

Massachusetts is to me morally covered with volcanic scoriae and cinders, such as Milton describes in the infernal regions. If there is any hell more unprincipled than our rulers, and we, the ruled, I feel curious to see it" (*Reform Papers* 1973, pp. 106-107). See also p. 236, notes 1 and 2.

Copy-text: ALS (InU-Li, American Literature Mss)

Published: *Cor* 1958, 347

From Charles Sumner

October 31, 1854

Boston 31st Oct. '54

My dear Sir,

I am glad to send books where they are so well appreciated as in your chamber.¹

Permit me to say that the courtesy of yr letter admonishes me of my short-coming in not sooner acknowledging the gift of yr book. Believe me I had not forgotten it; but I proposed to write you, when I had fully read & enjoyed it. At present I have been able to peruse only the early chapters, & some detached parts,—enough, however, to satisfy me that you have made a contribution to the permanent literature of our mother tongue, & to make me happy in your success.

Believe me, dear Sir,
Sincerely Yours,
Charles Sumner

Henry D. Thoreau Esq.^e

Correspondent: See p. 76.

¹ As a member of the U.S. Senate, Sumner could order the distribution of free copies of reports made to that body by governmental departments, and T was apparently on his distribution list. Letters dated between October 1854 and February 1860 provide evidence of T's receiving six speeches and eleven reports from various departments, and there were probably many more (the speeches and reports are mentioned in letters on pp. 265, 282, 328, and 368; in *Cor* 1958, p. 585; in *Over T's Desk* 1965, p. 43; and in one unpublished letter at MH-H, MS Am 278.5 [13A]). In a December 5, 1854,

thank-you note to Sumner, T writes, "At this rate there will be one department in my library, and that not the smallest one, which I may call the Sumnerian—" (p. 282).

Copy-text: ALS (TxAuHRH, Henry David Thoreau Collection, MS-4222, 1.4)

Published: *Cor* 1958, 348

Editor's Notes

This letter is endorsed "Sumner".

Henry D. Thoreau Esq.] *written at bottom of p. 1 in MS*

From Adrien Emmanuel Rouquette

November 1, 1854

Mandeville, St. Tammany, La. 1^{er} Nov
1854

Mr Henry D. Thoreau.

Monsieur-,

En lisant le numero de Novembre de la *Revue de Putnam*, je fus frappé par la courte *notice* sur votre ouvrage intitulé: *Walden; or, Life in the Woods*-¹ J'ai eu le bonheur de le trouver chez un libraire de la Nouvelle Orléans, et je l'ai lu presque en entier. Avant même de l'avoir fini, j'éprouve le besoin de vous exprimer ma sincère et cordiale admiration. Votre livre m'a immensément intéressé; il m'a rappelé le « *Voyage autour de ma chambre* » du fameux Xavier de Maistre;² mais il est plus sérieux et plus philosophique. J'ose, Monsieur, vous prier de m'envoyer, si vous le pouvez (*par la poste*) un exemplaire de « *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack rivers* »: vous me feriez le plus grand plaisir. Je vous prie d'accepter trois de mes ouvrages: *Wild-Flowers-La Thébaïde en Amérique*-et *Un Discours*-que je vous envoie en même temps que cette lettre.³ Mon adresse est: Rev^d Adrien Rouquette, Mandeville, St. Tammany, Louisiana.

Croyez, Monsieur, à tous les sentiments de respect et de sympathie avec lesquels je suis votre

Tout dévoué Serviteur
A Rouquette