

ciety," October 13, 1843). T would have been interested in the announcements of the prizes awarded to farms, reclaimed meadows, and apple, peach, and pear orchards.

Copy-text: ALS (CSmH, HM 7006)

Published: *Boston Advertiser* (August 3, 1882); *Boston Traveller* (August 3, 1882); "Thoreau's Manuscripts" 1883, 125-126; *FL* 1894, 129-133; *T: Home* 1902, 96; *FL* 1906, 108-111; *Cor* 1958, 141-143; *Concord Harvest* 1970, 67-68; *Response to Transcendental Concord* 1974, 235, 236; *ARLR* 1988, 54, 55

Editor's Notes

This letter is addressed "Mrs. Cynthia Thoreau / Concord / Mass" and postmarked "NEW-YORK OCT 2".
known.] *PE*; know{*MS torn*}.

Author's Alterations

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To Lidian Jackson Emerson

October 16, 1843

Staten Island Oct 16th

My Dear Friend,

I promised you some thoughts long ago, but it would be hard to tell whether these are the ones. I suppose that the great questions of Fate, Freewill, Foreknowledge absolute,¹ which used to be discussed in Concord are still unsettled. And here comes Channing with his Present to vex the world again—a rather galvanic movement, I think. However, I like the man all the better, though his schemes the less. I am sorry for his confessions. Faith never makes a confession.²

Have you had the annual berrying party, or sat on the Cliffs a whole day this summer? I suppose the flowers have fared quite as well since I was not there to scoff at them, and the hens without doubt keep up their reputation.

I have been reading lately what of Quarles' poetry I could get. He was a contemporary of Herbert, and a kindred spirit.³ I think you would like him. It is rare to find one who was so much of a poet and so little of an artist. He wrote long poems, almost epics for length, about Jonah, Esther, Job, Samson & Solomon, interspersed with meditations after a quite original plan—Shepherds Oracles, Comedies, Romances, Fancies and Meditations—the Quintessence of Meditation—and Enchiridions of Meditation all divine—and what he calls his Morning Muse; besides prose works as curious as the rest. He was an unwearyed Christian and a reformer of some old school withal. Hopelessly quaint, as if he lived all alone and knew nobody but his wife—who appears to have revered him. He never doubts his genius—it is only he and his God in all the world. He uses language sometimes as greatly as Shakspeare, and though there is not much straight grain in him, there is plenty of tough crooked timber. In an age when Herbert is revived, Quarles surely ought not to be forgotten.

I will copy a few such sentences as I should read to you if there. Mrs Brown too may find some nutriment in them.

Mrs Emerson must have been sicker than I was aware of, to be confined so long, for^a they will not say that she is convalescent yet—though the Dr pronounces her lungs unaffected.⁴

How does the Saxon Edith⁵ do? Can you tell yet to which school of philosophy she belongs—whether she will be a fair saint of some christian order, or a follower of Plato and the heathen? Bid Ellen a good night or a good morning from me, and see if she will remember where it comes from. And remember me to Mrs Brown and your mother^e and Elizabeth Hoar.

Yr friend
Henry.

Correspondent: See p. 168.

¹ T alludes to the fallen angels in Milton, vol. 2, *Paradise Lost*, 2.558-561, who

reason'd high
 Of providence, foreknowledge, will, and fate,
 Fix'd fate, free will, foreknowledge absolute,
 And found no end, in wandering mazes lost.

² William Henry Channing had just published the first issue of the *Present*, for which he wrote a long, five-part "Confession of Faith" that discussed subjects ranging from the nature of "The Divine Being" to "The United States a Member of Christendom" (September 1843): 6-10.

³ Francis Quarles (1592-1644) is best known for *Emblemes*, a collection of poems; he also published prose religious manuals. T mentions reading Quarles's poetry in his September 14 letter to Emerson (see p. 234). George Herbert (1593-1633), a clergyman and poet, is best known for *The Temple: Sacred Poems and Private Ejaculations*, a collection of 164 poems. T quotes both Quarles and Herbert in *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*.

⁴ Susan Haven Emerson became ill in late September, near the end of Margaret Fuller's visit to New York City.

⁵ Emerson's daughter Edith.

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

Published: *LVP* 1865, 29-30; *Life* 1890, 74; *FL* 1894, 133-135; *FL* 1906, 112-113; *Magazine of History* 1915, 120; *Cor* 1958, 143-144

Editor's Notes

This letter is addressed "Mrs. Lidian Emerson / Concord / Mass."
 PE supplies the year "1843" from the contents of the letter.
 mother] PE; possibly Mother in MS

Author's Alteration

for] *interlined above cancelled* though

To Ralph Waldo Emerson

October 17, 1843

Staten Island Oct 17th

My Dear Friend,

I went with my pupil to the Fair of the American Institute,¹ and so lost a visit from Tappan whom I met returning from the Island. I should have liked to hear more news from his lips, though he had left me a letter, and the Dial which is a sort of circular letter itself— I find Channing's