

I have taken much pains, but in vain, to find another of those locusts for you—<sup>2</sup> I have some of the grubs from the *nuphar* buds<sup>3</sup> in spirits.

Yrs truly  
Henry D. Thoreau.

*Correspondent:* See p. 88.

<sup>1</sup> *Ultima Thule; or, Thoughts Suggested by a Residence in New Zealand.*

<sup>2</sup> For details about the cicada that Harris was interested in, see T's June 25, 1854, letter to Harris and Harris's June 27 reply (pp. 217-219 and 219-220).

<sup>3</sup> T's collection of the grubs for Harris is the culmination of a long process that began with a discussion T and Harris had in Cambridge on January 19, 1854. Harris identified several specimens for T and said he thought that a "small beetle slightly metallic" which T had seen "with grubs &c on the Yellow lily roots last fall" was "a *Donax* or one of the *Donasia*?" (*Journal* 72009, p. 245). Harris probably asked for specimens to confirm the identification because T writes to Harris on June 25, 1854, "I looked for the grubs in the *nuphar* roots, but unfortunately in vain," noting that he would try again in the fall (p. 217). In a *Journal* entry dated November 10, T recorded finding the grubs (*Journal* 1906, 7:71).

*Nuphar* is a genus of water plants that includes the yellow water lily.

*Copy-text:* ALS (MH-H, Autograph File, T)

*Published:* *Cor* 1958, 350-351; *Transcendentalists and Minerva* 1958, 2:483-484

*To William Evarts Sheldon*

November 17, 1854

Concord Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 1854.

W<sup>m</sup> E. Sheldon Esq

Dear Sir-

Thinking it possible that without further correspondence<sup>a</sup> you might be expecting me lecture before your Society on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December as I offered—I write to ask if it is so?<sup>1</sup>

I am still at liberty for that evening—and will read you

a lecture either on *The Wild* or on *Moosehunting* as you may prefer—

Yrs respectfully HD

*Correspondent:* William Evarts Sheldon (1832-1900), son of Julius and Harriet Newell Sheldon, was born in Dorset, Vermont. He attended Middlebury College and became a teacher. Sheldon settled in East Abington, Massachusetts, where he was the principal of the high school; there he became known as an effective educational reformer. In 1854 he married Mary Ames Soule (1831-1928), daughter of Josiah and Sophronia Jenkins Soule. Sheldon later moved to the Boston area, where he continued his successful career as an administrator, reformer, and writer on educational issues. In 1887, he was president of the National Education Association.

<sup>1</sup> There is no record of T lecturing on December 5.

*Copy-text:* ALS draft (MH-H, MS Am 278.5 [17F])

*Published:* *Cor* 1958, 351

*Editor's Note*

The document also contains other material in T's hand.

*Author's Alteration*

without further correspondence] *interlined with a caret*

*To Charles Brockway Bernard*

*November 20, 1854*

Concord Mass Nov 20<sup>th</sup>  
1854

C. B. Bernard Esq—

Dear Sir

I expect to lecture in Hamilton C— W— *once* or twice during<sup>a</sup> the 1<sup>st</sup> week of<sup>a</sup> January— In that case how *soon* after<sup>a</sup> (or before<sup>a</sup>) that week will you hear me In Akron<sup>1</sup>

An immediate answer will much oblige yours

respectfully

Henry D. Thoreau

*Correspondent:* See p. 265.