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 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 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.
From Asa Fairbanks

October 14, 1854

Mr Henry D Thoreau

Dear Sir

Our Course of Independent, or reform Lectures (ten in number) we propose to commence Next Month. Will you give me liberty to put your name in the 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 will give the Introductory Nov. 1st (Garrison, W. Phillips Thos W. Higginson Lucy Stone (Mrs Rose of New York Antoinett L Brown and hope to have Cassius M Clay, & Henry Ward Beecher, we had a course of these lectures last year and the receipts from tickets at a low price paid expenses and fifteen to twenty dollars to the Lecturers—we think we shall do as well this year as last, and perhaps better, the Anthony Burns affair and the Nebraska bill, and