

To George William Curtis

April 20, 1855

Concord Ap. 20<sup>th</sup>

'55

Mr Editor

You may omit the words "in Scripture", if you will indicate an omission somewhat in this wise—"Somewhere + +; may be"<sup>1</sup> &c

Yrs

Henry D. Thoreau

*Correspondent:* See p. 132.

<sup>1</sup> T's suggestion in the previous letter that "Scripture" become "the Scriptures" apparently had not alleviated the consternation at *Putnam's*. Curtis's concern was with the following passage: "But, probably, the most just and pertinent character of all, is that which appears to be given to the Rev. Ephraim Briggs, of Chatham, in the language of the later Romans: '*Seip, sepoese, se-poemese, wechekum*'—which, not being interpreted, we know not what it means, though we have no doubt it occurs somewhere in the Scriptures, probably in the Apostle Eliot's Epistle to the Nipmucks" (*Cape Cod* 1988, pp. 42-43). T is suggesting that Curtis revise the concluding clause to read "though we have no doubt it occurs somewhere \* \* ; may be in the Apostle Elliott's Epistle to the Nipmucks" (in *Cape Cod* 1988, "Elliott's" has been emended to "Eliot's"). In *Putnam's*, the clause appears as follows: "though we have no doubt it occurs, \* \* may-be, in the Apostle Elliott's Epistle to the Nipmucks" (*Putnam's Monthly Magazine*, July 1855, 66).

*Copy-text:* ALS (ViU, Clifton Waller Barrett Library, Henry David Thoreau Collection 6345 E [45])

*Published:* *Over T's Desk* 1965, 18; *Cape Cod* 1988, 264

To William D. Ticknor and Company

April 30, 1855

Concord Ap. 30<sup>th</sup> 1855

Gentlemen,

Is it not time to republish "A Week on the Concord & Merrimack Rivers"? You said you would notify me when

it was; but I am afraid that it will soon be too late for this season.

I have, with what were sent to you, about 250 bound, and 450 in sheets.<sup>1</sup>

Yrs truly  
Henry D. Thoreau

*Correspondent:* See p. 1.

<sup>1</sup> On the back paste-down endpaper of manuscript volume 17 of his Journal (February 13 to September 3, 1854), T recorded that he had “[s]ent Fields 12 copies of the ‘Week’ Oct 18th 54” (*Journal* 8 2002, p. 415). T’s numbers for bound and unbound copies echo those in the October 25, 1853, letter from James Munroe and Company, the publisher of *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*, in which T was notified that the books and sheets were on their way to him (see p. 177). Despite T’s urging, Ticknor and Fields did not republish *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers* until May 1862, when they rebound the unsold sheets of the 1849 edition and added a new title page.

*Copy-text:* ALS (NN-BGC, Henry David Thoreau Collection, 1837-1917, Series III)

*Published:* *Cor* 1958, 375

*Editor’s Note*

This letter is endorsed “H D Thoreau a/May 2<sup>d</sup>./”

*To Harrison Gray Otis Blake*

*June 27, 1855*

Concord June 27<sup>th</sup>  
1855

Mr Blake,

I have been sick and good for nothing but to lie on my back and wait for something to turn up, for two or three months.<sup>1</sup> This has *compelled* me to postpone several things, among them writing to you—to whom I am so deeply in debt, and inviting you and Brown<sup>2</sup> to Concord.—not having brains adequate to such an exertion.<sup>3</sup> I should feel a little less ashamed if I could give any name to my