

confer a favor upon those to whom in Literature the name of "Walden" has a charm, and upon

Your Old Classmate—William Allen.

Correspondent: William Allen (1815-1895), son of Barzillai and Lucy Baldwin Allen of East Bridgewater, was T's classmate at Harvard. He became a schoolteacher and principal, served in the Massachusetts legislature, and later held the position of inspector, then clerk, of the Boston Custom House.

¹ On October 10 and 11 the annual Sunday School Convention gathered in Concord to "confer as to the right methods of Christian nurture, to point out defects in our present system perhaps, but never without suggesting a remedy" (*Christian Register*, October 6, 1855).

² In 1845, Allen married Amanda Catharine Cole (1823-1904). She and her sister, Pamela (1829-1914), were the daughters of David and Pamela McArthur Cole of Saco, Maine.

³ According to Walter Harding, Allen replaced T at the Center School in Concord when T resigned in fall 1837 (*Days* 1965, p. 53).

Copy-text: ALS (Sewall; CtW)

Editor's Note

This letter is addressed "Henry D. Thoreau. Esq. / Concord. / Mass.," postmarked "E Bridgewater Ms. Oct 4," and endorsed "Allen / a classmate". The leaf containing the letter is in a private collection. The leaf containing the address is at CtW; on that leaf is a note in Allen's hand: "P. M. please forward)".

From Thomas Cholmondeley

October 3, 1855

Octr 3^d

My dear Thoreau

I have been busily collecting a nest of Indian Books¹ for you, which, accompanied by this note, M^r Chapman will send you-& you will find them at Boston carriage-paid (mind that, & do'nt let them cheat you) at Crosby & Nicholls.²

I hope dear Thoreau you will accept this trifle from one who has received so much from you & one who is so anxious to become your friend & to induce you to visit

England. I am just about to start for the Crimea, being now a complete soldier—but I fear the game is nearly played out—& all my friends tell me I am just too late for the fair.³ When I return to England (if ever I do return) I mean to buy a little cottage somewhere on the south coast where I can dwell *in Emersonian leisure* & where I have a plot to persuade you over.

Give my love to your Father & Mother & sister & my respects^a to M^r Emerson & Channing, & the painter who gave me Websters Head—⁴

I think I never found so much kindness anywhere in all my travels as in your country of New England—& indeed—barring its youth—it is very like *our old county* in my humble judgement

Adieu dear Thoreau & immense affluence to you

Ever yours

Thos Cholmondeley.

P.S. Excuse my bad writing. *of course it is the Pen.* Chapman will send a list of your books—by which you can see whether they are all right because I hate to have anything lost or wasted, however small—

Correspondent: See p. 307.

¹ For a list of the books, see John Chapman's October 26, 1855, letter to T (pp. 371-372).

² William Crosby (1818-1907) and Henry P. Nichols (1816-1889) were booksellers and publishers whose office was located on Washington Street in Boston. Crosby and Nichols advertised as agents for foreign reviews and periodicals; Chapman, himself a publisher and bookseller, made the shipping arrangements, and he may have had a prior business relationship with the firm.

³ Cholmondeley described his desire to fight in the Crimean War in a January 30, 1855, letter to T; see pp. 305-307.

⁴ Probably Samuel Worcester Rowse (1822-1901), who had done a crayon portrait of T in 1854, and who had engraved a bust portrait of Webster done by Joseph Alexander Ames (1816-1872). Rowse began as an engraver and lithographer but later devoted himself to crayon drawings. His subjects included other prominent writers such as Lowell, Emerson, and Hawthorne.

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

Published: "T and Cholmondeley" 1893, 745; *FL* 1894, 321; *T: Home* 1902, 251; *FL* 1906, 272; *Cor* 1958, 387-388

Editor's Note

PE supplies the year "1855" from the contents of this letter and those of Chapman's letter of October 26, 1855 (pp. 371-372). "1855" is also written in pencil in another hand below "Octr 3^d" at the top of the letter.

Author's Alteration

my respects] *interlined with a caret*

To Daniel Ricketson

October 12, 1855

Concord Oct 12th 1855

Mr Ricketson,

I fear that you had a lonely and disagreeable ride back to New Bedford, through the Carver Woods & so on,—perhaps in the rain too, and I am in part answerable for it.¹ I feel very much in debt to you & your family for the pleasant days I spent at Brooklawn. Tell Arthur & Walter that the shells which they gave me are spread out, and make quite a show to inland eyes. Methinks I still hear the strains of the piano the violin & the flageolet² blended together. Excuse *me* for the noise which I believe drove you to take refuge in the shanty.³ That shanty is indeed a favorable place to expand in, which I fear I did not enough improve.

On my way through Boston I inquired for Gilpin's works at Little Brown & Co's, Monroes, Ticknor's, & Burnham's. They have not got them. They told me at Little Brown & Co's that his works (not complete) in 12 vols 8^{vo}, were imported & sold in this country 5 or 6 years ago for about 15 dollars. Their terms for importing are 10 per cent on the cost. I copied from "The London Catalogue of Books, 1816-51" at their shop, the following list of Gilpin's Works—⁴