

*To Charles Sumner*

*March 12, 1855*

Concord Mar. 12

1855

Dear Sir

Allow me to thank you for the Comp'd'm of the U.S. census,<sup>1</sup> 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,<sup>2</sup> sent me long ago.

Yrs truly

Henry D. Thoreau

Charles Sumner.

*Correspondent:* See p. 76.

<sup>1</sup> *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."

<sup>2</sup> *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*

Concord Mass. Ap 13<sup>th</sup>

'55

Mr Editor,

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