

number; it was to be followed by "The Wellfleet Oysterman" and then "The Beach Again." However, Curtis had already decided to end the serialization with "The Beach" (see *Cape Cod* 1988, pp. 267-268).

Copy-text: ALS (ICarBS, Henry David Thoreau Letters)

Published: *Cor* 1958, 379; "Three T Letters" 1960, 374; *Companion* 1964, 210; *Cape Cod* 1988, 267

Editor's Note

This letter is addressed "Editor of / Putnam's Monthly." and endorsed "Author / Henry D. Thoreau / Aug 8./55".

To George William Curtis

After August 8, 1855

Mr Editor

You say that you had no idea that the Cape Cod paper^a "was to be expanded into a book". It has not been expanded— It is no longer than it was when I sent^a you the first pages & told you its^a length though you had not inquired about it. You say there is enough for 4 numbers of your magazine still on hand— I have^a sent some 208 pages in^a all & you have printed about 137 of them in 3 numbers.¹ I write this merely in self defence & not to induce you to print it.

Will you please send to^a me the remainder of the MSS by express—²

Yrs Henry D Thoreau

Correspondent: See p. 132.

¹ T had written to Curtis on August 8 asking for adjustments to a future installment of *Cape Cod*: clearly, he had no idea that serialization would cease with "The Beach" in the August number (see p.339). In a letter that is no longer extant, Curtis had apparently justified the decision to stop publishing the series on the basis of its length. Joseph J. Moldenhauer has examined the accuracy of T's response and concludes that "if Thoreau had projected for Curtis the length of the narrative as a whole his argument is sound in principle, and the editor's complaint about a book-sized series rings

false" (*Cape Cod* 1988, pp. 268-269). Moldenhauer thinks it likely that Curtis and his publisher took offense at the tone and content of "The Wellfleet Oysterman," the chapter that was to follow "The Beach," and that Curtis "probably decided that an abrupt break was the least troublesome of the several alternatives facing him" (*Cape Cod* 1988, pp. 267 and 276).

² Moldenhauer believes that *Putnam's* complied with T's request, returning the fair copy of "The Wellfleet Oysterman" and "The Beach Again," and that this copy was used by the printer for the 1865 publication of the book; see *Cape Cod* 1988, p. 277.

Copy-text: ALS draft (TxAuHRH, Henry David Thoreau Collection, MS-4222, 1.3)

Published: *Cape Cod* 1988, 267

Editor's Notes

The copy-text, including the alterations, is in pencil; the document also contains other material in T's hand.

PE supplies the date "After August 8, 1855" from the contents of this letter and of T's August 8, 1855, letter to Curtis (p.339), in which he clearly assumes that publication is continuing. Curtis must have announced his decision after that date, and T would have replied soon after he learned of it.

Author's Alterations

paper] article
 sent] *preceded by cancelled* told you
 its] *preceded by cancelled* of
 have] sent
 in] &
 to] *inserted*

From Horace Greeley

August 17, 1855

New York,
 Aug. 17, 1855.

Friend Thoreau,

There is a very small class in England who ought to know what you have written, and for whose sake I want a few copies of "Walden" sent to certain periodicals over the water—for instance, to

Westminster Review, 8 King Wm. St. Strand. London'