

found the Free-Soil Party in 1848, and was one of the organizers of the Massachusetts Republican Party in 1855. In Concord he often served on the school committee.

⁷ Rev. Daniel Kimball (1778-1862) graduated from Harvard in 1800 and was the Latin tutor there from 1803 to 1805. He was ordained as an evangelist at large on December 17, 1817, but continued to teach school.

⁸ Charles Beck (1798-1866) earned his doctorate at Tübingen University in 1823. Political oppression in Germany drove him to the United States in 1824. He taught at the Round Hill School in Northampton, Massachusetts, and then in Philipstown, New York, before joining the Harvard faculty in 1832 as a professor of Latin.

⁹ James Richardson Sr. (1771-1858) graduated from Harvard in 1797 and practiced law in Dedham, Massachusetts. In 1813 he married Sarah Elizabeth Richards (1789-1820), daughter of Samuel and Mary White Richards.

Copy-text: ALS (NN-BGC, Henry David Thoreau Collection, 1837-1917, Series IV)

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Editor's Note

This letter is addressed "Henry D. Thoreau / Concord / Mass", postmarked "DEDHAM Ms. SEP 8", and endorsed "James. Richardson".

Author's Alterations

entertainments] entertains
 Future-] future,
 Rev] *inserted*
 scholar-] ~.
 objections,] ~;

To Henry Vose

October 13, 1837

Concord Oct 13th -37

Friend Vose

You don't know how much I envy you your comfortable settlement—almost sine-cure—in the region of Butternuts.¹ How art thou pleased with the lay of the land and the look

of the people? Do the rills tinkle and fume, and bubble and purl, and trickle and meander as thou expected'st, or are the natives less absorbed in the pursuit of gain than the good clever homespun and respectable people of New England?

I presume that by this time you have commenced pedagogueizing in good earnest. Methinks I see thee, perched on learning's little stool, thy jet black boots luxuriating upon a well-polished fender, while round thee are ranged some half dozen small specimens of humanity, thirsting for an idea:

Pens to mend, and hands to guide.

O,^a who would a schoolmaster be?

Why I to be sure. The fact is, here I have been vegetating for the last three months. "The clock sends to bed at ten, and calls me again at eight." Indeed^e,^a I deem "conformity one of the best arts of life."² Now should you hear of any situation in your neighborhood, or indeed any other, which you think would suit me, such as your own, for instance, you will much oblige me^a by dropping a line on the subject, or, I should rather say, by making mention of it in your answer to this.

I received a catalogue from Harvard, the other day, and therein found Classmate Hildreth set down as assistant instructor in Elocution, CHas Dall divinity student—Clarke and Dana law do, and C. S. W. resident graduate.³ How we apples swim!⁴ Can you realize that we too can now moralize about College pranks, and reflect upon the pleasures of a College life, as among the things that are past? May'st thou ever remember as a fellow soldier of the campaign of -37⁵

Yr friend and classmate

Thoreau.

Ps I have no time for apologies.

Correspondent: See p. 8.

¹ The details of Vose's teaching position are unknown. Butter-

nuts, now called Gilbertsville, was a village in Otsego County, New York.

² T alludes to Elizabeth Montagu's letter of April 8, 1741, to the Duchess of Portland: The clock "sends me to bed at ten, and makes me rise, oh barbarous! at eight. I go to bed, awake, and arise asleep; but I have ever held conformity one of the best arts of life, and though I might choose my own hours, I think it proper to follow theirs" (*The Letters of Mrs. Elizabeth Montagu*, 1:88). T wrote an essay on this passage at Harvard on May 19; see *Early Essays* 1975, pp. 105-106.

³ Charles Henry Appleton Dall (1816-1886), son of James and Henrietta Dall, graduated from the Harvard Divinity School in 1840. In 1844 he married Caroline Healey (1822-1912), daughter of Mark and Caroline Foster Healey; his wife later became an accomplished writer and social activist. A minister at large, Dall founded a mission school in St. Louis and continued his work among the poor at another mission school in Baltimore. He later preached in Toronto and in Needham, Massachusetts. Despite poor health, Dall heeded a call to become a Unitarian missionary in India, where he spent the last thirty-one years of his life. Manlius Stimson Clarke (1816-1853), son of Rev. Pitt Clarke and Mary Jones Clarke of Norton, Massachusetts, was admitted to the bar in 1840 and became a successful Boston lawyer. He married Frances Lemist (b. 1817) in 1841. Richard Henry Dana (1815-1882), son of Richard Henry and Ruth Charlotte Smith Dana of Cambridge, Massachusetts, had interrupted his college studies because of poor health. He sailed to California in 1834 as a common seaman and published an account of his experience in *Two Years before the Mast* (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1840). In 1841 he married Sarah Watson (1814-1907), daughter of William and Mary Marsh Watson of Hartford, Connecticut. Dana became a lawyer and an antislavery activist. In 1851 he defended the men who freed Shadrach, the first runaway to become a victim of the Fugitive Slave Law; in 1854 he tried to free Anthony Burns, who was convicted under the same law and was the subject of a well-publicized court trial. Dana was part of the prosecution team that charged Jefferson Davis with treason after the Civil War. "C. S. W." is Charles Stearns Wheeler. The abbreviation "do" stands for "ditto," i.e., law students.

⁴ The proverb "see how we apples swim, quoth the horse turd" dates from 1616.

⁵ In May of its freshman year, T's class precipitated a student rebellion after one of its members refused to recite for Christopher Dunkin, the instructor in Greek. The student body disrupted the college for several days, despite a threat from President Quincy

that he would bring civil charges against the students. Not only were several members of T's class dismissed, but the entire class of 1836 was suspended for a term for their part in the disruption.

Copy-text: ALS (NN-BGC, Henry David Thoreau Collection, 1837-1917, Series III)

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Editor's Notes

This letter is addressed "Mr Henry Vose / Butternuts / N. York", postmarked "CONCORD MAS. 13", and endorsed "Letter / from / D. H. Thoreau. / 1837".

Indeed] *PE*; Inded in *MS*
of] *PE*; o{*MS torn*}

Author's Alterations

O,) Oh
Indeed,) -.
me] your

From Henry Vose

October 22, 1837

Butternuts. Oct. 22.nd 1837.

Friend Thoreau

I received by yesterday's mail your favor of the 13.th with great pleasure, and proceed at once to indite you a line of condolence on your having nothing to do. I suspect you wrote that letter during a fit of ennui or the blues. You begin at once by expressing your envy of my happy situation, and mourn over your fate, which condemns you to loiter about Concord, and grub among clamshells.¹ If this were your only source of enjoyment while in C. you would truly be a pitiable object. But I know that it is not. I well remember that "antique and fishlike office of *Major Nelson*,² [to whom and Mr Dennis and Bemis, and J Thoreau I wish to be remembered];³ and still^a more vividly do I remember the fairer portion of the community in C. If from^a these two grand fountain heads of amusement in