

Correspondent: See p. 83.

¹ Pierce apparently refers to a letter he wrote T that is no longer extant, one written after his October 18, 1850, invitation to T to lecture "before the 'Portland Lyceum' on some Wednesday evening during the next winter". T lectured there on January 15, 1851 (see p. 82).

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

Published: *Cor* 1958, 269

Editor's Note

This letter is addressed "{*MS cut*}nry. D. Thoreau. Esq^r / Concord. / Mass." and postmarked "Portland Me. 20 Nov 5".

Author's Alteration
intended] meant

From Thomas Wentworth Higginson

December 3, 1850

Newburyport. Dec. 3. 1850.

My Dear Sir

I hear with pleasure that you are to lecture in Newburyport this week.¹ Myself & wife are now living in town again, & we shall be very glad to see you at our house, if you like it better than a poor hotel. And you shall go as early as you please on Saturday—which is the great point, I find, with guests, however unflattering to the hosts.

If I do not hear to the contrary I shall expect you, & will meet you at the cars.

Very sincerely yours
T. W. Higginson.

Correspondent: Thomas Wentworth Higginson (1823-1911) graduated from Harvard University in 1841 and from the Harvard Divinity School in 1847. That year he married Mary Elizabeth Channing (1820-1877), daughter of Dr. Walter Channing and Barbara Perkins Channing and sister of T's friend Ellery Channing; in 1879 he married Mary Thatcher (1844-1941), daughter of Peter and Margaret Potter Thatcher. Higginson had recently been the minister at the

First Religious Society, a Unitarian church in Newburyport, Massachusetts, but he resigned in response to a controversy provoked by his radical political views. After reading *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*, he visited T in Concord in June 1850, and the two remained in contact for the rest of T's life. In a letter to his mother just after this first meeting, Higginson wrote that T "surveys land, both mathematically and meditatively; lays out house lots in Haverhill & in the moon" (Thomas Wentworth Higginson to Louisa Higginson, June 5, 1850; quoted in Tilden G. Edelstein, *Strange Enthusiasm: A Life of Thomas Wentworth Higginson* [New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1968], p. 97). Higginson was an active abolitionist, a participant in the attempt to free the escaped slave Anthony Burns after he had been imprisoned in Boston, and one of the "secret six" who aided the abolitionist John Brown. He served at the head of an African American regiment in the Civil War.

¹ T delivered the Cape Cod lecture on December 6 and he was paid twenty dollars for it.

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Editor's Note

This letter is addressed "Mr. Henry D. Thoreau. / Concord. Mass." and postmarked "{illegible}ewburyport Ms. Dec 4".

To Thaddeus William Harris

December 27, 1850

Concord Dec 27th

1850

Dear Sir,

I return herewith *Quartier's* and *Champlain's Voyages*.¹ Will you please send me, by the bearer, the *other* (*Collet's*?) edition of *Champlain's Voyages*?² I shall want it but a short time.

You will find the sentence to which I referred, when I saw you, near the bottom of the 86th page of the Quebec volume.³

Possibly you have not observed the note V. at the