

if] followed by cancelled you
 have] followed by cancelled also
 you] followed by cancelled -if

To Harrison Gray Otis Blake

October 14, 1854

Concord Sat. Pm. Oct 14th
 '54

Blake,

I have just returned from Plymouth, where I have been detained surveying much longer than I expected.

What do you say to visiting Wachusett next Thursday?¹

I will start at 7¼ A. m. *unless there is a prospect of a^a stormy day*, go by cars to Westminster, & thence on foot 5 or 6 miles to the Mt top, where I may engage to meet you at (or before) 12. M.

If the weather is unfavorable, I will try again—on Friday,—& again on Monday.

If a storm comes on after starting, I will seek you at the tavern in Princeton center, as soon as circumstances will permit.

I shall expect an answer at once^a to clinch the bargain.

Yrs

Henry D. Thoreau

Correspondent: See p. 22.

¹ On Thursday, October 19, T and Thomas Cholmondeley took the train to Westminster, climbed Mount Wachusett, and spent the night on the mountain (at the beginning of an October 19 Journal passage T records the itinerary: "7.15 A. M.—To Westminster by cars; thence on foot to Wachusett Mountain, four miles to Foster's, and two miles thence to mountain-top by road" [*Journal* 1906, 7:64]). Blake joined T and Cholmondeley on the outing.

Copy-text: PE lines 258.6-22 (Concord ... Yrs), AL (Sewall; NN-BGC, Henry David Thoreau Collection, 1837-1917, Series III); PE line 258.23 (Henry D. Thoreau), MSC by Harrison Gray Otis Blake (Sewall)

Published: FL 1894, 282-283; Study of American Literature 1896, 190-191; FL 1906, 234-235; Cor 1958, 344-345; Spiritual Seeker 2004, 111

Editor's Notes

This letter is addressed "H. G. O. Blake / Worcester / Mass" and postmarked "Concord Mass. Oct 14".

The copy-text is a composite of a manuscript and a manuscript copy, both on the same document. Blake cut T's signature from the manuscript and wrote at the bottom left corner of the page:

[Signature Henry D. Thoreau or its equivalent.]

PE prints T's signature as it appears in Blake's note.

The leaf containing the letter is in a private collection; the leaf containing the address is at NN-BGC.

Author's Alterations

a) inserted

at once] added in margin in pencil

From Asa Fairbanks

October 14, 1854

Providence Oct 14, 1854

Mr Henry D Thoreau

Dear Sir

Our Course of Independent, or reform Lectures (ten in number) we propose to commence Next Month.¹ Will you give me liberty to put your name in the^a program, and say when it will suit your convenience to come. every Lecturer will choose his own subject, but we expect *all*, whether Antislavery or what else, will be of a *reformatory Character* We have engaged Theodore Parker who^a will give the Introductory Nov. 1st (Garrison, W. Phillips Thos W. Higginson Lucy Stone (Mrs Rose of New York Antoinett L Brown and^e hope to have Cassius M Clay, & Henry Ward Beecher,² (we had a course of these lectures last year and the receipts from tickets at a low price paid expenses and^a fifteen to twenty dollars to the Lecturers—we think we shall do as well this year as last, and perhaps better, the Anthony Burns affair³ and the Nebraska bill,⁴ and