I have taken much pains, but in vain, to find another of those locusts for you—2 I have some of the grubs from the nuphar buds3 in spirits.

Yrs truly

Henry D. Thoreau.

Correspondent: See p. 88.

1 Ultima Thule; or, Thoughts Suggested by a Residence in New Zealand.

2 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).

3 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 7 2009, 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 17th 1854.

W'm E. Sheldon Esq

Dear Sir—

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

I am still at liberty for that evening—and will read you
To Charles Brockway Bernard

November 20, 1854

Concord Mass Nov 20th 1854

C. B. Bernard Esq–

Dear Sir

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

An immediate answer will much oblige yours respectfully

Henry D. Thoreau

Correspondent: See p. 265.