To Charles Sumner
March 12, 1855

Dear Sir

Allow me to thank you for the Comp’d’m of the U.S. census,¹ which has come safely to hand. It looks as full of facts as a chestnut of meat. I expect to nibble at it for many years.

I read with pleasure your pertinent Address before the Merc. Lib. Association,² sent me long ago.

Yrs truly

Henry D. Thoreau

Charles Sumner.

Correspondent: See p. 76.

¹ Statistical View of the United States . . . Being a Compendium of the Seventh Census. The data for the seventh census was collected in 1850; as the title page indicates, this report also includes “the results of every previous census, beginning with 1790.”

² The Position and Duties of the Merchant: An Address before the Mercantile Library Association of Boston.

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Editor’s Note
This letter is endorsed “H. D. Thoreau”

To George William Curtis
April 13, 1855

Mr Editor,

I used the expressions of Mr Treat’s biographer & to some extent eulogist, merely condensing them, being myself a wholly indifferent party; but I see that I was not careful enough to preserve the past tense. I suppose that