From Ralph Waldo Emerson

Fall 1845

Dear Sir,

Mrs Brown wishes very much to see you at her house tomorrow (Saturday) Evening to meet Mr Alcott. If you have any leisure for the useful arts, L. E.¹ is very desirous of your aid. Do not come at any risk of the Fine.

R. W. E.

Correspondent: See p. 53.

¹ Lidian Emerson.

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

Published: Letters of RWE 1939, 2:183; Cor 1958, 33; Companion 1964, 226

Editor’s Notes

This letter is addressed “H. D. Thoreau.”

PE supplies the date “Fall 1845” from the contents of the letter. On the basis of nonauthorial manuscript evidence, Rusk conjectures February 15, 1839, as the date of the letter (Letters of RWE 1939, 2:183). However, Emerson’s reference to Mrs. Brown’s house, into which she moved in September 1845, and his allusion to T’s practice of the “fine” arts strongly suggest fall 1845.

From Charles Lane

February 17, 1846

New York

February 17/46

Dear Friend

The books you were so kind as to deposite about two years and a half ago with Messrs Wiley and Putnam have all