

to that to which they trace their origin. Of the remaining 290 & odd 75 were given away—the rest sold. I have now a library of nearly 900 volumes over 700 of which I wrote myself— Is it not well that the author should behold the fruits of his labor? My works are piled up on one side of my chamber half as high as my head—my *opera omnia*

This is authorship—these are the work of my brain. There was just one piece of good luck in the venture— The unbound were tied up by the printer 4 years ago in stout paper wrappers & inscribed H. D. Thoreau's

Concord River

50 cops

So Munroe had only to cross out River & write Mass— and deliver them to the Express man at once. (*Journal* 7 2009, pp. 122-123)

Copy-text: MSC by Sophia Elizabeth Thoreau (CSmH, FI 4243)

Published: *Cor* 1958, 305

Editor's Notes

The recipient's copy of this letter is not extant. In a letter of February 24, 1862, to Ticknor and Fields (see *Cor* 1958, pp. 637-638), T mentions receiving a letter from James Munroe and Company on October 25, 1853, and quotes the material printed here. The February 24, 1862, letter, for which Sophia Thoreau was amanuensis, provides the copy-text for this letter.

PE supplies the date "October 25, 1853" based on information in T's February 24, 1862, letter.

To Francis Henry Underwood

November 22, 1853

Concord Nov. 22nd '53

Dear Sir,

If you will inform me in season at what rate per page, (describing the page) you will pay for accepted articles,—returning the^a rejected within a reasonable time—and your terms are satisfactory, I will forward something for your Magazine before Dec 5th, and you shall be at liberty to put my name in the list of contributors.

Yours

Henry D. Thoreau.¹

Correspondent: Francis Henry Underwood (1825-1894), son of Roswell and Phoebe Hall Underwood of Enfield, Massachusetts, briefly attended Amherst and became a lawyer in 1847. In 1848 he married Louisa Maria Wood (1827-1882). With the Boston publisher John P. Jewett, Underwood was planning to start a monthly magazine that “was to be anti-slavery in politics, but was to draw for general contributions upon the best writers of the country” (*Park-Street Papers* 1908, p. 210). Underwood wrote to many literary figures requesting them to contribute material. The magazine was set to start in January 1854, but it never began publication.

¹ Underwood’s letter to T soliciting a contribution does not survive, but his November 21, 1853, letter to Thomas Wentworth Higginson does (MH-H, MS Am 784 [446]); quoted by permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University). The letter reads:

Boston Nov. 21, 1853

Dear Sir,

Messrs J. P. Jewett & Co. of this city propose to establish a Literary and Anti Slavery magazine—commencing probably in January. The publishers have energy and capital, and will spare no pains to make the enterprize completely successful. They will endeavor to obtain contributions from the best writers, and will pay liberally for all they make use of. Politics and the “Humanities,” though, of course, prominent as giving character to the Magazine, will occupy but a small portion of its pages. Current literary topics, new books, the Fine Arts, and other matters of interest to the reading public, will receive the most careful attention.

I am desired to request you to become a contributor. If you are disposed to favor the project, and have anything written at this time, please forward the MS. with your reply.

If not, please state whether we may expect to receive an article soon?—if before Dec. 5th it will materially oblige us. If permitted, we shall announce you as a contributor, in the prospectus. The articles will all be anonymous, as in Putnam’s Monthly.

Your early attention is respectfully solicited.

With high regard

Truly yours

Francis H. Underwood

Rev. T. W. Higginson

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

Published: *Park-Street Papers* 1908, 216-217; *Cor* 1958, 306

Author's Alteration
the] inserted

To Francis Henry Underwood

December 2, 1853

Concord Dec. 2nd 1853

Dear Sir,

I send you herewith a complete article of fifty-seven pages.¹ Putnam's Magazine pays me four dollars a page—but I will not expect to receive more for this than you pay to any one else. Of course, you will not make any alterations or omissions without consulting me.

Yrs

Henry D. Thoreau

Correspondent: See p. 179.

¹ The manuscript that T sent does not survive, so the subject of the project is not known. However, it was probably drawn either from the account of the Maine woods trip or from a portion of a draft of *Walden*, the two major projects that engaged T at this time.

Copy-text: ALS (MB, Ms. E. 9.4 75-162)

Published: *Park-Street Papers* 1908, 217; *Cor* 1958, 308

From Francis Henry Underwood

December 5, 1853

Boston Dec. 5. 1853

Dear Sir,

I am extremely sorry to inform you that Mr. Jewett has decided not to commence the Magazine as he proposed.¹ His decision was made too late to think of commencing this year with another publisher. His ill health and already numerous cares are the reasons he gives.² The enterprise is therefore postponed—but not indefinitely it is