To George William Curtis
April 20, 1855

Concord Ap. 20th
1855

Mr Editor

You may omit the words “in Scripture”, if you will indicate an omission somewhat in this wise—“Somewhere + +; may be” &c

Yrs
Henry D. Thoreau

Correspondent: See p. 132.

1 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, sepoemese, 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 Elliot’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 Elliot’s Epistle to the Nipmucks” (in Cape Cod 1988, “Elliott’s” has been emended to “Elliot’s”). In Putnam’s, the clause appears as follows: “though we have no doubt it occurs, * * may-be, in the Apostle Elliot’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. 30th 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.¹

Yrs truly

Henry D. Thoreau


¹ 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 2d./”

To Harrison Gray Otis Blake

June 27, 1855

Concord June 27th

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.¹ 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 Brown² to Concord—not having brains adequate to such an exertion.³ I should feel a little less ashamed if I could give any name to my