

PE supplies the year "1843" from the contents of the letter.
 night-fall] *PE*; night- / fall *in MS*
 Jack-snipes] *PE*; Jack- / snipes *in MS*

Author's Alterations

it] *interlined above cancelled* them
 He] he
 five] *preceded by cancelled* three

To Ralph Waldo and Lidian Jackson Emerson

July 8, 1843

Staten Island July 8th -43

Dear Friends,

I was very glad to hear your voices from so far. I do not believe^a there are eight hundred human beings on the globe- It is all a fable; And I cannot but think that you speak with a slight outrage and disrespect of Concord, when you talk of fifty of them. There are not so many. Yet think not that I have left all behind-for already I begin to track my way over the earth, and find the cope of heaven extending beyond its horizon-forsooth like the roofs of these Dutch houses.- Yet will my thoughts revert to those dear hills, and that *river* which so fills up the word to its brim, worthy to be named with Mincius and Alpheus¹-still drinking its meadows while I am far away. How can it run heedless to the sea, as if I were there to countenance it- Geo. Minott too looms up considerably-and many another old familiar face- These things all look sober and respectable- They are better than the environs of New York, I assure you.

I am pleased to think of Channing as an inhabitant of the grey town. Seven cities contended for Homer dead.² Tell him to remain at least long enough to establish Concord's right and interest in him. I was beginning to know the man. In imagination I see you pilgrims taking your way by the red lodge³ and the cabin of the brave farmer man,⁴ so youthful and hale, to the still cheerful woods-

And Hawthorne too I remember as one with whom I sauntered in old heroic times along the banks of the Scamander, amid the ruins of chariots and heroes.⁵ Tell him not to desert even after the tenth year.⁶ Others may say "Are^a there not the cities of Asia"?—but what are they? Staying at home is the heavenly way.⁷

And Elizabeth Hoar—my brave townswoman^e—to be sung of poets—if I may speak of her^a whom I do not know.

Tell Mrs Brown that I do not forget her going her way under the stars through this chilly world—I did *not* think of the wind—and that I went a little way with her. Tell her not to despair—Concord's little arch does not span all our fate—nor is what transpires under it—law for the universe—

And least of all are forgotten those walks in the woods in ancient days—too sacred to be idly remembered—when their aisles were pervaded as by a fragrant atmosphere— They still seem youthful and cheery to my imagination as Sherwood and Barnsdale⁸—and of far purer fame.— Those afternoons when we wandered o'er Olympus—and those hills from which the sun was seen to set while still our day held on its way—

"At last he rose, and twitched his mantle^a blue;

To-morrow to fresh woods and pastures new"⁹

I remember these things at midnight at rare intervals—

But know, my friends, that I a good deal hate you all in my most private thought— as the substratum of the little love I bear you. Though ye are a rare band and do not make half use enough of oneanother^e.¹⁰

I think this is a noble number of the Dial. It perspires thought and feeling. I can speak of it now a little like a foreigner. Be assured that it is not written in vain—it is not for me. I hear its prose and its verse—they provoke and inspire me, and^e they have my sympathy. I hear the sober and earnest, the sad and cheery voices of my friends—and to me it is like a long letter of encouragement and reproof— And no doubt so it is to many another in the

land. So dont give up the ship¹¹ Methinks the verse is hardly enough better than the prose- I give my vote for the Notes from the Journal of a Scholar¹²-and wonder you dont print them faster- I want too to read the rest of the Poet^a and the Painter^a.¹³ Miss Fuller's is a noble piece. rich extempore writing-talking with pen in hand¹⁴ It is too good not to be better even. In writing conversation should be folded many times thick. It is the height of art that on the first perusal plain common sense should appear-on the second serene truth-and on the third beauty- And having these warrants for its depth and reality, we may then enjoy the beauty forever more.- The sea piece¹⁵ is of the best that is going-if not of the best that is staying- You have spoken a good word for Carlyle.-¹⁶ As for the "Winter-Walk" I shall be glad to have it printed in the D. if you think it good enough, and will criticize it-otherwise send it to me and I will dispose of it. I have not been to N.Y. for a month and so have not seen W. & T.¹⁷ James¹⁸ has been at Albany meanwhile. You will know that I only describe my personal adventures with people-but I hope soon to see more of them and *judge* them too. I am sorry to hear that Mrs. E. is no better¹⁹ But let her know that the Fates^a pay a compliment to those whom they make sick-and they have not to ask what have I done Remember me to your mother, and remember me yourself as you are remembered by

H. D. T.

I had a friendly and cheery letter from Lane²⁰ a month ago.

Correspondent: See p. 53 and p. 168.

¹ The Minicius is a river in northern Italy that flows from Lake Garda to the river Po. The Alpheus is a river in Peloponnese, Greece, that flows from Arcadia to the Ionian Sea.

² T refers to a well-known Greek epigram that alludes to the uncertainty of Homer's birthplace. In *The Age of Fable; or, Beauties of Mythology*, enl. and rev. ed., ed. E. E. Hale (Boston: S. W. Tilton,

1882), Thomas Bulfinch gives two versions of the epigram. One version reads: "Seven wealthy towns contend for Homer dead, / Through which the living Homer begged his bread." The cities were "Smyrna, Scio, Rhodes, Colophon, Salamis, Argos, and Athens" (p. 377).

³ The Channings' house; see p. 155, note 1.

⁴ T probably refers to Edmund Hosmer (1798-1881), son of John and Mary Vassall Prescott Hosmer of Concord, and a farmer given to books and thought. A friend of both Emerson and T, Hosmer helped T raise his house at Walden Pond and was often his visitor there.

⁵ Because the Concord River was closely associated with the Battle of Concord, T's transformation of the river into the Scamander of Troy links the Trojan War with the American Revolutionary War.

⁶ As prophesied, it took the Greeks ten years to subdue Troy. Although many of Troy's inhabitants fled the destroyed city, others stayed behind to rebuild.

⁷ When asked by a group of pilgrims "what he thought of *going out?* meaning, to assist *Ali*," Abu Musa answered: "Sitting still at Home *is the Heavenly Way*. The going out, *is the Way of the World*" (Simon Ockley, *The History of the Saracens*, 2:34). Abu al-Hasan al-Ash'ari (Abu Musa) (873-935?) was an Arab theologian and a disciple of Abu Ali al-Jubba'i, head of a sect in Basra. T copied the lines from Ockley in a Journal entry for December 27, 1840 (*Journal 1* 1981, p. 210).

⁸ Both forests are associated with Robin Hood. In a Journal entry dated December 23, 1841, T wrote the following: "A forest is in all mythologies a sacred place— As the oaks among the druids—and the grove of Egeria—and even in more familiar and common life, a celebrated wood is spoken of with respect—as 'Barnsdale wood' and 'Sherwood'—. Pan himself lives in the wood. Had Robin Hood no Sherwood to resort to it would be difficult to invest his story with the charms it has got—" (*Journal 1* 1981, p. 347). T had read Joseph Ritson's *Robin Hood: A Collection of All the Ancient Poems, Songs, and Ballads*.

⁹ T quotes the closing lines of "Lycidas" (Milton, vol. 5, p. 50).

¹⁰ Describing friendship using the language of enmity was not uncommon among the Transcendentalists. For instance, on October 29, 1838, Emerson wrote in his journal: "J. Very charmed us all by telling us he hated us all" (*JMN*, 7:124). T uses similar language to express the relationship of love and hatred in Transcendental friendship in *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*, in both prose and poetry (see *A Week* 1980, pp. 282, 287):

True Friendship can afford true knowledge. It does not depend on darkness and ignorance. A want of discernment cannot be an ingredient in it. If I can see my Friend's virtues more distinctly than another's, his faults too are made more conspicuous by contrast. We have not so good a right to hate any as our Friend.

and

Let such pure hate still underprop
Our love, that we may be
Each other's conscience,
And have our sympathy
Mainly from thence.

¹¹ The famous command of the dying Captain James Lawrence (1781-1813) as his ship *Chesapeake* fought the British *Shannon* in the War of 1812.

¹² Charles Chauncy Emerson, "Notes from the Journal of a Scholar. No. II.," *Dial* 4 (July 1843): 88-92. Emerson's topics were the writing of journals, nature, truth, and self and society.

¹³ Ellery Channing, "The Youth of the Poet and the Painter," *Dial* 4 (July 1843): 48-58; see p. 193, note 5.

¹⁴ Fuller's piece, "The Great Lawsuit. Man versus Men. Woman versus Women.," opened the July number of the *Dial* (pp. 1-47). Emerson, in a letter to Fuller, called it "a piece of life"; in the same letter Emerson also quoted T's compliment, beginning, "H. D. Thoreau, who will never like anything, writes, . . ." (*Letters of RWE* 1939, 3:183).

¹⁵ Benjamin P. Hunt's "Voyage to Jamaica"; see p. 194, note 7.

¹⁶ Emerson negotiated the American publication of Carlyle's *Past and Present*, which came out in May, and he reviewed the book in the July *Dial*. Of Carlyle, he wrote: "Here is Carlyle's new poem, his Iliad of English woes, to follow his poem on France, entitled the History of the French Revolution. In its first aspect it is a political tract, and since Burke, since Milton, we have had nothing to compare with it." The review clearly aimed at boosting sales, but Emerson nonetheless described Carlyle's genius in its full complexity: although "[in] this work, as in his former labors, Mr. Carlyle reminds us of a sick giant" and "the habitual exaggeration of the tone wearies whilst it stimulates," Carlyle "in his strange half mad way, has entered the Field of the Cloth of Gold, and shown a vigor and wealth of resource, which has no rival in the tourney play of these times" (pp. 96, 99, 101).

¹⁷ Giles Waldo and William Tappan.

¹⁸ Henry James Sr.

¹⁹ On June 19 Emerson wrote his brother William that "Lidian re-

mains still quite a wreck of dyspepsia & debility and it is high time for her to get a great deal better" (*Letters of RWE* 1939, 3:181).

²⁰ Charles Lane.

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

Published: "E-T" May 1892, 590-591; *FL* 1894, 109-113; *T: Home* 1902, 244; *FL* 1906, 92-95; *Americana* 1912, 527; *Magazine of History* 1915, 119; *T as Remembered* 1917, 99-100; *Cor* 1958, 123-125

Editor's Notes

This letter is addressed "R. Waldo Emerson / Concord / Mass.," postmarked "NEW-YORK JUL 8", and endorsed "H D Thoreau / July, 1843".

townswoman] PE; towns- / woman *in MS*

oneanother] PE; one- / another *in MS*

and] PE; a{text obscured by sealing wax}

Author's Alterations

believe] beleive

Are] are

her] one

mantle] mantel

Poet] poet

Painter] painter

Fates] fates

To James Munroe and Company

July 14, 1843

paper which was sent for the Dial

Correspondent: James Munroe (1808-1861), who had published Emerson's *Nature* and *Essays*, founded his Boston and Cambridge publishing house in the early 1830s. He published the last four numbers of the *Dial*, starting with the July 1843 number. In 1849 Munroe published T's first book, *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*.

Copy-text: *The Stephen H. Wakeman Collection of Books of Nineteenth Century American Writers* (New York: American Art Association, 1924), item 984

Editor's Notes

PE supplies the date "July 14, 1843" based on information in the Wakeman sale catalog.