

ceived the \$25 enclosed in this letter, Greeley's payment to him amounted to \$75.

Author's Alterations

25] 23
Life?'] ~'?

To George Augustus Thatcher

August 24, 1848

Concord Aug. 24,th 1848.

Dear Cousin,

If it is not too late I will thank you for your letter and your sympathy. I send you with this the Third Part^a, as they have chosen to call it, of that everlasting mountain story.¹ I presume that the other two have reached you. They had bargained, as I thought to send me many copies for distribution, but I have received none. It should have been printed all together in some large newspaper—and then it would have gone down as one dose by its very gravity. I was sorry to hear that you came so near Concord without coming here. It always does us good to see you. Mr Emerson came home on the Europa 3 or 4 weeks ago, in good health and spirits.² I think that he has seen English men, such as are worth seeing, more thoroughly than any traveller. He has made them better acquainted with one another and with Americans^a. He had access to circles which are inaccessible to most travellers, but which are none the better for that. He has seen the elephant—or perhaps I should say the British lion now, and was made a lion of himself.³ He found Carlyle the most interesting man—as I expected he would—Stonehenge the most interesting piece of antiquity—and the London Times Newspaper the best book which England is printing now a days.⁴

Travelling is so cheap at present that I am tempted to make you a visit—but then, as usual, I have so much idle business that cannot be postponed—if any will believe it!

The probable failure of the melon crop this season is

melon-choly—but fortunately *our* potatoes do not rot yet

I feel somewhat encouraged at the political prospects of the country—not because the new party have chosen such a leader, but because they are perhaps worthy of a better one. The N. E. delegation seems to have managed affairs in a bungling manner— If they had gone prepared they might have had their own man—⁵ But who is he? It is time to be done selecting available men; for what are they not available who do thus?

—Father desires to be remembered to you & to Mrs Thatcher—and to the last named does also.

Yours sincerely
Henry Thoreau

Correspondent: George Augustus Thatcher (1806-1885), son of Samuel and Sarah Brown Thatcher, was a businessman in Bangor, Maine. In 1832 he married T's cousin Rebecca Jane Billings (1813-1883), daughter of Caleb and Nancy Thoreau Billings. Thatcher was active in the antislavery cause, and he accompanied T on his 1846 and 1853 trips to Maine.

¹ "Ktaadn, and the Maine Woods"; see p. 365, note 3.

² Emerson arrived in Boston on July 27 after an eleven-and-a-half-day crossing.

³ "To see the elephant" is an American slang phrase for seeing all there is to see, parallel to the British usage "to see the lion" (to see celebrated or curious things).

⁴ Emerson's response to Carlyle was complicated. He still deemed Carlyle a major intellectual power but found him "a very unhappy man, profoundly solitary, displeased & hindered by all men & things about him" (*Letters of RWE* 1939, 3:424). "His seal," wrote Emerson in his journal, "holds a griffin with the word, *Hu-militate*" (*JMN*, 10:551). Carlyle and Emerson visited Stonehenge, to which Emerson devoted a full chapter in *English Traits*, as he did for the London *Times* (*The Collected Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson*, ed. Philip Nicoloff, Robert E. Burkholder, and Douglas Emory Wilson [Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1994], chaps. 15 and 16).

⁵ On August 9, 1848, a convention of three political groups—the Barnburner Democrats, the Liberty Party, and the New England Conscience Whigs—met to form the Free-Soil Party. The Free-Soil Party nominated Martin Van Buren for president and Charles Fran-

cis Adams for vice president to oppose Lewis Cass, the national Democrat, and Zachary Taylor, the Whig candidate. Although the New England contingent distrusted Van Buren, they could not counter the highly organized Barnburners.

Copy-text: ALS (VtMiM, Thoreau/4)

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Editor's Note

This letter is addressed "Geo. A. Thatcher / Bangor / Me." and endorsed "Henry Thoreau / August 1848".

Author's Alterations

Third Part] third part
Americans] americans

From Nathaniel Hawthorne

October 21, 1848

Salem, October 21st. 1848.

My dear Sir,

The Managers of the Salem Lyceum, some time ago, voted that you should be requested to deliver a Lecture before that Institution, during the approaching season.¹ I know not whether M^r Chever,² the late Corresponding^e Secretary, communicated the vote to you; at all events, no answer has been received; and, as Mr Chever's successor in office, I am instructed to repeat the invitation. Permit me to add my own earnest wishes that you will accept it—and also, laying aside my official dignity, to express my wife's desire and my own that you will be our guest, if you do come.

In case of your compliance, the Managers would be glad to know at what time it will best suit you to deliver the Lecture.

Very truly Yours,
Nath^l Hawthorne,
Cor. Sec^y
Salem Lyceum.