" sometime ago,[8] but with no opportunity of conversation with him. Please give my kind regards to Mrs Winthrop.

Yours with old & new regards,
R. Waldo Emerson

## To A. L. Mortimer? Concord, *c.* June? 1878?[9]

Concord, Mass.

Dear Sir,

On my return home from a long absence I find among my letters yours asking my opinion of Herbert Spenser's writings. I regret

6. MS owned by the Massachusetts Historical Society; ph. in CUL. The date is fixed by evidence cited below and by the references Emerson here makes to his age.

7. The *Boston Evening Transcript,* June 26, 1878, said that Earl and Lady Dufferin were the guests of Winthrop in Brookline, that "An informal reception was tendered them last evening," and that they were present at the Harvard commencement "today." The *Boston Daily Advertiser* of June 27 reports the speeches of both Dufferin and Winthrop at the alumni dinner on commencement day, the 26th. Dufferin, the governor-general of Canada, expressed pleasure in his acquaintance with Longfellow, Emerson, and Holmes.

8. Dufferin mentioned, in a letter dated Nov. 18, 1874, a meeting with Emerson at the Saturday Club (Alfred Lyall, *The Life of the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava,* 1905, I, 255–256).

9. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This rough draft, with its clear evidences of increasing difficulty with spelling, is obviously late. The year 1878 and my further conjectures as to the date and as to the person addressed seem to be warranted by a letter which Mortimer wrote from Waterville, Me., May 16, 1878, and which Emerson endorsed with name, place, subject, and the date "May '78." Mortimer (probably the Alfred L. Mortimer, civil engineer, listed in *History of Waterville Lodge, No. 33, of Free and Accepted Masons,* 1874, p. 93) introduced himself as a reader of Emerson's own works for over twenty-five years. Only one sentence in all this reading had aroused in him any painful dissent "& that one was y'r reply to an interviewer regarding '*Herbert Spencer,*' in wh. you said he was '*a Hock-writer, who writes equally*

that I am entirely ignorent of them, & do not reccal any writing of mine such as you quote. I remember that some friend sent me long ago what was proprably Mr Spensers first book, and that I looked into it but was not drawn to it, very likely from my ignorance of the subject. And now that we have many writers on the same subjects I am still drawn to my old studies. I can hardly believe that I can have said any disrespecting word of Mr Spenser as I have no recollection of the book

To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, August 6, 1878? [10]

Concord, August 6 —

Dearest Edith,

I shall certainly come to you tomorrow if I can, but only for a day or two, for I ought to have informed you earlier that I am fast losing almost the power of speech even, & therefore necessarily confiding myself to my Study, where I can still read with intelligence. The better the company you offer me, alas only makes it more necessary to stay at home. Your loving father

R. W. E.

To G. and C. Merriam, Concord, August 21, 1878 [11]

Concord, Mass[tts]
August 21 —

Gentlemen,

On my return home from the seashore a few days ago, I found the stately gift you had sent me to my great delight. In my youth

*well upon all subjects.'"* Mortimer now wished to hear that Emerson had since discovered abundant reason to reverse the criticism and to yield to Spencer the "*immense honor*" that he deserved. Finally, this correspondent said he inclosed an article of his own in which he had quoted Emerson and others and that he wished it to be returned.

On Nov. 7, 1881, George S. Cottman wrote from Ingallston Post Office, Ind., telling of his great interest in Spencer and of his searching of Emerson's works "for the least hint implying your estimate" of that philosopher. Cottman asked whether Emerson would not now send him such an estimate. It is of interest to note that Spencer himself had not failed to seek an alliance with Emerson. He had met Emerson at Derby in 1847; had written to him in 1851 in an attempt to gain some recognition of the kinship of their philosophies; and in 1860 had actively sought his aid through the medium of a friend (see notes on the letters of Dec. 5, 1847, and May? *c.* 21? 1860?).

10. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Obviously the year 1878, which has been supplied, cannot be far wrong.

11. MS owned by the G. & C. Merriam Company; ph. in CUL. The year is fixed

my father gave me Johnson's Dictionary; long after in Cambridge I became acquainted with Mr Worcester, and bought his book. Meantime, I have learned from good judges the superiority of Webster's Dictionary, and am very greatful to you for the gift.

R. Waldo Emerson

Messrs G. and C. Merriam.

### To Rutherford Birchard Hayes, Concord, August 31, 1878

[MS listed and partly quoted in American Art Association, Mar. 10–11, 1924; recommends Samuel G. W. Benjamin as an applicant for a consular post in Europe. Benjamin was an artist and author, and some years later he was sent as American minister to Persia. He mentions Emerson's letter in *The Life and Adventures of a Free Lance,* 1914, p. 351.]

### To Edith Emerson Forbes, Concord, September 7? 1878?[12]

Ellen instrutcs her companion to write – that she has your letter, and will finish her answer in the accomperning sheet, so nothing but love is left for the writer

R W E

### To Alexander Milton Ross, Concord? September, 1878

[Ross, Montreal, Mar. 11, 1879, said that on his return from Rupert's Land a few days earlier he found Emerson's letter of last September and *Fortune of the Republic.* Ross said he was an Indian agent for the British government. He mentioned books he had sent to Emerson. *Cf.* earlier letters to Ross. A copy of *Fortune of the Republic* containing Emerson's inscription to him, dated Aug. 26, 1878, was included in the Wakeman sale (American Art Association, Apr. 28 and 29, 1924).]

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by an endorsement and by G. & C. Merriam, Springfield, Mass., Aug. 12, 1878, stating that they have just sent Emerson a copy of Webster's unabridged dictionary (presumably *An American Dictionary of the English Language,* issued in 1864 and later and popularly known as *Webster's Unabridged*) and would like to have his opinion of it. Emerson's account of his progress from Johnson to Worcester and from Worcester to Webster would probably describe the experience of a large number of his American contemporaries.

12. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is written on a post card addressed to Edith Emerson Forbes at Naushon and postmarked Sept. 7. The year 1878 has been supplied.

## To James Bradley Thayer, Concord, November 15, 1878 [13]

Concord, 15 November

Dear Mr Thayer,

The Thanksgiving Day falls on the 28th of this month, and my wife & I shall depend on the company of yourself & Sophy, & your children to dine with us at 3 P. M.[14]

## To Charles Emerson? Concord, November 19, 1878? [15]

Concord, 19 November

Dear Charles,

My wife & I depend on you and your wife as our guests at the Thanksgiving Day dinner next week at 3 o'clock, P. M.[16]

Yours affectionately,
R. Waldo Emerson

## To William Henry Furness, Concord, December 23, *c.* 1878?

[MS owned by Mr. Horace Howard Furness Jayne; printed, without year, in *Records of a Lifelong Friendship*, p. 173. The reference to the loss of faculties seems to fit best a time not earlier than the late 1870's.]

13. MS owned by Professor James B. Thayer; ph. in CUL. The year 1878 has been supplied, probably by the person addressed. Thanksgiving fell on Nov. 28 in that year. Many earlier letters relate to the Thanksgiving dinners in Concord, with the Thayers among the guests; and by this time the celebration had become a formidable affair. Mrs. Gilchrist, who spent three weeks in Concord in the fall of 1878, wrote to W. M. Rossetti that, as she had been told, Emerson was wont to gather some twenty-two children, grandchildren, and relations about his table on that day (*Anne Gilchrist*, ed. Herbert H. Gilchrist, 2d ed., 1887, p. 245). Mr. W. Cameron Forbes informs me that on occasions of this sort, many of which he recalls, George Bradford, William Ellery Channing, and the Thayers were nearly always among the guests, together with Emerson's children and grandchildren. Ellen was the general manager, and everybody helped prepare the meals, set the table, and decorate the house. In the evening there was usually singing and sometimes there were charades or a little play; and there were games for the children. Every room and bed was taken, and the boys were herded together in the attic.

14. A small part of the leaf, which doubtless contained the signature, has been cut away.

15. MS owned by Dr. John M. Connolly; ph. in CUL. The year is extremely doubtful. Dr. Haven Emerson informs me that Charles Emerson, nephew of the essayist, had married Therchi Kaveschi, at Bern, Switzerland, in 1871 and had settled in Concord on his return to this country. *Cf.* a note on Dec. *c.* 15? 1872.

16. *Cf.* Nov. 15, 1878.

# 1879

## To Caleb D. Bradlee, Concord, January 30, 1879 [1]

Concord, Mass., Jan. 30, 1879

Mr. C. D. Bradlee,

Dear Sir.

The Library Committee gratefully acknowledge the receipt from you of a Sermon on the 30th Anniversary of the Harrison Sq. church as a gift to the Concord Free Public Library.

Chairman of
R. Waldo Emerson Library Committee.

Placed in Library

E. F. Whitney, Librarian.

## To Eliza W. Barnwell, Concord, February 4, 1879 [2]

Concord, Masstts
February 4th '79

Dear Miss Eliza W. Barnwell,

I have heard lately from Dr Cornelius Kollock, M. D. of Cheraw, South Carolina, (whose acquaintance I had made when he was in Boston, perhaps a year ago,) that your father was not as comfortably provided as his friends hoped.[3] I grieved to think how many of his classmates who loved him and would have rejoiced to send him assistence have departed from this world. It happened formerly that John L. Gardner was only one of several friends whom I could call on with se-

1. MS owned by the Essex Institute; ph. in CUL. This is a printed form, with all blanks but one filled in entirely by the librarian – Emerson signed his own name. *Cf.* Aug. 1, 1876.

2. MS owned by Mr. Nathaniel B. Barnwell; ph. in CUL.

3. For the ruin the War had brought upon Barnwell, see a note on the letter of July 6, 1866, to him. Cornelius Kollock, Cheraw, S. C., Jan. 7, 1879, recalled his conversation with Emerson about Barnwell in the preceding October and reported that, as he had since discovered, Barnwell did not have a salary from the University of South Carolina large enough to maintain him.

curity of aid, – And now there is no other. I found him at his house. He read Dr Kollock's letter, and gave me $300. When I had added my mite we could not count another surviving classmate able to help us. But it is possible that one or two classmates whom I have not seen for years, and living in the country, may probably be glad to be called upon. For there is no name in our Class so loved as your father's.[4]

R. Waldo Emerson.

### To John O. Sargent, Concord? February? *c.* 18? 1879

[Sargent, New York, Mar. 4, 1879, said Emerson's note declining an invitation to the Harvard Club dinner caused a double regret but made a marked point in the evening when it was read by Dr. Bellows. The letter is not mentioned in the account of the alumni dinner of Feb. 21, 1879, printed in the *New-York Tribune* of the following day. Sargent was president of the Harvard Club of New York.]

### To ————————, Concord, February 18, 1879?[5]

Concord Mass$^{tts}$
Feb. 18 –

Dear Sir,

It will give my daughter and myself much pleasure to accept your kind invitation to your house on our proposed visit to Amherst,[6] and my daughter will not fail to find the hour of our train & announce to you its arrival at Amherst.

With kind regards,
R. Waldo Emerson

4. Eliza W. Barnwell replied, Columbia, S. C., Feb. 18, 1879, thanking Emerson, and, through him, Gardner, on behalf of her father, who was touched deeply " to be remembered again & again by the friends of his youth."

5. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year 1879, which has been added to Emerson's date line, fits the evidence cited below. As Emerson was invited by the college, this letter may well have been addressed to one of its officials.

6. A good account of Emerson's reading of " The Superlative, or Mental Temperance " in College Hall, Amherst, on Mar. 19, 1879, is given by George F. Whicher in the *Amherst Graduates' Quarterly*, XXIII, 290–291.

## To Ellen Emerson, Concord, March 10, 1879[7]

Concord 1
10 March

Dear Ellen,

If there be any assurance that I should attempt to do the work. which Sampson, Low, & Co. of London, persist in asking — now in a new letter;,[8] — it is absolutely necessary that you should come home & tell me what hints & what resources Mr Cabot & you have found in my workshop possible to this end. I hate to draw one day from Edith your heart & hands, & I wish that I had absoluted at first the English proposal. But as I have made no reply, I must make a trial of at least one day to

7. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The year is fixed by evidence cited below. The difficulty with the choice of words and with spelling is such as we should expect in a letter of this time which was not supervised by Ellen.

8. Sampson Low & Co., London, Sept. 10, 1878, inclosed a prospectus of the new work they were about to issue and asked whether Emerson would not supply, for £25, a brief general introduction, which would not need to be longer than a page or a page and a half. They had not yet fully settled upon their list of the hundred greatest men and were anxious to have suggestions from Emerson, whose *Representative Men* had partly suggested their own project. On Dec. 7, 1878, the same publishers wrote to remind Emerson that they had not yet received his "definite acceptance" — he may have written to them earlier, or Ellen may have done so for him. On Dec. 23, 1878, the publishers wrote once more, this time to Ellen, and in reply to a letter she had written on Nov. 30. They said the delay she spoke of would not matter. They had, they explained, engaged the cream of literary talent in their work, and there were only two men to whom it was fitting for them to apply for a general introduction — "the two Fathers of the Century Mr Emerson and Mr Carlyle." But Carlyle was not catholic enough, for he belonged to only a part of the world, not to all of it. So Emerson alone would serve. In the MS memorandum book for 1879, under Feb. 23, still stands the reminder, doubtless very unpleasant to Emerson in those days when letters were a burden: "Answer Sampson Low & Co." Probably Ellen was sole author of the final answer, for the English publishers addressed themselves in their letter of Apr. 8, 1879, to "Dear Friends," and, in acknowledging a letter dated Mar. 26, expressed their pleasure in a suggestion regarding the subject and were "grateful to Mr Emerson" for having raised it to a more general and philosophic basis. Sampson Low & Co., Aug. 11, 1879, acknowledged the receipt of the desired MS pages. Finally, the "General Introduction to the Work by Ralph Waldo Emerson" appeared as pp. i–iii of Vol. I of *The Hundred Greatest Men,* London, Sampson Low, Marston, Searle, and Rivington, 1879, where it was followed by Matthew Arnold's "Introduction to Volume I."

Thus ended a characteristic episode of Emerson's old age. Every important decision now cost him great difficulty and the briefest composition was almost an impossible labor. As a matter of fact, composition now meant mainly a search for some fit passage which he had written long before, with Ellen and Cabot acting as final arbiters.

find a possible sheet to send them, & if not finding the same, to write my regrets. I am aware that Mr Cabot has marked on one role, " Sampson, Lowe, & Co " So give my blessing to Edith and my joy in her new joy, & entreat her to let you come to me, if only for one day.

Your loving Papa

### To Edward Everett Hale, Concord, March 16, 1879

[MS owned by HCL; ph. in CUL. Printed in facsimile in Julian Hawthorne, " Personal Glimpses of Emerson," *The Booklovers Magazine,* I, 151 (Feb., 1903).]

### To Martin Kellogg Schermerhorn? April? *c.* 4? 1879

[Described in *The Channing Centenary,* ed. R. N. Bellows, 1881, p. 17, as one of several letters read at the Newport celebration of the ninety-ninth anniversary of the birth of W. E. Channing. Emerson doubtless declined an invitation to be present at this meeting of Apr. 7, 1879. Several other replies printed on pp. 13 ff. are dated April 2–5. Some, and probably all, were addressed to Schermerhorn, the Unitarian pastor at Newport.]

### To James Herbert Morse, Concord, April 16, 1879

[Printed in *The New-York Times,* Apr. 23, 1879, p. 5, without the name of the person addressed; reprinted, with the name J. H. Morse, in *Proceedings at a Reception in Honor of the Rev. O. B. Frothingham Given by the Independent Liberal Church at the Union League Theatre Tuesday Evening, April 22, 1879,* 1879, p. 51. Emerson sent regrets and said old age made it a duty for him to stay at home. Morse was a member of the committee on arrangements (*ibid.,* p. 7).]

### To Georgina? L.? Putnam, Concord, April 29, 1879?

[MS listed, without year, in Bangs & Co., May 7 and 8, 1901, where it is described as " to Miss Putnam . . . expressing thanks for an invitation to the 'Carnival of Authors.'" According to the *Boston Daily Advertiser,* Jan. 20, 1879, a Miss G. L. Putnam was a member of the general committee of management for the Carnival of Authors to begin in Boston on the 22d of that month, and a " Mrs." Georgina L. Putnam was on the committee for the Dickens booth. During the preceding months a number of such carnivals had been held in Washington, D. C., and elsewhere, but this was, it seems, the first for Boston and was one of the various means used to raise funds to preserve the Old South Church (*ibid.,* Jan. 22). It was planned to repeat the Carnival sometime later in the year (*ibid.,* Jan. 31), and the present letter may relate to this plan.]

## To Annie Adams Fields, Concord? May 17? 1879? [9]

Saturday May 17

Dear Mrs Fields,

The labors you assign to me it is always easy to perform, & I shall have pleasure in making both the visits you offer me, — to Mr Fields' office on Monday, to Miss Whitney's studio [10] on Tuesday.

Always yours,
R. W. Emerson

Mrs Annie Fields.

## To Jean Baptiste François Baille, Concord, August 5, 1879 [11]

Concord,
Massachusetts —
August 5 '79,

Dear Sir,

I have received your polite letter asking me to authorize a translation of my book " Letters and Social Aims," made by a relation

9. MS owned by the Carnegie Book Shop; ph. in CUL. It is barely possible that Emerson intended " 13 " instead of " 17." If Saturday the 17th is the day, the most probable year seems to be 1879; but the evidence is very unsatisfactory. Fields had long since retired from the publishing business, though he may, so far as I know, have kept a place in an office.

10. For Anne Whitney, see Nov. 12, 1871.

11. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is a rough draft, and I have not been able to locate a letter actually sent. Emerson seems to have attempted to copy here a version Ellen had written out for him on the back and in the margin of the letter received from Baille. Baille had written as follows:

" Gray, Haute-Saône
" France.

" Monsieur Emerson,

" Une de mes parentes achève en ce moment la traduction de votre ouvrage ' Essays and Social Aims.' Je viens vous prier de nous accorder l'autorisation de publier cette traduction. Nous savons qu'avec les préoccupations actuelles, le nombre des lecteurs français ne saurait être que fort restreint — Aussi n'avons-nous pour but que de faire connaitre votre œuvre à ceux de nos compatriotes qui ne peuvent lire l'original et que ne préoccupe pas exclusivement ' la politique de la capitale '

" En vous remerciant d'avance de votre acquiescement, si vous voulez bien nous l'accorder, nous avons l'honneur, Monsieur, de vous saluer cordialement, et de vous prier d'agréer l'assurance de nos sentiments de gratitude et de sympathie.

" Baille
" colonel en retraite
" à Gray, Haute-Saône
" France "

of yours. She has my cordial consent and thanking her for her kind intention, and you for your friendly words,

I remain
Yours respectfully,
R. Waldo Emerson

## To Samuel Bradford, Concord, August 26, 1879?[12]

Concord
26 August —

My dear Sam. Bradford,

I have heard that you & your family are not at home, but I have not learned where. But I believe that you come north when in summer freedom and could therefore easily come with your wife & children & sit down with with us in Concord. William Furness & his wife came to see us a few weeks ago, and gave us two or three days to our great pleasure, and you must do the like. Your oldest friend

R. Waldo Emerson

## To George E. Tufts, Concord? September 3, 1879?

[Tufts, Bradford, Pa., Sept. 10, n. y., acknowledges Emerson's letter of Sept. 3, inclosing a check for $30, and returns the check, which is not needed. It was not lack of money so much as other things that kept Tufts from Concord, he explains. Tufts to Ellen Emerson, Bradford, Pa., Sept. 24, 1879, says he has received her letter of the 17th but doubts whether he can come to Concord.]

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"Essays and Social Aims" was, no doubt, *Letters and Social Aims* or, just possibly, that work in addition to some of the essays. For information about Jean Baptiste François Baille, I am indebted to his daughter, Mme Hubert Dussy, and to Mlle Camille Jouclard. After serving as colonel of the 38th regiment of infantry, he had retired and was living at Gray. The translation authorized by Emerson, but never published, was made, Mme Dussy recalls, by his cousin Jeanne Montagnon, who became the wife of Charles Huguenet, a magistrate of Gray. Baille himself projected a translation of Emerson, which, for some reason, he abandoned.

12. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. A complete endorsement in Bradford's hand gives the year as 1879.

# 1880

## To Martin Kellogg Schermerhorn? Concord? March? *c.* 15? 1880

[Described in *The Channing Centenary,* p. 70, as one of the letters read at the Newport celebration of Apr. 7, 1880. Several other replies to invitations to be present on that occasion are dated Mar. 6–26 and the only ones showing the name of the person addressed are to Schermerhorn (pp. 71 ff.). *Cf.* Apr.? *c.* 4? 1879.]

## To William Allen Wall, Concord, March? 1880? [1]

Concord

My dear Sir,

In my house & in my study hangs the noble picture of the three Fates [2] which you drew from the origonel in Rome,[3] and in your generosity hung up in my study on your return. to America. Here it has staid the pride of of my house ever since and is still I think as perfect as ever. I have allowed one young lady to draw from the picture as true a coppy as she could, and she really in some days supprized us with her success.

But when I show my picture to friends they ask who made the original & who made this excellent coppy, I recall my benefacter who should know how much pleasure he has secured to

1. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. In the MS memorandum book for 1880, Emerson himself wrote, under Mar. 4, simply the name "William A. Wall." This, together with the labored spelling of the rough draft here printed, seems to afford a fairly reliable clue to the date and definitely settles the question of the identity of the artist Emerson was addressing.

2. The large painting of "The Three Fates" still hanging in the reconstructed Emerson library at the Antiquarian House in Concord has, on the back, a torn label bearing a fragment of what was, I conjecture, the name "William A. Wall of New Bedford." Wall is mentioned in Apr. 16 and 21, 1833, and in other letters of that time. The painting, which is a copy of the original once attributed to Michelangelo but afterwards to Giovanni di Bartolo ("il Rosso"), is mentioned in editorial notes in *Journals,* III, 97, and VIII, 453.

3. That is, Florence.

## To David Greene Haskins, Concord, May 21, 1880

[Printed in D. G. Haskins, pp. 83–84.]

## To Frederic Henry Hedge, Concord, June 1, 1880 [4]

My Dear Hedge,

I ought to have written to you before the reason of my not coming to your house on Sunday; whilst I was paying my bill at the Parker House, my son Wm. Forbes came to the door with his horse & carriage to carry me to my daughter Edith just returned with him from a long journey I could not make his seven miles useless, nor trouble my dear child, & so I must loose my visit to you and Furness [5] & your family. Pity & forgive.

R. Waldo Emerson

Concord, June 1, 1880

## To Samuel Bradford, Concord, July 10, 1880 [6]

Concord 10th July 1880 –

Dear Sam Bradford oldest of friends,

I rejoice to find you perfect in your memory, and master in your writing, while I have ceased to write, because the pen refuses to spell.

I must make the dangeous attempt and at least thank you for the beautiful gift of your memoirs,[7] which I have carefully read, and which carries more of our histories than I could have written. The recital seems to demand of us three, a more steady relation to each other.

Yours affectionately

[8] R. Waldo. Emerson

4. MS owned by Mr. Charles Lyon Chandler; ph. in CUL.

5. W. H. Furness, Philadelphia, n. d. (Apr. *c.* 14, 1880), told of his plan to come to Boston to speak on Dr. Channing during Anniversary Week. For this address, of May 25, see the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, May 24 and 26, 1880.

6. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This is a copy in Bradford's hand.

7. *Some Incidents in the Life of Samuel Bradford, Senior, by his Son. Also, the Autobiography or a Brief Narrative of the Life of Samuel Bradford, Junior, to January 1, 1879*, Philadelphia, 1880. The copy still in the Emerson library at the Antiquarian House bears Bradford's inscription to Emerson dated May, 1880.

8. Preceded, in Bradford's copy, by the word "signed."

## To William Henry Furness, Concord? *c.* 1880?

[MS owned by Mr. Horace Howard Furness Jayne; printed in *Records of a Lifelong Friendship,* p. 174. Emerson's reference to his loss of memory, as well as the general tone of this brief letter, suggests a late date.]

## To ————————, Concord, *c.* 1880? [9]

Dear Sir,

I thank you for rour book received this morning

R. Waldo Emerson

Concord

9. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. The MS seems to show that Emerson wrote with difficulty, and the error in spelling, the brevity of the message, and the unusual transposition of the fragmentary heading would also argue a very late date; but the year remains conjectural.

# 1881

To the Emerson Literary Society, Concord, July 1, 1881 [3]

Concord, Jan. 27 —
1881 —

Dear Sarah,

This is an admirable head of your Father.[2] He knows exactly how to place himself.

It is a welcome gift to me; I delight in it.

Yours faithfully.
R. W. Emerson —

To the Emerson Literary Society, Concord, July 1, 1881 [3]

Concord, 1 July, 1881

I send my acknowledgments and good wishes to the " Emerson Literary Society." [4]

Ralph Waldo Emerson

1. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. Mr. W. Cameron Forbes informs me that Sarah Forbes, his aunt, was born in 1853 and married William Hastings Hughes in 1887.

2. J. M. Forbes was born Feb. 23, 1813; and it seems possible that the picture here referred to may be the same reproduced in *Letters and Recollections of John Murray Forbes,* II, frontispiece, where he is described as *" Aet. 68."*

3. MS owned by RWEMA; ph. in CUL. This seems to be a draft but is perfect except for the lack of a salutation. Perhaps it was copied from a model furnished by Ellen.

4. I have not identified this particular society, but such namesakes were by this time no doubt fairly common. There was one such society — and perhaps there were more — as early as 1861 (see Feb. 6, 1861); and as late as Jan. 10, 1882, a little more than three months before Emerson's death, Ralph S. Maugham wrote from Cresskill, N. J., that the young people of that village had named their society the Emerson Literary Union and wished a few words of encouragement.

# APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

# Two Early Poems

Letters of 1814 show that Emerson was already willing to be known to his correspondents as a rimer. The two pieces printed below were written about the same time and show what he could do in more determined mood. Conventional eighteenth-century style and excessive patriotic sentiment were still common in American poetry, and the faults of these juvenile verses were the faults of contemporary American verse in general. In the original MS (owned by Professor James B. Thayer) the lines dated Dec. 24, 1814, follow immediately, on the same large sheet, those dated 1815. Though entirely Emerson's own, the extant MS was, therefore, probably not the first; but the handwriting shows that it could hardly have been later than 1815. I conjecture that the "Poetical Essay" is the same composition described in the broadside *Order of Performances at the Latin School, August 25, 1815* as "An English Poem, 'Independence,'" by Emerson.

Lines on Washington written at Concord Dec 24th 1814.

In former years when Britain rul'd these States
And like a tyrant doom'd our hapless fates
The God of Israel heard our groans and cries
And bade to life A WASHINGTON arise.
He look'd around and saw his countrys grief
Him GOD ordain'd to minister relief.
Through numerous dangers God the hero led
Our armies see him and elect him head.
Success attends where'eer the hero moves
Tis God who guards him for tis God he loves
Before his face the hosts of Albion fly
Columbia's lightning glitters in his eye
Vengeance to foes rests on his beaming sword
Ranks fall before him and confess him lord
See! where he stands the hottest battle burns
Great is the fame his might his valor earns.
See Guardian Angels round his awful head
A sheild of Glory for a rampart spread —
Twas Washington that bade Columbia be
A great republic — independent free!

RWE.

## Poetical Essay

When dread Ambition first her flag unfurl'd,
And taught her sons to subjugate the world,
A God decreed in mercy to mankind,
O thought most worthy of the mighty mind!
That Independence should descend to Earth,
Goddess divine! of high immortal birth;
With laurel crown'd, in majesty array'd,
From Ida's top descends the heavnly maid;
Where'eer Ambition spread her influence round,
Where'eer her sons the brazen trumpet sound,
There Independence rais'd her silver star,
And led to Peace, through Battle, Blood, and War.
If here, a Xerxes mad with pride, & power,
Collects his millions in a fatal hour,
And vainly thinks by numbers to enslave,
The hardy Grecians, warlike, firm, & brave;
Yet there, stern youths their country's martial pride,
To die determin'd by their country's side,
Steady, & close, their iron front appears,
Nor shines with golden, but with deadly spears,
Twas Independence taught them Glory's way,
And led through war, to Victory's brightest day!
If here, a Philip with Ambition fir'd,
The whole extent of Græcia's fields desir'd;
Yet there, a Phocion fill'd with patriot blood,
His schemes of conquest, & of power withstood,
Nor he alone — another noble name,
Stands high, unrivall'd on the list of Fame,
Demosthenes great Prince of Eloquence sublime,
Whose name shall triumph o'er the wreck of time.
If here, abandon'd Catiline proceed,
And find each plan, and every crime succeed,
Yet there, with keen, & ever-watchful eye,
Stands the great Father of his Country by,
And nobly jealous of his country's laws,
Against Ambition pleads her injur'd cause.
Thus through the records of each rolling age

The names of Heroes swell the historic page
In later times Brittania Oceans Queen
Who reigns supreme o'er Neptune's wide domain
Infring'd those rights to freemen ever dear
And dar'd the wrath of those unknown to fear
Then Independence with indignant eyes
Bade quick to life a Washington arise
Fair Victory follow'd where the chieftain mov'd
Him angels guarded, and his country lov'd
Vengeance to foes flash'd from his awful eye
Far from his arm the chiefs of Albion fly
Then Albion sign'd with slow unwilling hand
The Sovreign Freedom of our happy land.
If here Napoleon thought to rule the world
And in his course each Prince from Kingdom hurl'd
Yet there to check his vast, destructive force,
And brave the torrent in its headlong course,
The northern nations all their force combine
And patriot millions crowd the banks of Rhine.
If blood and desolation mark'd his way
Yet scenes more direful, dark before him lay.
Dreadful afar the louring storm appears
The region glitters with the Russian spears
In one firm cause his adverse foes unite
And Alexander leads the ranks to fight
Here Independence hovers o'er their head
Ambition there witheld her wonted aid —
And if again by her wild power impell'd
He rose to view oer the forsaken feild
Yet Independence rising once again
Frown'd on his arms, destroy'd his bravest men
Inflaming patriots with a patriot fire
She doom'd his armies to destruction dire.
Thus wild Ambition ever leads astray
And blind like fortune throws her gifts away
While Independence like the polar star
Unvarying guides her brilliant fiery car
She bids her sons to fame & honor rise
And spreads their glories to remotest skies.

Hail Independence! richest gift of Heaven
In kindest mercy by immortals given
Continue thou to bless our happy shore
With thee and Peace — we ask no blessing more
Continue thou to be our guide by day
Our star by night to light the darksome way!

Ralph W Emerson.

Boston 1815 —

## APPENDIX II

# Undated Prose Fragments

The following scraps, the MSS of which are now filed with the letters of Emerson owned by RWEMA, may be parts of a journal or journals; but it seems probable that all of them, except the first paragraph of the fourth, were written for the benefit of Aunt Mary and inclosed in letters of about 1821 or 1822 to her. The cryptic opening paragraph of the fourth fragment is in her hand. The rest of it and all of the other texts printed here are in Emerson's own writing. The second paragraph of the commentary on poetry is apparently a later — but possibly earlier — version of a paragraph in the "Essay on Poetry" included in an unpublished portion of the diaries between passages dated Aug. 12 and Oct. 21, 1821 (typescript *Journals*). On the back of No. 10 are a few fragmentary lines headed "Prof Everetts Sermon," which I do not attempt to reproduce. They were written obviously before the sheet had been cut down to its present size. My only other omission is of a scrap containing the famous passage from Cicero, *De Senectute*, XXIII, 84, together with a translation. (*Cf.* Mary Moody Emerson's letter of June 26, 1822: "You provoke me to prose by eulogizing Caesar & Cicero. True, the speech you quote is sublime, & instanced by christians.") I have supplied the bracketed numerals.

[1]

I imagined myself quite fortunate in having made a speech — but this doleful besetting fear of being misconstrued — I did not know the crime. I like better the letters on morals & moral theories than those on *passion* &c &c not because these last are monitory — but because it is a poor topic

[2]

"A jealous spirit and not man himself chalks out human fortunes" It would seem it does not depend on myself but on my fortunes whether I am to be an outcast from the feelings & affections of my friends. I do not know if the occasion demands Heraclitus or Democritus. I have a little of both.

[3]

And finally when the mind shall be divested of every thing disagreeable which clings to its present degraded condition deprived of this fleshly existence except perhaps such part as shall find happier life in

the form of a fly or worm when this body shall be decomposed & the dust shall find its own humble place – shall I not then perceptibly feel all that I now see distantly – in less glittering but more vivid effect an unbodied something – the spirit of each classic spot whose immortal lot even now I share.

---

I see a dusk & awful spirit rise
Like an infernal god from out the earth
See! He unveils his aspect – On his brow
The thunder scars are graven – from his eye
Glares forth the immortality of hell!
Manfred

[4]

When death is swallowed up in victory – When the mind soul or spirit, has shuffled off this mortal coil – I
Answer. Genius is the power which can *apply* promptly to its purpose the collected intellectual stores of all ages. Others less gifted may be the plodding labourers to amass the mighty hoard, but it requires the master-spirit to select & order the materials with precision & effect.

[5]

I believe that the voice of nature is " He that sins shall die " and that it is the gospel which provides the ransom, and therefore the arguments of Mellen are true & good if needed; but I think that few would make the objection which he employs ten pages to refute, – I mean the Ist object. which he names on 365 page. – No, certainly no denomination of Christians would make such an objection –

The fault I find with Mellen is that instead of illustrating and explaining doctrines by reducing them out of theological language and exhibiting them to the reader in a short-hand striking point of view, he darkens knowledge by searching for ambiguous terms which he ought to avoid and amusing himself and wearying his disciples with the *wilderness* style of composition.

[6]

The heathens of Rome & Greece had imagined a world of torment dreadful enough in their dismal ideas of the souls exposed in a desolate

midnight to fire and water and bleaching winds to purge out the plague spots of transgression — But how these terrors rise to agony in the terrible denunciations of a superior system — viz the lake of fire and the worm and all that dark catalogue. It was fit that a promise of sublimer joy than heart can concieve should be guarded and confirmed by a flaming sword.

[7]

There is some poetry about which we can never make up our minds if it be good or bad. We are not satisfied with it and can discern many a fair mark in the poets mailed-coat whereat criticism may point its weapons, and yet there is a charm around it which we are confident has decieved many unwary readers into peril of their taste for it has half betrayed our own It is because the artist has taken advantage of the natural love of poetry to introduce with it false & sickly sentiment; he would have us recieve tares with wheat for he has mixed the seed and he that is not used to discriminate will be readily imposed upon

Impassioned poetry affects the mind more forcibly than the poetry of narrative or highly wrought sentiment for all men are alike in their common lives and must have their passions wrought up before you can trace those interesting distinctions which do prevail The difficulty which the mind percieves in one man so identifying himself with the history of another as to feel & express all that which it is natural to suppose the person would express renders this species of poetry rare. Campbells poem, the flower of love lies bleeding is

Archilochus was a writer of epigrams and the inventor of a new kind of verse who lived, 585 before Christ

He was betrothed to a woman whose father married her her to a richer suitor and the poet in revenge wrote a satire upon Lycambes the venal father so bitter that he hung himself for vexation.

The Dictionary says nothing of the oracle.

Pope John XXII is said to have accumulated 25000000 florins which Hallam doubts The Franks raised their king on their shields

[8]

Every being is judged by his own law. Besides these laws may never jar, may never come into comparison. They are entirely unlike, more unlike than the ideas of *reason* & a *daisy* & have no analogous points

except perhaps the common analogies prevailing throughout the universe of a common creation by One Mind. They may severally be, productions of several thoughts of the divine Mind. One system may be the representation, the shadowing out of the *divine Imagination,* a second of *the reason* a third – of some other faculty incomprehensible to us. All this may take place just as human sciences & arts are severally the embodyings of a faculty – *poetry,* of the imagination; *Mathematics,* of the reason; *painting,* of the sight; *Music,* of the hearing &c &c Each may be as different from the rest as one sense from another, yet when all are learned (as may take place when we are freed from the restraint of this one world) all may form a beautiful harmony called the perfection of knowledge.

Will you save this scrap??

[9]

All I said was this – That, *a priori,* we know no reason why God may not exist in a three-fold Unity; but that since the manner of such an existence is inconceivable to our minds, he would never have revealed to us such an existence which we can neither describe nor comprehend. Infinite Wisdom established the foundations of knowledge in the human mind so that twice two could never make any thing else than four. So soon as this can be otherwise, our faith is loosened and Science abolished – Three may be one, and one, three.

[10]

You depart, you depart oh Day of Time
Shining. While you shined, there has appeared
A light in the city which has gone
In ancient flight wandering
From the palaces of his fathers, miserable.

Some God some God
Works our victory for thee. Oh my daughter
Lift up thy hands, lift up language, send up prayers
To the Gods
For through Fortune through Fortune
Thy brother walks in the city

[11]

## Ideal Theory.

It is an interesting inquiry, to examine our knowledge of material world. Doubts have been started which affect its existence.

In the first place what are the foundations of our belief of its existence. These are the evidence of our senses The eye informs us of colour & extension of the beauty & proportions of the earth & the planets about us The ear informs us of sound produced by concussions which the eye beholds The *smelling* and tasting senses unite with the eye & ear and their evidence is in perfect harmony with the first. The sense of touch the most substantial & infallible of all ascertains the correctness of the sensations produced by the rest. But beside these we have no means of determining the existence of things. Shut up the organs of the senses successively & this will be proved. Take away sight smell hearing tasting touch and you leave a blank which we cannot concieve. If therefore it be proved possible that the senses can be decieved your knowledge is entirely unsettled you have no further proof that what appears to exist does exist. I The senses may be shut up and your perceptions continue

II There is no reason why your senses should not be decieved

I Now that the senses may be entirely decieved or rather that they may not operate at all is evident from dreams in which we firmly believe that we see things which in fact we do not see and are delighted or displeased quite as powerfully as when awake by scenes & sounds & faces, which, though apparently present to us, are in fact a thousand miles off. Sometimes in a dream you think for a moment that you are dreaming & then become unconscious that you are not awake. Are you sure that you are not dreaming now, that your senses are not shut up and that those objects which seem to affect them are not separated by a great gulf from yourself?

II What are these senses upon which you depend thus absolutely, and in what manner are they affected? They are only powers of giving the mind information of certain different qualities of external objects. They do not themselves percieve those properties of which they give us knowledge The organs of the eye do not recieve pleasure from the pictures which they recieve any more than the glass sees through which we look at an object. It is the mind alone which is affected. But what we wish to say is that the senses cannot ascertain their own truth or their relation to the qualities which so affect them and of which they inform the mind.

It is manifest, then that we have no knowledge of the substances which affect the senses in any other manner than as they affect them. Therefore if it be possible to affect them in any other manner than by matter there is no need of the universe to account for our perceptions.

Now it is plainly possible for the Deity to give the air or any subtle fluid whatever the property of affecting certain organs in such & such a manner. Perhaps the mind is at rest in a point of infinite space; for the sake of perspicuity let us suppose encompassed with a subtle fluid which the Deity has established that an impulse upon one organ shall give the idea of touch upon another of sight and these impulses following certain laws will supersede the necessity of any other creation Perhaps there are a multitude of minds in a corner of space deeming themselves surrounded with bodies and a vast universe which exist alone in their own imaginations. Perhaps space is peopled with these little assemblies of disembodied dreamers. I do not know that it sets aside any system of morals, any one bond of moral obligation any faith or doctrine of a Christian scheme; if the delusion be perfect & consistent it may be delusion still.

## APPENDIX III

# Letters and Packets

LISTED IN EMERSON'S ACCOUNTS WITH STAGE DRIVERS, FROM DECEMBER 11, 1837, TO MAY 10, 1842

The following calendar, based upon *Journal* △, for 1841–1857 (typescript *Journals*), includes every letter and packet which is recorded there as sent or received. It does not include the amounts paid or due for their carriage, nor does it include the few items relating to such shipments as stoves, baskets, or bandboxes, or to passengers.

The unsatisfactory character of the information afforded by these accounts is obvious. The dates given are apparently those of sending and receiving and not of writing. Presumably most of the letters listed were written by Emerson himself, but the evidence is not conclusive. Probably the packets usually contained letters, but it is impossible to prove that this was the case. Finally, it is disturbing to find that though many of the letters in the present edition were written on or shortly before dates indicated in the calendar, less than half a dozen can be identified among letters listed here. For these reasons I have made no use of any of the data in this calendar.

### 1837

Dec. 11, packet to post office, packet to C. C. Little, packet from J. S. Dwight? 18, packet to post office; 23, packet from Little & Co.; 25, packet to post office.

### 1838

Jan. 1, packet to post office; 8, packet to post office; 14, packet to post office; 16, packet to post office; 23, packet; 26, packet.

Feb. 2, letter; 4, packet; 10, packet to Plymouth stage; 12, packet to J. Munroe, packet to Salem stage, packet to Dr. C. T. J., packet from Munroe, packet from Plymouth.

Mar. 26, packet from Mrs. Sturgis; 30, packet? to *N. A. Review*, packet? to post office.

Apr. 2, packet? to Munroe, packet? to post office; 3, packet from Boston; 21, packet to A. Adams, packet to Plymouth.

May 1, packet to Dr. C. T. J., packet to W. E.; 7, letter to post office; 10, letter to Bartol; 27, letter to Bartol.

June 17, letter to Miss Lane.

July 3, letter to J. Munroe, letter to *Christian Register;* 10, letter to Dr. C. T. Jackson; 11, letter from Dr. C. T. J.; 12, books from J. Munroe.

Aug. 6, letter to A. Adams, letter to J. Munroe, letter to J. Munroe; 8, letter to A. Adams; 10, packet to Little & Brown; 13, packet to Little & Brown; 15, letter to B. A. & Co.; 20, packet from Munroe, packet from Salem, packet to post office; 21, packet to Little & Brown.

Sept. 1, packet to Dr. C. T. Jackson, letter to C. C. Little & Co.; 8, packet to Rand, Haskins & Co., packet to Plymouth stage, letter to Little & Co., letter to J. Munroe & Co.; 28, letters from Dr. C. T. J.

Oct. 3, packet to Dr. C. T. J.'s; 4, packet to Dr. C. T. J.; 5, packet to Dr. C. T. J.; 9, " letter to J. W. Haskins & to A. Adams," packet from Miss Haskins; 17, packet? to Dr. C. T. J.; 18, packet? to City Hall; 19, packet? to Dr. C. T. J.; 20, packet? to post office, packet? to A. Adams, packet? " to Fowle's & Dr Jacksons," packet? from Mrs. Nichols's.

Nov. 5, packet from Dr. C. T. J.'s; 7, bundle to Maynard & Noyes; 9, " Athenaeum & Mr Adams's "; 27, " to A A."

Dec. 3, letters to post office; 4, letters to post office; 7, letter to Salem stage; 10, letter to post office; 14, letter from Dr. C. T. J.'s; 15, letter to G. S. Hillard; 16, letter to post office; 17, letter to G. S. Hillard; 18, letter to A. Adams; 23, letter to post office; 29, letter to Dr. C. T. J.; 31, letter to post office.

## 1839

Jan. 1, packet to post office; 7, packet to post office; 14, packet to post office; 21, packet to post office; 27, packet to post office; 28, packet to post office.

Feb. 4, packet to post office; 11, packet to post office; 27, " Groats, & Plymouth stage & Post Office & Miss E Hoar "; 28, " letter to Maynard & Noyes & A B Alcott."

Mar. 2, " Plymouth stageman," packet to Boston, packet to E. Lexington, packet to A. Adams, packet to City Hall; (no day) packet from Boston, packet from A. Adams.

Apr. 16, letter (to A. Adams?).

May 6, letter to Dr. Jackson, letter to post office.

June 4, " letter to Maynard & Noyes & Greenough "; 8, letter to W. Sturgis; 25, packet to C. C. Little & Co.; 26, letter from Alcott.

July 5, three letters to Boston, packet from Miss Peabody; 25, letter to J. Munroe; 30, packet to Dutton & Wentworth.

Aug. 3, " letter to Maynard & Noyes; & Dutton & Wentworth; & Canal street "; 8, " pacquet to J. Munroe & to Canal st "; 10, packet from Boston for L. C. B.; 12, letter to Liverpool; 14, letter from Dr. Jackson? packet (from Dr. Jackson?), packet from Miss Fuller.

Oct. 24, letter from Boston; 29, letter to B. A. & Co.

Nov. 5, letter to Harnden; 19, letter to Beach St., letter to post office; 26, packet from S. M. F.

Dec. 2, packet from Boston, packet to post office; 9, packet to post office; 12, packet from Boston; 13, packet? " from B "; 14, packet? " to B "; 22, packet? from J. M. & Co.; 24, packet " to Jam^a Plains Hourly," packet? to post office; 30, packet? to post office.

## 1840

Jan. 6, " To Post Office "; 13, " To Post office," " To A. Adams "; 20, " To Post Office "; 27? " To Post office," " S. G. W. & to Mr Sturgis," letter from C. C. Little; 31, " To Post Office."

Feb. 3, " To Post Office "; 10, " To Post Office," " To A. Adams "; 19, " To W. Sturgis."

Mar. 2, " To S. G. Ward "; " Friday Morn^g pacquet to Dr C T J "; " Tuesday," two packets to Concord.

Apr. 3, packet; 7, packet to Salem Rail Road, packet? to Little & B., packet? to post office; 16, packet to " Jamaica Hourly," packet? to State Bank; 21, packet from J. M. & Co.; 25, packet to " Jamaica Hourly "; 28? packet from bookstore.

May 2, letter to Mr. Sturgis's; 5, packet to " Jamaica Hourly "; 18, letter to Garey & Chickey, letter to Miss Peabody, packet to M. M. E.; 19, letter to Atlantic Bk., letter to C. Sumner.

June 4, letter to Doggett; 15, bundle from tailor; 22, picture from Doggett; 23, letter to S. G. Ward.

July 16, packet to Boston; 27, letter to A. Adams.

Aug. 13, letter from A. Adams; 28, packet from Boston.

Sept. 4, letter to J. Munroe & Co.; 6, letter to post office; 8, letter to J. Munroe & Co.; 14, packet " to Jamaica Plains Hourly," packet to Plymouth stage; 24, packet to Mrs. Perkins, letter to Weeks & Jordan.

Oct. 3, packet to A. Adams; 9, packet to A. Adams, bundle from A. Adams; 31, letter to Harnden.

Nov. 5, packet " to Jamaica Plains Hourly "; 7, packet to S. G. Ward, packet? to C. S., note to Weeks, Jordan & Co.; 9, letter to Dr. C. T. J.'s, packet.

Dec. 8, packet to C. S.; 24, packet to Harnden from West St.; 28, packet from Miss Peabody.

## 1841

Jan. 2, packet to J. Munroe & Co.; 11, packet to Bolles; 13, packet to S. G. W., packet to E. P. P., packet to Bolles, packet to Bolles, packet; 22, packet from Munroe; 23, packet from Front St.; 28, packet to Bolles.

Feb. 1, letter to Harnden; 3, packet to Bolles; 5? packet to Bolles, packet to C. Sturgis; 12, packet to Bolles; 15, packet to Bolles; 20, packet to Bolles; 23, packet to Bolles; 25, packet to Bolles.

Mar. 1, letter; 2, packet to Bolles; 4, packet to Bolles; 5, packet to Bolles; 11, packet to Bolles; 13, packet to Rev. G. Ripley, packet? to post office; 20, letter to Munroe; 25, letter to A. Adams, letter to Dr. Channing; 26, letter to C. Sturgis, letter to J. Munroe; 31, packet to Munroe.

Apr. 15, packet from Harnden; 22, packet to Miss Peabody, letter to post office.

May 15, letter from Munroe; 16, letter to Harnden; 31, letter to Little & Brown.

June 24, letters to post office; 27, letters to post office.

July (no day), letter to Hingham boat, letter to Hingham boat, letter? to Concord, letter? to Boston, letter? from Weeks & Jordan.

Aug. 8, "Inquiry about Waterville," letter to Boston; 20, packet to West St.; 27, packet to J. Munroe.

Sept. (no day), packet to A. Adams, packet to A. Adams, packet, letter to Simpkins.

Oct. 1, packet for Miss Fuller; 3, packet to Simpkins, letter to post office, packet of *Dials;* 11, packet to Simpkins; 23, packet from Simpkins; 25, packet to post office.

Nov. 1, letter to Harnden, packet to Plymouth stage; 16, letters to Harnden, packet to E. P. Peabody; 24, packet to post office, packet? to E. P. Peabody, packet? to C. Sturgis, packet from E. P. Peabody; 26, letter to W. Whiting, letter? to post office.

Dec. 1, packet to post office, letter? to *Daily Advertiser,* letter? to *Transcript,* letter? to *Courier,* letter? to *Post,* packet from Tolman; 7, packet to post office; 14, packet to post office, letter from N. Y.; 21, packet to post office; 27, packet to post office.

1842

Jan. 4, packet to post office; 11, packet to post office, letter; 18, packet " to Office "; 25, packet to post office.

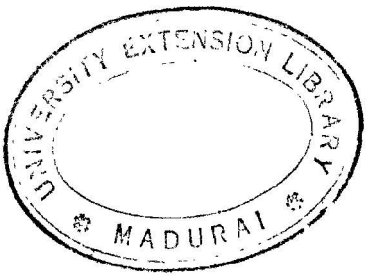
Feb. (no day), letter from Boston, letter to Boston, packet from N. Y., packet to Miss Peabody.

Mar. (no day), packet to Harnden; 21, packet to post office, packet to post office, packet from Harnden, packet from Boston, packet? to Boston.

Apr. 4, packet to E. P. Peabody; 29, letter to post office.

May (no day), packet from T. W. H.; 6, packet to Avon Place; 9, letter to S. G. Ward; 10, letter to S. G. W., packet to E. P. Peabody, packet to Athenæum.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LIBRARY MADURAI




# INDEX

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MADURAI

# Index

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