

great spirit] *In the facsimile of the MS, these two words are altered to "Great Spirit", possibly by Emerson. In LVP 1865, where the letter was first published, the reading is "Great Spirit".*

both] PE; both, *in facsimile of MS*

stems] LVP 1865; stem{text lacking} *in facsimile of MS*

demand] PE; de / mand *in facsimile of MS*

see] LVP 1865; se{text lacking} *in facsimile of MS*

dissipate] LVP 1865; dissipa{text lacking} *in facsimile of MS*

have] LVP 1865; ha{text lacking} *in facsimile of MS*

#### *Author's Alterations*

falsehoods] *interlined above cancelled appearances*

lead] *added*

though . . . both] *interlined with a caret*

#### *From Charles Howard Dunbar*

*May 1, 1850*

Haverhill May 1<sup>st</sup> 1850

Cousin H.-

You probably think ere this I have forgotten to Answer your Letter but it is Not So. I have waited untill now that I might Send some definite Word about that Job I spoke of- You will recollect I told you one of the owners Lived in Cincinate.<sup>1</sup> He has come on And wishes to have the farm immediately Surveyed and Laid into house Lots there is some twenty Acres of it. so you see it is *quite a Job* and there will be probably some small Jobs. Mr Emmerson will wait untill You Come which Must by as Soon as Thursday I hope it will be so you can come as I have some Jobs to do on the Lots as soon as Laid Out & I think we both can Make a good Living at it Let Me See you if possible-if Not drop a Line that we May Not be in Suspence.- all well as Usual. Give my best Respect to all. and Say to them we Should be happy to See them at Haverhill

Yours-C H Dunbar-

*Correspondent:* Charles Howard Dunbar (1807-1875), son of Luther Lapham and Sophia Dunbar (1781-1868), T's aunt, was a furniture maker and later a teamster in Haverhill, Massachusetts. He and his

mother took the Dunbar name, presumably because his mother's marriage to Lapham ended. In 1831, he married Mary Blake Leavitt (1811-1876), daughter of John and Sarah Prescott Leavitt of Haverhill.

<sup>1</sup> Henry Emerson (1794-1858), son of Nehemiah and Mary Whittier Emerson, was a Cincinnati businessman. With his sisters Susanna Emerson and Ruth Emerson Hayes, he inherited the family estate in Haverhill. T's "Field Notes of Surveys" includes a record of surveying this property and dividing it into house-lots in May 1850 (pp. 421-422). For a draft of the plan he drew up, see [http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Thoreau\\_surveys/30.htm](http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Thoreau_surveys/30.htm). He also notes that in the same month he "established a line for Mrs. Hayes, in Haverhill" ("Field Notes of Surveys," p. 422).

*Copy-text:* ALS (MH-H, MS Am 278.5 [17D])

*Published:* *Cor* 1958, 258-259; "T's Connections" 1989, 219

### *To Harrison Gray Otis Blake*

*May 28, 1850*

Concord May 28<sup>th</sup> 1850

Mr Blake,

I "never found any contentment in the life which the newspapers record"—any thing of more value than the cent which they cost.—Contentment in being covered with dust an inch deep!— We who walk the streets, and hold time together, are but the refuse of ourselves, and that life is for the shells of us—of our body & our mind—for our scurf—a thoroughly *scurvy* life. It is coffee made of coffee-grounds the twentieth time, which was only coffee the first time—while the living water leaps and sparkles by our doors. I know some who in their charity give their coffee grounds to the poor! We demanding news, and putting up with *such* news! Is it a new convenience, or a new accident, or rather a new perception of the truth that we want?

You say that the serene hours in which Friendship, Books, Nature<sup>a</sup>, Thought, seem alone primary considerations, visit you but faintly"— Is not the attitude of expectation somewhat divine?—a sort of home-made divineness?