

1 Nov. 25th 1857 continued

2 It is surprising how much--from the
3 habit of regarding writing as an accomp-
4 lishment--is wasted on form. A very little
5 information or wit--is mixed up with
6 a great deal of conventionalism in the
7 style of expressing it--as with a sort of pre-
8 ponderating paste or¹ vehicle. Some life
9 is not simply expressed but a long winded
10 speech is made, with an occasional attempt
11 to put a little life into it.

12 Nov 26²th 57

13 Speaking of those long dry barren hollows
14 in the Richardson woodlot with Ebby Hub-
15 bard--he says that the reason why no trees
16 have sprung up in there is because the trees
17 were very old when they were cut, & no sprouts
18 came up from the stumps. Otherwise the lowest
19 ground is the best timbered. I have referred
20 it to frost.

21 Rice tells me he remembers that Nathan
22 Barrett's--father used to stutter-- He went
23 round collecting the direct taxes soon after
24 the revolution--On carriages--watches--dogs
25 &c &c-- It was perhaps a dollar on a dog--
26 Coming to Capt. Bent's who kept Tavern
27 in Sudbury where Israel Rice lives--he
28 collected his tax--& then said--"I want

¹possibly "as"

²"6" written over a cancelled "5"

1 you to may--ma--ma--ma--make me
2 a ha, ha ha ha ha--to make me a ha--
3 ha--ha--a whole mug o' flip."
4 Got my boat up this pm³ (It is Thanks-
5 giving day) one end had frozen in--
6 I see that already some eager urchins
7 have been able to try their skates on a
8 short & narrow strip of ice by the river-side
9 there.
10 Minott's is a small square one storied
11 & unpainted house--with a hipped roof
12 and at least one dormer window--~~on the~~
13 {a} 3d the way up the south side of
14 a ~~fairly~~ long hill which is some 50 feet high
15 & extends East & west-- A traveller of
16 taste may go straight through the village
17 with out being detained a moment by any--
18 dwelling--~~but~~ either the form or surroundings
19 being objectionable--but very few go by
20 this house--without being agreeably impressed
21 & many are therefore led to imagine who lives
22 in it. Not that its form is so incomparable
23 --nor even its weather-stained color--but
24 chiefly I think, because of its snug & picturesque
25 position on the hill side fairly⁴ lodged there--
26 where all children like to be--& its perfect
27 harmony with its surroundings & position--
28 For if preserving this form & color
29 it should be transplanted to the meadow

³stray mark through m

⁴initial stroke false start or dash

1 more than a school house which was lately
2 of the same form.
3 below--no body would notice it. ^ It is there
4 because some body was independent or bold enough
5 to carry out the happy thought of placing it high
6 on the hill side-- It is the locality--not the
7 architecture that takes us captive. There is exactly
8 only of course less room on either side
9 such a site ^--between this house & the next west-
10 ward--but few if any even of the admiring travellers
11 have thought of this as a house lot--or would
12 be bold enough to place a Cottage there.
13 side
14 Without ^ fences or gravelled walk, or flower plots
15 that simple sloping bank before it is pleasanter
16 than any front-yard-- Though many a visitor
17 --& many times the master--has slipped & fallen
18 on the steep path. From its position & exposure
19 it has shelter & warmth--& dryness--and prospect.
20 He over looks--the road--the meadow & brook--& houses beyond--to the distant woods
21 The spring comes earlier to that door-yard than
22 to any--& summer lingers longest there.

23 Nov. 27⁵th '57

24 Mr. Wesson says that he has seen a striped
25 squirrel eating a ~~white~~ bellied mouse on a wall--
26 had evidently caught.-- also that the little dipper
27 is not a coot--(but he appears not to know a coot--
28 & did not recognize the lobed feet when I drew them--)
29 says the little dipper has a bill like a hen &
30 will not dive at the flash so as to escape, as
31 v. Dec. 26 57
32 he has proved.^ Says that a loon can run but
33 little way & very awkwardly falling on its belly
34 & cannot rise from the ground. Makes a
35 great noise running on the water before it
36 rises.

⁵ "7" written over cancelled "5"

1 Standing before Stacy's large glass windows this
2 morning--I saw that they were gloriously
3 ground by the frost I⁶ never saw such beautiful
4 feather & fir-like frosting. His windows are
5 filled with fancy articles & toys--for christmas
6 & New Years presents--but this delicate and
7 graceful outside frosting surpassed them
8 all infinitely. I saw countless feathers
9 with very distinct midribs & fine pinnae
10 {drawing} The half of a trunk seemed
11 to rise in each case up along the sash--
12 & these feathers branched⁷ off from it all
13 the way--sometimes nearly horizontally
14 Other crystals looked like pine plumes
15 the size of life. If glass could be ground
16 to look like this how glorious it would be!

17 You can tell which shopman has the
18 hottest fire within--by the frost being melted
19 off. I was never so struck by the gracefulness
20 of the curves in vegetation--& wonder that
21 Ruskin does not refer to frost work.

22 Pm Rode to the Kiln & quarry by Wm Farrar,
23 Carlisle--& to gorge behind Melvin's. The direction
24 of the strata at this quarry is like that of
25 Curly Pate & the Easter Brook quarries ENE x WSW
26 though the latter are very nearly 2 miles S. E.
27 Was struck by the appearance of ^{small} a ^ hickory
28 near the wall in the rocky ravine just above
29 the trough. Its trunk was covered with loose
30

⁶ There appears to be a hyphen through "I"

⁷ "branched" possible misspelling of "branched"

⁸ Caret struck through

1 scales as like the hickories near it--& as much
2 as the shag-bark. I thought at first it was
3 shaggy or scaly barked
4 a shag-bark--but prob it is a ^ var. C. glabra- //

5 It may be well to observe it next fall. The husk
6 is not thick, like that of the shagbark--but quite thin--
7 2 splits into 4 only partway down--the shell is not white--
8 nor sharply 4 angled--like the other--but it is rather like
9 a pig nut. The stratification twists⁹ there as
10 at Curly Pate or perhaps more N & S

11 That trough placed on the side of this rocky
12 valley to catch the trickling spring for the sake of the
13 cattle--with a long slab cover to the trough that
14 leads to it--& to fend off the feet of cattle that
15 come to drink, is an agreeable object--& in keeping
16 with the circumstances--amid the hickories & perhaps
17 oak trees. It reminds me of life sometimes, in the
18 pasture--that others creatures than myself
19 quench¹⁰ their thirst at this hill side.

20 I think that Ruskin is wrong about re-
21 flections in his Elements of Drawing p 181-- He¹¹
22 says the reflection is merely the substance "reversed" or "topsy-
23 turvy". & adds "Whatever you can see from the place
24 in which you stand of the solid objects so re-
25 versed under the water, you will see in the reflection,
26 always in the true perspective of the solid objects
27 so reversed."

28 Nov 28¹²th

29
30 Pm Around Ebby Hubbard's woodlot--

31 On the hill side above his swamp near¹³ the

⁹ possibly "trends"

¹⁰ "q" re-formed from illegible letter

¹¹ altered from an illegible word

¹² "8" written over "6"

¹³ word re-formed

1 ministerial land I found myself walking
2 in one of those shelf like hill side paths--
3 made by Indians, hunters, cows, or what
4 not--& it was beset with fresh snares
5 for partridges this wise
6 {drawing} upright twigs
7 are stuck in the
8 ground across the
9 path a foot or more in height & just close enough
10 together to tun¹⁴ a partridge aside--leaving a space
11 about 4 inches wide in the middle. ~~Then~~ and
12 some twigs are stretched across above to prevent
13 the birds' hopping over. Then a sapling about
14 an inch in diameter or less is bent over & the end caught
15 under one of the twigs which has a notch or projection
16 on one side--& a free running noose attached
17 to the sapling hangs in the opening & is kept spread
18 by being hung on some very slight nicks in the 2 twigs.
19 This seems to suppose the bird to be going one way
20 only--but perhaps if it cannot escape one way
21 it will turn & try to go back--& so spring the trap--
22 I see one that was sprung--with nothing in it--
23 another whose slip-noose was blown or fallen
24 one side--& another with a partridge still
25 warm in it. It was a male bird hanging
26 dead by the neck just touching its toes to
27 or ruff
28 the ground It had a collar ^ about its
29 neck of large & conspicuous black feathers
30 now clinched in its agony
31 black
32 with a green reflection. This ^ is peculiar
33 the females {bein} brown
34 to the male--¹⁵ Its feet ¹⁶ were the strangest

¹⁴ looks like "tun"- amend to turn

¹⁵ caret positioned directly below hyphen

¹⁶ see line 30 for text to be inserted here

1 looking--pale blue--with a fine fringe, of scales
2 or the like--on each side of each toe. The small
3 back feathers were centered with gray spots-- The scapulars
4 were darker brown dashed¹⁷ with large clear¹⁸ pale brown spots--
5 the breast feathers light with lighter brown marks--
6 The tail feathers had each a broad black bar--except
7 the middle one which was more mixed or grayish
8 there. The bands of the females are said to be more
9 brown--as is their collar. There were a few droppings
10 of the bird close by the snare--in 2 instances--
11 Were they dropt after it was caught?--or did they
12 determine the locality of the snare?

13 These birds appear to run most along the
14 wooded
15 sides of ^ banks around swamps--at least

16 these paths & snares occur there oftenest.
17 I often scare them up from amid or near hemlocks in the woods.
18 The general color of the bird is that of the

19 ground & dry leaves on it at present-- The
20 bird hanging in the snare was very inconspicuous.
21 I had gone close by it once without noticing
22 it. It is wings are short & stout--& looks as if
23 they were a little worn by striking the ground or bushes--
24 or perhaps in drumming. I observed a bare bright
25 red or scarlet spot over each eye--

26 Spoke to Skinner about that wild cat
27 which he says he heard a month ago in
28 Ebby Hubbards woods. He was going down
29 to Walden in the evening to see if geese had not
30 settled in it (with a companion) when they
31 heard this sound which his companion at first

¹⁷ false start on "d"

¹⁸ possibly "clean"

1 thought made by a coon--but S. said
2 no it was a wild-cat-- He says he has heard
3 them often in the Adirondack region where
4 he has purchased furs. He told him he
5 would hear it again soon & he did--somewhat
6 like the domestic cat a low sort of growling
7 & then a sudden quick repeated caterwaul
8 or yow yow yow or yang yang yang.
9 He says they utter this from time to time when
10 on the track of some prey.

11 Nov 29¹⁹th '57

12 Sophia called on Old Lady Hayden
13 yesterday--& she told her of somebody's twin
14 infants of whom one died for want of
15 air--the father therefore was advised
16 to take the survivor with him each morn-
17 ing to the barn, & hold it up to ^{the muzzle of} ^ each
18 of the cattle in succession as they got
19 up that it might catch their
20 first morning breath--& then lay it
21 on the hay while he foddered them--
22 He did so, & there never was a healthier
23 child than this was 3 months afterward.

25 Pm to Assabet Bath & down
26 bank. This & yesterday remarkably warm
27 //
28 days. In John Hosmer's low birch sprout²⁰
29 land a few rods beyond tortoise hollow or
30 valley I find on raking aside the withered
31 leaves on the ground one of those fuzzy

¹⁹ "9" written over "7"

²⁰false start before "sprout"

1 caterpillars--black at each end & rust colored in //
2 middle--curled up in a ring--the same kind
3 that I find on the ice & snow frozen in winter.
4 I think that the river might rise so high
5 as to wash this out of the withered grass &
6 leaves here. Soon after I find another in a cat-
7 birds nest nearly { } 3 feet from the ground
8 in a thorn together half a nest full of
9 freshly nibbled acorn shells & a few hazel //
10 nut shells. The work prob. of a mouse or a
11 squirrel--but this caterpillar was dead
12 & ap. partly eaten. So I am still inclined
13 to think that most of them are washed out of
14 the meadows by the freshets. Several times be-
15 fore I have seen nests half filled with nut-
16 shells--and as the mus leucopus adds to &
17 after occupies old nests--am inclined to think
18 that he does it. ~~who~~ It may be a convenient de-
19 striped
20 posit for him (or for a ^ squirrel??)--or else he
21 likes it for concealment & protection against
22 hawks in the midst of a thorn-bush--before
23 the leaves fall. I do not know however that the
24 mouse has this habit of perching while it
25 nibbles--as the squirrel has.
26 Again I am struck by the singularly
27 wholesome colors of the withered oak
28 leaves--esp. the shrub oak-- Is thick
29 & firm & unworn--without speck or fret--
30 clear reddish brown (sometimes paler or yellowish
31 brown)
32

1 himself with it for once Mr David Loring
2 when he was a little boy fell down with a knife
3 in his hand & cut his throat badly-- It was
4 soon reported, among the children at least
5 that little David Loring, the grandson of the
6 farmer--had fallen down with a knife in his hand
7 as he was going to school--& nearly cut his throat--
8 --Next that Mr David Loring the grand-
9 father (who lives in Framingham) had com-
10 mitted suicide--had cut his throat--
11 was not dead indeed but was not expected to
12 live--& in this form the [{] ~~sprea~~ story spread
13 like wild fire over the town & county--
14 nobody expressed surprize-- His oldest ac-
15 quaintances & best friends--his legal ad-
16 visers--all said--well I can believe it.
17 He was known by many to have been speculating
18 in western lands, which owing to the bad
19 times was a failure--& he was depressed in
20 consequence-- Sally Cummings helped
21 spread the news-- Said there was no
22 doubt of it--but there was Fay's
23 wife (L's daughter) knew nothing of it
24 yet--they were as merry as a crickets over
25 there. Others stated that Wether-
26 bee the express man had been over to
27 Northboro & learned that Mr Loring
28 had taken poison in Northboro--
29 was stated to
30 --Mr Rhodes ^ have received a letter
31

1 from Mr Robbins of Framingham giving
2 all the particulars-- Mr Wild, it was
3 said had also got a letter from his son
4 Silas in Framingham {---} to whom he had
5 written--which confirmed the report--
6 As Wild went down town--he met Meeks
7 the carpenter--and inquired in a significant
8 way--if he got anything {here}²¹-- Meeks simply
9 answered "Well David Loring wont eat another
10 Thanksgiving Dinner"-- A child at school
11 wrote to her parents at Northboro--telling the
12 news--. Mrs Lorings sister lives there--&
13 it chances that her husband committed
14 suicide. They were therefore slow to com-
15 municate the news to her--but at length
16 could not contain themselves longer & told
17 it. The sister was terribly affected--wrote
18 to her son (L's nephew) in Worcester--
19 who immediately took the cars & went
20 to Framingham & when he arrived then
21 met his Uncle just putting his Family
22 in to the cars-- He shook his hand very
23 heartily indeed--look however hard at his
24 throat--but said not a word about
25 his errand.

26 Alread doubts had arisen-- people were
27 careful how they spoke of it-- The ex-
28 press men were mum-- Adams & Wetherbee
29 never said Loring-- The Framingham ex-

²¹Possibly "new"

1 press man used the same room with Adams in
2 Boston-- A. simply asked any news from Framing-
3 ham this morning--? Seen Loring lately? & learned
4 that all was well.

5 30
6 Nov 28th

7 A still warm cloudy rain threatening day--
8 Surveying the J. Richardson Lot. The air //
9 is full of geese-- I saw 5 flocks within an
10 hour about 10 Am, containing from 30 to 50
11 each--& afterward 2 more flocks making
12 in all from 250 to 300 at least--all
13 flying SW over Goose & Walden Ponds--
14 The former was ap. well named Goose-
15 Pond. You first hear a faint honking
16 from one or 2 in the N. E. & think there are
17 but few wandering there, but looking up
18 see 40 or 50 coming on in a more or
19 less broken harrow--wedging their way
20 S. W. I suspect they honk more--at any rate
21 they are more broken & alarmed when passing
22 over a village--& are seen falling into
23 their ranks again assuming the per-
24 fect harrow form. Hearing only one or
25 2 honking--even for the 7th time, you
26 think there are but few till you see
27 them. Ac. to my calculation a thousand
28 or 1500 may have gone over C.
29 to day. When they fly low & near they
30 look very black against the sky.
31 I hear that one was killed by Lee in the corner about this time.

1 N. W. of little Goose Pond. on the edge
2 of Mrs Bigelows woodlot are several
3 hornbeams (carpinus) Looking into a
4 cleft in one of them about 3 feet from the
5 ground, which I thought might be the scar
6 of a blazing, I found some broken kernels
7 of corn--prob. placed there by a crow or jay.
8 This was about 1/2 mile from a corn
9 field.

10 Dec 1st '57

11 Pm Walking in Ebby Hubbard's woods
12 I hear a red-squirrel barking at me amid
13 the pine & oak tops--& now I see him coursing
14 from tree to tree-- How securely he travels
15 there 50 feet from the ground--leaping
16 from the slender bending twig of one tree
17 across an interval of 3 or 4 feet & catching
18 at the nearest twig of the next, which
19 so bends under him that it is at first
20 hard to get up it-- His travelling a suc-
21 cession of leaps in the air at that height
22 without wings! And yet he gets along
23 about as rapidly as on the ground.

24 I hear the faintest possible quivet from

25 // a nuthatch quite near me on a pine--

26 I thus always begin to hear this bird on
27 %hear it all the {fall} and the summer%
28 the approach of winter ^ as if it did nt
29 breed here--but wintered here

30 // I hear of 2 more flocks of geese

1 going over today--

2 Dec 2nd '57

3 Measuring Little Goose pond²²-- I observed
4 2 painted tortoises moving about under //
5 the thin transparent ice-- When I broke it
6 with my fist over each in succession--it was
7 stunned by the blow-- I put them back through
8 the hole--else they might have frozen
9 outside. There was a brown leach spread broad
10 & roundish
11 & flat ^ on the sternum of one nearly an inch
12 & a half across, apparently going to winter
13 with it.

14 Where are the respectabilities of 60 years
15 ago--the village aristocracy--the Duncan
16 An Englishman lived in the
17 Vose House?²³
18 Ingrahams who lived in the high house
19 How poor & short lived a distinction to strive
20 after!

21 I find that ac. to the deed of Duncan
22 Ingraham to John Richardson in 1797
23 on Walden Pond
24 my old bean field ^ then belonged to
25 (Minott thinks he bought it of an Allen)
26 Geo. Minott. ^ This was Dea. Geo. Minott
27 who lived in the house next below the E quarter
28 school house--& was a brother of
29 my grandather-in-law. He was directly
30 descended from Thomas Minott who ac--
31 to Shattuck was secretary of the Abbot
32 of Walden (!) in Essex--& whose son George
33 (!)
34 was born at saffron Walden & after
35 wards was one of the early settlers of Dor--
36 chester.

²²a capital "P" is written over a lowercase "p"

²³It is unclear whether this question mark is on the interline or after "house" on the line below

1 Roads were once described as leading to
2 a meeting house--but not so often now-a-days

3 Thursday Dec 3d 57

4 Surveying the Richardson Lot which bounds on Walden
5 Pond--I turned up a rock near the pond to make
6 a bound with--& found under it--attached to it, a
7 collection of black ants (say 1/4 inch long) an
8 inch in diameter--collected around one monster
9 // black ant as big as 4 or 5 at least--& a
10 small parcel of yellowish eggs (?) The large ant
11 had no wings--& was prob. their Queen. The
12 ants were quite lively--though but little way under
13 the edge of the rock. The eggs (?) adhered to the
14 rock when turned up--

15 Dec 4th

16 Surveying the Richardson Fair Haven Lot--
17 Rufus Morse who comes to find his bounds on
18 R. accounts for his deed being tattered--by
19 saying that some tame flying squirrels got
20 loose & into a chest where he kept his papers
21 & nibbled them--though the lid was not
22 raised enough to get in a cent!-- They are
23 so flat. I survey to a white oak--called in '91 "a small wht oak"

24 Dec 5th

25 // At noon a few flakes fall--

26 Sunday Dec 6

27 Flannery tells me he is cutting in Holbrook's
28 swamp in the Great Meadows--a lonely²⁴
29 place--he sees a fox repeatedly there--

²⁴ possibly "lovely"

1 & also a white weasel once with a mouse in its mouth
2 in the swamp.

3 Dec 7th

4 Running the long N. W. side of Richardson's Fair
5 Haven Lot. It is a fair sunny & warm day in the
6 woods for the season-- We eat our dinners on the
7 in a sheltered & very unfrequented place
8 middle of the line amid the young oaks ^. I cut
9 some leafy shrub oaks & cast them down for a
10 dry & springy seat. As I sit there amid the sweet
11 fern--talking with my man Briney--I observe that
12 the recent shoots of the sweet fern (which like
13 many larger bushes & trees have a few leaves in a
14 tuft still at their extremities) toward the sun are
15 densely covered with a bright ^ ^{warm} silvery down which looks
16 like frost--so thick & white. Looking the other
17 way I see none of it--but the bare reddish twigs.
18 Even this is a cheering & compensating discovery
19 in my otherwise barren work-- I get thus
20 a few positive values--answering to the bread
21 & cheese which makes my dinner. I owe
22 thus to my weeks of surveying a few such slight but
23 positive discoveries.

24 Briney who has been in this country but few years
25 says he has lost 3 children here-- His eldest boy
26 fell on the deck in rough weather & struck his knee
27 on the anchor chain & though he didnt mind
28 it then--his whole body ran out of the wound
29 within 2 or 3 months--

30 I would rather sit at this table with the sweet
31 fern twigs between me & the sun than at the
32 King's-

1 Dec 8th

2 Staples says he came to Concord some 24 years
3 ago a poor boy--with a dollar & 3 cents in his
4 pocket--& he spent the 3 cents for drink at Bige-
5 low's tavern--& now he's worth "20 hundred dollars
6 clear." He remembers many who inherited wealth
7 whom he can buy out to day-- I told him that he had
8 done better than I in a pecuniary respect--for
9 I had only earned my living-- Well, said he,
10 "That's all I've done--and I don't know as I've
11 got much better clothes than you."

12 I was particularly poorly clad then in the woods--
13 my hat--pants--boots--rubbers--& gloves--
14 would not have brought 4our-pence--& I told
15 the Irishman that it wasn't every body could afford
16 to have a fringe round his legs, as I had--my cor-
17 duroys not preserving a selvage.

18 Staples said there was one thing he liked--
19 "What is that-- "An honest man." If he lent
20 a man money--& when it became due--he came &
21 asked for more time because he could not pay--he excused
22 him--but if after it had become due he went
23 to the man & he then made the same excuse--he
24 lost all confidence in him.

25 Dec. 13th

26 Pm to Goose Pond-- This & the like ponds
27 //are just covered with virgin ice just thick
28 enough to bear. Though it cracks about the
29 edges on the sunny sides-- You may call it
30

1 virgin ice as long as it is transparent. I see the
2 water target leaves frozen in. Under the ice
3 in Little G. Pond--I see those same 2 tortoises
4
5 (of Dec 2nd) moving about in the same place under the ice //
6 The Emerson children see 6 under the ice of Goose Pond today
7 Ap. many winter in there
8 which I cannot crack with my feet.
9 mud of these ponds & find²⁵ holes--
10 In sickness & barrenness--it is encouraging to be-
11 lieve that our life is dammed & is coming to a head
12 so that there seems to be no loss--for what is
13 lost in time is gained in power-- All at once un-
14 accountably, as we are walking in the woods--or
15 sitting in our chamber--after a worthless fort-
16 night--we cease to feel mean & barren.

17 I go this Pm thinking I may find the stakes
18 set for auction lots on the Ministerial Lot in
19 Dec 51. I find one white birch standing--& 2 fallen
20 The latter were faced at one end, for the numbers,
21 and at the other rotten & broken off as short
22 apparently as if sawed--because the bark so tears--
23 At first I did not know but they had been moved--
24 but thinking that if they had fallen where they stood
25 I should find some ~~hollow~~ hole or looseness in the
26 ground at the rotten end-- I felt for it & in each
27 case found it. In one also the rotten point
28 of the stake-- Thus in 6 years 2 out of 3 stout
29 (2 1/2 inch) birch stakes were flat-- The Hickory
30 stake I set on R. W. Es town line in March '50
31 was flat this last summer--or 7 years--but a white
32 stake set in 49-50 on Moore & Hosmer's lot was standing
33 about this month. A surveyor should know
34 what stakes last longest.

²⁵possibly "pond"

1 I hear a characteristic anecdote
2 respecting Mrs Hoar--from good authority--
3 Her son Edward who takes his father's place
4 and attends to the same duties--asked
5 his mother the other night--when about
6 retiring--"Shall I put the cat down
7 cellar--"? "No" said she--you may put her
8 out doors-- The next night he asked
9 "Shall I put the cat out doors?." "No,"
10 answered she--"you may put her down
11 cellar." The 3d night he asked "Shall
12 I put the cat down cellar or out
13 doors?" "Well" said his mother, "you
14 may open the cellar door & then open
15 the front door--& let her go just
16 which way she pleases." Ed. suggested
17 that it was a cold night for the cat
18 to be out doors--but his mother, said
19 "Who knows but she has a little kitten
20 somewhere to look after?"

21 Mrs H is a peculiar woman who has
22 her own way & opinions-- A strongwilled--
23 managing woman.

24 Dec 15th

25 Within a day or 2 I saw another partridge
26 in the snare of Nov. 28th frozen stiff--
27 To day I see that some creature--has torne
28 & disembowelled it--removing it half a
29 rod leaving the head in snare--Which

1 has lifted it 3 or 4 feet in the air on ac. of its
2 lightness. This last bird was either a female
3 or young male its ruff & bar or tail being
4 rather dark brown than black

5 Dec 16

6 //
7 Begins to snow about 8 Am--& in 15 minutes
8 Plowed grounds show
9 the ground is white, but it soon stops--
10 white first.

11 Dec. 20th

12 Am to Easterbrook County with Ricketson--

13 A henhawk circling over that wild region--see //
14 its red tail.

15 The cellar stairs at the old Hunt House are
16 made of square oak timbers. Also the stairs
17 to the chamber of the back part of ap. square
18 maple? timber--much worn. The generous cellar stairs!

19 Dec 21 '57

20 Walking over the andromeda ponds between Walden
21 & Fair Haven which have only frozen just enough to
22 bear me. I see in springy parts where the ice is thin
23 good sized pollywogs wiggling away--scared by the //
24 sound of my steps & cracking of the ice. They appear
25 to keep in motion in such muddy pond holes where
26 a spring wells up from the bottom--till mid winter
27 if not all winter

28 Dec 25th

29 Surveying for Heirs of J. Richardson

30 G. Heywood & G. Brooks accompanying

31 --skate on Goose Pond-- Heywood says

32 that some who have gone into Ebby Hub-

1 bard's barn to find him, have seen the
2 rats run over his shoulders--they are so
3 familiar with him-- This because I stopped
4 to speak with Hubbard in his barn about
5 bounds. I find the true line between Richardson
6 & Mrs Bigelow--which ^{%Capt%} Hubbard overlooked
7 in 1840--& yet I find it by his own plan
8 of 1827. Bigelow had set ^a ^ split stones
9 far into Richardson-- After making
10 the proper allowance for variation since
11 1827 I set my stake exactly on an old spotted
12 line--which was overlooked in 1840 & is
13 probably as old as the survey of '27 or 30
14 years: It is on good sized white pines &
15 is quite distinct now--Though not blazed
16 into the wood at first. It would not be
17 detected unless you were looking for it.

20 Dec 26th 57
21 Snows all day--1st snow of any consequence
22 //3 or 4 inches in all
23 Humphrey Buttrick tells me that he
24 has shot Little Dippers. He also saw
25 the bird which Melvin shot last summer--
26 (a coot) but he never saw one of them before
27 The Little Dipper must therefore be different
28 from a coot. Is it not a grebe?

29 Dec 27th Sunday
30 a clear pleasant day
31 Pm to Goose Pond-- Tree sparrows
32 //about the weeds in the yard-- A snow ball
33 on every pine plume--for there has been
34 no wind to shake it down-- The pitches

1 pines look like trees heavily laden with snow-
2 oranges-- The snow-balls on their plumes
3 are like a white fruit. When I thoughtlessy
4 strike at a limb~~ing~~ with my hatchet--
5 in my surveying down comes a sudden
6 shower of snow whitening my coat--&
7 getting into my neck-- You must be
8 careful how you approach & jar the
9 trees thus supporting a light snow--
10 Partridges dash away through the pines
11 jarring down the snow
12 Mice have been abroad in the night--
13 We are almost ready to believe that they
14 have been shut up in the earth all the
15 rest of the year because we have not seen
16 their tracks. I see where, by the shore of Goose
17 Pond--one has pushed up just far
18 enough to open a window through the
19 snow 3/4 of an inch across--but has
20 not been forth-- Elsewhere where on the
21 in several places
22 pond I see ^ where one ~~or 2~~ has made a
23 circuit out onto the pond a rod or more
24 returning to the shore again. {drawing}
25 Such a track may by what we
26 call accident be preserved for a
27 geological period--or be obliterated by the
28 melting of the snow--
29 Goose Pond is not thickly frozen yet
30 near the N. shore it cracks under

1 the snow as I walk--& in many places
2 water has oozed out & spread over the ice
3 mixing with the snow & making dark places.

4 Walden is almost entirely skimmed
5 over. It will probably be completely frozen
6 //
7 over to-night.

8 I frequently hear a dog bark at some
9 distance in the night--which strange
10 as it may seem reminds me of the
11 cooing or crowing of a ring-dove which I
12 heard every night a year ago at Perth Am-
13 It was sure to coo at the slightest noise in the house--as good as a watch dog.
14 boy. The crowing of cocks too reminds me
15 of it--& now I think of it, it was precisely
16 the intonation & accent of the cat owl's
17 hoo' hoo-hoo-oo dwelling in each case so-
18 norously on the last syllable. They get the
19 pitch & break ground with the first note--
20 & then prolong & swell it in the last.

21 The commonest & cheapest sounds
22 as the barking of a dog--produce the
23 same effect on pert & healthy ears--that
24 the rarest music does. It depends on
25 your appetite for sound. Just as a
26 crust is sweeter to a healthy appetite
27 than confectionary to a pampered or diseased
28 one. It is better that these cheap sounds
29 be music to us than that we have the
30 rarest ears for music in any other sense.

31 I have lain awake at night many

1 a time to think of the barking of a dog
2 which I had heard long before--bathing my
3 being again in those waves of sound,
4 as a frequenter of the opera might
5 lie awake remembering the music he
6 had heard.

7 As my mother made my pockets once
8 of Father's old fire bags with the date of the
9 foundation of the Fire society on them (1794)
10 (though they made but rotten pockets)
11 so we put our meaning into those
12 old mythologies. I am sure that the
13 Greeks were commonly innocent of any
14 such double entendres as we attribute to
15 them.

16 One while we do not wonder that so
17 many commit suicide--life is so barren
18 & worthless. We only live on by an effort
19 of the will. Suddenly our condition is a-
20 even
21 meliorated--& ^ the barking of a dog is
22 a pleasure to us. So closely is our happi-
23 ness bound up with our physical con-
24 dition--& one reacts on the other--

25 Do not despair of ~~your~~ life--you
26 have not doubt force enough{to} to overcome
27 your obstacles. Think of the fox prowling
28 through wood & field in a winter night
29 for something to satisfy his hunger-- Not-
30 withstanding cold & the hounds & traps

1 his race survives-- I do not believe any of
2 them ever committed suicide. I saw this
3 Pm where prob. a fox had rolled some
4 small carcass in the snow--

5 I cut a blueberry bush--this Pm a venerable
6 looking one bending over Goose Pond--with
7 a grey flat scaly bark-- The bark ~~{close}~~ split
8 into long narrow closely adhering scales--the
9 inner bark dull reddish-- At several feet
10 from the ground it was 1 5/16 inch in diameter &
11 I counted about 29 indistinct rings. It seems a
12 very close grained wood. It appears then that
13 some of these old gray blueberry bushes which
14 overhang the pond-holes--have attained half the
15 age of man.

16 I am disappointed by most essays & lectures.
17 I find that I had expected the authors would
18 have some life--some very private experience
19 to report--which would make it compara-
20 tively unimportant in what style they ex-
21 pressed themselves--but commonly they have
22 only a talent to exhibit. The new Magazine
23 which all had been expecting may contain
24 only another love story as naturally told
25 as the last perchance, but without the
26 slightest novelty in it. It may be a mere
27 vehicle for yankee phrases.

28 What interesting contrasts our climate affords!
29 In July you rush panting into pond to cool--

1 yourself in the tepid water-- when the stones on
2 the bank are so heated that you can not hold
3 one tightly in your hand--& horses are melting
4 on the road-- Now you walk on the same pond
5 frozen, amid the snow--with numbed fingers & feet,
6 & see the water target bleached & stiff in the
7 ice.

8 Dec 31st '57

9 pm Surveying Goose Pond--

10 After some rain yesterday & in the night
11 there was a little more snow--& the ground
12 is still covered. I am surprised to find
13 Walden still closed since Sunday night
14 --notwithstanding the warm weather
15 since it skimmed over-- & that Goose-
16 Pond bears, though covered with slosh
17 --but ice under water is slow to
18 thaw-- It does not break up so
19 soon as you would expect-- Walking
20 over it I thought that I saw an
21 old glove on the ice or slosh--but
22 approaching found it to be a bull-
23 frog flat on its belly with its legs
24 stretched out-- Touching it I found
25 it to be alive--though it could ~~not~~ only
26 partially²⁶ open its eyes--and it hung motionless &
27 flimsy like a rag in my hands--
28 It was evidently nearly chilled to death
29 & could not jump. though there was

²⁶ "partially" squeezed into right margin

1 then no freezing--I looked round a
2 good while & finally found a hole
3 to put it into--squeezing it through--
4 Perhaps in such a warm rain the
5 surface water becomes warmer than
6 that of the bottom & so tempts the
7 frogs up on to the ice through a hole--
8 This one was wholly unscathed by
9 any animal--but would surely have frozen
10 stiff in the night.

11 It is remarkable that in ordinary winter
12 weather you will commonly find some of
13 small
14 these ^ holes called air--or breathing holes,
15 in most ponds-- But of whatever service
16 they may be to the inhabitants of the
17 commonly
18 water--they are not ^ formed by any
19 undulation or upwelling from below--
20 but as far as I have observed by surface
21 water flowing in through a crevice & wear-
22 ing away the ice.

23 Warm as it is--underneath all this
24 slush the ice seems as solid as ever--
25 & attached to one of the
26 Under ^ the lowermost branches of a
27 white pine sapling in my old potato
28 field I see a large hornet's nest--
29 close to the ground.

30 I have been surveying most
31 of the time for a month past--& have
32 associated with various characters--

1 First there was Staples--quick--
2 clear--down-right--& on the whole
3 a good fellow--especially good to
4 treat with rougher & slower men than
5 himself--Always meaning well--
6 An Irishman rather slow & dull
7 but well meaning.
8 A rustic innkeeper--evidently rather
9 close-fisted.
10 Geo. Heywood--a quiet efficient
11 man--very gentlemanly & agreeable to
12 deal with--No pretence nor bluster--
13 but simple direct & even sweet--
14 Ebby Hubbard a crooked stick
15 --not readily apprehending your drift--
16 referring to old deeds or places which
17 he cant find--thinking he is entitled
18 to many more acres than belong to
19 him--but never leaving his work or
20 his cattle to attend to you-- To be found
21 commonly in his barn--if you come
22 upon him suddenly before he can hide.
23 Has some complaint or injury which
24 deforms him somewhat--has crooked
25 %when you meet him%
26 his body--so that he looks as if he
27 %across%
28 was going %(%to cross%)% the road.
29 Another Irishman one of the
30 worst of his race--full of blarney--
31 one of the would be gentlemen--

1 who when treated according to his de-
2 serts--having complained unreasonably of
3 my price--apologizes by saying--that
4 he meant nothing-- "Whats the use of
5 having a tongue in your head ~~{with}~~ if
6 you don't use it?!"

7 A common specimen of the yankee
8 who commonly answers me with "exactly"--
9 or "just so."

10 Abel Brooks who was so afraid he should
11 lose some land belonging to him--that
12 though he had employed Rice to survey
13 his small woodlot of 3 acres, within
14 a year--he working 2 or 3 days at it
15 it & setting at least 50 stakes about
16 it--Having also 2 plans of it--Yet
17 seeing that I had by chance set a
18 a foot or 2
19 stake a ~~little~~ one side of his line
20 thought there was some mistake--& would
21 have me measure his Lot anew--

22 It was but little labor--the lines were
23 so open--for a path was actually worn
24 round the whole lot-- He appears to go
25 round it every day or 2. When I wanted
26 a straight pole he was very scrupu-
27 lous not to cut it from his neighbor's
28 side of the line. He did not seem able
29 to understand a plan or deed--& had
30 sold some of his land because he did

1 not know that he had a good title to it.
2 Every thing I told him about his deed & plan
3 seemed to surprise him infinitely--& make
4 When I pointed out anything in the plan--he did not look at it--only at my
5 fingers-- & at me--& took my word for it.
6 him laugh with excess of interest ^. I told
7 him that I wondered his last surveyor had
8 not set a stake and stone in one place
9 according to his plan & deed--a perfectly plain
10 case--the stump of the pitch pine referred to being
11 left-- He said he did not want to make bounds
12 & asked me if I should have set it there--
13 To which I answered yes, of course,--that is²⁷
14 what I had been doing all my life--making
15 or rather finding them--remaking what had been unmade
16 bounds--^ where they were away. He listened
17 to me as if I were an oracle-- He did not
18 in the least understand my instru-
19 ment--or "spy-glass" as he called it
20 --but had full faith that it knew
21 the way straight through the thickest
22 wood to missing bounds-- He was so deaf
23 I had to shout to him--& there were
24 two more in his house deafer than
25 he--& I think only one other-- The
26 passers by commonly hear them talking
27 to one another within. I could never com-
28 municate with him when setting a stake
29 or carrying the chain--but by signs
30 & must first get his attention to²⁸ the
31 signs-- This I accomplished when he
32 had hold of the chain, by giving it several

²⁷altered from "was" to "is"?

²⁸ mark could be "to"

1 smart jerks. When he paid me at his
2 house--I observed that all his money was
3 in silver. He said he told Hubbard
4 that we had been cutting off some of
5 his land--& Hubbard said "Is that right?"
6 Hubbard has a good deal of large old
7 wood which he will not cut-- Brooks
8 says that he goes into it with his axe--
9 & striking on an old tree says--"That's
10 sound," & so lets it stand, though when cut
11 it turns out to be false hearted.

12 Brooks says that Rice worked 2 days on only 2
13 sides of his Lot--but that he told him he
14 would not charge him but 2 dollars if it
15 took him a week. I found & used one of
16 Rice's poles left on the ground all planed
17 for the purpose--for he worked not without
18 tools.

19 Jan 1st '58

20 There are many words which are genuine &
21 indigenous & have their root in our na-
22 tures--not made by scholars & as well
23 understood by the illiterate as others--
24 There are also a great many words which
25 are spurious & artificial, and can only
26 be used in a bad sense, since the thing
27 they signify is not fair & substantial--
28 such as the church--the judiciary
29 --to impeach &c &c they who use them

1 do not stand on solid ground. It is in
2 vain to try to preserve them by attaching
3 other words to them as the true church
4 &c-- It is like towing a sinking ship with
5 a canoe.

6 I have lately been surveying the Walden
7 Woods so extensively and minutely--that I now
8 see it mapped in my mind's eye--as wider
9 on paper--as so many men's woodlots, and
10 am aware when I walk them that I am
11 at a given moment passing from such a
12 one's woodlot to such another-- I fear this
13 particular dry knowledge may affect
14 my imagination & fancy--that it will
15 not be ~~as~~ easy to see so much wildness
16 & native vigor there as formerly-- no
17 thicket will seem so unexplored--now
18 that
19 that I know a stake & stones may be found
20 in it. In these respects those maine
21 woods differed essentially from ours--
22 There you are never reminded that the
23 wilderness which you are threading is
24 after all some villagers familiar woodlot
25 from which his ancestors have sledded their
26 generations
27 fuel for (a century or 2)--or some widow's
28 3d--minutely described in some old deed which
29 is recorded--of which the owner has got
30 a plan too--& old boundmarks may be
31 found every 40 rods if you will search--

1 What a history this Concord wilderness
2 which I affect so much--may have had--
3 How many old deeds describe it--some par-
4 ticular wild spot--how it passed from Cole
5 to Robinson & Robinson to Jones--& Jones
6 finally to Smith, in course of years-- Some
7 have cut it over 3 times during their lives--
8 & built walls & made a pasture of it perchance--
9 & some burned it & sowed it with rye ^--all
10 have renewed the bounds--& re blazed the trees
11 many times--

12 Here you are not reminded of those things
13 --Tis true the map informs you that
14 you stand on land granted by the state to
15 such an academy--or on Bingham's
16 purchase--but these names do not im-
17 pose on you for you see nothing to re-
18 mind you of the academy or of Bingham

19 Sunday ~~Dec 3~~²⁹ Jan. 3d '58

20 I see a flock of F. hiemalis this
21 //Pm-- The weather is hitherto so warm--
22 lively
23 About, in his ^ "Greece & the Greeks" says--
24 "These are the most exquisite delights to be
25 found in Greece, next to, or perhaps before,
26 the pleasure of admiring the masterpieces of
27 art--a little cool water under a genial
28 sun." I have no doubt that this is true--
29 Why then travel so far when the same
30 pleasures may be found near home?

²⁹"Dec 3" is stricken through twice

1 The slosh on Walden had so much water
2 on it that it has now frozen perfectly smooth
3 and looks like a semi-transparent marble.
4 Being however opaque--it reminds me the
5 more of some vast hall or corridor's floor--
6 Yet probably not a human foot has trodden
7 it yet. Only the track repairers & stokers have
8 cast stones & billets of wood onto it to prove it.

9 Going to the Andromeda Ponds--
10 I was greeted by the warm brown red
11 glow of the andromeda calyculata toward
12 the sun-- I see where I have been through
13 %appearance of the leaves%
14 --the more reddish ~~undersides~~ ^{apparently}³⁰
15 %{is }%
16 being turned up.^ It is long since a human
17 friend has met me with such a glow.

18 Jan 4th 57 [58]
19 pm
20 The weather still remarkably warm-- The
21 ice too soft for skating-- I go through by
22 the Andromeda Ponds & down river from Fair Haven--
23 I am encouraged by the sight of men fishing
24 F. H.
25 on ^ the pond--for it reminds me that they
26 have animal spirits for such adventures-- I
27 am glad to be reminded that any go a-
28 fishing. When I get down near to Cardinal
29 shore the sun near setting, its light is
30 wonderfully reflected from a narrow edging
31 of yellowish stubble--at the edge of the
32 meadow ice & part of the hill--an edging
33 only 2 or 3 feet wide--& the stubble but
34 a few inches high-

³⁰Strikeout is in pencil

1 I am looking East--
2 It is remarkable--because the ice is but
3 a dull lead color (it is so soft & sodden)
4 reflecting no light--& the hill beyond is
5 a dark russet here & there patched with
6 snow--but this warm intermediate line of
7 stubble is all aglow-- I get its true color
8 & brightness best when I do not look di-
9 rectly at it, but a little above it toward the hills
10 seeing it with the lower part of my eye
11 more truly & abstractly. It is as if all
12 the rays slid over the ice & lodged against
13 & were reflected by the stubble. It is sur-
14 prising how much sunny light a little straw
15 that survives the winter will reflect--
16 The channel of the river is open part of the
17 way-- The cornus sericea & some quite
18 young willow shoots are the red-barked twigs
19 so conspicuous now along the river sides--
20 That bright & warm reflection of sun-
21 light from the insignificant edgeing of
22 stubble was remarkable-- I was coming
23 down stream over the meadow, on the ice
24 within 4 or 5 rods of the eastern shore-- The
25 sun on my left was about a quarter of an
26 hour above the horizon-- The ice was soft
27 & sodden--of a dull lead color--quite
28 dark & reflecting no light as I looked
29 eastward--but my eyes caught by ac-
30 cident a singular ~~br~~ sunny bright-

1 ness--reflected from the narrow border of stubble
2 only 3 or 4 inches high (and as many feet wide
3 perhaps) which rose along the edge of the
4 ice at the foot of the hill. It was not
5 a mere brightening of the bleached stubble
6 --but the warm & yellow light of the
7 sun, which, it appeared, it was peculiarly
8 fitted to reflect-- It was that amber light
9 from the west which we sometimes witness
10 after a storm--concentrated on this stubble
11 --for the hill beyond was merely a dark
12 russet spotted with snow-- All the yellow
13 rays seemed to be reflected by this insignificant
14 stubble alone--& when I looked more generally
15 a little above it--seeing it with the under
16 part of my eye--it appeared yet more
17 truly & more bright-- The reflected light
18 made its due impression on my eye separa-
19 ted from the proper color of the stubble--
20 --& it glowed almost like a low--steady
21 & serene fire. It was precisely as if the
22 sun light had mechanically slid over the
23 thin ice & lodged against the stubble-- --
24 It will be enough to say of something warmly
25 & sunnily bright that it glowed like lit
26 stubble. It was remarkable that, looking
27 eastward this was the only evidence of the
28 light in the west.

29 Here & there on the meadow &c near springy

1 places you see where the thinner ice
2 has been pushed up tent-wise ({drawing})
3 & cracked--either for want of room 2 fields
4 crowding together--or expanding with heat from
5 below.

6 Jan 5th

7 pm

8 I see one of these fuzzy winter cater-
9 // pillars--black at the 2 ends & {brow} red in
10 middle--crawling on a rock--by the Hunt's
11 bridge causeway. Mr Hosmer is loading
12 hay in his barn-- It is meadow hay & I
13 am chiefly interested in it³¹ as a botanist.
14 If meadow hay is of less worth in the market
15 it is more interesting to the poet-- In this
16 there is a large proportion of osmunda
17 regalis--but I fear that in the long run
18 it is not so interesting to the cattle to
19 contemplate & chew this as english hay &
20 clover-- How completely a load of hay in the
21 winter revives the memory of past sum-
22 mers! Summer in us is only a little dried
23 like it. The rowen in Hosmer's barn has
24 finer,
25 a more {wiry} & greener look than the first
26 crop. And so the ferns in coal re-
27 minds us of summers still longer past.

29 Jan 6th

30 The first snow storm of much importance
31 // by noon it may be 6 inches deep--

33 pm up RR--to North River

³¹ Later changed to "interested in it chiefly"

1 The main stream--barely skimmed over--
2 with snow which has sunk the thin ice--
3 and is saturated with water, is of a dull
4 brown color between the white fields.

5 I detect a very tall & slender tupelo by
6 its thorny-looking twigs-- It is close by a
7 white oak, at the yellow gerardia up RR.
8 It is nearly 50 feet high & only 1 foot through
9 at the ground-- I derive a certain excite-
10 ment--not to be refused--even from going through
11 Dennis' swamp on the opposite side of the
12 RR-- where the poison-dog wood abounds--
13 --This simple stemmed bush is very full of
14 loose drooping
15 fruit--hanging in ^ dry pale green ^ pannicles
16 --some of them are a foot long-- It impresses
17 me as the most fruitful shrub thereabouts.
18 --I cannot refrain from plucking it
19 & bringing home some pretty sprigs. Other
20 fruits there are these³² which belong to
21 the hard season-- The enduring
22 few
23 pannicled andromeda--& a ~~little~~ partly
24 decayed prinos berries-- I walk amid
25 the bare midribs of cinnamon ferns
26 --with at most a terminal leafet--&
27 dark
28 here & there I see a little ^ water at
29 the bottom of a dimple in the snow
30 --over which the snow had not yet been
31 able to prevail.

32 I was feeling very cheap nevertheless

³² possibly "those"

1 --reduced to make the most of dry dog-wood
2 berries--~~nearly~~ very little evidence of God
3 or man did I see just then & Life not
4 as rich & inviting an enterprise as it
5 should be--when my attention was caught
6 by a snow-flake on my coat sleeve. It
7 was one of those perfect crystalline star-
8 shaped ones--6 rayed--like a flat wheel
9 with 6 spokes--only the spokes were perfect
10 little pine trees in shape--arranged around
11 a clustered spangle-- This little object--
12 which with many of its fellows rested unmelting
13 on my coat--so perfect & beautiful
14 --reminded me that nature had not
15 lost her pristine vigor yet--& why should
16 man lose heart? Sometimes the pines were
17 worne & had lost their branches--and again
18 it appeared as if several stars had infringed
19 on one another at various angles making a
20 somewhat spherical mass-- These little
21 wheels came down like the wrecks of chariots
22 from a battle waged in the sky-- These
23 were mingled with these starry flakes--
24 small downy pellets also-- This was at
25 midafternoon & it has not quite ceased snowing
26 yet (at 10 Pm) We are rained & snowed
27 on with gems. I confess that I was
28 a little encouraged--for I was begin-
29 ning to believe that nature was poor

1 & mean--& I was now convinced that she
2 turned off as good work as ever--
3 What a world we live in--!³³ Where are the
4 jewellers' shops? There is nothing handsomer than
5 a snow-flake & a dew-drop. I may say that
6 the maker of the world exhausts his skill with
7 each snow flake & dew drop that he sends down--
8 We think that the one mechanically coheres--
9 & that the other simply flows together & falls--but
10 in truth they are the product of enthusiasm
11 the children of an extacy--finished with the
12 artist's utmost skill.

13 The north river is not frozen over--
14 I see tree sparrows twittering & moving with
15 a low creeping & jerking motion amid the
16 chenopodium in a field upon the snow--
17 so chubby--or puffed out on ac. of the cold
18 that at first I took them for the arc-
19 tic birds--but soon I see the bright
20 chestnut crowns & clear white bars--
21 --as the poet says--"a thousand feeding
22 like one"--though there are not more
23 than a dozen here.

24 Jan 7th 58

25 The storm is over--and it is one of those beau-
26 tiful winter mornings--when a vapor is
27 seen Lounging in the air between the village
28 and the woods-- Though the snow is
29 only some six inches deep--the yards

³³ Dash written in over an exclamation point?

1 (star or wheel shaped flakes)
2 appear full of those beautiful crystals ^ lying
3 light as a measure is full of grain.
4 ~~By 10~~ 9 Am to Hill-- It snowed
5 so late last night & so much has fallen
6 from the trees that I notice only one
7 squirrel--and a fox & perhaps partridge
8 into which the snow has blown.-- The fox has been beating the bush along the
9 track--^ The mice have not been forth since
10 track--^ walls & fences. The surface of new snow in the woods is
11 the snow--or perhaps in someplace where
12 thickly masked by the snow which has fallen from the trees on to it.
13 they have their tracks are obliterated.
14 %hard%
15 By 10 1/2 Am it begins to blow ^ ~~(in)~~ the
16 snow comes down from the trees in fine showers--
17 finer far than ever falls direct from the
18 sky--completely obscuring the view through
19 the aisles of the wood--& in open fields
20 it is rapidly drifting. It is too light to make
21 good sleighing.
22 By 10 o clock I notice a very long level
23 stratum of cloud not very high in the
24 SE sky. (all the rest being clear--) which
25 I suspect to be the vapor from the sea. This
26 lasts for several hours.
27 These are true mornings of creation--
28 original & poetic days--not mere reflections
29 of the past-- There is no lingering of
30 yesterdays fogs--only such a mist as
31 might have adorned the first morning.
32 Pm
33 I see some tree sparrows feeding on the
34 fine grass seed above the snow--near the

1 road on the hill side below the Dutch house-- They are
2 their feet commonly sink in the snow
3 flitting along one at a time--³⁴uttering occasionally
4 a low sweet warble--& seemingly as happy
5 there & with this wintry prospect before them for
6 the night & several months to come--as any
7 man by his fireside. One occasionally hops or
8 flies toward another & the latter suddenly jerks away
9 from him. They are reaching or hopping up to
10 the fine grass or oftener picking the seeds from
11 the snow-- At length the whole 10 have collected
12 within a space a dozen feet square--but
13 soon after, being alarmed, they utter a different
14 & less musical chirp & flit away into an
15 apple tree.

16 Jan 8th 58

17 Pm to that small meadow just
18 above the Boaz Brown meadow--
19 Going through the swamp the snow balled
20 so as to raise me 3 inches higher than
21 usual.

22 Jan 9th

23 Snows again //
24 Pm to Deep Cut--
25 The wind is S. W. & the snow is very moist
26 with large flakes-- Looking toward
27 Trillium Wood--the nearer flakes ap-
28 pear to move quite swiftly--often making
29 the impression of a continuous white
30 line-- They are also seen to move di

³⁴carat positioned under dash

1 rectly & nearly horizontally--but the
2 more distant flakes appear to
3 loiter in the air--as if uncertain
4 how they will approach the earth
5 --or even to cross the course of the
6 former--and are always seen as simple
7 & distinct flakes-- I think that this
8 difference is simply owing to the fact
9 that the former pass quickly over the
10 field of view--while³⁵ the latter are much
11 longer in it.

12 This moist snow has affected the yellow
13 sulphur parmeliias & others-- They have
14 all got a green hue--& the fruit of
15 the smallest lichens looks fresh & fair--
16 And the wet willow bark is a brighter yellow
17 Some chicadees come flitting close
18 //to me--& one utters its spring note--phe-be
19 for which I fell under obligations to him.

20 Sunday Jan 10th

21 Pm to Goose Pond across Walden--
22 The N side of Walden is a warm walk
23 in sunny weather-- If you are sick &
24 despairing, go forth in winter & see the
25 red alder catkins dangling at the extremi-
26 ties of the twigs, all in the wintry air--
27 like long hard mulberries--promising
28 a new spring & the fulfillment of
29 all our hopes. We prize any tender-
30 ness any softening in the winter--

³⁵The extended "I" dot in "while" makes it look as though Thoreau accidentally crossed his "I."

1 --catkins--birds nests--insect life &c &c

2 The most I got perchance is the sight of
3 a mulberry-like red catkin--which I
4 know has a dormant life in it--seemingly
5 greater than my own--

6 Monday Jan 11

7 Rain-Rain. washes off almost every vestige //
8 of snow

9 Wednesday Jan 13th

10 Go to Lynn to Lecture--via Cambridge

11 4 1/2 Pm at Jonathans Buffum's

12 Lynn--Lecture in John B. Alley's Parlor--

13 Mr J. Buffum describes to me ancient

14 wolf traps--made prob. by the early settlers

15 in Lynn--perhaps after an Indian model--

16 One some 2 miles from the shore near Saugus

17 --and then more Northerly--holes say 7 feet

18 deep--about as long & some 3 feet wide stoned

19 up very smoothly & perhaps converging a little

20 so that the wolf could not get out--

21 Tradition says that a wolf & a squaw

22 were one morning found in the same hole--

23 staring at each other.

24 Jan 14th

25 Mr Buffum says that in 1817 or 1819

26 he saw the sea-serpent at Swamscot

27 & so did several hundred others

28 He was to be seen off & on for some

29 time. There were many people on the

1 beach that first time, in carriages partly
2 in the water--& the serpent came so
3 near--that they thinking that he might
4 come ashore involuntarily turned their
5 horses to the shore--as with a general con-
6 sent--& this movement caused him
7 to sheer off also. The road from Boston
8 was lined with people directly--coming
9 to see the monster. Prince came with
10 his spyglass--saw & printed his account
11 of him. Buffum says he has seen
12 him 20 times--once alone from the
13 rocks at Little Nahant--when he
14 passed along close to the shore just
15 beneath the surface--& within 50 or 60
16 feet of him so that he could have
17 touched him with a very long pole, if
18 he had dared to. Buffum is about
19 60--& it should be said as affecting the
20 value of his evidence that he is a firm
21 believer in Spiritualism.

22 This forenoon I rode to Nahant
23 all the country bare--a fine warm day
24 neither snow nor ice--unless you search
25 on the way³⁶ narrowly for them
26 with Mr Buffum--^

27 We pass Mr Alonzo Lewis' Cottage--on
28 the top of each of his stone posts is fastened
29 a very perfectly egg-shaped pebble of
30 sienite from Kettle cove 15 to 18 inches
31 long & of proportionate diameter-- I
32 never saw any of that size so perfect.

³⁶ Thoreau draws a line here to separate the interlined material

1 There are some 15 of them about his house
2 Says he was surveying once at Kettle Cove where they form a beach 1/3 mile long
3 & 2 to 10
4 --& on one flatter circular one he has
5 ft deep. & he brought home as many as his horse could draw.
6 made a dial--by which I learned the
7 hour (9 1/2 Am). His house is clapboard
8 with hemlock bark--now some 20 yrs
9 old-- He says that he built it himself.
10 Called at the Shop where lately
11 Samuel Gibson (now of Feltonville)
12 set up birds--for he is a taxidermist
13 & very skillful kills his own birds--&
14 with blow guns which he makes & sells
15 some 7 feet long of glass--using a clay
16 ball. Is said to be a dead shot at
17 6 rods!
18 Warm & fall like as it is--saw
19 many snow-buntings at the entrance //
20 to the beach--
21 (So Lewis said--may they not have been velvet ducks, i.e. coot?)
22 Saw many black ducks ^ on the sea //
23 (may they not have been brant? or some other species?)
24 & c { } divers
25 heard of a flock of geese! ^
26
27 On the S side of little Nahant a large mass
28 Nahant is said to have been well-wooded--& furnished
29 timber for the wharves of Boston--ie to build them--
30 of fine pudding stone Now a few willows & balm of gileads are the
31 only trees if you {except} 2 or 3 small cedars-- They say others will not grow on
32 ac. of wind.
33 The rocks are porphyry with dykes of
34 dark green stone in it & at the extremi-
35 ty of Nahant--argillaceous slate very
36 distinctly stratified--with fossil corallines
37 in it(?) looking like shells-- Egg rock
38 it seems has a fertile garden on the top.
39 Pm Rode with J. Buffum
40 Parke Pillsbury & Mr Mudge--alawyer &
41 geologist of Lynn into the NW part of Lynn--

1 to the Danvers line. After a mile or 2 we
2 passed beyond the line of the porphyry
3 into the Sienite. The Sienite is more
4 rounded-- Saw some furrows in Sienite.
5 On a ledge of Sienite in the woods
6 --the rocky woods--near Danvers line--saw
7 many boulders of Seinite--part of the
8 same flock of which Ship rock (so called)
9 in Danvers is one-- One 15 ft long 10
10 wide & 5 or 6 deep rested on 4 some-
11 what rounded (at least water worn) stones 18
12 inches in diameter or more--so that you
13 could crawl under it--on the top of
14 a cliff & projected about 8 feet over
15 it.--just as it was dropped by an ice berg.
16 A fine broad-backed ledge of sienite just beyond
17 N or NW--from which we saw Wachusett--
18 Watatic³⁷--Monadnock--& the Peterboro Hills.
19 --Also saw where one Boyse (if that
20 is the spelling) a miller in old times--
21 got out mill stones in a primitive way--
22 so said an old man who was chopping
23 a piece of the
24 there. He pried or cracked off ^ the crust
25 of the ledge (lying (horizontal) some 16 or
26 18 inches thick--then made a fire on it
27 about its edges & pouring on water cracked
28 or softened it so that he could break off
29 the edges & make it round with his sledge
30 --Then he picked a hole through the middle

³⁷"Watatic" written over "Mona"

1 & hammered it as smooth as he could & it was
2 done. But this old man said that he had
3 heard old folks say that the stones were so
4 rough in old times that they made a noise like
5 thunder as they revolved--& much grit was mixed
6 with the meal.

7 Returning down a gully--I thought I would
8 look for a new plant & found at once what
9 I suppose to be genista tinctoria Dyer's green
10 weed--(The stem is quite green) with a few
11 pods & leaves left. It is said to have become
12 naturalized on the hills of Essex County--

13 Close by was a mass of sienite some 7 or 8 feet
14 high with a cedar some 2 inches thick spring-
15 ing from a mere crack on its top.

16 Visited Jordan's or the Lynn ~~ledge~~ Quarry
17 (of Sienite) on our return, more S. The stone
18 cracks very squarely & into very large masses--
19 In one place was a dyke of dark greenstone
20 of which joined to the Sienite I brought up ² ~~a~~
21 specimens {q.v} The more yellowish & rotten surface
22 stone (lying above the hard & greyer) is called
23 the sap by the quarry men.

24 From these rocky & wooded hills 3 or 4 miles
25 inland in the NW edge of Lynn--we had an
26 extensive view of the ocean from Cape Ann to
27 Scituate & realized how the aborigines
28 when hunting--berrying might perchance
29 have looked out then on the early navigators³⁸
30 mudge gave me Saugus jasper--graywacke--Amygdaloid³⁹--asbestos--hornstone (!)
31 Buffum some porphyry--epidote--argillaceous slate from end of Nahant
32

³⁸ a line separates the text from the interlined material which follows

³⁹ a line in pencil here leads to pencilled material in the right margin:
"Greenstone with a nodule of feldspar"

1 sailing along the coast--(thousands of
2 them) when they little suspected it--how
3 potent to the inhabitants his visit must
4 have been. A vessel could hardly have passed
5 even at one place only
6 within half a dozen miles of the shore ^ in pleasant
7 weather--without being seen by hundreds of
8 savages--

9 Mr Buffum tells me that they never eat
10 the Sea-clam without first taking out "the
11 worm" as it is called, about as large as the small
12 end of a pipe stem. He supposes it is the penis.

13 Jan 15

14 At Nat Hist Rooms Boston--

15 Looked at the little Grebe--its feet are not webbed
16 with lobes on the side like the coot--& it is quite
17 white beneath-- Saw the good sized duck--velvet
18 duck with white spot on wing--which is commonly
19 called "coot" in salt water. They have a living
20 young bald eagle in the cellar. Talked with
21 Dr Kneeland-- They have a Golden Eagle from
22 Lexington (which K. obtained 2 or 3 years since) the 1st
23 Dr Cabot has heard of in Mass. Speaking to
24 him of my night warbler he asked if it uttered
25 such a note--making the note of the
26 myrtle bird. {ab}. tetete tetete tetete exactly.
27 & said that that was the note of the
28 White-throated sparrow--which he heard at
29 Lake superior (at night as well as by day)
30 V. his report July 15 '57.

1 Same pm saw Dr Durkee in Howard street
2 --He has not seen the common glow worm--&
3 called his a var. of L. noctiluca. Showed to Agassiz
4 Gould & Jackson--& it was new to them-- They
5 thought it a var. of the above. His were
6 luminous throughout. mine only in part of each
7 segment.

8 Saw some beautiful painted leaves in a
9 shop window-- maple & oak-⁴⁰

10 Sunday Jan 17

11 Pm to Conantum

12 The common birch fungus--which is horizontal
13 & turned downward. Splits the bark as it pushes
14 out very simply ~~{drawing}~~ ^{v 26th} {drawing} thus-- I see a
15 large downy owls feather adhering to a
16 sweet fern twig looking like the down of a
17 plant blowing in the wind-- This is near where
18 I have found them before on Conantum
19 above 1st Cliff. They would be very ornamental
20 to a bonnet so soft & fine with their re-
21 flections that the eye hardly rests on the down--

22 Jan 18th 58

23 At the Dugan Desert-- I notice under
24 the overhanging a nearly horizontal small
25 white oaks--& shrub oaks about the edge--
26 singular little hollows in the sand--evidently
27 made by drops of rain or melting snow
28

⁴⁰ Post-It on MS page: "annotation information for Jan. 15, 1858 attached to journal entry for Aug. 8, 1857." There is a cross-reference in the entry for August 8, 1857 that reads: %V. Jan 15, 1858%

1 falling from the same part of the twig, a foot or
2 2, on the same spot a long time-- They
3 are very numerous under every such low hori-
4 zontal bough on an average about 3/4 of
5 an inch apart or more, they are 1/3 inch wide
6 & 1/4 to even 3/4 inch deep. Made some days ago
7 evidently.

8 // The F. hiemalis about. I hear that the Emer
9 Ladies delights
10 son children found ~~{delights}~~ out. {~~---~~} yesterday.

11 Jan 19th

12 // F Hiemalis

13 Sat. Jan 23d

14 The wonderfully mild & pleasant weather
15 continues. The ground has been bare since
16 the 11th This morning was colder than be-
17 fore-- I have not been able to walk up
18 the North Branch this winter--nor along
19 the channel of the S. branch at any time.

20 Pm to Saw Mill Brook--

21 A fine afternoon-- There has been but
22 little use for gloves this winter-- Though
23 I have been surveying a great deal
24 for 3 months-- The sun & cock crowing
25 bare ground &c &c remind me of March.

26 Standing on the bridge over the mill-
27 brook on the Turnpike--there being but
28 little ice on the S. side, I see several
29 small water bugs (gyrans) swimming
30 about as in the spring.

1 a dozen years ago-- This tall tree grows
2 rapidly--& one layer seems not to adhere
3 very firmly to another-- I can easily count
4 the concentric circles of growth on these
5 old stumps as I stand over them--for
6 they are worn with conspicuous furrows
7 along the lines of the pores of the wood.

8 One or more rings often gape $\frac{1}{8}$ of
9 an inch or more--at about their ^{24th or} ^ 25th
10 year--when the growth, in 3 or
11 4 cases that I examined, was most
12 rapid.

13 Looking toward the woods in the horizon
14 --it is seen to be very hazy-- At Ditch
15 pond I hear--what I suppose to be a
16 fox barking--an exceedingly husky hoarse
17 & ragged note, prolonged perhaps by
18 the echo, like a feeble puppy--or even
19 a child endeavoring to scream, but choked
20 yet it is on a high key
21 with fear ^-- It sounds so thro' the
22 wood--while I am in the hollow--that
23 I cannot tell from which side it comes.
24 I hear it bark 40 or 50 times at least.
25 It is a peculiar sound--quite unlike any
26 other woodland sound that I know.

27 Walden, I think, begins to crack
28 & boom first on the south side--which
29 is first in the shade--for I hear it
30 cracking there, though it is still in
31

1 the sun around me. It is not so sonorous
2 & like the dumping of frogs as I have heard
3 it--but more like the cracking of crockery
4 It suggests the very brittlest material--as
5 if the globe you stand on were a hollow
6 sphere of glass--& might fall to pieces
7 on the slightest touch-- Most shivering
8 splintery--screeching cracks there are--
9 as if the ice were not thicker than a tumbler
10 though it is prob. 9 or 10 inches. Methinks
11 my weight sinks it & helps to crack
12 sometimes.

13 Who can doubt that men are by a certain
14 fate what they are--contending with unseen
15 & unimagined difficulties--or encouraged
16 & aided by equally mysterious auspicious
17 circumstances-- Who can doubt this
18 essential & innate difference between
19 man & man--when he considers a
20 whole race--like the Indian inevitably
21 & resignedly passing away--in spite
22 of our efforts to christianize & educate
23 them? Individuals accept their fate
24 & live according to it--as the Indian does.

25 Every body notices that the Indian
26 retains his habits wonderfully--is still the
27 same man--that the discoverers found--
28 The fact is the history of the White man is
29 a history of improvement--that of the Red
30 man--a history of fixed habits--stagnation

1 has attained to more clearness in his
2 bark--it is more ringing & musical--
3 more developed--he explodes the vowels
4 of his alphabet better--and beside he
5 has made his place so good in the
6 world that he can run without
7 skulking in the open field. What
8 a smothered--ragged--feeble & un-
9 musical sound is the bark of
10 the fox! It seems as if he scarcely
11 ^{it}
12 dared raise his voice lest ~~he~~ should
13 catch the ear of his tame cousin
14 & inveterate foe.

15 I observe that the ice of Walden
16 is heaved up more than a foot
17 over that bar between the pond &
18 Cyrus Hubbards basin-- The gravelley
19 bank or bar itself is also heaved up
20 considerably where exposed--so that
21 I am inclined to think that such
22 a lifting is simply the result of a thawing
23 beneath--& not merely of a crowding
24 or pressure on the 2 sides.

25 I do not see that I can live tolerably
26 without affection for nature-- If
27 I feel no softening toward the rocks--
28 what do they signify?

29 I do not think much of that chemistry
30 that can extract corn & potatoes

1 out of a barren--but rather of
2 that chemistry that can extract
3 thoughts & sentiments out of the
4 life of a man on any soil.

5 It is vain to write on the seasons unless
6 you have the seasons in you.

7 Sunday Jan 24

8 Pm Nut⁴³ Meadow Brook--

9 The river is broadly open--as usual
10 this winter-- You can hardly say
11 that we have had any sleighing
12 at all this winter--though 5 or
13 of snow
14 6 inches ^ lay on the ground 5 days after
15 Jan. 6th. But I do not quite
16 like this warm weather & bear ground
17 at this season-- What is a winter
18 with out snow & ice in this latitude
19 The bare earth is unsightly-- This winter
20 is but unburied summer.

21 At that gully or ravine--in the
22 clam shell bank--methinks the
23 sides fall away faster & the winter
24 & such a winter as this when the
25 ground is bare than ever-- The subsoil
26 & sand keeps freezing & thawing & so
27 bursts off--& the larger stones roll down
28 on each side and are collected in
29 a row at the bottom--so that there
30 will be a sort of wall there of stones

⁴³ "Nut" is either crossed out or written over.

1 as big as a hens egg propped up & finally
2 covered with sand.

3 The inside of the swallow holes there ap-
4 pears quite firm yet--& regular--with
5 marks where it was flecked or scratched
6 by the bird & the top is mottled or blotched
7 almost as if made firm in spots by
8 the saliva of the bird. There is a low
9 oven like expansion at the end--& a good
10 deal of stubble for the nest. I find in
11 one an empty black cherry stone & the
12 remains of a cricket or 2-- Prob. a mouse
13 left them there.

14 I see 2 of those black & red-brown fuzzy
15 caterpillars in a mullein leaf on this
16 bare edge hill--which could not have
17 blown from any tree I think. They ap. take
18 one on the RR crossing where it is high in the open meadow
19 refuge in such places.

20 I see a couple of broken small turtle
21 eggs here which have been trodden out
22 of the banks by cows going to drink in
23 the river.

24 At Hosmers tub--spring a small
25 frog is active! //

26 At Nut meadow Brook the small
27 sized water bugs are as abundant %//%
28 & active as in summer. I see 40 or 50 cir-
29 cling together in the smooth & sunny
30 bays all along the brook. This

1 is something new to me. What must
2 they think of this winter? It is like
3 a child waked up & set to playing at
4 midnight. Methinks they are more ready
5 to dive to the bottom when disturbed than
6 usual. At night, of course, they dive to the
7 bottom & bury themselves--and if in the
8 morning they perceive no curtain of
9 ice drawn over their sky--& the pleasant
10 weather continues--they gladly rise again
11 resume
12 & ~~continue~~ their gyrations in some sunny
13 bay amid the alders & the stubble--
14 I think that I never noticed them
15 more numerous--but the fact is I
16 never looked for them so particularly.
17 But I fear for their nervous systems.
18 lest this be too much activity--too
19 much excitement.

20 The sun falling thus warmly for so long
21 on the open surface of the brook--~~lifts~~
22 tempts them upward gradually--till there
23 is a little group gyrating there as in
24 summer-- What a funny way they have
25 take a light &
26 of going to bed. They do not ^ retire upstairs--
27 they go below-- Suddenly it is heels up & heads
28 down and they go down to their muddy bed--
29 & let the unresting stream flow over
30 them in their dreams. They go to bed in
31 another element. What a deep slumber

1 must be theirs and what dreams down
2 in the mud there!
3 So the insect life is not withdrawn far off
4 --but a warm sun would soon entice it forth.
5 Sometimes they seem to have a little difficulty
6 in making the plunge--may be they are too dry
7 to slip under-- I saw one floating on its
8 back, & it struggled a little while before
9 it righted itself. Suppose you were to plot
10 the course of one for a day-- What kind of
11 a figure would it make! Probably this
12 feat too will one day be performed by
13 science--that maid of all work. I see
14 one chasing a mote--& the wave the
15 creature makes always causes the mote
16 to float away from it. I would like to
17 know what it is they communicate to one
18 another--they who appear to value each
19 other's society so much-- How many
20 water bugs make a quorum!-- How
21 many hundreds does their Fourier think
22 it takes to make a complete bug?
23 Where did they get their backs polished
24 so? They will have occasion to remember
25 this year--that winter when we were
26 waked out of our annual sleep!
27 What is their precise hour for retiring?
28 I see stretching from side to
29 side of this smooth brook--where it is

1 massed together in profusion at the
2 base of last years stout blunt twigs
3 pannicls of pale greenish fruit ^ is very
4 interesting & handsome-- It is one of the
5 chief ornaments of the swamps--dry &
6 durable--befitting the season--& always
7 attracts me-- It might be the symbol
8 of a vigorous swamp-- The wood is very
9 br brittle to split down in the forks--&
10 just broken has a strong somewhat liquor-
11 ice like scent. I do not know that any bird eats them.

12 I see a few fishes dart in the brooks.

13 Between winter & summer there is to
14 my mind an immeasurable interval--
15 as when I pry into the old bank swallows
16 ~~hollow~~ holes to day--see the marks of their
17 bills & even whole eggs left at the
18 bottom. it affects me as the phenome-
19 na of a former geological period. Yet
20 perchance the very swallow which layed
21 those eggs will revisit this hole next spring.

22 The upper side of his gallery is a low
23 arch quite firm & durable

24 Like the water bugs--the dormant buds
25 & catkins which over hang the brook
26 ^ might be waked up in mid winter--but these
27 bugs are much the most susceptible to
28 the genial influences.

29 In fact there was a succession of these
30 invisible cables or booms stretched across
31 the stream--though it ran quite swiftly.

32 I noticed at Walden yesterday that

1 when the ice cracked one part was
2 frequently left an eighth of an inch per-
3 haps higher than another & after ward
4 frozen to it in this position. You could
5 both see & ~~fe~~ with your feet feel the ine-
6 quality.

7 Monday 25th

8 A warm moist day-- Thermometer at
9 6 1/2 Pm at 49°+

10 What a rich book might be made about
11 buds--including perhaps sprouts. The impreg-
12 nable vivacious willow catkins but half
13 asleep under the armor of their black scales--
14 sleeping along the twigs--the birch &
15 oak sprouts--& the rank & lusty dog wood
16 sprouts--the round red buds of the blueberry
17 --the small pointed red buds--close to the twig
18 of the pannicled andromeda--the large yellowish
19 buds of the swamp-pink & c e How healthy
20 & vivacious must he be who would treat
21 of these things!

22 You must love the crust of the earth on
23 which you dwell more than the sweet crust
24 of any bread or cake-- You must be able
25 to extracts nutriments out of a sand heap--
26 You must have so good an appetite as this, else you will live in vain--
27 The creditor is servant to his debtor
28 especially if he is about paying his due--
29 I am amused to see what airs men take
30 about themselves when they have money to pay me.

1 No matter how long they have deferred it--
2 They imagine that they are my benefactors
3 or patrons--& send me most graciously
4 that if I will come to their houses they will
5 pay--me--when it is their business to come
6 to me.

7 Jan 26th 58

8 A warm rain from time to time--
9 Pm to Clintonia swamp down the brook--

10 When it rains it is like an April shower.

11 The brook is quite open & there is no snow
12 on the banks or fields-- From time to
13 time I see a trout glance--& some- //

14 times in an adjoining ditch quite a school
15 of other fishes--but I see no tortoises--

16 In a ditch I see very light colored &
17 pretty large lizzards moving about-- //

18 even
19 & I suspect I may ^ have heard a frog drop

20 into the water once or twice.

21 I like to sit still under an umbrella & meditate in the woods in this warm
22 rain--

23 On the side hill at the swamp I see

24 how the common horizontal birch fungus

25 is formed. I see them in all stages & of
26 both on the upper & under side--but always facing the ground
27 all sizes on a dead B. alba--⁴⁷At first

28 you perceive the bark merely raised into

29 a nub & perhaps begun to split & removing

30 a piece of the bark you a fibrous whitish
31 like a mildew in the bark
32 germ ^ as it were of a fundcus⁴⁸ beneath

33 in the decayed wood & bark-⁴⁹ Next you will

34 se the fungus pushed out like a hernia⁵⁰

⁴⁷ Caret positioned under dash

⁴⁸ T probably intended "fungus"

⁴⁹ A line indicates that "bark" and "decayed wood &" to be swapped

⁵⁰ MS pages 66 & 67 are a duplicate copy of pages 64 & 65 (i.e., the last two pages transcribed above). The next page is MS page 68.

1 about the size as well as form of a
2 pea-- At first it is of a nearly uniform con-
3 & homogeneous
4 vex ^ surface above & below--but very soon
5 or while yet no larger than a pea--
6 it begins to show a little horizontal flat
7 disk always on the under side--which
8 you would not suspect without examining
9 it--& the upper surface already begins
10 to be water-- So it goes on pushing out
11 through the bark--further & further--spread-
12 ing & flattening out more & more till it has
13 attained its growth--with a more or less
14 elongated neck to its peninsula: The fungus
15 as it grows fills the rent in the bark
16 very closely--& the edges of the bark are
17 recurved lip-like-- They commonly break off
18 at the junction of the true bark with the
19 wood--bringing away some of the woody fiber.
20 Apparently the spongy decayed bark & wood
21 is their soil.

22 This is lichen day-- the white lichens
23 partly encircling aspens & maples look
24 as if a painter had touched their trunks
25 with his brush as he passed.

26 The yellow birch tree is peculiarly in-
27 teresting. It might be described as a
28 or bole
29 tree whose trunk ^ was covered with golden
30 & silver shavings glued all over it--& dangling
31 in curls. The edges of the curls--like

1 commonly
2 a line of breakers--form ^ diagonal lines up
3 & down the tree--corresponding to the twist
4 of the nerve or grain.

5 Nature loves gradation--trees do not spring
6 abruptly from the earth. Mosses creep
7 up over the insteps of the trees & endeavor to re-
8 claim them.

9 Is not the moccasin a more picturesque &
10 fitter sort of shoe, than ours, in which to
11 Hence the propriety of lacing
12 move amid the herbage--?⁵¹ over the instep--

13 How Protean is life! One may eat
14 & drink & sleep & digest & do the ordi-
15 nary duties of a man & have no excuse
16 for sending for a doctor--& yet he may
17 have reason to doubt if he is as truly alive
18 or his life is as valuable & divine as that
19 of, an oyster. He may be the very best citi-
20 zen in the town--& yet it shall occur to him
21 to prick himself with a pin to see if he is
22 alive. It is wonderful how quiet--harm-
23 less & ineffective a living creature may be.
24 --no more energy may it have than a fungus
25 that lifts the bark of a decaying tree.

26 I raised last summer a squash which
27 weighed 123 1/2 lbs If it had fallen
28 on me it would have made as deep &
29 lasting an impression as most men do.

30 I could just as lief know what it
31 thinks about God--as what most

⁵¹dash combined with question mark

1 men think, or are said to think-- In such
2 a squash you have already got the
3 bulk of a man. My man perchance
4 when I have put such a question to him
5 open his eyes for a moment essays in vain
6 to think like a rusty fire lock out of order--
7 --then calls for a plate of that same
8 squash to eat--and goes to sleep as it
9 is called--& that is no great distance
10 to go surely.

11 Melvin would have sworn he heard a blue-
12 bird the other day--if it hadn't been January.
13 Some say that this particularly warm
14 weather within a few days--is the Jan.
15 thaw--but there is nothing to thaw-- The sand-
16 banks in the deep cut are as dry as in sum-
17 mer.

18 Some men have a peculiar taste for bad
19 words, mouthing & licking them into lumpish
20 shapes like the bear her cubs--^{still}^ words
21 like tribal--& ornamentation--which
22 drag a dead tail after them. They will
23 pick you out of a thousand ~~the~~ still-borne
24 words--the falsettos--the wing-clipt &
25 lame words--as if only the false notes
26 caught their ears. They cry encore
27 to all the discords--

29 The cocks crow in the yard & the
30 hens cackle & scratch all this winter

1 eggs must be plenty.

2 Wednesday Jan 27th 58

3 Pm to Hill & beyond--

4 It is so mild & moist as I saunter along
5 by the wall E of the hill. That I remember
6 or anticipate one of those warm rain storms
7 in the spring, when the earth is just laid bare
8 --the wind is South--& the Kladonia lichens are
9 swollen & lusty with moisture--your foot sinking
10 into them & pressing the water out as from a
11 sponge--& the sandy places also are drinking
12 it in. You wander indefinitely in a beaded
13 coat--wet to the skin of your legs--sit on
14 moss-clad rocks & stumps & hear the lispings
15 of migrating sparrows--flitting amid the shrub-
16 sit hours at a time still & hone your thoughts
17 oaks. ^ A rain which is as serene as
18 fair weather--suggesting fairer weather than
19 was ever seen-- You could hug the clods that
20 defile you. You feel the fertilizing influence
21 of the rain in your mind. The part ^ that
22 of you
23 is wettest is fullest of life like the lichens.
24 You discover evidences of immortality not
25 %cease%
26 known to divines. You %(%leave off%)% to die--You
27 detect some buds & sprouts of life--every step
28 %in the old rye fields%
29 ^ is on virgin soil.

30 And then the rain comes thicker & faster
31 than before--thawing the remaining frost
32 in the ground--detaining the migrating
33 bird--& you turn your back to it--

1 full of serene contended thought--soothed
2 by the steady dropping on the withered leaves--
3 --more at home for being abroad--more
4 comfortable for being wet--sinking at
5 each step deep into the thawing earth--
6 gray
7 gladly breaking through the ^ rotting ice
8 the dullest sounds seem sweetly modu-
9 lated by the air-- You leave your tracks
10 in fields of spring rye--scaring the fox-
11 colored sparrows along the woodsides.--
12 %You cannot go home yet you stay & sit in the {rain}%
13 You glide along the distant woodside--
14 full of joy & expectation--seeing nothing
15 but beauty--hearing nothing but music--
16 as free as the fox-colored sparrow--
17 seeing far ahead--a courageous hight--
18 --a great philosopher--not indebted
19 to any academy or college for this
20 expansion--but chiefly to the April rain
21 which descendeth on all alike.
22 Not encouraged by men in your walks
23 not by the divines--not the professors--
24 and to the law giver an⁵² outlaw.
25 %even%
26 Not encouraged %(%surely%)% when you are
27 reminded of the government at Washing-
28 ton. %v 2 ps forward%
29 Time never passes so quickly & unaccountably
30 as when I am engaged in composition.
31 i.e. in writing down my thoughts. Clocks
32 seem to have been put forward.

⁵² It looks as Thoreau penciled in a more obvious "n" over the "n" in "an"

1 The ground being bare this winter I
2 attend less to buds & twigs. Snow covering
3 the ground secures our attention to twigs &c
4 which rise above it.

5 I notice a pretty large rock on the Lee Farm
6 near the site of the old mill over the Assabet
7 which is quite white & bare with the
8 roots of a maple cut down a few
9 years ago, spreading over it--& a thin
10 dark green crust or mould--a mere
11 patch of soil as big as a dollar in
12 one or 2 places on it-- It is evident
13 that that that rock was covered as
14 much as 3 inches deep with soil--a
15 old
16 for the ^ roots are 2 inches thick
17 few years since ^--⁵³ & that it has been
18 burnt & washed off since ^--leaving the
19 surface bare & white-- There are
20 a few lichens started at one end.

21 As I came home day before
22 yesterday over the RR. causeway--at
23 sunset--the sky was over cast--but
24 beneath the edge of the cloud far in the
25 west was a narrow stripe of clear amber
26 sky coextensive with the horizon--which
27 reached no higher than the top of
28 Wachusett. I wished to know how
29 far off the cloud was by comparing it
30 with the mts. It had somewhat the
31 appearance of setting on the mt con-

⁵³ Caret positioned under dash

1 cealing a part of its summit-- I did not
2 suppose it did--because the clouds
3 over my head were too high for that
4 --but when I turned my head I saw
5 the whole out-line of the mts distinctly.
6 I could not tell how far the edge
7 of the cloud was beyond it--but I
8 think it likely that that amber light
9 came to me through a low narrow sky-
10 light ~~whose~~ the upper sash of whose
11 frame was 40 miles distant.

12 The amount of it is that I saw a cloud more
13 distant than the mt.

14 Steadily the elemental rain falls--drip drip--
15 drip--the mist drives & clears you sight--
16 The wind blows & warms you--sitting on
17 that sandy upland by the edge of the
18 wood--that April day.

19 Jan 28 58--

20 Minott has a sharp ear for the note of any
21 migrating bird--though confined to his door
22 yard by the rheumatism he commonly hears them
23 sooner than the widest rambler--maybe
24 he listens all day for them--or they come
25 %report themselves to him and receive their season ticket%
26 & sing over his house--%^% He is never at fault
27 If he says he heard such a bird--though
28 sitting by his chimney side you may depend
29 on it. He can swear through glass--
30 He has not spoiled his ears by attending

1 lectures or caucuses &c The other day the rumor
2 went that a flock of geese had been
3 (mid winter as it was by the Almanac)
4 seen flying north over Concord. %^% {~~---~~} I
5 traced it to Minott & yet I was compelled
6 to doubt. I had it directly that he had heard
7 I made haste to him-- His reputation was at stake
8 them within a week-- I saw him--^ He said that
9 he stood in his shed--it was one of the late
10 warm muggy April like mornings--when he
11 heard one short but distinct honk of a {~~wild~~}
12 goose. He went into the house, he took his
13 cane--he exerted himself--or that sound imparted
14 to him⁵⁴
15 strength lame as he was he went up onto the
16 he had not done it for a year
17 hill--⁵⁵ that he might hear all around--
18 he saw nothing but he heard the note--again--
19 It came from over the brook And hence
20 It was a wild goose--he was sure of it ^.
21 He thought that the back of the winter was broken--if it had any
22 this year--but he feared such a winter
23 the rumor spread & grew-⁵⁶ would kill him too--
24 silent reflected
25 I was lost-- I pondered-- v⁵⁷ I abandoned myself
26 I drew into ~~all~~ my mind all its members--like the tortoise
27 to unseen Guides-- Suddenly the truth flashed
28 on me--& I remembered that within a
29 week I had heard (that there is⁵⁸) a box
30 at the tavern which had come by RR ex-
31 press--{~~directed~~} containing 3 wild geese & di-
32 rected to his neighbor over the brook. The
33 april-like morning had excited one so that
34 he honked. And Minott's reputation acquired
35 new⁵⁹ luster
36 He has a propensity to tell stories which you
37 have no ears to hear--which you cut short
38 & return unfinished upon him-- He is obscure
39 This is the worst thing I know of him.

⁵⁴ "to him" is actually written in a tiny hand between "strength" and "lame"

⁵⁵carat positioned under dash

⁵⁶ mark separates interlined material here

⁵⁷inverted carat

⁵⁸"is" written over "was"

⁵⁹possibly "more"

1 I notice much cotton-like down attached
2 to the long curled up seed vessels of the Epi-
3 lobium angustifolium--such as I think I have seen
4 used in some birds' nests.

5 It has been spitting a little snow
6 today--& we were uncertain whether it
7 would increase or turn to rain. Coming
8 thro' the village at 11 pm--the sky is
9 (perhaps thin)
10 completely overcast--and the ^ clouds are
11 somewhat
12 very distinctly pink or reddish--^ as if reflecting
13 a distant fire--but this phenomenon
14 is universal all round & over head.
15 I suspect there is a red aurora
16 borealis behind.

17 Jan 29th 58

18 Pm to Great Meadows at Copan--

19 It is considerably colder. I go through
20 //
21 the northerly part of Beck Stows
22 --N of the new Road. For a great distance
23 it is an exceedingly dense thicket of
24 blueberry bushes--& the shortest way is
25 to bend down bushes 8 feet high & tread
26 on them. The small red & yellow
27 buds--the maze of gray twigs--
28 the green & red sphagnum--the con-
29 spicuous yellowish buds of the swamp pink
30 valves of its
31 with it's the diverging ^ seed vessels--the dried
32 choke berries still common--these
33 and the like are the attractions--

1 The cranberry rising red above the
2 ice--is seen to be allied to the water
3 andromeda--but is yet redder--

4 The leaves of a black {oack} which died in
5 the fall will not only hold on but be less
6 withered & of a much livelier yellow
7 now.

8 In the ditches on Holbrooks meadow near
9 Copan--I see a rana palustris swimming //
10 and much conferva greening all the water.

11 Even this green is exhilarating--like a
12 spring in winter. I am affected by the
13 sight even of a mass of conferva in a
14 ditch. I find some radical potamogeton
15 leaves 6 inches long {drawing} under
16 water, which look as if growing

17 Found some splendid fungi on
18 old aspens used for a fence--quite
19 firm--reddish white above & bright
20 vermillion beneath--or perhaps more scarlet
21 reflecting various shades as it is turned.
22 It is remarkable that the upper side of
23 the fungus, which must, as here, commonly
24 be low on decaying wood--so that we look
25 down on it--is not bright colored nor
26 handsome--& it was only when I had broken
27 it off & turned it--over that I was
28 surprised by its brilliant color-- This intense
29 vermillion ? face which would be known

1 to every boy in the town, if it were
2 turned upward faces the earth--&
3 is discovered only by the curious naturalist.
4 Its ear is turned down--listening to the
5 honest praises of the earth. It is like
6 a light red velvet or damask. These silent
7 & motionless fungi with their ears turned ever
8 downward toward the earth--revealing their
9 bright colors perchance only to the prying natur-
10 alist who turns them upward--remind me
11 of the "Hear-all" of the story.

12 Jan 30th 58

13 Pm to Gowing's swamp--

14 I thought it would be a good time to rake
15 in the mud of that central--^{pool}⁶⁰ & see what
16 animal or vegetable life might be there
17 now that it is frozen-- I supposed that
18 tortoises & frogs might be buried in the
19 mud. The pool where there is nothing but
20 water & sphagnum to be seen & where you
21 cannot go in the summer--is about 2 rods
22 with that large seeded sedge in a border a rod wide about it
23 long & 1 1/2 wide. ^ Only 1/3 of this (on one side)⁶¹ appears
24 as water now, the rest a level bed of green
25 sphagnum frozen {with⁶²} the water, though
26 rising 3 to 4 inches above the general level
27 here & there-- I cut a hole through the
28 ice, about 3 inches thick, in what above
29 appeared to be water--& after raking
30 out some sphagnum found that I

⁶⁰ carat positioned under dash

⁶¹ "(on one side) squeezed in between "this" and "appears"

⁶² It appears as though another word may be written over "with"

1 could not fairly reach the mud & tortoises--if
2 though my rake was 5 foot & 9 inches long
3 there are any there--^ but with the sphag-
4 num I raked up several kinds of bugs or in-
5 sects-- I then cut a hole through the
6 frozen sphagnum nearer the middle of the
7 pool--though I supposed it would be a
8 mere mass of sphagnum with compara-
9 tively little water--& more mud--nearer the
10 surface-- To my surprise I found clear
11 water under this crust of sphagnum to
12 about 5 feet in depth--but still I could
13 not reach the mud with my rake through
14 the more decayed sphagnum beneath--
15 I returned to the thicket & cut a maple
16 about 18 feet long--this dropped down
17 5 or 6 feet--& then with a very slight pressure
18 I put down the whole length. I then
19 went to the thicket again--searched
20 a long while for a suitable pole--&
21 at last cut another maple 30
22 feet long & between 4 & 5 inches thick
23 at the but--sharpened & trimmed &
24 carried it on my shoulder to the spot
25 & rough as it was it went down with
26 very little pressure as much as 20 feet
27 & with a little more pressure 26 feet
28 & there I left it--for I had {measured} it first ^
29 & one inch--^ If the top had not been
30 so small that it bent in my hands
31 I could probably have forced it much
32 further--

1 I suspect that the depth of mud &
2 water under where I walk in summer
3 on the water andromeda-- A. polifolia⁶³--
4 --Kalmia glauca--sphagnum &c--is about
5 the same. The whole swamp would
6 flow off down an inclined plane.
7 Of course there is room enough for frogs
8 & turtles, safe from frost.

9 I noticed that the sap flowed very freely
10 //
11 from one of the maples which I cut.

12 In the meanwhile the hole which
13 I had first cut had skimmed over-- I stooped
14 to look at the ice crystals-- The thin
15 skimming which did not yet cover the whole
16 surface--was minutely marked with feathers
17 as in the frost in windows in the morning--
18 The crystallization was as usual in deep
19 some
20 furrows ^ 1/3 of an inch wide & finely grained
21 or channelled longitudinally--these commonly
22 intersected each other so as to form triangles
23 of various sizes--and it was remarkable
24 that there was an elevated spaces between
25 the sides of the triangle--which in some
26 cases was not yet frozen--while you
27 could see & feel the furrow where the
28 crystals had shot on each side much
29 lower-- The water crystallizes in certain planes
30 only--

31 It seems then that sphagnum will grow

⁶³Likely a misspelling of "polifolia"

1 beneath which there is almost clear
2 water--& under that an exceedingly
3 thin mud-- There can be no soil
4 above that mud--& yet there were
5 3 or 4 laurel trees 3 feet high or more
6 between these holes, or over exactly
7 & there are small spruce nearby
8 the same water--^ For aught that appears
9 the swamp is as deep under the andromeda
10 as in the middle. The 2 andromedas &
11 the Kalmia glauca may be more truly said
12 to grow in water than in soil there--
13 When the surface of a swamp shakes for
14 a rod around you--you may conclude
15 that it is a network of roots 2 or 3 feet
16 thick resting on water over very thin mud.
17 The surface of that swamp--composed in
18 great part of sphagnum--is really floating.
19 It evidently begins with sphagnum which
20 floats on the surface of clear water--&
21 accumulating at length affords a basis
22 for their large seeded sedge (?) andromedas
23 &c-- The filling up of a swamp then
24 in this case at least--is not the result
25 of a deposition of vegetable matter washed
26 into it--settling to the bottom & leaving the
27 surface clear--so filling it up from the
28 bottom to the top-- But the vegetation
29 first extends itself over it as a film
30 which gradually thickens till it sup-

1 ports shrubs--& completely conceals the water--
2 --& the under part of this crust drops to the
3 bottom--so that it is filled up first at
4 the top & the bottom--& the middle part is
5 the last to be reclaimed from the water--
6 Perhaps this swamp is in the process of
7 becoming peat. This swamp has been
8 partially drained by a ditch.

9 I fathomed also 2 rods within the edge
10 of the blueberry bushes, in the path--but
11 I could not force a pole down more than
12 8 ft 5/12--so it is much more solid there
13 & the blueberry bushes require a firmer soil than the
14 water andromeda.

15 This is a regular quag or shaking surface--
16 and in this way evidently floating islands are
17 formed-- I am not sure but that meadow with
18 all its bushes in it--would float a man-of-
19 war--

20 Feb 2nd 58

21 Still rains after a rainy night with a //
22 little snow--forming slosh-- As I return
23 from the P.O. I hear the hoarse robin like chirp
24 of a song-sparrow on Cheney's ground--& see //
25 him perched on the top most twig of a heap of
26 brush--looking forlorn & drabbled & solitary in
27 the rain

1 Feb 3rd 58

2 Pm to Conantum--

3 I notice that the corner posts of the Old Conantum
4 house which is now being pulled down were all
5 set but up & are considerably larger at that
6 end.

7 I do not see this year--& I do not know
8 that I ever have seen--any unseasonable
9 swelling of the buds of indigenous plants in
10 mild winters-- I think that herbaceous
11 plants show less greenness than usual
12 this winter, having been more exposed for want
13 of a snowy covering.

14 Feb 4th

15 Pm to C. Miles swamp--

16 // Discover--the Ledum latifolium quite abundant over
17 a space about 6 rods in diameter just E of
18 the small pond-hole--growing with--The Andromeda
19 calyculata--polifolia--Kalmia glauca &c
20 The A. polifolia is very abundant about the
21 pond-hole--some of it very narrow leaved & dark
22 even black above as if burnt.

23 The ledum bears a general
24 resemblance
25 to the water andromeda--with its dark--
26 reddish--purplish--or rather mulberry
27 leaves--reflexed--but nearer it is dis-
28 tinguished by its coarseness--the perfect
29 tent form of its upper leaves--

1 conspicuous terminal
2 & the large ^ roundish (strictly oval) red
3 buds, nearly as big as the swamp pink's
4 woolly woolly
5 but rounded-- The ^ stem for a couple of
6 inches beneath the bud is frequently bare
7 and conspicuously club-shaped. The rust on
8 the undersides of the leaves seems of a
9 lighter color than that of Maine-- The seed
10 vessels (which open at the base first) still
11 hold on-- This plant might easily be con-
12 founded with the water andromeda--by a
13 careless observer-- When I showed it to a
14 teamster he was sure that he had seen it
15 often in the woods, but the sight of the
16 woolly underside staggered him.

17 There are many small spruce thereabouts
18 with small twigs & leaves--an abnormal
19 growth reminding me of strange species of
20 evergreen from California, China &c

21 I brought some home & had a cup of tea
22 slight
23 made--which in spite of a ~~decided~~ piney
24 or turpentine flavor-- I thought unexpectedly
25 good--

26 An abundance of Nesaea on the E edge of
27 the pond hole (call it ledum pond hole)
28 %Elodea%
29 & is that a lysimachia mingled with it.? //

30 The ledum does not grow amid the
31 maples--(nor indeed does the A. polifolia
32 --Kalmia glauca--nor even the water
33 andromeda abundantly--) It bears no more

1 shade than that of the spruce trees
2 which doe not prevail over the above
3 named shrubbery. As usual with the
4 finding of new plants--I had a pre-
5 sentiment that I should find the ledum
6 in Concord. It is a remarkable fact
7 that in the case of the most interesting
8 plants which I have discovered in this
9 vicinity, I have anticipated finding
10 them perhaps a year before the dis-
11 covery.

12 Feb 5th

13 Pm to Boaz's meadow--

14 There is a plenty of that handsome seeded
15 //grass which I think Tarbell called
16 %prob glyceria%
17 goose grass in the meadow S of the road-
18 way--at Boaz's meadow--also in the
19 meadows far north in the woods--& some⁶⁵ in
20 Minot Pratt's meadow--

21 Feb 7th 58

22 Aunt Louisa has talked with Mrs monroe
23 & I can correct & add to my account of Jan
24 23rd-- She says that she was only 3 or 4
25 years old & that she went to school
26 with aunt Elizabeth & one other child
27 named Turner
28 to a woman ^--~~in~~ somewhere in Boston--
29 who kept a spinning wheel agoing
30 while she taught thes 3 little children

⁶⁵It looks as though "some" is written over "in"

1 she remembers that one sat on a lignum
2 vitae mortar turned bottom up--another
3 on a box & the 3d on a stool--& then
4 repeated the account of Jennie Burns bringing
5 her little daughter to the school as before. v 4 ps forward

6 I observed yesterday in that oak ^
7 stump on the ditch bank by Trillium wood
8 (which I counted the rings of once) that between the
9 20th & 27th rings there was only about 3/7
10 of an inch, though before & after this it
11 grew very fast & seven spaces would
12 make nearly 2 inches. The tree was growing
13 lustily--till 20 years old & then for 7 years
14 it grew only 1/4 or 1/5 part as fast
15 as before & after-- I am curious to know
16 what happened to it.

17 Pm to Cliffs

18 Through Wheelers pasture on the hill
19 gray
20 This new pasture with ^ stumps standing
21 thickly in the now sere sward--reminds
22 me of a grave-yard. And on these
23 monuments you can read each tree's
24 name, when it was born (if you know when
25 it died) how it throve & how long it
26 lived-- whether it was cut down in full
27 vigor--or after the infirmities of age
28 had attacked it.

29 I am surprised to find the Epigaea⁶⁶ on //
30 this hill at the NW corner of C Hubbard's (?)

⁶⁶ It looks like the "p" in "Epigaea" was pencilled in later

1 lot--i.e the large wood. It extends a rod
2 or so, & is probably earlier there than where
3 I have found it before-- Some of the buds
4 show a very little color. The leaves have
5 lately been much eaten--I suspect by partridges.
6 or golden
7 Little mounds ~~of~~ or tufts of yellowish ^ moss
8 in the young woods look like sunlight
9 on the ground--

10 If possible come upon the top of a hill
11 unexpectedly--perhaps through woods--
12 & then see off from it to the distant earth
13 which lies behind a bluer veil--before
14 you can see directly down it, i.e. bringing
15 its own near top against the distant
16 landscape--

17 In the F. H. orchard I see the small
18 //
19 botrichium still fresh--but quite dark
20 reddish--

21 The bark of the Populus grandidentata
22 there is a green clay color.

23 Feb 8th 58
24 Pm to Walden & Goose Pond

25 The ground is so completely bare this winter
26 & therefore the leaves in the woods so dry
27 that on the 5th ult. there was a fire
28 in the woods by Walden (Wheelers)
29 & 2 or 3 acres were burned over--set
30 prob. by the engine-- Such a burning
31 as commonly occurs in the spring.

1 The ice which J. Brown is now getting for his
2 ice house from J. Barretts's is from 8 to 9+ inches
3 thick--but I am surprised to find that Walden ice
4 is only 6 inches thick or even a little less--& it //
5 You can almost drive an axe thro' it at one blow.
6 has not been thicker--^ In many places about
7 the shore it is open a dozen feet wide--as
8 when it begins to break up in the spring.

9 I observe as usual the shore heaved
10 up near where my house was. It is evidently
11 the result of it thawing-- It is lifted up
12 with an abrupt nearly perpendicular edge
13 nearly a foot high--(but looks as if
14 it had been crowded up by the ice) while the
15 part under water prob has not been frozen,
16 or not been thawed. But in the water
17 close to the shore I observe singular dimples
18 in the sand--sometimes perfectly circular tunnels &c
19 as if a stone had been turned round & round & then
20 lifted out. Perhaps this ridge thus lifted
21 up--remains somewhat loose through the
22 summer--not falling entirely back--&
23 the next winter therefore freezes yet deeper
24 & is heaved up yet higher--& so gains
25 a little from year to year. Thus a pond
26 may create a barrier for itself ~~between~~
27 along an adjacent meadow. When it thus
28 lifts up the shore, it lifts the trees with
29 it & they are upset.

30 At little goose Pond--where I am

1 surprised to find the ice not thicker than
2 at Walden-- I raked in the middle--
3 & brought up the branches of white pines
4 2 inches thick but perfectly sound 4 rods
5 or more from the shore-- The wood has
6 been cut about 17 years, on one side &
7 at least
8 prob. 12 or 14 on the other--& the present
9 growth is oak-- These were the tops of
10 pines that formerly fell into the pond--
11 They would long since decayed on land.

12 I walked about Goose Pond looking
13 for the large blueberry bushes-- I see
14 many which have 30 rings of annual
15 growth-- These grow quite on the edge
16 where they have escaped being cut with
17 the wood--& have all the appearance
18 of age--gray & covered with lichens
19 commonly crooked--zig-zag--& inter-
20 so that when you have cut one off it is hard to extract it.
21 twisted with their neighbors ^--& bending
22 over--nearly to the ice--with (trusty) young
23 shoots running up straight by their
24 sides-- I cut one which measured
25 8 1/2 inches in circumference at the but--
26 & I counted pretty accurately 42 rings--
27 From another I cut a straight & sound club
28 4 feet long & 6 1/2 inches in circumference at
29 the small end. It is a heavy & close grained wood

30 This is the largest of the Vaccinieae which
31 grows here, or is described in Gray's Botany.

1 Some may have borne fruit before I was born
2 & odd
3 --or 40 ^ years ago. Older than any culti
4 vated fruit trees. Nobody could tell me what
5 kind of wood it was. The biggest pannicled
6 andromeda that I saw there abouts was
7 only little more than an inch in diameter--& ap
8 not half as old-- It has a much more yellow
9 wood--& with a twist to its grain.

10 Mrs Monroe says that her mother
11 respected my Grandfather very much because he
12 was a religious man. She remembers his calling
13 one day & inquiring ~~for blue~~ where blue vervain
14 grew--which he wanted to make a syrup
15 for his cough-- --& she a girl happening to
16 know--ran & gathered some.

17 Feb. 9th 58

18 Am to Old Hunt House with Thatcher--
19 The stairs of this old back porch are
20 wht pine or spruce--each the half of a square
21 log {drawing}--those of the cellar in front oak
22 of the same form. There is no ridge pole
23 whatever--not even a board--but a steep roof
24 & some of the rafters are oak saplings
25 ^ hewn & showing a good deal of bark
26 & scarcely 3 inches diameter at the small
27 end--yet they have sufficed.

28 Saw at Simon Browns a sketch ap
29 made with a pen on which was written
30 "Concord Jail, near Boston America".
31 & on a fresher piece of paper on

1 which the above was pasted was written
2 ld
3 "The jail in which General Sir Arch
4 Campbell & = Wilson were confined
5 when taken off Boston in America by
6 a French privateer."

7 A letter on the back side--from Mr Lewis
8 of Framingham to Mr Brown--stated that
9 he Lewis, had received the sketch from
10 the grandson of Wilson who drew it.

11 You are suppose to be in the jail yard or
12 close to it westward--& see the old jail
13 gamble roofed-- The old Hurd house (partly)
14 west of the grave yard-- The graveyard &
15 Dr Hurd House--& over the last & to the
16 N of it a wooded hill--at Windmill
17 Hill--& just N of the Hurd House beyond
18 it ap the Court house & school house
19 & the road to the battle ground
20 ^{^67} each with belfries^--& a distant farm house
21 on a hill Franche's or Buttricks--perhaps

22 ~~Feb. 10th '58~~ 9th still
23 // Begins to snow at noon & about 1 inch falls
24 whitening the ground--

25 Feb 10th
26 // Grows cold toward night & windy--

27 Feb 11th
28 At 3 Pm it is 11°+ & windy--
29 //I think it is the coldest day of this winter.
30 //The river channel is now suddenly & generally
31 frozen over for the first time.

⁶⁷ Caret crossed out.

1 Pm to Hill
2 The water in the pitcher plant leaves
3 is⁶⁸ frozen--but I see none burst--
4 They are very tightly filled & smooth--ap.
5 stretched.
6 The leaves of the round leaved pyrola
7 --so exposed this winter--look not only dark
8 but as if frozen-- I am not sure that they
9 I think not--
10 are stiffened however ^-- I see that the
11 hemlock leaves also have this frozen
12 or frozen-thawed-cadaverous look--dark
13 & slightly imbrowned--esp. the most exposed
14 twigs, while some sheltered ones are still a bright
15 green. The same is the case even with the
16 white pines--&, as far as I observe, other ever-
17 greens. There is a change in their leaves
18 with cold weather--corresponding to the
19 reddening & darkening of chokeberry &
20 pyrola leaves-- This change, though they
21 do not fall,--& are to some extent affected
22 even as those ~~leaves~~ trees (which) (like the
23 oaks) retain a part of their leaves during
24 the winter in a withered state--i.e. they have
25 begun to wither or be killed-- I have often
26 before noticed that the pines when cold
27 weather came were of a darker & duller
28 green--somewhat like a frozen apple.
29 In the hemlock, at least, there is a positive
30 tendency to redness-- The evergreens then, though

⁶⁸ Written over "are"?

1 they do not fall the first year, lose their
2 original summer greenness. They are
3 changed & partially killed by the cold like
4 pyrola & checkerberry & lambkill--& even,
5 in a degree, like oak-leaves-- Perhaps
6 the pitch pine is the least affected.

7 Cut a club of celtis wood-- It is hard
8 but I think, brittle.

9 The celastrus (wax work-) is a soft
10 spongy & flexible wood-- Though of very
11 slow growth. You can easily sink your
12 knife into it. I count ^{the heart wood of} 25 rings in ^ one
13 which is not quite an inch in diameter
14 In the sap there is no evidence of rings at all

15 Feb. 12th 58

16 // Colder than yesterday morning--perhaps
17 the coldest of the winter.

18 Pm to Ledum Pond--

19 Those small holes in the ground--musquash--
20 mice &c--thickly beset with crystals of
21 frost--remind me of the invisible vapor rising
22 thence which may be call Earth's-breath--
23 though you might think it were the breath
24 of a mouse. In cold weather you ^{see} ^ not
25 only mens beards & the hair about the
26 muzzles of oxen whitened with their
27 frozen⁶⁹ breath, but countless holes in the
28 banks--which are the nostrils of the
29 earth--white with the frozen earth's
30
31

⁶⁹"frozen" squeezed into the margin

1 breath.

2 About the Ledum pond hole there is an
3 abundance of that abnormal growth of
4 the spruce-- Instead of a regular free
5 & open growth--you have a multitude
6 putting out from the summit or side of the stem
7 of slender branches crowded together ^ & shooting
8 up nearly perpendicularly--with dense fine wiry
9 branchlets & pine needles which have
10 an impoverished look--all together
11 forming a broom-like mass--very
12 much like a heath.

13 There is ap. more of the andromeda
14 polifolia in that swamp than any
15 where else in Concord.

16 Feb 13th

17 Last night said to have been a little colder
18 than the night before--%& the coldest hitherto%

//

19 Pm ride to Cafferty's Swamp

20 The greatest breadth ~~along~~th of the swamp
21 appears to be N Easterly from Adams's

22 There is much Pannicled andromeda
23 in it--some 12 feet high--& as I
24 count ¹⁷ ~~28~~ years old--with yellowish wood.

26 I saw 3 tupelos in the swamp each
27 about 1 foot in diameter and all within
28 2 rods-- In those parts of the swamp
29 where the bushes were not so high
30 but that I could look over them--
31 I observed that the swamp was variously

1 shaded or painted even--like a rug--
2 with the sober colors running gradually
3 colored
4 into each other--by the ^ recent shoots
5 which grow densely
6 of various shrubs ^--as the red blue-
7 berry & the yellowish brown pannicled an-
8 dromeda-- --& the dark brown or blackish
9 prinus verticillatus & the chokeberry &c
10 Stand on a level with those shrubs--you
11 could see that these colors were only
12 a foot or so deep--, ac. to the length
13 of the shoots. So too oftener would the
14 forests appear if we oftener stood
15 above them.

16 How often vegetation is either yellow or
17 red--as the buds of the swamp pink--the
18 leaves of the pitcher plant--&c &c & to day I
19 notice yellow-green recent shoots of high
20 blueberry.

21 Observed a coarse dense-headed grass in
22 the meadow at Stows Old Swamp lot.

23 What did the birds do for horse {here}⁷⁰ formerly!
24 // Feb. 14 about 1 inch of snow falls--
25 Feb 15th

26 To Cambridge & Boston

27 Saw at a menagerie--a Canada Lynx
28 --said to have been taken at the White mts
29 It looked much like a monstrous Gray Cat
30 standing on stilts with its tail cut clean⁷¹ to
31 5 inches--a tuft of hair {~~at the~~} on each
32 ear & a muffler (or ruff) under the throat.

⁷⁰ Perhaps T intended "hair"?

⁷¹ 1906 has "down"

1 Feb. 18th

2 I find Walden ice to be 9 1/2+ inches thick--
3 having gained 3 1/2 inches since the 8th ult.

4 The rubus hispidus (sempervirens of Big)
5 is truly evergreen. There has been so little
6 snow this winter that I have noticed it the
7 more--red-glossy--& as it were, plaited.

8 I see the ice--3 inches thick--heaved up
9 lenth-wise 18 inches or more in hight--
10 near the shore--yet where the water is too
11 deep for the bottom to have been heaved--
12 as if some steam had heaved it.

13 At Brister's further spring--the water,
14 which trickles up in various directions
15 between & around little mounds of green
16 grass half frozen--when it reaches
17 the more mossy ground runs often between
18 2 perpendicular walls of ice, as at the
19 bottom of a cañon, the top of these
20 perfectly square edged bank being covered
21 with the snow that magically covered
22 the ground--(otherwise undisturbed) &
23 extending several feet on each side at
24 the same level. These icy cliffs are of
25 a loose crystalline composition--with
26 many parallel horizontal seams--
27 as if built up-- I suppose that
28 the water flows just under the moss--&
29 freezing heaves it one stage--then the

1 next night, perchance, new water flowing
2 //under neath, heaves the whole another
3 stage & so on steadily lifting it up.
4 Far from here I see The surface of reeds & mud lifted up in like manner where there
5 is no canon
6 or rill but a puddle

7 Geo. Minott tells me that he
8 when young used often to go to a store
9 by the side of where Bigelow's Tavern was
10 & kept by Ephraim Jones-- The Goodknow
11 store. That was prob. the one kept
12 by my old trader. Told me how Carey
13 who was a slave to a man who lived
14 ~~Whittaker~~ I believe Whitney
15 where Hawthorne owns ^--the same house
16 who was chopping in the yard
17 before the revolution--ran off one Sunday--
18 Whittaker's⁷² boy threw snowballs at him the day before & finally C.^ threw his
19 axe at him
20 & W said he was an ugly nigger--& he must put him in jail--
21 was pursued by the neighbors & hid himself
22 in the river up to his neck till night
23 across
24 fall just ~~beyond~~ the great ~~fields~~ mead-
25 ows. He ran thro' Gowing's swamp--
26 & came back that night to a Mrs Cogs-
27 well who lived where Charles Davis does
28 & got something to eat--then cleared
29 far away--enlisted--& was freed as
30 a soldier after the war. He may have
31 been 20 years old when stolen from Africa
32 left--a wife & one child there.
33 Used to say that he went home to Africa
34 in the night & came back again in the
35 morning--i.e. he dreamed of home.
36 Lived to be old. Called Thanksgiving
37 "Tom Kiver"

⁷² T probably means "Whitney's," as his correction on line 14 implies

1 Feb 19th 58

2 Coldest morning this winter by our therm. //
3 3°--at 7 1/2

4 The traveller is defended & callused--
5 he deals with surfaces--has a great
6 coat on-- But he who stays at home
7 & writes about homely things--gives us
8 naked & tender thoughts & sentiments.

9 Feb. 20th

10 Snows all day. The most wintry day //
11 of the winter-- Yet not more than 3 inches
12 on a level is fallen.

13 We hear the names of the worthies of
14 Concord--Squire Cumings⁷³ & the rest--
15 but the poor slave Casey seems to have
16 lived a more adventurous life than any
17 of them-- Squire Cumings probably never had
18 to run for his life on the plains of Concord.

19 Feb. ~~28th~~ 24th

20 ~~From to White Pond~~-- I see at Minott
21 Pratt's Rhodora in bloom in a pitcher
22 with water andromeda. Went through
23 that long swamp N. E. of Brook's meadow.
24 Interesting & peculiar wetter clumps
25 or masses of panicled andromeda
26 uniformly
27 with light brown stems topped ^ with
28 very distinct yellow-brown recent
29 shoots 10 or 12 inches long with minute
30 red buds sleeping close along them.

⁷³ 1906 has "Cuming," but the "s" is conspicuous in the MS

1 This uniformity in such masses gives a pleasing
2 tinge to the swamp's surface-- Wholesome
3 colors which wear well-- I see quite
4 a number of emperor moth cocoons
5 attached to this shrub--some hung round
6 with a loose mass of leaves as big as my
7 2 fists-- What art in the red-eye
8 to make these 2 adjacent maple
9 twigs serve for the rim of its pensil
10 basket--in weaving them! Surely it
11 finds a place for itself in Nature
12 between the 2 twigs of a maple.

13 On the side of the meadow moraine just
14 N of the boulder field--I see barberry
15 bushes 3 inches in diameter & 10 ft high
16 What a surprising color this wood has. It
17 splits & splinters very much when I bend it.
18 I cut a cane & shaving off the outer bark
19 --it is of imperial yellow--as if painted--
20 fit for a Chinese Mandarin--

21 Feb 25th

22 // Ice at Walden 11 inches thick & very soggy
23 sinking to a level with the water--though there
24 is but a trifling quantity of snow on it.
25 Does it not commonly begin to be soggy even
26 thus early & thick? sinking deeper. I hear
27 of sudden openings in ponds--as at Cochitu
28 ate--this year--

29 Feb. 27th

30 Am to Hill--

1 The hedges on the hill are all--cut off--
2 The journals think they cannot say too much
3 on improvements in husbandry--it is a
4 safe theme--like piety. But for me--
5 as for some of these farms--brushed up--
6 a model farm, I had as lief see a
7 patent churn & a man turning it. It
8 is simply a place where somebody is making
9 money.

10 I see a snow bunting though it is pleasant //
11 & warm--

12 Feb. 28th

13 Pm to White Pond-- I see 24 cones brought
14 together under one pitch-pine in a field--
15 evidently gnawed off by a squirrel--but not
16 opened. Rice says he saw a whistler (?) duck
17 to day. %v before account of winter}%

18 Mar 2 1st⁷⁴

19 The divergent open capsules (?) of the rhodora--
20 yellowish brown are quite interesting when
21 the rain falls on them. We have just had
22 a winter with absolutely no sleighing, which
23 I do not find that any one distinctly remembers
24 the like of-- It may have been as warm before
25 --but with more snow. It was wonderfully
26 warm & pleasant--up to the 10th of Febru-

27 ary--& since then the greatest degree of

28 The ground has been partially covered or whitened only since the 20th
29 cold I have heard of was 4°^ It has

30 been an excellent winter for walking in

31 the swamp--or walking any where--

⁷⁴ "1" written over "2"

1 & for lumbering operations in Maine--
2 there being not too much snow--& yet
3 the swamp &c frozen there.

4 Mar 2nd

5 Snowed last night & this morning--
6 //about 7 inches deep--much more than
7 during the winter--the first truly wintry
8 looking day so far as snow is concerned.
9 but the snow is quite soft or damp--
10 lodging in perpendicular walls on the
11 limbs--white on black. But it is as
12 yet neither wheeling nor sleighing--the
13 ground being muddy.

14 I remember to have seen these⁷⁵ wood lots
15 being cut this winter-- A little on the N SW
16 edge of R. W. E Pinnacle.-- Stows
17 up to E end of Cold pool. N. W. corner of Gowings
18 next great Fields & Moore--an acre or more
19 of the SW part of the Dennis swamp by RR--
20 Cyrus Hosmers S. W. of Desert--& W of Marlboro
21 Road--except N part of last.

22 I walk through the Colburn Farm
23 pine woods by RR--& thence to Rear of
24 John Hosmers-- See a large flock--
25 //of snow buntings--the White-birds of
26 the winter--rejoicing in the snow--
27 I stand near a flock in an open field--
28 They are trotting about briskly over the snow
29 amid the weeds--ap pig weed & Roman worm wood
30 --as it were to keep their toes warm--hopping

⁷⁵ Appears to be underlined in pencil

1 up to the weeds-- Then they restlessly take to
2 wing again & as they wheel about one
3 --it is a very rich sight to see them dressed
4 in black & white uniforms--alternate
5 black & white very distinct & regular--
6 Perhaps no colors would be more effective
7 above the snow--black tips (considerably more) to
8 wings then clear white between this and the
9 back--which is black or very dark again.
10 One wonders if they are aware what a
11 pleasing uniform appearance they
12 make when they show their backs
13 thus-- They alight again equally near
14 Their track is much like a small
15 crow's track--showing a long heel--&
16 furrowing the snow between with their toes.
17 The last new journal thinks
18 that it is very liberal--nay bold, but
19 it dares not publish a child's thought
20 on important subjects--such as life &
21 death & good books. It requires the
22 sanction of the divines just as surely as the
23 tamest journal does. If it had been pub-
24 lished at the time of the famous dis-
25 pute between Christ & the doctors it
26 would have published only the opinions
27 of the doctors & suppressed Christ's.
28 There is no need of a law to check the
29 license
30 ~~freedom~~ of the press-- It is law enough--&
31 more than enough--to itself. Virtually,

1 the community have come together &
2 agreed what things shall be uttered--
3 --have agreed on a platform--& to
4 excommunicate him who departs from
5 it--and not one in a thousand dares
6 utter anything else. There are plenty of
7 journals brave enough to say what they
8 think about the government--this being
9 a free one--but I know of none widely
10 circulated or well conducted--that does
11 say what it thinks about the Sunday
12 or the bible. They have been bribed
13 to keep dark. They are in the service of hy-
14 pocrisy.

15 Mar. † 4th Therm. 14°- this morn.
16 //
17 & this makes decent sleighing of the other-
18 wise soft snow.

19 Father Rales' dictionary of the Abnapki
20 Language--amounts to a very concentrated
21 nat.
22 and trustworthy ^ history of that people--though
23 it was not completed. What they have a word
24 for they have a thing for. A traveller may
25 tell us that he thinks they used a
26 pare-vent⁷⁶--or built their columns in a cer-
27 tain form--or soaked their seed corn in
28 water--or had no beard &c &c but when
29 one gives us their word for these things--
30 that is a clincher
31 the question is settled.^ Let us know which
32 words they had & how they used them

⁷⁶ Index card stapled to MS copy:
March 4, 1858

"pavement" (1906, p. 290) is a misreading for "parevent" [wind-guard]
-appears in Father Rasle's dictionary
(information from Bob Sayre, 5/9/74)

1 so much of unsubdued Indian
2 accent resounding through his speech
3 so much of the bow-arrow tang-- I have
4 no doubt it was a great relief to him
5 & seemed the word best pronounced.

6 He thought his ancestors came from
7 Asia--& was sure that Bhering's Strait
8 was no obstacle--since Indians or his
9 tribe cross Lake Huron⁷⁹ & Superior in
10 birch bark canoes. Thought Indians
11 might be Jews because of a similarity
12 of customs-- When a party of his
13 warriors which to tell an advanced
14 party ^ in ^{concealed} a dangerous position to retreat
15 they shoot an arrow close past them--
16 if to stay they shoot an arrow over
17 their heads--& ^{exactly} ^ this he declared the Jews
18 did. I inferred from his statement that
19 the totem (a deer in his case) takes
20 the place of the surname with us. for
21 he said that his {~~post~~} children would
22 have the same totem. He did not use this
23 word.-- Said they had a secret
24 paternity like the masonic--by which
25 they knew & befriended members anywhere--

26 Had some ornaments of snake skins
27 4 or 6 inch broad with a bead edging--broad belts--
28 ^ worn diagonally across the breast--
29 or for a garter--or for a very large & broad
30 string hands⁸¹ to a bag, passing round the
31 neck--also an otter skin pouch-

⁷⁹ Possibly "Huron"?

⁸⁰ Caret that's been crossed out

⁸¹ Looks like "handle" with the "d" and "l" formed together

1 The bead left {on} was evidently very convenient
2 as well as important--to hold it when caught
3 under the belt-- It was thus very quickly re-
4 turned to its place. Had head feet & all.

5 Had on an eagle-feather cap--i.e. a
6 black
7 band with long ^ eagles feathers {strand}⁸² from
8 it--this not worn every day-- A buffalo
9 blanket
10 skin ^ worked with porcupine quills--

11 Showed the cradle-- The mother cuts a
12 notch in the lower end for each day that passes
13 & one at the top for each moon. If it
14 falls into the water it floats on this--
15 said the first poetry made at Plymouths--
16 was suggested by the sight of this cradle swinging
17 of
18 from a tree. viz Rock a by baby &c

19 Exhibited very handsome birch-bark
20 trays--ornamented with moose hair in-
21 in the false bottom & side
22 worked ^ representing strawberries &--very well-- Only
23 the white hair was not dyed. These were
24 made without communication with the whites--

25 The place the feet of the child in
26 the cradle straight or as they would have
27 them-- Ind. step with the feet straight
28 but whites who toe out--seem to have
29 no use for any toes but the great
30 one in walking. Ind. woven{s} are brought
31 up to toe in-- It is improper for them to
32 through a blow gun
33 toe out. Shot small arrows very
34 straight at an apple arod off-lodging
35 them all in it-- The gun was of elder

⁸² Possibly "stand"

1 with the pith out about six feet long,
2 The arrows quite slender of hard wood
3 with a large & dense cylindrical mass
4 of ~~common~~ thistle down at what is Com-⁸³
5 money the feathered end.

6 The Penobscot who chanced to be Joe
7 Pholis brother, told me that the She-cor-
8 way of the maine lakes was the Shell-
9 drake & that when they call out
10 the moose at night they imitate⁸⁴ the
11 voice of the Cow moose-- That of the
12 bull is very different.

13 The former carried the cradle low down on
14 his back with a strap round his head--& showed
15 how the mother ~~could~~ had both hands
16 free & could chop wood &c with her infant
17 on her back-- The same blanket covered
18 both if necessary--& the child was prevented

19 from being smothered⁸⁵ by the bow over its face holding
20 He regretted that their marriage customs
21 up the blanket. were not so good as ours--that they did not choose
22 for themselves but their parents for them
23 We read the English poets--we study

24 botany & zoology--& Geology--lean
25 an dry as they are--& it is rare that we
26 get a new suggestion-- It is ebb tide with
27 the scientifi⁸⁶ reports Prof-- in the chair
28 we would fain know something more about
29 these ~~sto~~ animals & stones & trees around us.
30 We are ready to skin the animals alive
31 to come at them. Our scientific names

⁸³ Possibly altered "Commonly"

⁸⁴ Stray mark after "imitate"?

⁸⁵ Not sure what word was written before it was changed to "smothered" only that it might have ended with "isly"

⁸⁶ Possibly "scientific"

1 convey a {very} partial information only--
2 they suggest certain thoughts only--
3 It does not occur to me that there are
4 other names for most of these objects
5 given by a people who stand between
6 me & them--who had better senses than
7 our race-- How little I know of that
8 arbor-vitae--when I have learned only what
9 science can tell me⁸⁷-- It is but a word
10 tree
11 It is {not} a thing of life-- But there are
12 20 words for the tree & its different parts which
13 the Indian gave--which are not in our
14 more
15 botanies--which imploy⁸⁸ a ^ practical
16 & vital science. He used it every day--
17 He was well acquainted with its wood--& its
18 bark--& its leaves. No science does
19 more than arrange what knowledge
20 we have of any class of objects-- But
21 generally speaking how much more con-
22 versant was the Indian with any wild
23 animal or plant than we are--and in
24 his language is implied all that
25 intimacy as much as ours is expressed in
26 How many words in our language about the moose--or birch bark! & The like
27 our language-- ^ The Indian stood
28 nearer to wild-nature than we. The wildest
29 ^& noblest
30 ^quadrupeds--even the largest fresh water
31 fishes Some of the wildest & noblest birds--
32 actually
33 & the fairest-flowers--have ^ receded
34 as we advanced--& we have but the

⁸⁷ Possibly "one"

⁸⁸ Possibly "implay" or "imply"

1 which it had kept open--gnawing a white
2 nut-- Now & then it would dive & bring up more
3 I waited for it to dive again--that I might
4 run nearer to it meanwhile--but it sat 10
5 minutes all wet in the freezing wind while
6 & ears
7 my feet ^ grew numb--so tough it is--
8 but at last I got quite near-- When
9 I frightened it--it dove with a sudden
10 slap of its tail-- I feel pretty {sure}⁹² that
11 this is an involuntary movement--the tail
12 by the the sudden turn of the body being brought
13 down on the water or ice like a whip-lash.

14 Mar 6th

15 Pm Up river on ice to F. H Pond--

16 The river is frozen more solidly than during //
17 the past winter--& for the first time for
18 a year I could cross it in most places--
19 I did not once cross it the past winter
20 though by choosing a safe place I might
21 have done so without doubt once or 2ce--

22 But I have had no river walks before--
23 or hawk of any kind
24 I see the first hen hawk ^ methinks since //
25 the beginning of winter-- Its scream even is
26 in spring as the voice of a spring bird.

27 That light spongy bark about the base of
28 the Nesaea appears to be good timber. I have
29 only to touch one end to a coal--& it all burns up
30 slowly without blazing in whatever position held--
31 & even after being dipped in water.

⁹² Possibly "shere"

1 Mar 7th

2 Walking by the river this pm--it being
3 half open--& the waves running pretty high--
4 the black waves--yellowish where they break over
5 ice-- I inhale a fresh meadowy spring
6 odor from them which is a little exciting.
7 It is like the fragrance of tea to an
8 old tea-drinker--

9 Mar 8th

10 Went to a concert of instrument{al}⁹³ music
11 this evening. The imitations of the horn & the
12 echo by the violincello--were very good-- --
13 but the rounds of the clarionet were the
14 most liquid & melodious-- It is a powerful
15 instrument & filled the hall--realizing
16 my idea of the {~~shep~~} shepherd's pipe--
17 It was a conduit of gurgling melody--
18 but it apparently required a great effort
19 of the lungs. Its sounds entered every
20 cranny of the hall & filled it to repletion
21 with sweet liquid melody. There was
22 no squeaking no jarring string--no fuzzy
23 breathing--no rattling stops--but pure
24 melody--flowing in its ~~own~~ invisible &
25 impapable⁹⁴ channels.

26 Mar 9th about 3 inches more
27 of snow fell last night--which added to about
28 //5 of the old--makes 8 or more than before
29 ~~within~~ since last spring--Pretty good sleighing.

⁹³ Suffix possibly "al", "or", "ors", "er", or "ers"

⁹⁴ Possible misspelling of "impalpable"?

1 The state commonly grants⁹⁵ a tract of
2 forest to make⁹⁶ an academy out of--but
3 the groves of the academy are straightway cut
4 down--& that institution is built of ~~the~~ its
5 lumber--its coarsest & least valuable
6 part-- And as for the public domains
7 if any body neglected his civil duties during
8 the last war--he is priveleged to cut &
9 stash these--he is let loose against the
10 well-behaved trees--as if the liberty he
11 had defended was derived from liber bark
12 & meant the liberty to bark the trees--

13 Mar 14th--

14 Pm I see a{n} F. hiemalis--the first bird //
15 perchance--unless one hawk--which is an
16 evidence of spring--though they lingered
17 with us the past unusual winter at least
18 till the 19th of January-- they are now getting
19 back earlier than our permanent ^ residents--
20 It flits past with a rattling or grating chip--
21 showing its 2 white tail feathers--

22 The sleighing which began the 4th of
23 March is now ~~about~~ done. The only sleighing //
24 since the winter⁹⁷ of 56-7.

25 I hear that many cherry birds have been //
26 seen-- I think I have seen many more
27 tracks of skunks within 2 or 3 weeks than
28 all the winter before--as if if they were partially
29 dormant here in the winter--& came out
30

⁹⁵ Unclear, but appears to be "grants"

⁹⁶ "to make" possibly altered or written over something else

⁹⁷ Looks like "winte"

1 very early--i.e. perhaps some of them
2 are more or less dormant.

3 Mar. 16th

4 Pm to Conantum A thick mist--
5 spiriting away the snow-- very bad walking.
6 This fog is one of the first decidedly spring
7 signs--also the withered grass bedewed
8 by it--& wetting my feet-- A still--foggy--
9 & rather warm day. I heard this morning
10 also quite a steady warbling from tree sparrows
11 on the dripping bushes--& that peculiar drawling
12 henish
13 note of a hen--who has this ^ way of expressing
14 her content at the sight of bare ground &
15 mild weather-- The crowing of cocks & the
16 cawing of crows tell the same story. The
17 ice is soggy & dangerous to be walked on--

18 How conversant the Indian who lived⁹⁸
19 out of doors--who lay on the ground
20 must have been with--mouse ear leaves--
21 pine needles--mosses & lichens which
22 form the crust of the earth-- No doubt
23 he had names accordingly for many things
24 for which we have no popular names.

26 I walk in muddy fields--hearing the tinkling
27 of new-born rills. When the melted snow has
28 made a swift rill in the rut of a cart path
29 flowing over an icy bottom & between icy banks--
30 I see just below a little fall of one ich⁹⁹--
31 a circular mass of foam or white bubbles nearly

⁹⁸ Stray mark or underlining under "lived"

⁹⁹ Possibly "inch"

1 2 inches in diameter--slowly revolving--but never
2 moving off--the swift stream at the fall appears
3 to strike one side, as it might the side of a
4 water wheel--& so cause¹⁰⁰ it to revolve--but
5 & 1/2 inch distant
6 in the angle between this & the fall ^ is another
7 individually larger & more evanescent
8 circle of bubbles ^ only 1//2 inch in diameter--revolving
9 very rapidly in the appropriate direction-- The laws
10 perchance by which the world was made &
11 ac. to which the systems revolve--are seen in
12 full operation in a rill of melted snow.

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14 Hear the 1st bluebird. //

15 Pm to the hill--
16 with a S. or SW wind
17 A remarkably warm & pleasant day ^--but //

18 still very bad walking--the frost coming out &
19 the snow that was left going off. The air is full
20 of blue-birds-- I hear them far & near on all sides
21 of the hill--warbling in the tree tops--though I do
22 not distinctly see them--

23 I stand by the well at the eastbase of the
24 hill--looking over the alder meadow--lately cut
25 off-- I am peculiarly attracted by its red-brown
26 maze--seen in this bright sun & mild S W
27 wind-- It has expression in it as a familiar
28 freckled face-- Methinks it is abut waking
29 up--though it still slumbers-- See the still
30 smooth pools of water in its midst almost
31 free from ice-- I seem to hear the sound of
32 the water soaking in to it--as it were its voice.

¹⁰⁰"c" in "cause" written over something else

1 We must not expect it to blow
2 warm long at a time--even today
3 methinks these are cool veins in the
4 air--as if some puffs came over snow &
5 ice & others not--like the meat which
6 consisted alternately of a streak of fat &
7 a streak of bean.

8 I sit on the bank at the hemlocks--
9 & watch the great white cakes of ice
10 going swiftly by-- now one strikes a rock--
11 & swings round in an eddy-- They bear
12 on them the wrecks & refuse of the shore where
13 they have formed.

14 Even the shad is agreeable to day.
15 You hear the buzzing of a fly from time to
16 time & see the black speck zig zag
17 by--

18 // Ah--there is the note of the first
19 flicker--a prolonged monotonous--
20 wick--wick--wick--wick--wick wick &c
21 or, if you please, quick quick-
22 ^ heard far over & through the dry
23 leaves-- But how that single sound
24 & enriches
25 peoples ^ all the woods & fields--

26 They are no longer the same woods &
27 fields that they were--. This note really
28 quickens what was dead-- It seemed to put
29 a life into--withered grass & leaves--&
30 bare twigs--& hence forth the days
31 shall not be as they have been-- It
32 is as when a family--your neighbors--re-

1 turn to an empty house--after a long absence--
2 & you hear the cheerful hum of voices--
3 & the laugh of children--& see the smoke
4 from the kitchen fire. The doors are thrown
5 open--& children go screaming through the
6 hall-- So the flicker dashed through
7 the miles of the grove--throws up a window
8 here & cackles out it--& then there--
9 airing the house-- It makes its voice sing
10 up stairs & down stairs--& so as it were
11 fits it for its habitation & ours & takes
12 possession-- It is as good as a housewarming
13 to all nature-- Now I hear & see him
14 louder & nearer on the top of the Long-
15 armed white oak--sitting very upright as
16 is their wont--as it were calling for
17 some of his kind that may also have
18 arrived.

19 As usual I have seen for some weeks
20 on the ice these peculiar (perla?) insects //
21 with long wings & 2 tails--

22 The withered vegetation--seed vessels of
23 all kinds &c--are peculiarly handsome
24 now having been remarkably well preserved¹⁰¹ the
25 past winter--{on} ac--of the absence of snow--

26 How indulgent is nature--to give to a
27 few common plants--like checkerberry

28 This aromatic flavor to relieve the
29 Perhaps I am most {sensible} of
30 general insipidity! the presence of these plants when
31 the ground is 1st drying at this season--& they come fairly out..¹⁰²
32 --also mouse-ear & pyrola

¹⁰¹ Stray mark above the "v" in "preserved"?

¹⁰²second period might be a blotch

1 Sitting under the handsome
2 scarlet oak beyond the hill-- I hear
3 a faint note far in the wood which
4 reminds me of the robin-- again I hear
5 //it, it is he-¹⁰³ --an occasional peep--
6 These notes of the earliest birds seem
7 to invite forth vegetation--no doubt, the
8 plants concealed in the earth hear them
9 & rejoice-- They wait¹⁰⁴ for this assurance.
10 Now I hear when passing the S side of
11 the hill--or first when threading the
12 maple swamp far W of it the tchuck
13 tchuck of a black-bird & after--a
14 //distinct conquereee So it is a red-wing?
15 Thus these 4 species of birds have
16 all come in one day--no doubt to al-
17 most all parts of the town--
18 Mar. 18th
19 7 Am by River-- Almost every bush has
20 //its song sparrow this morning & their tinkling
21 strains are heard on all sides-- You see them
22 just hopping under the bush or into some other covert
23 turning with a jerk this way & that
24 as you go by ^--or they flit away just above
25 the ground which they resemble. It is the
26 prettiest strain I have heard yet. Melvin
27 for all day
28 is already out in his boat^--with his
29 white hound in the prow--bound up the
30 river for musquash &c--but the river
31 is hardly high enough to drive them out.

¹⁰³might be a blotch

¹⁰⁴ Whatever word was here 1st used to end in an "e" and it almost looks like "ai" has been written over orig. word

1 Pm to F. H. Hill via Hub's Bath--
2 How much more habitable a few birds
3 make the fields! At the end of winter
4 when the fields are bare--and there is nothing
5 to relieve the monotony of the withered
6 vegetation, our life seems reduced to its lowest
7 terms-- But let a bluebird come &
8 warble over them & what a change!
9 The note of the first blue-bird in the air--
10 answers to the purling rill of melted snow
11 beneath-- It is eminently soft & soothing--&
12 as surely as the thermometer indicates a higher
13 temperature-- It is the accent of the South wind.--
14 its vernacular-- It is modulated by the S. wind
15 The song sparrow is more sprightly--mingling
16 its notes with the rustling of the brash along
17 the water sides-- --but it is at the same
18 time more terrene than the blue-bird--.
19 The first woodpecker comes screaming into
20 the empty house--& throws open doors &
21 windows wide--calling out each of them
22 to let the neighbors know of its return--
23 But heard further off it is very suggestive
24 ineffable
25 of ^ associations which cannot be distinctly
26 of long-drawn summer hours
27 recalled--^ & thus it also has the affect of
28 music. I was not aware that the capacity
29 to hear the woodpecker had slumbered within
30 me so long.
31 When the black-bird gets to a conqueree
32 he seems to be dreaming of the sprags

1 that are to be & on which he is to perch--

2 The robin does not come singing--

3 but utters a somewhat anxious or

4 inquisitive peep at first--

5 The Song sparrow is immediately most at

6 home of any that I have named--

7 I see this p.m. as many as a dozen

8 bluebirds on the warm side of a

9 wood.¹⁰⁵

10 At Hubbards shore--where a strong but

11 warm westerly wind is blowing--the shore

12 is lined for half a rod in width with pulverised

13 ice or "brash" driven against it

14 At Potter's sand hill (Bear Garden) I see

15 on the SE side of the blue curls very dis-

16 tinct & regular arcs of circl{---}es (about

17 1/3 of a circle) scored deep in the sand

18 by the tops of these weeds which have been

19 blown about by the wind--& these marks

20 show very surely & plainly how the wind has

21 been blowing & with what force--& flowiness¹⁰⁶

22 The rather warm but strong wind now

23 roars in the wood--(as in the maple

24 swamp) with a novel sound-- I doubt

25 if the same is ever heard in the winter

26 It apparently comes at this season, not¹⁰⁷

27 only to dry the earth--but to wake up

28 the trees, as it were,--as one would wake

29 a sleeping man with a smart shake

¹⁰⁵ Possibly "word"

¹⁰⁶1906 has "flawiness" but the third letter looks like an "o" with stray marks

¹⁰⁷ Unclear "not"

1 and am for the hundredth time sur-
2 prised by the landscape--of the river valley--
3 with its distant blue-scolloped river
4 & the horizon. ^ It is a spring landscape--
5 & as impossible a fortnight ago, as the song
6 of birds-- It is a deeper & warmer blue than
7 in winter--methinks--. The snow is off the
8 mts, which seem even to have come again like
9 the birds-- The undulating river is a bright
10 sharp edged retained by the willows
11 blue channel between ^ shores of ice ¹⁰⁹-- The wind
12 blows strong but warm from W. by north, so that
13 I have to hold my paper tight while I write this--
14 making the copses creak & roar--but the sharp
15 tinkle of a song sparrow is heard through it
16 all. But ah! the needles of the pine,
17 as I look down over the Holden wood & westward
18 ¹¹⁰how they shine! ^ Every third tree is lit with
19 the most subdued but clear ethereal light--
20 as if it were the most delicate frost work
21 in a winter morning--reflecting no heat but
22 only light-- And as they rock & wave in the
23 strong wind even a mile off--the light
24 courses up & down them as over a field of
25 grain--i.e. they are alternately light & dark
26 --like looms above the forest--when the
27 shuttle is thrown between the light woof & the
28 {weaving} a light article spring goods for Nature to wear.
29 dark web-- ^ At sight of this my spirit
30 is like a lit tree. It runs or flashes over
31 their parallel boughs as when you play
32 with the teeth of a comb-- The pine tops
33 wave like squirrels' tails flashing in the air
34 Not only osiers--but pine needles methinks

¹⁰⁹ vertical line drawn from caret to insertion

¹¹⁰ might be marginal mark in pencil in left margin

1 Anacreon noticed the same
2 shine in the spring--& arrow heads--& RR. rails- ^{^111} &c &c.
3 --Is it not the higher sun--& cleansed air--& greater
4 There is a warmer red to the leaves of
5 animation of nature? The Shrub oak & to the tail of the hawk
6 circling over them--
7 I sit on the cliff, & look toward Sudbury--
8 I see its meeting houses & its common--& its
9 fields lie but little beyond my ordinary walk--
10 but I never played on its common nor read the
11 epitaphs in its grave yard--& many strangers
12 to me dwell there-- How distant in all
13 important senses may be the town which
14 We see beyond our ordinary walks & thoughts
15 yet is within sight! ^-- With a glass I might
16 perchance read the time on its clock-- How
17 circumscribed are our walks after all--!
18 With the utmost industry we cannot ex-
19 pect to know well an area more than 6 miles
20 to be acquainted with Siberia & Africa!
21 square--& yet we pretend to be travellers-
22 Going by the epigae on F. H. Hill--I
23 thought I would follow down the shallow gully
24 through the woods from it--that I might
25 find more or something else-- There was an abundance
26 of checkerberry--as if it were a peculiar locality
27 for shrubby evergreens
28 ^ At first the checkerberry was green, but
29 low down the hill it ~~was~~ suddenly became
30 like a different plant
31 dark red--^ as if it had been more subject
32 to frost there-- It being more frosty lower
33 down-- Where it was most turned, that part
34 of a leaf which was protected by another
35 overlapping it was still pure bright green
36 making a pretty contrast when you lifted it.
37 {8} or 10¹¹² rods off I noticed an evergreen

¹¹¹line from caret to insertion

¹¹² Difficult to read, but phrase appears to be "8 or 10"

1 shrub with the aspect or habit of
2 growth of the juniper--but as it was
3 in the woods--I already suspected it to
4 //be what it proved--the American Yew
5 already strongly budded to bloom-- This is
6 a Capital discovery-- I have thus found the ledum
7 & the Taxus this winter & a new locality of
8 the epiqaea-

9 Mar. 19th '58

10 Pm to Hill & Grackle Swamp--

11 Another pleasant & warm day--painted
12 my boat this pm. These spring impressions
13 ap.
14 (as of the ^ waking up of the meadow--described
15 day before yesterday {and} are not repeated the
16 same year--at least not with the same
17 force--for the next day the same phenomenon
18 does not surprise us-- Our appetite has
19 lost its edge-- The other day the face of the
20 meadow wore a peculiar appearance, as if
21 it were beginning to wake up under the in-
22 fluence of the S. W. wind & the warm sun--but
23 it cannot again this year present precise-
24 ly that appearance to me-- I have taken a step
25 forward to a new position & must see some-
26 You perceive and are affected by,¹¹³ changes too
27 thing else. subtle to be described
28 // I see little swarms of those fine fuzzy gnats
29 in the air-- I am behind the hemlocks-- It is
30 their wings which are most conspicuous, when
31 they are in the sun--their bodies are comparatively

¹¹³comma may be a stray mark

1 small¹¹⁴ black--& they have 2 Mourning plumes
2 in their fronts-- Are not these the winter
3 gnat? They keep up a circulation in the air
4 sometimes a globular swarm 2 feet or more in diameter--suggesting
5 like water bugs on the water-- They people a
6 how genial & habitable the air is become
7 portion of the other wise vacant air--being
8 ap. fond¹¹⁵ of the sunshine--in which they are
9 most conspicuous.
10 I hear turkey's gobble-- This too I suppose is //
11 a spring sound. I hear a steady sigh of the
12 wind rising & swelling into a roar in the pines
13 which seems to tell of a long warm rain
14 to come--
15 I see a white pine which has borne fruit
16 4 in number
17 in its 9th year-- The cones ^ which are 7/8 of an
18 inch long have stems about 2 1/2 inches
19 so the stem prob. does not
20 long!--not yet curving down-- grow any more.
21 Met Channing--& walked on {with} him
22 to what we will call Grackle Swamp
23 Those light yellow {hypnums}(?) like sunlight on decaying logs
24 admirin the mossey ^ {jungermannia}-like
25 {see} mosses ready spread
26 Hear the phebe note of a chicadee //
27 In the swamp see grackles--4 or 5- //
28 their bead-eyes
29 with the ligh¹¹⁶ ring about eye-- ^ They utter only
30 those ineffectual split notes--no conquere
31 Might I not call that Hemlock Brook?
32 & the source of it Horse Skull Meadow?
33 Hear the pleasant chill-lill of the F. hiemalis //¹¹⁷
34 --the first time have heard this note--this too sug-
35 gests pleasant associations.
36 By the river see distinctly¹¹⁸ red wings--& hear //

¹¹⁴ mark between small and black might be a hyphen

¹¹⁵ Possibly "fon d"

¹¹⁶ T. prob. meant "light"?

¹¹⁷ slash marks are actually above the end of "hiemalis" on the MS page

¹¹⁸ Looks like "distinctly"

1 their conqueree. They are not asso-
2 They are an age before their cousins--have attained to clearness & liquidity,--they
3 ciated with grackles -- I distinguish
4 are officers epaulettes--the others are rank & file
5 one even by its flight--hovering slowly
6 from tree top to tree top as if ready to utter
7 its liquid notes-- Their whistle is very clear
8 & sharp while the grackles is ragged &
9 split.

10 It is a fine evening--as I stand on the
11 quite
12 bridge--the waters are ^ smooth--very
13 little ice to be seen--the red wing & song
14 & a flock of tree sparrows is pleasantly warbling
15 sparrow are singing ^ -- A new era has come.

16 The {~~pla~~} red-wing's gurgle er¹¹⁹ is heard
17 when smooth waters begin--they come
18 One or 2 boys are out trying their skiff--even like the
19 together. fuzzy gnats in the sun--and as often as one turns his boat round
20 on the smooth surface the setting sun is reflected from its side--

21 I feel reproach when I have spoken with
22 levity--when I have made a jest--of my
23 own existence-- The makers have thus secured
24 seriousness & respect for their work in our
25 very organization-- The most serious events have
26 their ~~most~~ ludicrous respect--such as death--
27 but we cannot excuse ourselves when we
28 have taken this view of them only-- It is
29 pardonable when we spurn the pro-
30 prieties--even the sanctities--making
31 them stepping stones to something higher.

32 Mar 20th

33 Am by river--

34 The tree sparrow is perhaps the sweetest &
35 most melodious warbler at present--& for
36 some days-- It is peculiar too for singing in

¹¹⁹ Possibly "ee" or "ei"

1 concert-¹²⁰along the hedge-rows--much like
 2 a canary--especially in the mornings--
 3 Very clear sweet melodious notes--between
 4 a twitter & a warble, of which it is hard¹²¹ to
 5 catch the strain--for you commonly hear many
 6 at once--
 7 The note of the F. hiemalis is a¹²² or chill-lill
 8 is a jingle--with also a {sharpe} & dryer crackling
 9 or shuffling
 10 ^ chirp as it flits by--
 11 I hear now at (7Am) from the hill across
 12 the water--probably the note of a woodpecker
 13 I know not what species-- Not that very early
 14 {guah guah}¹²³ which I have not heard this year--
 15 Now first I hear a very short robin's song //
 16 Pm to Clematis Brook--
 17 via Lee's--with C.
 18 We cross the Depot field--which is fast becoming
 19 dry & hard. At Hubbard's wall how handsome
 20 the willow catkins! those wonderfully bright
 21 silvery buttons so regularly disposed in
 22 oval schools in the air--or if you
 23 please a long¹²⁴ the seams ~~of the~~ which their
 24 twigs make--in all degrees of forwardness
 25 from the faintest-¹²⁵ --tiniest speck of silver
 26 just peeping from beneath the black scales--
 27 have thrown off their scaly coats--&
 28 to lusty {pussies} which ^ show some redness at base
 29 on a close inspection. These fixed swarms
 30 of arctic buds
 31 ^ spot the air very prettily along the hedges.
 32 They remind me somewhat¹²⁶ of their brilliancy--of the

¹²⁰dash might be cross for the "t"

¹²¹ Stray mark above "hard"?

¹²² Cannot tell if "is a" has been crossed out

¹²³ could be "grah grah" or "gnah gnah" (1906 has "gnah")

¹²⁴ Poss. "along" (Coy of MS is poor)

¹²⁵ This dash might also be a t cross.

¹²⁶ Stray mark or strikethrough between "somewhat" and "of"

1 snow ~~flakes~~ flecks which are so bright by
2 contrast at this season when the sun is high.
3 Is not this perhaps--the earliest most obvious
4 They are greyish & not nearly so silvery a week or 10 days later when more
5 expanded--showing the dark scales.
6 awakening of vegetable life?
7 Farmer told me this Am that he found a bay-
8 //wing's egg yesterday--dropped in a foot path!
9 I have not seen that bird yet--
10 In low grounds--we feel from time to time
11 the icy crust in the soil sink beneath us.
12 ¹²⁷--but it is so dry--that we need no rubbers now
13 A small ant fallen on water--& swimming
14 // A small brown grass hopper jumps in to {our}
15 brook at our approach & drifting down clings
16 to a stubble-- I see another just like it--
17 2 hours later-- We look into that pool
18 & admire the green weeds--water {purslain}(?) at the bottom,
19 on the S side of Hubbards' grove--^ There is
20 slowly moving along in it near the bottom one of
21 %//%those bashaws with 2 tails--in their case red tails
22 --something devils' needle like-- The whole pool is
23 full of a small gyrating insect-- I took up
24 from a weed within it, by a chance sweep of my
25 hand, a minute bivalve clam like shell hardly
26 1/20 of a inch long-- Yet this dries up in summer--
27 The other pool near by within the woods is still
28 soggy,
29 covered with black ^ ice.
30 The herbaceous plant have evidently suffered far
31 more than usual the past wonderfully mild
32 & snow less winter--not only is there less green--as
33 in the fields--but even less at the bottoms
34 of the pools & ditches.

¹²⁷stray mark in left margin--possibly a hash mark

1 The foul flanks of the cattle--remind
2 me how early it is still in the spring--
3 On that same tree by Conants' orchard
4 I see a flock of cherry-birds--with that //
5 alert chieftain-like look--& hear their seringo
6 note--as if may by their swift flight through
7 the air-- They have been seen a week or 2--
8 Fair Haven is still closed--near the open
9 water where the river is eating up into it
10 the ice is very black--even sooty here & there
11 from this point of view-- You would not be-
12 lieve that mere waterlogged ice could be so
13 black-- You cannot now get onto it--
14 but you {—}¹²⁸ see the holes which pickerel
15 fishers cut in it a month ago--
16 We go looking in vain for ducks--a
17 semi-riparial walk-- from tim to time
18 we are deceived a moment by a {sh ing}¹²⁹
19 cake of ice on its edge at a distance--
20 We go along behind Lees looking up
21 over the Sudbury meadows-- I see a distant
22 roof at Round Hill. It is pleasant
23 when we see this--only the roof of
24 a house at a distance--a mere gray
25 scale--diamond shape against the
26 side of a hill--while all the lower part
27 is lost in shade-- It is more interesting
28 than a full view.
29 The river but yesterday was a bright blue

¹²⁸ three or four-letter word that is crossed out

¹²⁹ It appears to be two words, but possibly "shining"

1 artery--between straight edgins¹³⁰ of ice held by the
2 bushes--but beyond on each side was a clear
3 canal. {t} To day most of this ice is {down}
4 drifted down the stream or blown across it--so {that}
5 often--the straight edge is presented to the
6 opposite meadow--& is at first sight un-
7 accountable.

8 The wind shifts to east or SE but still its
9 rawness is agreeable. As C says of the
10 water insect--we too come out of our shells in
11 the spring.-- Yes¹³¹ we take off our great coats--

12 I had noticed from the Cliff by Lees road--
13 an elevated sandy point above Pole Brook
14 which I said must be Indian ground--& walking
15 there I found a piece of a soap-stone pot.

16 In the sluice way of Pole Brook--by the
17 road just beyond I found another kind of Ind. pot
18 It was an eel-pot(?) or creel--a wattled basket--
19 or wicker-work--made¹³² of willow osiers {of} with
20 the bark on--very artfully-- It was about
21 4 {feet} long¹³³ & shaped thus-- About a dozen (or

22 {drawing} Moore says that he used to find them in the
23 brooks when he was trout fishing stopping them
24 up so closely with sticks & stones on the sides that not
25 a trout could pass--& he would cut them
26 from end to end with his knife.¹³⁴

27 more) willow sticks as {bid}¹³⁵ as { } finger--or larger
28 being set small end down--in a circle in a
29 thin round board which made the bottom
30 & then smaller osiers interwoven at right
31 angle with them--close & firm-- Another

¹³⁰ probably meant to be "edgings" but there is no second "g"

¹³¹ Possibly "Yet"

¹³² Stray mark after "made"?

¹³³ Stray mark through "l" in "long"?

¹³⁴ This text lies to the right of drawing

¹³⁵ Possibly "big" (1906 has "big")

1 funnel shaped basket--was secured within
2 this--extending about half way down {in it}¹³⁶--as
3 represented by the dotted lines--with a ~~now~~ opening
4 hardly 2 inches wide at the bottom--where only
5 a dozen sharper sticks approached each other.
6 There was a square door in the board bottom
7 by which the fishes could be taken out-- This
8 was set in that sluice way--with the mouth
9 or broad end down stream all sunk beneath
10 the surface-- This fishes being now evidently.
11 running up the brooks from the {p} river & ponds //
12 the ice being mostly gone out of the meadows &
13 brooks. We raised this and found 8 or 10 small
14 pickerel in it--the biggest a foot long--&
15 1 good sized perch. It was pleasant to find
16 that any were practising such {cunning} art
17 in the outskirts. I am not sure whether
18 this insertion is Indian--or derived from
19 our own ancestors-- Creel appears to be an
20 old English word-- But I have no doubt
21 that the Ind. used something very like this--
22 How much more we might have learned of the Aborigines
23 if they had not been so reserved-- Suppose they had
24 generally become the laboring class among
25 the whites--that any¹³⁷ father had been a farmer
26 & had an Indian for his hired man--how many
27 aboriginal ways we children should have
28 learned from them! It was very pleasant
29 to meet with this kind of textile--or basket
30 Minot has known them to be set for musquash--& sometimes the musquash gnaw out
31 {or if not drowned}¹³⁸

¹³⁶possibly just "it"

¹³⁷ Possibly "my"

¹³⁸ Interlined section is difficult to read, specifically the section encompassed in braces

1 in our walk--to know that some had leisure
2 for other things than farming & town-meeting--
3 --& that¹³⁹ they felt the spring influence in their
4 way. That man was not pitting from the State
5 He was meditating
6 prison when he was weaving that creel. a small poem
7 in his way
8 It was equal to a successful stanza whose subject
9 was spring--
10 The fishes are going up the brooks--as they open--
11 they are dispersing themselves through the fields &
12 importing new life with them
13 woods-- ^ they are taking their places under the
14 shelving banks--& in the dark swamps--
15 The water running down meets the fishes running up--
16 They hear the latest news--
17 Spring--aroused fishes are running up our veins too--
18 Little fishes--are seeking the sources of the brooks
19 --seeking to disseminate their principles-- Talk about
20 a {revival} of religion! & business men's prayer
21 meetings! with which all the country goes mad
22 now-- What if it were as true & wholesome
23 which came out of the sluggish waters--& run up the water toward their sources
24 a revival as the little fishes feel^! All
25 nature revives at this season--with her it
26 is really a new life--but with these church
27 goers it is only a revival of religion or hypocrisy.
28 --they go down stream to still muddier waters. It cheers
29 me more to behold the swarms of gnats which have
30 revived in the spring sun. The fish lurks by the
31 mouth of its native brook--watching its oppor-
32 tunity to dart up the stream by the cakes of ice--
33 Do the fishes stay to hold prayer meetings in Fair
34 Haven Bay?--while some monstrous pike gulps

¹³⁹ Possibly "others"

1 privately or with its kindred spirits
2 them down--or is not rather {each} one ^ as soon as
3 possible stemming the current of its native {book}¹⁴⁰--
4 making its way to more ethereal water? burnishing
5 his scaly armor--by his speed--oftimes running into osier
6 creels & finding its salvation there even--as in the dis-
7 charge of its duty--

8 No wonder we feel the spring influence--there is a
9 motion in the very ground under our feet--each rill
10 is peopled with her life rushing up it.

11 If a man do not revive with nature in the spring,
12 how shall he revive when a white-collared priest
13 prays for him?

14 Small water bugs in Clematis brook- //

15 We had turned in at the old minot house-- We kept
16 on by Heron pool--& through the pitch pine wood
17 behind Bakes¹⁴¹--down the path to Spanish Brook--
18 & came out on to the RR. at Walden-- Channing
19 thought it was a suitably long stretch to wind
20 up with--like one of our old Nashoba walks
21 so long drawn--& taxing our legs so--in which
22 it seemed that the nearer you got to home the
23 farther you had to go

24 That is a very handsome descent by the path to
25 Spanish Brook-- Seeing the path below--between
26 the trunks of the trees-- How important the
27 hemlock amid the pines for its darker & wilder
28 green!

29 We too are out obeying the same law with
30 all nature-- Not less important are the observers of
31 the birds than the birds themselves.

32 At last I see a small straight flock of ducks //

¹⁴⁰looks like "book" but "brook" makes more sense

¹⁴¹ "Bakers"?

1 going N. E. in the distance
2 In order that a house and grounds may
3 be picturesque & interesting in the highest
4 degree--they must suggest the idea of
5 necessity--proving the devotion of the builder--
6 not of luxury-- We need to see the honest &
7 naked life here & there protruding. What
8 is a fort without any foe before it--that
9 is not now sustaining & even less sustained
10 a {siege}¹⁴²? The gentleman whose purse
11 is always full--who can meet all demands--
12 though he employs the most famous ar-
13 tists can never make a very interesting seat.
14 He does not carve from near enough to the
15 bone. No man is rich enough to keep a
16 poet in his pay.

17 Mar. 21st

18 // Warm rain--April like--the first of
19 the season--holding up from time to time though
20 always completely overcast

21 Pm to Ministerial swamp--via Little
22 River. Standing by the mud-hole in the swamp
23 I hear the pleasant phebee¹⁴³ note of the
24 of a
25 Chickadee-- It is methinks the most ^ wilder-
26 ness note of any yet-- It {p} is peculiarly
27 interesting that this {which} is one of our
28 winter birds also--should have a note
29 with which to welcome the spring.

30 Standing by that pool, it is pleasant to

¹⁴²could be "seize" or "seize" or "seige" but "siege" makes the most sense

¹⁴³ Possibly "phebe"

1 see the dimples made on its smooth surface--
2 ~~after~~ by the big drops after the rain has held
3 up a quarter of an hour--
4 The skunk cabbage at Clam Shell is //
5 shedding pollen
6 well out^-- It is evident that the date of
7 its flowering is very fluctuating--ac. to the
8 condition in which the winte¹⁴⁴ leaves the crust of
9 the meadow.
10 This first spring rain is very agreeable-- I love
11 to hear the pattering of the drops on my umbrella
12 also %helps%
13 & I love ^ the wet scent of the umbrella-- It ^ takes
14 the remaining frost out & settles the ways--
15 but there is yet frost & ice in meadows & swamps.
16 Mar 22d
17 Pm Launch my boat. //
18 & row down stream-- There is a strong
19 & cool N. W. wind. Leaving our boat just
20 below N. Barretts'--we walk down the shore--
21 We see many gulls on the very opposite //
22 side of the meadow--near the woods-- They look
23 bright white like snow on the dark blue
24 water-- It is surprising how far they can be
25 seen--how much light they reflect--& how
26 being strung along one every rod-- they made me think of {line} fleet in line of
27 battle
28 conspicuous they are^-- We go along to the
29 off
30 p. pine hill near Abner Buttricks--& finding
31 a sheltered & sunny place we watch the
32 ducks from it with our glass. There are
33 not only gulls--but about 40 black //
34 ducks & as many (~~whistlers' ducks~~) sheldrakes //

¹⁴⁴ Possibly "winter"

1 //& I think 2 wood ducks--
2 //I see those peculiar spring(?) clouds, scattered cumuli with dark level bases--
3 The gulls appear considerably the largest &
4 no doubt the season is to be detected by the aspect of the clouds no less than by
5 that
6 make the most show--they are so uniformly
7 of the earth--
8 light colored-- At a distance, as I have
9 said they look like snowy masses--& even
10 nearer they have a lumpish look--like a mass
11 of cotton--the head being light as well as the
12 breast-- They are seen sailing about in the
13 shallow water--or standing motionless on a
14 clod that just rises above the surface--in which
15 position they have a particularly clumsy look--
16 or one {or} {2} may be seen slowly wheeling
17 about above the rest-- From time to time
18 the whole flock of gulls suddenly rises--&
19 begins circling about--& at last they settle
20 down in some new place & order--. With
21 these were at first associated about 40
22 black ducks--pretty close together--sometimes
23 single
24 apparently in close ^ lines. Some looking lumpish
25 like decoys of wood--others standing on the bottom
26 & reminding me of penguins.-- They were constantly
27 diving with great energy--making the
28 water fly up.¹⁴⁵ 2 feet upward--in a thick shower
29 Then away they all go circling about
30 for 10 minutes at least before they can
31 decide where to alight.
32 The black-heads & white breasts--which may
33 be golden-eyes--for they are evidently--paired
34 male & female for the¹⁴⁶ most part--& yet

¹⁴⁵period might be a splotch

¹⁴⁶ Penciled interlineation above the word "the"; looks like "sheldrake"

1 I thought that I saw the red bill of the sheldrake
2 These--are most incessantly & skillfully plunging
3 & from time to time apparently--pursuing each other--
4 They are much more active--whether diving or swim-
5 ming about than you expect ducks to be-- Now
6 perchance they are seen changing their ground--
7 --swimming off perhaps 2 X 2 in pairs very
8 steadily & swiftly--without diving-- I see 2
9 of these very far off on a bright blue {bouy}¹⁴⁷
10 where the waves are running high-- They are
11 2 intensely white specks--& ~~now are {---}~~ which
12 yet you might mistake for the forming crest
13 of waves-- Now one disappears--but soon is seen
14 again--& after its companion {pt} is lost in
15 like manner having dived.

16 Mar 23d

17 Surveying Mr. Gordon's Farm--

18 See something stirring amid the dead leaves in the
19 water at the bottom of a ditch--in 2 or 3
20 places--& presently see the back of a yellow- //
21 spotted turtle. Afterward a large flock
22 of fox-colored sparrows¹⁴⁸--flit by along //
23 an alder-row--uttering a faint chip--like
24 that of the tree sparrow.

25 Mar. 24th

26 Pm to F. H. Pond--E. side. //

27 The pond not yet open-- A cold N by W wind--which¹⁴⁹
28 must have come over much snow & ice.
29 %i.e. song sparrow%
30 The chip of the ground bird ^ resembles
31 i.e. its expression is the same
32 that of a robin ^ --only fainter--& reminds

¹⁴⁷1906 has "bay"

¹⁴⁸ Stray mark after "sparrows"?

¹⁴⁹possibly pencil between line 27 and 28

1 me that the robin's peep--which sounds
2 like a note of distress--is also a chip, or
3 call note to its kind.

4 Returning about 5 Pm across the Depot
5 Field--I scare up from the ground a flock
6 of about 20 birds which fly low making
7 a short circuit toward the part of the field.
8 At first they remind me of bay-wings--
9 except that they are in a flock--show no white
10 in tail--{are} I see a little larger--& utter
11 a faint sweet sweet merely--a {sort}
12 of sibilant chip. Starting there again I
13 see that they have black tails--very conspicuous¹⁵⁰
14 when they pass near-- They fly in the flock some-
15 what like snow buntings--occasionally one
16 surging upward a few feet in pursuit of
17 another--& they alight about where they first
18 were-- It almost impossible to discern them
19 on the ground they squat so flat--& so much
20 resemble--it--running amid the stubble--
21 But at length I stand within 2 rods of one
22 & get a good view of its markings with my
23 //glass. They are the Alanda alpestris
24 did I not see them on Nantucket?
25 or Shore lark¹⁵¹ quite a sizable & handsome
26 bird--delicate pale lemon yellow line above
27 the--with a dark line through the eye--the
28 yellow again on the sides of the neck--&
29 on the throat--with a black crescent below
30 the throat--with a buff-ash breast & reddish

¹⁵⁰ Stray mark after "conspicuous" or a period?

¹⁵¹ T originally wrote "larck," but crossed out the c

1 brown tinges--beneath white--above rusty brown behind
2 & darker--ash or slate with purplish brown reflections
3 bill blue
4 forward. Legs black--& ^ black-- Common to
5 the old & new World.

6 Mar. 25th

7 Pm to Bank of Great Meadows' by Peters--

8 Cold N. W. wind as yesterday & day before.

9 Large skaters (hydrometer)¹⁵² on a ditch-

//

10 Going across A. Clarke's field behind Garfield's--

11 I see many fox-colored sparrows flitting past

12 in a straggling manner into the birch & p. pine woods

13 on the left--& hear a sweet warble there from

14 time to time. They are busily scratching like hens

15 amid the dry leaves of that wood--(not surewhy¹⁵³)

16 from time to time the rearmost moving for-

17 ward one or 2 at a time--while a few are

18 perched here & there on the lower branches of

19 a birch or other tree--& I hear a ver clear

20 & sweet whistling strain--commonly half-finished

21 from one every 2 or 3 minutes-- It is too irregular

22 to be readily caught--but methinks begins like

23 Ar tche tche tche, Te Tche Tche--&c &c

24 but is more clear than these woods would in-

25 dicate-- The whole flock is moving along

26 pretty steadily.

27 There are so many sportsmen out that the

28 ducks have no rest on the great meadows

29 which are not half covered with water. They

30 sit uneasy on the water looking about--

31 without feeding--& I see one man endea-

¹⁵²species is actually spelled "hydrometra"

¹⁵³ Probably "sure why"

1 vor to approach a flock--crouching by through
2 the meadow for half a mile--with Indian
3 rubber boots on--where the water is often a
4 foot deep-- This has been going on on these
5 meadows ever since the town was settled--
6 & will go on as long as ducks settle here.

7 You might frequently say of a
8 poet away from home that he was
9 as mute as a bird of passage--uttering
10 a mere chip from time to time--but
11 follow him to his true habitat--& you shall
12 not know him he will sing so melodiously.

13 Mar 27th

14 Pm Sail to Bittern Cliff--
15 Scare up a flock of sheldrakes just off F. H. Hill.
16 --the conspicuous white ducks--sailing straight
17 hither & thither-- At first they fly low up
18 the stream but having risen come back half
19 way to us then wheel & go up stream.

20 Soon after we scare up a flock of black
21 ducks. We land and steal over the hill
22 through the woods expecting to find them under
23 {Leees}¹⁵⁴ Cliff--as indeed we do--having crawled
24 over the hill through the woods on our stomachs--
25 & then we watched various water fowl for
26 an hour-- There are a dozen shel-drakes
27 (or Goosanders) & among them 4 or 5 fe-
28 males-- They are now pairing-- I should say
29 one or 2 pairs are made-- At first

¹⁵⁴ T. prob. means "Lee's" and it might actually be that with a long tail on the "s"

1 we see only a male & female quite on the
2 alert, some way out on the pond--talking¹⁵⁵
3 back & forth & looking every way-- They keep close
4 together headed one way & when one turns the
5 other also turns quickly-- The male appears to
6 taken the lead-- {Soon} the rest appear sailing
7 out from the shore into sight--
8 We hear a squeaking note--as if made
9 by a pump--& presently see 4 or 5 great
10 hovering gulls wheeling about, sometimes
11 they make a sound like the scream of a henhawk
12 They are shaped somewhat like a very thick white rolling pin sharpened at both ends.
13 {drawing}
14 -- At length they alight near the ducks.
15 The sheldrakes at length acquire confidence--
16 come close in shore & go to preening themselves
17 so it may be{,} they are troubled with lice-- They
18 are all busy about it at once, continually
19 thrusting their bills into their backs--still sailing
20 slowly along back & forth {on}¹⁵⁶ shore-- Some-
21 times they are in 2 or 3 straight lines--
22 Now they will all seem to be crossing the pond--
23 but presently you see that they have tacked
24 & are all heading this way again.
25 Among them or near by I at length detect
26 3 or 4 Whistlers--by their wanting the //
27 red bill--being considerably smaller--
28 & less white--having a white spot on the
29 head--a black back--& altogether
30 less white--& also keeping more or less
31 apart & not diving when the rest do--

¹⁵⁵ Possibly "tacking"

¹⁵⁶ Difficult to determine correct word or word extension, i.e. offshore, on, up

1 Now one half the shelldrakes sail
2 off--Southward & suddenly go to diving
3 as with one consent--7 or 8 or the
4 whole of the party will be under water
5 & {lost} at once-- In the meanwhile
6 coming up they chase one another
7 {scooting}¹⁵⁷ over the surface--& making
8 the water fly--Sometimes 3 or 4 making
9 a rush toward one--
10 At length I detect 2 little dippers
11 //as I have called them--though I am
12 Rice says that the little dipper has a hen bill & is not lobe-footed.
13 not sure that I have ever seen the male
14 Met his brother Israel also Speak of another water-fowl of the close togethers¹⁵⁸
15 river with a
16 before-- They are male & female ^--the
17 hen bill & some bluish feathers on the wings.
18 common size of what I have called the little
19 dipper-- They are incessantly diving close to the
20 button bushes-- The female is ap. uniformly
21 black--another dark brown--but the
22 male has a conspicuous crest--with (ap--
23 white on the hind head)--a white breast
24 & white line on the lower sides of the neck--
25 i.e. the head & breast are black &
26 ? white conspicuously--can this be the
27 Fuligula albeola? & have I commonly
28 seen only the female? (or is it a grebe?)
29 F. H. Pond 4/5 clear-- C. saw a phoebe i.e Pewee
30 //
31 the 25th.
32 The sheldrake has a peculiar long clipper look
33 often moving rapidly straight forward over the
34 water--It sails to various depths in the water

¹⁵⁷ Poss. "scooting"

¹⁵⁸ "close togethers" is circled and connected to the carat. T maybe indicating that the carat applies only to this phrase.

1 Sometimes, as when ap. alarmed, showing only
2 its head & neck & the upper part of its back--
3 & at others when at ease, flocking buoyantly
4 on the surface
5 ^as if it had taken in more air--showing all its
6 white breast & the white along its sides-- Some-
7 times it lifts itself up on the surface & flaps its wings
8 revealing its whole rosaceous breast & its lower parts
9 & looking in form like a penguin.

10 When I first saw them fly up stream-- I suspected
11 that they had gone to F. H. Pond--& would alight
12 under the lee of the cliff. {B} creeping slowly down
13 through the woods 4 or 5 rods,¹⁵⁹ I was enabled to
14 get a fair sight of them--& finally we sat
15 exposed on the rocks within 25 rods-- They appear
16 not to observe a person so high above them.

17 It was a pretty sight to see a pair of them tacking
18 about--always within a foot or 2 of each other
19 & heading the same way--now¹⁶⁰ on this short tack
20 now on that--the male taking the lead--sink-
21 ing deep & looking every way-- When the whole
22 12 had come together--they would now break
23 up again--& were continually changing their
24 ground--though not diving--now sailing slowly
25 this way a dozen rods--& now that--& now
26 coming in near the shore-- Then they would all
27 go to preening themselves--thrusting their bills
28 into their backs--& keeping up such a brisk
29 motion that you could not get a fair sight
30 of ones head-- From time to time you heard
31 a slight titter not of alarm but per-

¹⁵⁹May be a period

¹⁶⁰ Poss. "how"

1 haps a breeding note--for they were evidently
2 I see one scratch its ear or head with its foot
3 selecting their mates ^-- Then it was surprising
4 to see how briskly sailing off one side--they
5 went to diving--as if they had suddenly come
6 across a school of minnows a whole
7 company would disappear at once--never
8 rising high as before-- Now for nearly a minute
9 there is not a feather to be seen--& the
10 next minute you see a party of half a
11 dozen there chasing one another & making
12 the water fly far & wide.

13 When returning we saw near the outlet of the
14 pond 7 or 8 sheldrakes standing still in a line
15 on the edge of the ice & others swimming close
16 by. They evidently love to stand on the ice for
17 a change--

18 I saw on the 22nd a sucker which ap. had been
19 dead a week or 2 at least-- Therefore they
20 must begin to die late in the winter.

21 Mar 28th '58
22 pm to Cliffs.
23 After a cloudy morning--a warm & pleasant

24 //afternoon-- I hear that a few geese were
25 seen this morning. Israel Rice says that he
26 ? heard 3 brown thrashers sing this morning! Is sure
27 because he has kept the bird in a cage. I cant
28 believe it.

29 I go down the RR--turning off in the cut.
30 I notice the hazel stigmas in the warm

1 hollow on the right there just beginning to peep forth //

2 This is an unobserved but very pretty & interesting evi-

3 dence of the progress of the season-- I should

4 not have noticed it--if I had not carefully

5 examined the fertile lands-- It is like a crimson

6 star first dimly detected in the twilight. The

7 warmth of the day--in this sunny hollow above

8 the withered sedge--has caused the stigmas

9 to show their lips through the scaly shield.

10 They do not project more than the 30th of

11 %some not the 60th%

12 an inch. ^ The staminate catkins are also con-

13 siderably loosened-- Just as the turtles put forth

14 their heads so these put forth their stigmas

15 in the spring. How many accurate thermometers

16 there are on every hill & in every valley! Mea-

17 sure the length of the hazel stigmas & you can

18 tell how much warmth there has been this

19 spring. How fitly & exactly any season of the

20 year may be described--by indicating the condition

21 of some flower!

22 I go by the springs toward the epigaea-- It is a

23 with a slight haziness

24 fine warm day--^ It is pleasant to sit out

25 doors now--& it being Sunday, neighbors

26 walk about or stand talking in the sun

27 looking at & scratching the dry earth which

28 & smell

29 they are glad to see ^ again-- In the sunny epigaea

30 wood I start up 2 vanessa antiopa which flutter //¹⁶¹

31 about over the dry leaves before & are evidently

32 attracted toward me--settling at last within a

33 few feet-- The same warm & placid day calls out

¹⁶¹ might just be a blotch

1 men & butterflies.

2 It is surprising that men can be divided into
3 those who lead an indoor & those whose lead an
4 outdoor life--as if birds and quadrupeds
5 were to be divided into those that lived a within
6 nest or burrow life--& that lived without their
7 nests & holes chiefly-- How many of our
8 troubles are house-bred! He lives an out-
9 door life--i.e. he is not squatted behind the shield
10 of a door--he does not keep himself {tubbed}¹⁶²
11 questionable
12 It is such a ^ phrase as an "honest man"
13 --or the "naked eye"--a if the eye which
14 is not covered with a spy-glass should
15 properly be called naked.

16 From Wheeler's plowed field on the top of
17 F. H. Hill I look toward F. H. Pond. now quite
18 smooth-- There is not a duck nor a gull
19 to be seen on it-- I can hardly believe that it
20 was so alive with them yesterday-- Apparently
21 they improve this warm & pleasant day--with
22 little or no wind to continue their journey
23 V 7 ps forward
24 northward. ^ The strong & cold N. W. wind
25 of about a week past has probably de-
26 tained them- Knowing that the meadows
27 & ponds were swarming with ducks yesterday
28 you go forth this particularly pleasant
29 & still day to see them at your leisure
30 but find that they are all gone.
31 No doubt there are some left--&
32 many more will soon come with the¹⁶³

¹⁶² Poss. "tubbed"

¹⁶³two blotches after "the"

1 April rains-- It is a wild life that
2 is associated with stormy & blustering
3 weather-- When the invalid comes forth
4 on his cane--& misses improve the pleasant
5 air to look for signs of vegetation--that
6 wild life has withdrawn itself.
7 But where one kind of life goes another
8 comes-- This plowed land on top of the
9 hill--(and all other fields as far as I observe)
10 is covered--with cob webs--which every few
11 inches are stretched from root to root or
12 clod to clod--gleaning & {waving} in the
13 sun--the light {plucking}¹⁶⁴ along them as they
14 wave in the wind. How much insect life
15 & activity connected with this peculiar
16 state of the atmosphere these imply-- Yet
17 I do not notice a spider-- Small cottony
18 films are continually settling down or blown //
19 A gossamer day-- I see them also for a week after %V 7 {ps} forward%
20 along through the air--Does not this gossa-
21 mer answer to that of the fall? They must
22 have spring¹⁶⁵ to with one consent last night
23 or this morning & bent new cables to the
24 clods & stubble all over this part of the
25 F. Haven pond is open--XXX-- This & Flints //
26 world-- --& Walden all open together this year! The latter was so thinly frozen
27 for C says Flints & Walden were each 1/3 open on the 25th
28 The little fuzzy gnats too are in {swarms} in
29 the air--peopling that uncrowded space-- They are
30 not confined by any fence-- Already the distant
31 forest is streaked with {lines} of thicker & whiter //
32 haze over the successive valleys--
33 Walden is open when? (on the 20th it was pretty solid) //
34 C. sees a very little ice on it to-day-- but prob. it gets entirely free to night

¹⁶⁴Possibly "flashing"

¹⁶⁵Possibly "sprung"

1 Sitting on the top of the Cliff--I look
2 through my glass at the smooth river--
3 & see the long forked ripple
4 {drawing} made by a musquash
5 swimming along over the meadow.
6 While I sit on these warm rocks--turning
7 my glass toward {~~toward~~} mts I can see the
8 sun reflected from the rocks on monad-
9 nock--& I know that it would be pleasant
10 to be there too today as well as here--
11 I see to warm & cozy¹⁶⁶ seats on the rocks
12 where the flies are buzzing--& probably
13 some walker is enjoying the prospect.

14 From this hill¹⁶⁷ top I over look again bare
15 of snow--putting on a warm hazy spring face--
16 this seemingly concave circle of earth, in
17 the midst of which I was born & dwell--
18 which in the N. W. & SE has a more
19 distant blue rim to it--as it were of more
20 costly manufacture-- On ascending the
21 hill next his house every man finds that he
22 dwells in a shallow concavity-- --whose
23 sheltering walls are the convex surface of
24 the earth--beyond which he cannot see.

25 I see those familiar features--that
26 large type--with which all my life
27 is associated--unchanged.

28 Cleaning out the spring on the W side
29 of F H. Hill--I find a small frog--

¹⁶⁶ Possibly "cozy"

¹⁶⁷ possibly a hyphen between hill and top

1 ap a bull frog--just came forth--which //
2 must have wintered in the mud there. There
3 is very little mud however--& the rill never runs
4 more than 4 or 5 rods before it is soaked
5 up--& the whole spring after dries up in the
6 summer-- It seems then that 2 or 3 frogs
7 the sole inhabitants of so small a spring
8 will bury themselves--at its head-- A few
9 frogs will be buried at the puniest spring
10 head--

11 Coming home I hear the croaking frogs
12 in the pond on the S side of Hubbards grove--
13 It is sufficiently warm for them at last. //

14 Near the sand path above Potteers¹⁶⁸ Mud hole
15 I find what I should call 20 & more mud-turtles
16 close together
17 eggs ^ which appear¹⁶⁹ to have been dug from a hole
18 close by last year-- They are all broken &¹⁷⁰ cracked
19 & more or less indented & depressed--~~but~~ and
20 they look remarkably like my pigeons egg
21 fungi--a dirty white covered thickly with a
22 pure white roughness--which through a glass
23 is seen to be oftenest in the form of minute
24 but regular rosettes--of a very pure white substance
25 If these were turtles eggs--(& there is no {stem}
26 mark of a fungus) it is remarkable that
27 they should thus come to resemble so closely
28 another natural product--the fungus.

29 The 1st lark of the 23d sailed through
30 the meadow with that peculiar prolonged

¹⁶⁸ T probably meant "Potters" but spelled it with two "e's"?

¹⁶⁹ T originally wrote "appeared" but corrected it to "appear"

¹⁷⁰ T wrote "&" over the word "or"

1 or twittering¹⁷¹
2 chipping ^ sound--perhaps sharp clucking--

3 Mar 29th (Monday)

4 Hear a phoebe early in the morning over
5 the street-- Considerable frost this morning
6 & some ice formed on the river--

7 The White maple {~~stig~~} stamens are very apparent,
8 now on one tree though they do not project
9 beyond the buds--

10 Pm to Ball's Hill
11 nearly as warm & pleasant as yesterday
12 I see what I suppose is the female

13 rusty grackle--black body with green
14 reflections--& purplish brown head & neck--
15 but I notice no light iris. By a pool

16 SE of Nathan Barretts' see 5 or 6 painted
17 prob some more out yesterday--
18 //turtles in the sun--& afterward along a
19 ditch just east of the Pine hill near the
20 river a great many more--as many as 20
21 within a rod-- I must have disturbed this
22 Pm 100 at least. They have crawled out
23 onto the grass on the sunny side of the ditches
24 where there is a sheltering bank-- I notice
25 the scales of one all turning up on the edges--
26 It is evident that great numbers lie buried in
27 the mud of such ditches & mud holes in
28 the winter--for they have not yet been crawling
29 over the meadows. Some have very broad yellow
30 lines on the ~~top~~ back-- others are almost uniformly
31 dark above. They hurry & tumble into the water
32 at your approach--but several soon

¹⁷¹"or twittering" is cut off on MS copy so I can't verify

1 rise to the surface--& just put their heads out to re-
2 connoitre-- Each trifling weed or clod is a serious
3 impediment in their path--catching their flippers
4 or causing them to tumble back-- They never lightly
5 skip over it. But there¹⁷² they have patience & per-
6 severance--& plenty of time. The narrow edges
7 of the ditches are almost paved in some places
8 with their black & muddy backs-- They seem
9 to come out with the sun about the time the phoebe
10 is heard over the water--

11 At the first pool I also scared up a snipe-- It //
12 {rises} with a single cra-a-{cka} & goes off with
13 its zig-zag flight--with its bill presented to
14 {the} earth--ready to charge bayonets--against
15 the inhabitants of the mud.

16 As I sit 2/3 the way up the sunny side of
17 the Pine Hill looking over the meadows--which
18 are now almost completely bare--the crows
19 by their swift flight & scolding screech to me some
20 large bird of prey--hovering over the river--
21 I perceive by its marking & size that it can-
22 not be a hen hawk--& now it settles¹⁷³
23 on the topmost branch of a white maple
24 bending it down-- Its great armed & feathered
25 legs dangle helplessly--in the air for a
26 moment as if feeling for the perch--
27 while its body is tipping this way & that--
28 It sits there facing me some 40 or 50 rods
29 off--pluming itself--but keeping a good look

¹⁷² Possibly "then"

¹⁷³ Could T mean "settles"?

1 out-- At this distance & in this light--
2 it appears to have a rusty brown head & breast
3 & is white beneath--with rusty leg feathers--
4 & a tail black beneath-- When it flies
5 again--it is principally black varied with
6 white--regular light spots on its tail & wings
7 beneath--but chiefly a conspicuous white
8 space on the forward part of the back
9 --also some of the upper side of the tail or
10 tail coverts is white-- It has broad ragged
11 buzzard like wings--& from the white
12 & stoutness
13 of its back--as well as the shape ^ of its wings
14 & its not having a gull like body-- I think it
15 //? must be an eagle-- It lets itself down with
16 its legs somewhat helplessly dangling--as if
17 feeling for something on the bare meadow--
18 & circling
19 & then gradually flies away soaring ^ higher
20 & higher until lost in the downy clouds
21 This lofty soaring is at least a grand re-
22 creation--as if it were nourishing sublime
23 ideas-- I should like to know why it soars
24 higher & higher so--whether its thoughts
25 are really turned to earth--for it seems
26 to be more nobly as well as highly {emplouyed}¹⁷⁴
27 than the laborers ditching in the meadow
28 beneath--or any others of my fellow
29 townsmen.
30 Hearing a quivering note of alarm from
31 some bird-- I look up & see a male

¹⁷⁴ Possibly "employed"

1 hen-harrier--the neatly-built hawk--sweeping over
2 the hill.

3 While I was looking at the eagle(?) I saw on the
4 hill side far across the meadow by Holbrooks
5 clearing--what at first I took for a red flag
6 {a}¹⁷⁵ handkerchief--carried along on a pole--just above
7 the woods-- It was a fire in the woods--& I
8 saw the top of the flashing flames above the
9 tree tops. The woods are in a state of tinder--
10 & the smoker & sportsmen--& the burner must
11 be careful now--

12 I do not see a duck on the great meadows
13 today--as I did not upstream yesterday-- It is
14 remarkable how suddenly & completely those that
15 were here 2 days ago have left us. It is true
16 the water has gone down still more on the meadows.
17 I infer that waterfowl travel in pleasant weather

18 With many men their fine manners are
19 a lie all over--a skim-coat or finish
20 of falsehood-- They are not brave enough to
21 do without this suit of armor--which they
22 wear night & day.

23 The trees in swamps are streaming with gossamer
24 at least 30 feet up--& prob. were yesterday

25 A¹⁷⁶ see at Gourgase's¹⁷⁷ hedge many tree
26 sparrows & fox col. sparrows--the latter are¹⁷⁸
27 singing very loud & sweetly-- Some what like
28 Ar, tea,--twe twe, twe twe. or¹⁷⁹
29 Ar te, ter twe twe, twe twe. variously
30 They are quite tame

¹⁷⁵ "or"?

¹⁷⁶ T probably means "I"

¹⁷⁷ T had originally written a small "g" in "Gourgase's" and later capitalized it

¹⁷⁸ Possibly "on" or "one"

¹⁷⁹ Stray mark after "or"?

1 Mar. 30th

2 Pm to my boat at Cardinal Shore--& thence
3 to Lee's Cliff--

4 Another fine Pm warmer than before, I think.

5 I walk in the fields now without
6 slumping in the thawing ground--or
7 there are but few {‡}¹⁸⁰ soft places--& the
8 distant sand banks look dry & warm.

9 The frogs are now heard leaping into
10 the ditches as you approach & their
11 dimple is seen--(I find a smallish
12 //bullfrog??% under my boat)

13 Approaching carefully the little pool
14 S. of Hubbards Grove-- I see the dimples
15 where the croakers which were on the
16 surface have dived--& I see 2 or 3 still
17 spread out on the surface {drawing}--in the
18 sun. They are very wary & instantly dive to the
19 bottom on your approach & bury themselves
20 in the weeds or mud. The water is quite
21 smooth & it is very warm here just under
22 the edge of the wood--but I do not hear
23 any croaking-- Later in a pool behind
24 Lee's Cliff--I hear them--the waking up
25 of the leafy pools. The last was a pool
26 amid the blueberry & huckleberry & a
27 few little pines-- I do not remember that
28 I ever hear this frog in the river or
29 ponds-- They seem to be an early frog pe-

¹⁸⁰ crossed out vertical line may be an "l" or just the start of another letter

1 culiar to pools & small ponds in the woods
2 & fields.

3 I notice scampering over this water 2 or 3
4 brown spiders--middling-sized--they appear
5 to be the ones which have spun this gossamer.

6 There is at the bottom of this pool
7 much of the ludwigia--that evergreen
8 weed seen in winter at the bottom of pools
9 & ditches-- Methinks those peculiar bulbs
10 --some of which I see near it--are of this
11 plant.

12 Landing at Bittern Cliff--I went round through
13 the woods to get sight of ducks on the pond.

14 Creeping down through the woods I reached
15 the rocks & saw 15 or 20 Sheldrakes scattered
16 about. The full plumaged males--con-
17 spicuously black & white--& often swimming
18 in pairs--appeared to be the most wary--keeping
19 furthest out. Others with much less white
20 & duller black--were very busily fishing just
21 N the inlet to the pond--where there is about
22 3 feet of water--& others still playing &
23 preening themselves. These ducks whose
24 tame representatives are so sluggish &
25 deliberate in their motions--were full of
26 activity-- A party of these ducks fishing
27 & playing is a very lively scene-- On one
28 side for instance you will see a party of
29 8 or 10 busily diving & most of the time under

1 water--not rising high when they come
2 up--& soon plunging again. The whole
3 surface will be in commotion there
4 though no ducks may be seen-- I saw
5 one come up with a large fish--whereupon
6 all the rest as they successively came to
7 the surface gave chase to it, while it
8 held its prey over the water in its bill--
9 & they pursued with a great rush & clatter
10 a dozen or more rods over the surface
11 ~~with~~ making a great furrow in the
12 water--but there being some trees in the
13 way I could not see the issue--
14 I saw 7 or 8 all dive together as with
15 one consent--remaining under half
16 a minute or more--

17 On another side you see a party which
18 seem to be playing & pluming themselves
19 They will run & dive & come up & dive again
20 every 3 or 4 feet--occasionally one pursuing
21 another--will flutter in the water making
22 it fly--or erect themselves at full length
23 on the surface like a penguin & flap their
24 wings-- This party make an incessant
25 noise--

26 Again you will see some steadily tacking
27 this way or that in the middle of the
28 pond--& often they rest there asleep
29 with their heads in their backs--
30 They readily cross the pond swimming from this

1 I suspect that they are nocturnal in their
2 habits & therefore require much rest by
3 day. So do the seasons revolve & every
4 chink is filled. While the waves toss this
5 bright day the ducks asleep are drifting
6 before it across the ponds. Every now
7 & then one or too¹⁸³ lift their heads &
8 look about as if they watched by turns.
9 //I see also 2 ducks--perhaps a little larger
10 than these--I am pretty sure without red bills
11 & therefore not shell-drakes--(and they are not
12 nearly as white as sheldrakes ordinarily) with
13 more elevated heads & gibbons(?) bills--
14 The heads--bills & upper parts of neck
15 black--breast¹⁸⁴ white or whitish--but back
16 //sober colored-- Can they be brant or mallards?
17 The leaves are now so dry--& loose that it is almost impossible
18 to approach the shore of the pond without being heard by the ducks
19 I am not sure--but I heard a pine warbler
20 ? day before yesterday--& from what a boy asks
21 me about a yellow bird chick he saw there
22 I think it likely. Just after sundown
23 //I see a large flock of geese in a
24 perfect harrow cleaving their way toward
25 the north-east. With Napoleonic tactics split-
26 ting the forces of winter--
27 // C. says he saw a great many wood turtles
28 on the bank of the Assabet today--
29 The painted & wood turtles have seemed
30 to be out in surprising abundance at
31 an unusually early date this year--but
32 I think I can account for it. The river

¹⁸³ Or "two" with the "w" closed up all the way

¹⁸⁴ Cannot read interlineation above "breast"

1 is remarkably low--almost at summer level--
2 I am not sure that I remember it so low at this
3 season-- Now probably these tortoises would always
4 lie out in the sun at this season, if there were
5 any bank at hand to lie on-- Ordinarily at
6 this season, the meadows being flooded--together
7 with the pools & ditches in which the painted turtles
8 lie--there is no bank exposed near their winter
9 quarters for them to lie¹⁸⁵ out on--& I first
10 notice¹⁸⁶ them under water on the meadow.
11 But this year it is but a step for them
12 to the sunny bank--& the shores of the Assabet.
13 & of ditches are lined with them.

14 C. heard hylas today. //

15 April 1st '58

16 White-bellied swallows //

17 Pm paddle up Assabet--

18 The river is at summer level--has //

19 not been up this spring--& has fallen to this.

20 The lowermost willow at my boat is bare--

21 The white-maples are abundantly

22 out today--prob--the very first¹⁸⁷ bloomed

23 on the 29th. XXXX We hold the boat //

24 beneath one surprised to hear the resounding

25 hum of honey bees which are busy about

26 about them-- It reminds me of the

27 bass & its bees. The trees are conspicuous with

28 dense clusters of light colored stamens.

29 The alders above the hemlocks do not yet shed

¹⁸⁵ Difficult to read: 1906 has "come"

¹⁸⁶ T crossed out the "d" in "noticed" to make it "notice"

¹⁸⁷ might be a dash after "first" but likely the t cross

1 //pollen-- What I called yellow wasps--
2 which built over my window last year
3 have come & are about the old nest-- Numbers
4 have settled on it. I observed night
5 before last as often before when geese
6 were passing over in the twilight ~~pretty~~
7 quite near--though the whole heavens
8 were still light & I know which way
9 to look by the honking-- I could not
10 distinguish them. It takes but a little
11 obscurity to hide a bird in the air--
12 How difficult even in broadest daylight
13 to discover again a hawk at a distance in
14 the sky
15 ^ when you have once turned your eyes
16 away!
17 Pleasant it is to see again the red
18 lark of the C. sericea shining in the
19 warm sun--at the hill swamp--above
20 the spring. Walking through the maple
21 there I see a squirrels'¹⁸⁸ nest 23 or 24
22 feet high in a large maple--& climbing
23 to it (for it was so peculiar, having a basket
24 work of twigs about it that I did not
25 know but it was a hawks nest) I found
26 that it was a very perfect prob. red
27 squirrels' nest--made entirely of the
28 now very dark or blackish green moss
29 such as grows on the button bush--&
30 on the swamps ground--a dense mass
31 of it about 1 foot through matted

¹⁸⁸ apostrophe might be before "s" in squirrels, also on line 27

1 inobvious
2 together with an ^ hole on the east side
3 & a tuft of loose moss blowing up¹⁸⁹
4 above it which seemed to answer for a
5 door or porch covering. The cavity within
6 was quite small but very snug & warm
7 where 1 or 2 squirrels might be warmly in
8 the severest storm--the dense moss walls
9 being about 3 inches thick or more. But
10 what was most peculiar was that
11 this nest though placed over the
12 center of the tree where it divided
13 into 4 or 5 branches--was regularly
14 & elaborately hedged about & supported
15 by a basket work of strong twigs
16 stretched across from bough to bough
17 --which twigs I perceived had been
18 gnawed green from the maple itself
19 --the stub ends remaining visible
20 all around.

21 Near by I saw another much smaller
22 & less perfect nest of the same kind
23 which had fallen to the ground.
24 This had been made in a birch & the
25 birch twigs had been gnawed off--
26 but in this case I noticed a little fine
27 broken grass within it mixed with the
28 moss--

29 I notice large water bugs-

//

30 It is remarkable that the river

⁹⁴ Stray mark after "up"?

1 seems rarely to rise or fall gradually¹⁹⁰
2 --but rather by fits & starts--& hence
3 the water rises as indicated now by the
4 saw-dust--are very distinct parrallel
5 lines 4 or 5 or more inches apart--
6 It is time the wind has something to do with
7 it--& might waft to a certain place much
8 more dust than was left on another when
9 the water stood much longer at the
10 same level. Surely the ^ miller's
11 saw
12 is a trade which cannot be {c rr ed}¹⁹¹ on
13 in secret. Not only this saw dust be-
14 trays him--but at night, esp. when
15 the water is high I hear the tearing sound
16 of his saw a mile or more off--born
17 down the stream.

18 // I see six Sternotherus odoratus¹⁹² in
19 the river thus early--2 are fairly out
20 sunning. One has crawled up a willow--
21 It is evident then that they may be earlier
22 in other places or towns that I had
23 supposed--where they are not concealed
24 by such freshets as we have. I took up &
25 smelt of 5 of these--& they emitted none
26 of their peculiar scent! It would seem
27 then that this may be connected with their
28 breeding--or at least with their period of
29 greatest activity. They are quite slug-
30 gish now

31 At Hemlock brook a dozen or more

¹⁹⁰ Ink blotch after "gradually"?

¹⁹¹ Looks like "carried"

¹⁹² T used a different spelling of sternotherus (the name for a musk turtle?)

1 rods from the river I see on the wet mud
2 a little snapping turtle evidently hatched last //
3 year-- It does at¹⁹³ open its eyes nor mouth
4 while I hold it-- Its eyes appear as if
5 sealed up by its long sleep. In our ability
6 to contend with the elements--what feeble infants
7 we are to this one-- Talk of great heads
8 look at this one-- Talk of Hercules' feats
9 in the cradle-- What sort of cradle &
10 nursing has this infant had? It totters
11 forth confident & victorious when it
12 can hardly carry its shield. It looked so
13 much like the mud or a wet muddy leaf
14 --it was a wonder I saw it.
15 I start under the hemlocks there a
16 butterfly (Call it the tawny orange single white //
17 spotted) about the size of vanessa antiope
18 & pale brown about them
19 tawny orange with black spots¹⁹⁴ or eyes ^ --a
20 white spot near the corner of each front
21 wing--a dark line near the edge behind
22 A small sharp projecting angle {to} the
23 bird wings--a green-yellow back to body.
24 See wood turtles coupled on their //
25 edges at the bottom--where the stream has
26 turned them up.
27 Far up in still shallows disturb pickerel
28 & perch &c--they ap. touch the muddy
29 bottom as they dart out--muddying the
30 water here & there.
31 A Rana halecina on the bank. //

¹⁹³ does T mean "not"?

¹⁹⁴ comma scratched out after "spots"

1 When I started to walk that suddenly
2 pleasant Pm the 28th of Mar. I
3 crossed the path of the 2 brothers R.--
4 who were walking direct to the depot as
5 if they had special business there that Sunday--
6 the queer short legged dog running {ahead}--
7 I talked with them an hour there in the hope
8 that the one who is not a stranger to me
9 would let something escape from his wide
10 head--but he was very moderate-- All I
11 got out of him to be remembered was that
12 in some town up country where he lived
13 when young--they called the wood chuck
14 "Squash-belly"--with references to his form
15 I suggested--but so far he had not ad-
16 vanced. This he communicated very se-
17 riously as an important piece of informa-
18 tion with which he labored. The other
19 told me how to raise a dog's dander--
20 any the gentlest dogs--by looking stern by
21 in his face & making a peculiar sound
22 with your mouth-- I then broke short
23 the conference--continued my walk--
24 While these gentlemen {wheeled} directly
25 about & walked straight back again.

26 It is evident that the date
27 of the 1st general revival of the
28 turtles, excepting such as are generally
29 seen in ditches--i.e. the yellow spotted--
30 depends on the state of the river--

1 whether it is high or low in the spring.

2 April 2nd

3 Pm to Yew & R W. E's Cliff--

4 At Hubbard's Grove--I see a wood-chuck //

5 He waddles to his hole & then puts up

6 his grey nose within 30 feet to reconnoitre-

7 It is too windy--& the surface of the

8 croaker pool is too much ruffled for

9 any of the croakers to be lying out--but

10 I notice a large mass of their spawn //

11 there well advanced.

12 At the first little sluice way just beyond

13 I catch a large rana halecina-which

14 puffs itself up considerably as if it might

15 be full of spawn-- I must look there for

16 its spawn-- It is rather sluggish--cannot

17 jump much yet-- It allows me to stroke

18 it & at length take it up in my hand

19 squatting still in it.

20 Who would believe that out of those dry &

21 withered banks will come violets, lupines &

22 in profusion? At the spring on the W side

23 of F. H. Hill I startle a striped snake. //

24 It is a large one with a white stripe down

25 the dorsal ridge--between 2 broad black ones--

26 and on each side the last a buff one & then

27 blotchy brown sides--darker toward tail--beneath

28 greenish yellow-- This snake generally has

29 a pinkish cast-- There is another evidently the

30 same species--but not half so large

1 with its neck lying affectionately
2 across the first-- ({I}¹⁹⁵ may have
3 separated them by my approach) which
4 seen by itself you might have thought
5 a distinct species-- The dorsal line in¹⁹⁶
6 this one is bright yellow--though not
7 so bright as the lateral ones--&
8 the yellow about the head--also the
9 black is more glossy & this snake
10 has no pink cast-- No doubt on al-
11 most every such ~~yellow~~ warm bank now
12 you will find a snake lying out.

13 The first notice I had of them was a
14 slight rustling in the leaves as if made
15 by a squirrel--though I did not see them
16 for 5 minutes after-- The biggest at length
17 dropped straight down into a hole within a
18 foot of where he lay. They allowed me
19 to lift their heads with a stick 4 or 5 inches
20 without stirring--nor did they mind the flies
21 that alighted on them--looking steadily at
22 me without the slightest motion of head
23 body or eyes as if they were of marble--
24 & as you looked back at them you con-
25 tinually forgot that they were real & not
26 imaginary.

27 // There hazel has just begun to shed pollen
28 here XX perhaps yesterday in some other places--
29 This loosening & elongating of its catkins is
30 a sufficiently pleasing sight--in dry

¹⁹⁵ The "I" can be seen, but it appears to be connected to something before it

¹⁹⁶ Possibly "on" & a stray mark

1 & warm hollows on the hill sides. It is an unexpected
2 evidence of life in so dry a shrub.

3 On the side of F. H. Hill I go looking for bay-
4 wings--turning my glass to each sparrow or
5 a rock or tree-- At last I see one which flies
6 right up straight from a rock 80 or a hundred
7 feet & warbles a peculiar long & pleasant
8 strain after the manner of the sky lark methinks--
9 & close by I see another ap. a bay wing, though //
10 I do not see its white in tail--& it utters while
11 sitting the same subdued rather peculiar strain.

12 See how those black ducks--swimming
13 in pairs far off on the river are¹⁹⁷ disturbed
14 by our appearance--swimming away in alarm--
15 & now when we advance again, they rise &
16 fly up stream & about uttering regularly
17 a crack cr-r-r ack of alarm--even
18 fo 5 or 10 minutes as they circle about,
19 long after we have lost sight of them cir-
20 cling about--¹⁹⁸ now we hear it on that
21 side now on that.

22 The Yew shows its bundles of anthers plainly
23 as if it might open in 4 or 5 days

24 Just as I get home I think I see crowblack //
25 birds about a willow by the river--yes

26 It is not important that the poet
27 should say some particular thing--but
28 should speak in harmony with nature--
29 The tone & pitch of his voice is the main thing--

¹⁹⁷ "are" poss. "we"

¹⁹⁸ dash might be a period

1 It appears to me that the wisest
2 philosophers that I know are as foolish
3 as Sancho Panza dreaming of his Island
4 -- considering the ends they propose & the
5 obstructions in their path--they are even--
6 One philosopher is feeble enough alone
7 but observe how each multiplies his
8 difficulties by how many unnecessary
9 links he allies himself to the exciting state
10 of things. He girds himself for his enterprise
11 with fasting & prayer--& then instead of
12 pressing forward like a light armed soldier
13 with the fewest possible hinderances--he
14 at once hooks himself on to some im-
15 moveable institution, as a family--the
16 very rottenest of them all & begins to
17 sing & scratch gravel towards his
18 objects-- Why it is as much as the strangest
19 man can do decently to bury his friends
20 & relations--without making a new world
21 of it. But if the philosopher is as foolish
22 as Sancho Panza--he is also as naïve
23 & nothing so truly makes a thing so or so
24 {&} as thinking it so.

25 Approaching the side of a wood on which were
26 some pines--this pm I heard the note of
27 //the Pine warbler--calling the pines to life--
28 though I did not see it. It has probably been
29 here as long as I said before. Returning I

1 saw a sparrow-like bird flit by in an orchard--&
2 turning my glass upon it was surprised by its
3 burning yellow. This higher color in birds sur-
4 prises us like and increase of warmth in the day.

5 April 3d 58'

6 Going down town this morning--I am surprised
7 by the rich strain of the purple-finch--from /
8 the elms-- 3 or 4 have arrived--& lodged
9 against the elms of our street--which runs
10 east & west across their course--& they are
11 now {mingling}¹⁹⁹ their land & rich strain with
12 tree
13 that of the ^ sparrows--robins--blue birds &c--

14 The hearing of this note implies some improve
15 ment in the acoustics of the air-- It reminds me
16 of the genial state of the air when the elms
17 are in bloom-- They sit still over the street & make a
18 business of warbling-- They advertise me surely of
19 some additional warmth & serenity. How this
20 note sings over the roof of the village!
21 You wonder that even the sleepers are
22 not awakened by it--to inquire who is
23 there-- and yet prob. not another than
24 myself in all the town observes their
25 coming & not half a dozen even distin-
26 guished them in their lives. And yet the
27 very mob of the town know the hard
28 names of Germanians or swiss families
29 which once sang here or elsewhere.

30 About 9 Am C & I paddle

¹⁹⁹ Possibly "mingling"

1 down the river. It is a remarkably
2 warm & pleasant day--²⁰⁰ The shore is alive
3 with tree sparrows sweetly warbling--also
4 black-birds &c The crow b. bird which
5 I saw last night are hoarsely clucking
6 from time to time. Approaching the island
7 we hear the air full of the hum of bees
8 which at first we refer to the near trees-- It
9 comes from the white maples across the N. Branch
10 15 rods off-- We hear it from time to time
11 as we paddle along all day down to the
12 Bedford line. There is no pause to the hum of
13 the bees all this warm day. It is a very simple
14 but pleasing--& soothing sound this {susurrus}²⁰¹
15 thus early in the spring.

16 When off the mouth of the mill Brook we
17 hear the the stertorous tut tut tut of frogs
18 from the meadow--with an occasional faint
19 bull-frog-like er er er inter mingled-- I land
20 there to reconnoitre. The river is remarkably low--
21 quite down to summer level--& there is but very
22 little water any where on the meadows. I see
23 some shallow lagoons (W of the brook--) whence
24 the sound comes-- There too are countless painted
25 turtles out around on the banks & hummocks
26 left by the ice--their black & muddy backs
27 shine afar in the sun--& though now 15
28 to 20 rods off I see through my glass that they
29 are already alarmed--have their necks stretched
30 out & are beging²⁰² to slip into the water--
31 when many heads are seen-- Resolved to
32 identify this frog--on²⁰³ or 2 of whose heads
33 I could already see above the surface with

²⁰⁰ dash might be a period

²⁰¹ Possibly "susurrus"

²⁰² T probably meant "beginning"

²⁰³ "one"?

1 my glass--I picked my way to the nearest pool--
2 Close where I landed an R. halecina lay
3 out on some sedge-- In went all the
4 turtles immediately & soon after the frogs
5 and their note was heard only from more distant pools
6 sank to the bottom ^. I stood perfectly still,
7 and ere long they began to reappear one by one--
8 & spread themselves out on the surface-- They were
9 the R. halecina-- I could see very plainly the //
10 two very prominent yellow lines along the sides
11 of the head--& the large dark ocellated marks
12 even under water on the thighs &c-- Gradually
13 the²⁰⁴ begin to recover their voices--but it is hard to say
14 at first which one of the dozen within 20 feet
15 is speaking-- They begin to swim & hop along the
16 surface toward each other-- Their note is a
17 hard dry tut tut tut tut not at all
18 singing like the toads--& produced with very
19 little swelling or motion of the throat--but
20 so much trembling of the whole body--and from time
21 to time one makes that {—}²⁰⁵ faint some what bull
22 frog-like er er er. Both these sounds then are made
23 by one frog.²⁰⁶ & what I have formerly thought an early
24 bull frog note was this-- This, I think, is the first
25 frog-sound I have heard from the river meadows--
26 or anywhere except the croaking leaf-pool²⁰⁷ frogs
27 and the hylodes-- They are evidently breeding now
28 like toads--and probably are about the
29 notes as exclusively--as the toads will soon be--
30 This sound we continue to hear all day long--

²⁰⁴ I don't see the "y" to spell "they"

²⁰⁵ two or three indecipherable crossed-out letters

²⁰⁶ This period might just be a blotch

²⁰⁷ hyphen may just be part of the "f" in "leaf"

1 especially from the broad meadows in Bed-
2 ford-²⁰⁸ Close at hand a single one does
3 not sound loud-- Yet it is surprising how
4 far a hundred or thousand croaking(?)
5 at once can be heard. It comes to me
6 on the breeze from north over the Bedford
7 meadows a quarter of a mile off--filling
8 the air-- It is like the rolling of a wagon along
9 some highway--or more like a distant train
10 or else of many rills {emptying} in
11 or an RR--^ or more yet like the sound of
12 a factory--& it comes with an echo which makes
13 it seem yet more distant & universal.

14 At this distance it is a soft and almost
15 purring sound--yet with the above named
16 bull-frog like variation in it. Some times
17 the meadow will be almost still-- then they will
18 begin in earnest & plainly excite one another
19 into a general snoring or eructation over a
20 quarter of a mile of meadow. It is unusually
21 early to hear them so numerous--& by day--
22 but the water being so very low & shallow
23 and²⁰⁹ the meadow is unusually warm ~~at~~
24 this pleasant day. This might be called
25 //the Day of the Snoring Frogs--or
26 the Awakening of the Meadows.

27 Probably the frost is out of the meadows very
28 early this year. It is a remarkable spring
29 for reptile life. It remains now to detect the
30 note of the palustris, wood frog, & fonti-
31 nalis.

32 ? I am not sure but I heard one kind of bull-
33 frogs note along the river once or twice. I saw
34 several mid sized frogs with green noses &
35 dark bodies small bull frog {like}(??²¹⁰) sitting

²⁰⁸ "ford--" poss. "ford."

²⁰⁹ "d" appears to run into the "t" in "the"

²¹⁰ Possibly "!"

1 along the shore. At what perhaps is called the
2 Holt just below N. Barretts Many grackles
3 & red wings together flit along the willows by our
4 side or a little ahead keeping up a great chattering--
5 while countless painted turtles are as steadily rustling
6 & dropping into the water from the willows &c just ahead.

7 We land at Ball's Hill & eat our dinners--
8 It is so warm we would {fain} {bath}²¹¹-- We seek
9 some shade & cannot easily find it-- You
10 wonder that all birds & insects are not out
11 at once in such a heat--

12 We find it delicious to take off our shoes & stock-
13 ings & wade far through the shallows on the
14 meadow to the Bedford Shore--to let our legs
15 drink air.

16 white
17 How pretty the ^ fibrous roots of the eriocaulon--
18 floating in tufts on the meadow--like {deeded} chains!--

19 In the hazy atmosphere yesterday we could
20 hardly see Garfield's old unpainted farm-
21 house. It was only betrayed by its elms. This would
22 be the right color for painters to imitate. When
23 the sun went into a cloud we detected the outlines
24 of the windows only.

25 S
26 When returning we discovered on the ^ side of
27 the river just at the old crossing place from
28 the great meadows N of the ludwigia prob--
29 a carrion kind of spawn-- It was white //
30 each ovum about as big as a robin shot or
31 larger with mostly a very minute white core--

²¹¹ 1906 says "bathe" but I don't see an "e" in MS

1 no black core
2 ^ & these were agglutinated together in the
3 with some hole in it
4 form of zig-zag hollow cylinders ^ 2 to
5 3 inches in diameter & 1 or 2 feet long--
6 looking like a ladies²¹² ruff--or other
7 muzlin work on the bottom or on
8 roots & twigs of willow & button bush--
9 where the water was 2 or 3 feet deep--
10 The greater pat²¹³ lay on the bottom, looking
11 like a film--these cylinders being some-
12 what coiled about there²¹⁴
13 {drawing} When you took it up the two
14 sides fell together and it was flat
15 in your hand like the leg of a stock-
16 ing-- In one place there are
17 //a dozen very large red-bellied & brown backed
18 leeches in it evidently battenning on it--
19 (This must be frog or fish spawn. If frog-
20 spawn, I think it must be that of the
21 {No}--V Ap. 5th Is it not fish spawn?
22 R. halecina^, the only ones fairly awake
23 along the river--but how are leeches
24 propagated? There was a great abun-
25 many bushels
26 dance of it ^ for at least a dozen rods
27 along the shore--& it must afford food
28 The consistency of a jelly we eat
29 to many creatures-- He saw one perch there.
30 Some on the ruts was quite up to the surface--
31 but most lower. When you had taken
32 up a handful & broken it--or dropping it
33 into the water, it recovered its form for the
34 most part. I noticed that the

²¹² T wrote "ies" over "y" to make "ladies"

²¹³ Could T mean "part"?

²¹⁴ Possibly "these"

1 fine willow root fibres & weeds--potamogeton
2 these or {ooze}--1/8 to 1/4 inch deep or long
3 &c ^ were thickly covered with a whitish film ^ ap--
4 connected with this spawn--which made them
5 look like plants covered with frost in a
6 though it was a duller white--
7 winter morning--^ but out of water you did not
8 perceive any thing. Prob. this was the milk.

9 When I have been out thus the whole day--& spend
10 that²¹⁵ whole afternoon returning--It seems to
11 me pitiful & ineffectual to be out as usual
12 only in the afternoon--as if you had come late
13 to a feast--after your betters²¹⁶ had done-- The
14 afternoon seems coarse & reversed--or at least
15 a long twilight after the fresh & bright fore-
16 noon.

17 The gregariousness of men is their most con-
18 temptible & discouraging aspect-- See how they
19 follow each other like sheep not knowing why.

20 Day & martin's blacking was preferred by the last
21 %They{ }%²¹⁷
22 generation and also is by this-- Apparently in
23 %{ }%²¹⁸
24 ancient times several parties were nearly equally
25 matched-- they appointed a committee & made
26 a compromise agreeing to vote or believe so
27 & so & they still helplessly abide by that-- Men
28 are the inveterate foes of all improvement. Generally
29 speaking they think more of their hen-houses.²¹⁹--
30 than of any desirable heaven. If you aspire
31 to any thing²²⁰ better than politics expect no
32 cooperation from men-- They will not further
33 anything good-- You must prevail of your own force

²¹⁵ Poss. "the"

²¹⁶ Second 't' in "betters" is not clear

²¹⁷ Cannot read rest of T's interlineations

²¹⁸ Continuation of T's unreadable interlinaneation

²¹⁹ period may be part of the dash

²²⁰ "any thing" poss. "anything"

1 as a plant springs & grows by its own
2 vitality.

3 // Hear the Rana ~~sylvaticas~~ halecinas in the
4 from
5 evening also (~~while I sit at~~)²²¹ my window--

6 Ap 4th

7 Pm Go to the cold pond-hole S of J. P. Brown's
8 to hear the croaking frogs. They are in full blast.
9 on the SW side where {that} have been some
10 {birches} &c cut the past winter--& there
11 is much brush fallen in the water--whose shelter
12 they evidently like & there they have dropped their spawn
13 on the twigs.

14 I stand for nearly an hour within 10 feet on
15 the bank overlooking them. You see them lying
16 spread out or swimming toward one another--
17 sometimes getting onto the bush above the water--
18 or hopping onto the shore a few feet-- I see
19 one or 2 pairs coupled--now sinking now rising
20 to the surface-- The upper one a male quite
21 dark brown & considerably smaller than the
22 such part of her as I can see
23 female--which is reddish ^ & has quite distinct
24 dark bars on its posterior extremities--while I
25 cannot discern any on the male--

26 But the greatest commotion comes from a
27 mass of them 5 or 6 inches in diameter--
28 where there are at least a dozen or 15 clinging
29 to one another & ~~p~~ making a queer croaking--
30 From time to time a new comer adds himself
31 to the mass turning them over & over--
32 It was an incessantly struggling mass-- You could have taken up a dozen or 15 in
33 your hands
34 The water is all alive with them for a
35 couple of rods{--} & from time to time they croak
36 much more generally than at others--evidently
37 exciting one another to it--as {do} the R. halecina

²²¹ Strikethrough?

1 I brought these frogs home & put them in a pan of water--
2 v. below
3 // Sophia has brought home the early large
4
5 {catkinned} willow well out--prob some yesterday--
6 at least--

7 Ap. 5th
8 as far as I can see round it
9 // What I call the young ^ bull frog--about
10 It has a bright golden ring {out} side of the iris {Is} this the case with the bull
11 frog?
12 2 1/2 inches long--though it has no yellow on
13 May it not be a young R. fontinalis? no yellow to throat.
14 throat-- I found it on the shore of the Clam-
15 Now in { }
16 Shell Hill ditch--can jump much better

17 than the others--& easily gets out of the
18 deep pan. V 3 ps forward %V also June 8 58--prob a R. fontinalis%
19 Those to whom I showed the 2 R. sylvaticas
20 could not believe that they wer one species--
21 but this morning on taking them out of the
22 water to examine minutely--they changed so
23 rapidly¹¹⁹ chameleon--like that I could only
24 describe their first appearance from memory
25 The male grew a lighter brown & the
26 female darker--till in 10 minutes there
27 was but a slight shade of difference--&
28 but esp. that of the male
29 this whole aspect ^ seemed altered also--
30 so that it was not easy to distinguish them.

31 Yet they would readily be recognized¹²⁰ for rather
32 the posterior extremities? both having distinct dark bars
33 dark-colored wood-frogs--^

34 The female was 2 1/10 inches long, the male
35 1 4/5 inches long-- The female was (ap. in-
36 voluntarily) dropping a little spawn in the
37 pan this morning--& the black core was
38 as big as the head of a pin when it issued from
39 the body.

40 The only dif--in color--that I now noticed
41 except that the male was a shade the {duskest}¹²¹--
42 (both a pale brown) was that there was
43 a very distinct dark mark on the front side at
44 the base of the anterior extremities of the

¹¹⁹ Possibly "rapid by"

¹²⁰ Possibly "recognised"

¹²¹ Possibly "darkest"--1906 says "darkest"

1 // ¹²⁴ I hear this morning the Seringo sparrow
2 In the proceedings of the Nat. Hist Soc
3 for Dec. '56 there were presented by Dr. H. R. Storer
4 "A globular concretion of grass said to have
5 been formed by the action of waves upon the
6 sea shore." Were not then some obtained
7 by the Hoars or Emersons from F. Pond?.¹²⁵
8 Pm I go to the meadow at the
9 mouth of the Mill brook to find the spawn of the
10 R. halecina. They are croaking & coupling there
11 by thousands as before, though there is a raw E.
12 wind to-day. I see them coupled merely--in
13 a few instances--but no such balls or masses
14 of them about one female as in the case of
15 the R. sylvatica--though this may occur--
16 You can easily get close to them & catch
17 them by wading-- The first lagoon within
18 any where
19 the meadow was not a foot deep ^ & I found
20 the spawn where it was about 8 inches deep--
21 with a grassy & mossy bottom-- I was principally
22 in 2 collections which were near together &
23 each about a yard in diameter-- The separate
24 masses of this were from 2 to 6.¹²⁶ (or commonly 3 or
25 4) inches in diameter--and generally looked
26 quite black & dense or fine egged in the water--
27 But it really on a closer inspection presented
28 quite an interesting variety of appearances--
29 The black core is about the size of a
30 pin head & one half of it is white--

¹²⁴ slashes are faint and might be bleed-through

¹²⁵ period could be a blotch

¹²⁶ period could be a blotch

1 It commonly lies with the black side up--
2 & when you look directly down ~~up~~ on it has
3 blue
4 a rich very dark ^ purple appearance-- when
5 with the white or wrong side up--it¹²⁷ looks like
6 a mass of small silvery points or bubbles & you
7 do not notice the jelly-- But it lies also
8 at all intermediate angles & so presents a
9 variety of appearances-- It is attached
10 pretty finely to the grass & rises just to the
11 surface-- There are very fine froth-like bubbles
12 more or less mingled with it-- I am not
13 sure that I can distinguish it from that of
14 the R. sylvatica.
15 I caught several of the first--the dark blotches on the
16 back were generally more or less roundish with a
17 crenate edge-- There are distinct raised light
18 bronze colored ridges from the snout along the side
19 head & body--which were conspicuous at a distance--
20 They were all that I caught, distinctly yellow
21 %{Yes} {they} {are} {male}%
22 white beneath--& some had green buttocks%^%. & now,
23 standing over them, I saw that there were con-
24 siderable lateral bubbles formed when they
25 croaked--I. e. the {throaght} was puffed out on
26 each side quite far behind the snout. The
27 tympanum was very convex--& prominent
28 A {evening} I find that the male R. sylvatica
29 couples with or fastens himself to the back of the
30 %R fontinalis%
31 young bull frog(?) ^ or {whatever}¹²⁸ it is & the latter mean-
32 while croaks¹²⁹ in short croaks 4 or 5 times repeated
33 much like the R. sylvatica methinks.

¹²⁷ Possibly "it"

¹²⁸ Possibly "whatever"

¹²⁹ Underlined in pencil

1 // I hear the hylodes peeping now at evening
2 being at home--though I have not chanced
3 to hear any during the day. They prefer the evening.
4 Ap. 6th '58
5 A moist fogg¹³⁰ & very slightly drizzly evening
6 // It has been pretty foggy for several mornings.
7 This makes the banks look suddenly greener--
8 apparently making the green blades more promi-
9 nent & more vividly¹³¹ green than before--prevailing
10 over the withered ones--
11 Pm Ride to Lees Cliff & to 2d Division
12 //Brook-- It begins to grow cold about noon.
13 After a week or more of generally warm & pleasant
14 weather-- They with whom I talk do not
15 remember when the river was so low as this
16 top of the
17 season. The ^ bathing rock above the island
18 //in the main branch was more than a foot out
19 of water on the 3d & the river has been
20 falling since-- On examining the buds of
21 the elm at helianthus bank I find it is not
22 the slippery elm--& therefore I know but
23 one.
24 At Lee's Cliff I find no saxifrage in bloom
25 above the rock--on account of the ground having
26 been so exposed the past exceedingly mild winter
27 //& no R. fascicularis {where} there--but on a
28 few small {warm} shelves under the rocks
29 the saxifrage makes already a pretty white
30 edging along the edge of the grass sod
31 on the rocks--has got up 3 or 4 inches &
32 //may have been out 4 or 5 days . XXX

¹³⁰ Possibly "fogy"

¹³¹ Underlined in pencil

1 I also notice one columbine which may bloom
2 in a week--if it is pleasant weather- //
3 The {Umus}¹³² Americana--is ap. just¹³³ out here X //
4 or possibly yesterday-- The U. fulva not yet--of course--
5 large rusty blossom
6 The ^ buds of the last have been extensively eaten
7 & mutilated prob. by birds--leaving on the branches
8 which I examine mostly were shells--
9 I see in or¹³⁴ 2 places in low ground elder started
10 1/2 inch--before any other shrub or tree- //
11 The Turritis Stricta is 4 to 6 inches high. //
12 No mouse-ear there yet-- -- -- -- -- -- - //
13 I hear hylas in full blast {2} 1/2¹³⁵ Pm- //
14 It is remarkable how such herbacious &
15 shrubby plant--some which are decidedly ever-
16 green--have suffered the past very mild but
17 open winter on ac. of the ground being bare--
18 Accordingly the Saxifrage & and Crowfoot are
19 so backward not withstanding the warmth of
20 the last 10 days-- Perhaps they want more moisture
21 too-- The asplenium ferns of both species are
22 very generally--perfectly withered & shrivelled
23 & in exposed places on hills the checker berry
24 has not proved an evergreen--but is completely
25 withered & a dead-leaf color-- I do not remember
26 when it has suffered so much. Such plants
27 require to be covered with snow to protect them.
28 A 2nd division the caltha palustris half a //
29 dozen well out ¹³⁶the earliest may have been a day or 2 XXX
30 The first is but just coming out in cold
31 wood paths on the north sides of hills
32 which make it very muddy--there only.

¹³² Proper spelling is "Ulmus"

¹³³ Possibly "jusst" or "justt"

¹³⁴ Possibly "on"

¹³⁵ Stray mark above the fraction?

¹³⁶ Space indicates possible sentence end; no punctuation to indicate this point

1 Returned by the Dugan desert--& stopped
2 at the mill there to get the aspen-flowers
3 -- The very earliest aspens--such as grow
4 in warm exposures on the S sides of hills
5 //or woods--have begun to be effete-- Others
6 are not yet out--
7 Talked a moment with 2 little Irish(?)
8 8 or 10 yrs old
9 ^ boys ^ that were playing in the brook by the
10 mill-- Saw one catch a minnow-- I asked
11 him if he need a hook-- He said no, it was
12 a dolly chunk(?) or some such word dully
13 what asked-- Yes dully said he & he
14 would not venture to repeat the whole word--
15 again. It was a small horse hair ship
16 noose at the end of a willow stick 4 feet long
17 The horse hair was twisted 2 or 3 together. He
18 passed this over the fish slowly & then jerked
19 him out-- The noose slipping & hold him him--
20 It seems they are sometimes made with wire to catch trout
21 {drawing} I asked him to let me see
22 the fish he had caught¹³⁷
23 5 inches long
24 It was a little pickerel ^--& appeared to
25 me strange being transversely barred--&
26 reminded me of the Wrentham pond pickerel
27 --but I could not remember surely whether this
28 now the rule or the exception--but when
29 I get home I found that this was the
30 //one which Storer does not name nor de-
31 Is it not the brook pickerel?
32 scribe--but only had heard of ^ Asking what
33 other fish he had caught--he said a pike
34 That said I is a large pickerel-- He said

¹³⁷ This line is to the right of the drawing in MS

1 it had "a long long web like a ducks' bill."
2 It rapidly grows cold & blustering--
3 Ap. 7th '58
4 A cold & gusty--blustering day. //
5 We put on great coats again //
6 Pm Down the great meadows--
7 The river is low--even for summer-- the ground
8 about the outmost willow at my boat's place
9 is high & dry. I cross the meadows & step across
10 the mill-brook near Mrs Ripley's. You hear
11 no stertorous sounds of the Rana halecina this
12 cold & blustering day--unless a few when you go
13 close to their breeding places & listen attentively.
14 Scarcely one has his head out of water--though
15 I see many at the bottom. I wear India rubber
16 boots & wade through the shallow water where
17 they are found. In a shallow shelf of water
18 on the meadow--with a grassy bottom--the
19 spawn will commonly all be collected in
20 one or 2 parcels in the deepest part, if
21 it is generally less than 8 or 10 inches deep--
22 to be prepared for a further fall-- You will
23 also find a little here & there in weedy
24 ditches in the meadow-- One f¹³⁸ the first named
25 parcels will consist of even a hundred
26 about 3 inch in diameter
27 or 4
28 separate deposits ^ {crowded} together-- The
29 frogs are most numerous today about
30 & beneath the spawn-- Each little
31 mass of ova is pretty firmly attached

¹³⁸ Possibly "of" without the "o"

1 to the stubble--not accidentally, but designedly
2 & effectivelly--and when you pull it off
3 leaves some of the jelly adhering to the stubble.
4 If the mass is large it will run out of your
5 hand this side or that like a liquid or as
6 if it had life--like a "Sun squawl"-- It
7 is not injured by every ordinary agitation of
8 the water--but the mass adhered well together--
9 It bears being carried any distance in a pail--
10 when dropped into the water again it falls wrong
11 side up--showing the white sides of the cores
12 or ¹³⁹ yolks(?) On the Great meadows I
13 stand close by 2 coupled-- The male is very
14 much the smallest--an inch at least the
15 shortest--& much brighter colored. The line
16 or margins
17 or "halo" (?) ^ about its blotches is a distinct
18 yellow or greenish yellow-- The female has
19 a distended paunch full of spawn.

20 Snipes rise 2 or 3 times as I go over the
21 meadow--

22 The remarkable spawn of the 3d {alt}--just
23 below the Holt(?) does not show its cylindrical
24 form so well as before--appears to have been
25 broken up considerably perhaps by creatures
26 feeding on it.

27 I see the remains of a duck which has died
28 on this meadow--& the S. E. edge of
29 the meadow is strewn with the feathers
30 of the water fowl that plumed them-
31 selves here before the water went down--
32 There is no water anywhere on these meadows
33 now--except the one or 2 permanent pools

¹³⁹ Crossed out open paren

1 , which I cannot walk through in my boots.

2 Where they have been digging mud the past
3 winter in Beck Stow's Swamp-- I perceive that
4 the crust for 1 foot deep at least consists
5 the rest mainly sphagnum
6 chiefly--or perhaps 1/2 of it-- ^ of the dead &
7 fallen stems of water andromeda which have
8 accumulated in course of time.

9 I brought home the above 2 kinds of spawn
10 in a pail-- Putting some of the Rana halecina
11 spawn in a tumbler of water I cannot see the
12 gelatinous part--but only the dark or white
13 cores--which are kept asunder by it at
14 regular intervals.

15 The other (probably fish) spawn is seen
16 to be arranged in perfect hexagons--i.e.
17 the ova so impinge on each other--but
18 where there is a {vent} or free side--it is a
19 Isn't this the form that spheres pressing on each other equally on all sides
20 {assume}?
21 regular arc of a circle-- ^ I see the embryo
22 already fish-like(?) curved round the yolk {--}
23 with a microscope. The greater part of the
24 fish spawn being left out in a firkin--was ap killed by the cold
25 Ap. 8th '58
26 the water freezing 1/2 inch thick ap 7th--
27 Surveying Kettell Farm

28 Could I have heard F. socialis along the
29 possibly for I hear it the 14th & perhaps the 12th?
30 street this Am? or may it have been
31 the¹⁴⁰ hiemalis? (V 12th)

32 Polly Houghton comes along & says half
33 believing it--of my compass "This is what
34 regulates the moon & stars."

¹⁴⁰ Stray mark after "the"?

1 R. Rice tells me that he has seen the
2 in strings
3 pickeril¹⁴² spawn hung about ^ on the brush--
4 esp. where a tree had fallen in-- He thinks
5 it was the pickerel's because he has seen them
6 about at the time. This seems to correspond
7 with mine of Ap. 3d--though he did recognize the
8 peculiar form of it.

9 I doubt if men do ever simply & naturally
10 glorify {Go d¹⁴³} in the ordinary sense--but it is
11 remarkable how sincerely in all ages they
12 glorify nature--the praising of Aurora, for
13 in all ages
14 instance, under some form ^ is obedience
15 to as irresistible an instinct as that which impels
16 the frogs to peep.

17 Ap--11¹⁴⁴th

18 Pm to Lee's Cliff.

19 The black spheres (rather dark brown) in the
20 R. sylvatica spawn by Hubbard's grove, have
21 now opened & flatted out into a rude broad //
22 pollywog form. (This was an early specimen)
23 Yesterday saw moles working in a meadow--throwing up heaps //
24 I notice at the Conantum house--of which
25 only the chimney & frame now stands--a triangu-
26 lar mass of rubbish--more than 1/2 bushel{s}, resting
27 on the great {mantle}-tree against an angle
28 in the chimney--It being mixed with clay--I at
29 first thought it a mass of clay & straw
30 mortar, to fill up with, but looking
31 further I found it composed of corn-
32 cobs &c and the excrement {~~and of~~} probably

¹⁴² Proper spelling is pickerel but it looks like the second "e" is an "I"

¹⁴³ Possibly "God"

¹⁴⁴ Possibly "10"

1 of rats {drawing} of this form & size--&
2 of pure clay. Looking like the cells of
3 an insect. Either the wharf rat or
4 this country rat-- They had anciently chosen
5 So this was an old rats nest as well as human nest--
6 this warm place for their nest, & carried
7 & so it is with every old house--
8 a great store of eatables thither--&
9 The rats' nest may have been 150 yrs old.
10 the clay of the chimney washing down had
11 Wherever you see an old house there look for an old rats' nest.
12 incrusted the whole mass over. In hard
13 Conant says this house was built by Rufus Hosmers Great Grand father¹⁴⁵
14 times they had ap been compelled to
15 eat the clay--or it may be that they
16 love it. It is a wonder they had not set
17 the house on fire with their nest.
18 // Slip. elm XX {~~cowf~~}¹⁴⁶ crowfoot R. fascicularis
19 //at Lees--since the 6th ap a day or 2 before this. Mouse
20 What that large frog bull frog like--but with
21 //ear not yet. brown spots on a dirty white throat--in a pool
22 ? on Conantum?
23 //See thimble-berry--& rose-bush leafing under the rocks
24 Ap. 12--
25 Am Surveying part of Wm D. Brown's
26 wood lot in Acton--W. of factory-- Hear
27 //the huckleberry bird. & I think the F. socialis
28 prob. for I hear it the 14th
29 //The handsomest pails at the factory are of
30 oak--white--& some "gray" (perhaps scarlet)
31 but these are chiefly for stables. The
32 woods are all alive with pine-warblers
33 now-- Their note is the music to which I
34 survey-- Now the early willows are in
35 on a hill side
36 //their prime methinks. At angle H ^
37 of the Lot{,} I find the May flower--but
38 not in bloom-- It appears to be common
39 thereabouts.

¹⁴⁵ Marginalia: vertical text from line 16 to 1

¹⁴⁶ Also underlined

1 through the dark rain
2 ¹⁴⁸See ^ the first flash of lightning--
3 in the west. horizon--doubting if it was
4 not a flash of my eye at first--
5 but after a very long interval I hear
6 the low rumbling of the first thunder¹⁴⁹
7 & now the summer is baptised & inau-
8 gurated in due form. Is not the 1st
9 lightning the forerunner or warranty
10 of Summer heat. The air now contains
11 such an amount of heat that it emits
12 a flash.

13 Speaking to J. B. Moore about the partridge
14 being run down--he says that he was told
15 by Lexington people some years ago that
16 they found a duck lying dead under
17 the spire of their old meeting house (since
18 burned--) which stood on the battle ground.
19 The weather cock--~~for~~ & it was a cock in this
20 case--was considerably bent--& the in-
21 ference was that the duck had flown
22 against it in the night.

23 pm to the Yew

24 // Shepherd's purse already going to seed--in bloom
25 //there some time. Also Chickweed how long? I
26 had thought these would be later on--
27 ac. of the ground having been--so bare--& in-
28 deed they did suffer much but early warm
29 weather forwarded them.

30 // That unquestionable staminate S. humilis beyond
31 Yew will not be out for 3 or 4 days. Its old

¹⁴⁸ false start in left margin?

¹⁴⁹ Stray mark after "thunder", possibly a comma?

1 leaves on the ground are turned cinder color
2 --as are those under larger & doubtful forms.
3 Epigaea abundantly out--may be 4 or 5 //
4 days-- It was ap. in its winter state Mar. 28th
5 Ap 14th
6 Rains still--with one or 2 flashes of lightning
7 but soon over
8 The Yew plucked yesterday blossoms in house to-day-- ?
9 v. 15--
10 Pm up Assabet--
11 The river is a little higher on ac. of rain--
12 sweet six or 8 inch long floating
13 I see much ^ flag--{~~sweet~~}floating--it having
14 been cut up ap. by musquash. {} The 17th
15 prox. I see much of the sparganium cut up
16 close to the bottom along a musquash path
17 at the bottom of a meadow where there was 1 foot
18 of water--
19 in tumbler
20 My Rana halecina spawn ^ is now flattened out-- //
21 & begins to betray the polly-wog form--I had al-
22 ready noticed a little motion in it from time to
23 time--but nothing like the incessant activity
24 of the embryo fishes.
25 I find no sucker's¹⁵⁰(?)% nests yet. There has been //
26 no rise of the river of any consequence--
27 At Ed. Hoar's in the evening--I look at
28 one of his slides through a microscope--at the
29 infusorial skeletons-of the {navicula} {drawing}
30 & dumbell {drawing} infusoria &c &c--
31 With his microscope--I see the heart beating
32 in the embryo fish .¹⁵¹& the circulations distinctly
33 a long the body--
34 Ap 15th
35 S
36 Pm to sedge path S. humilis-

¹⁵⁰ Underline is in pencil

¹⁵¹ blotch?

1 // ¹⁵² I see many planting now.
2 See a pair of wood peckers on a rail
3 & on the ground a-courting-- One keeps
4 hopping near the other & the latter hops away
5 a few feet--& so they accompany one another
6 a long distance--uttering some-times a faint
7 or short a-week
8 I go to find Hylodes spawn-- I hear
9 some now peeping at mid afternoon--
10 in Potters meadow just N of his swamp--
11 It is hard to tell how far off they are, At
12 often. nearer
13 a distance they ^ appear to be ~~further off~~ than
14 they are, when I get nearer I think them
15 further off than they are--& not till I
16 get their parallax with my eyes by going
17 to one side do I discover their locality.
18 From time to time one utters that peculiar
19 quavering sound--I suspect of alarm--like
20 that which a hen makes when she sees a
21 hawk-- The peep but thinly at this hour
22 of a bright day. Wading about in the
23 meadow there bare legged--I find the
24 water from time to time--though no deeper
25 than before exceedingly cold. evidently
26 because there is ice in the meadow there
27 still. Having stood quite still on the
28 N
29 edge of the ditch close to the ^ edge of
30 the maple swamp--some time--& heard
31 a slight rustling near me from time to time

¹⁵² slashes are faint and might be in pencil

1 I looked round & saw a mink under the bushes
2 within a few feet-- It was pure reddish brown
3 above with a blackish & somewhat bushy tail
4 a blunt nose & somewhat innocent looking
5 head. It crept along toward me & around
6 me within 2 feet¹⁵³ in a semicircle--snuffing
7 the air--& pausing to look at me several
8 times-- Part of its course when nearest me
9 was in the water of the ditch. It then crawled
10 slowly away & I saw by the ripple where it had
11 taken to the ditch again-- Perhaps it was after
12 a frog like myself. It may have been attracted
13 {Yet} how much blacker was the creature I
14 by the peeping. saw ap. 28 '57! a very diff color--{though} the tail the
15 same form
16 The naturalist accomplishes a great deal by
17 patience--more perhaps than by activity. He must
18 take his position & then wait & watch. It
19 is equally true of quadrupeds & reptiles. Sit
20 still in the midst of their haunts.
21 Yew ap. yesterday XXX The S. Humilis of //
22 the sedge path--X This is the smallest form of //
23 it.
24 {silently}¹⁵⁴
25 Saw flitting ^ through the wood near the Yew 2 or 3
26 thrushes much like at least the {T}. Wilsonii-- //
27 & whitish side of throat (?) or cinnamon
28 a light ring about eyes-- ^ rather fox col. ^ tail--with
29 ashy reflections from edges of primaries--flesh colored legs--
30 Did not see the breast. Could it have been what
31 I have called.¹⁵⁵ T. solitarius?
32 Soon after methought (?) I heard one faint //
33 woodthrush note(??) v 18th
34 Catch a peeper at Haden's pool-- I suspect it

¹⁵³ Period after "feet"?

¹⁵⁴ Possibly "silently"

¹⁵⁵ blotch

1 may have been a female--for though I
2 kept it a day at home it did not peep
3 It was a pale fawn color, out of water,
4 9/10 inch long--{drawing}¹⁵⁶ Marked with dusky
5 like this, though not so distinctly--
6 It could easily climb up the side
7 of a tumbler & jumped 18 inches
8 at once-- Equisetum arvense out by RR--&
9 //prob. I saw it out on the 12th near the factory.
10 Ap. 16th

11 My fish ova in a tumbler has gradually
12 expanded till it is some 3/16 of an inch
13 in diameter & for more than a week
14 the embryos have been conspicuously active--
15 --hardly still enough to be observed with a
16 microscope-- Their tails-eyes--pectoral-fins--
17 &c--were early developed & conspicuous.
18 The¹⁵⁷ keep up a regular jerking motion
19 as they lie curved in the egg--& so develop
20 themselves-- This morning I set them
21 in the sun--& looking again soon after
22 //found that they were suddenly hatched--&
23 more than half of them were free of the
24 egg-- They were nearly 1/4 of an inch long
25 or larger¹⁵⁸ than the diameter of a perfect egg--
26 The substance of the egg shell seemed to
27 have expanded & softened--& the embryo
28 by its incessant quicking elongated it so that
29 it was able to extend itself {of} full length.
30 It then almost incessantly kept
31 up a vibratory motion of its tail & its

¹⁵⁶ drawing goes down five lines

¹⁵⁷ Possibly "they"

¹⁵⁸ Poss. "longer"?

1 pectoral fins & every few moments it bunted--
2 against the side of the egg--wearing it
3 away & extending it--till it broke through
4 some times it got its head out first--& then
5 struggled many minutes before it escaped com-
6 pletely. It was a pretty sight to see them
7 all rising immediately to the surface--by
8 means of the tail & pectoral fins--the first
9 vibrating from 1/20¹⁵⁹ to 1/30 of an inch--at an
10 angle of about 45° {drawing} & then ceasing
11 their motions they steadily settled down again
12 Think of the myriads of these minnows
13 set free of a warm morning & rising &
14 falling in this rise in their native element!! //

15 (Some are still in the egg on the 18th)

16 The incessant activity of these minnows &
17 apparent vigor are surprising-- Already they
18 dart swiftly an inch one side like little
19 pickerel--tender as they are carrying the
20 which gradually diminishes as I notice in a day or 2 after
21 yolk with them-- ^ ~~with~~ They have no snouts yet
22 --or only blunt and rounded ones-- I have not
23 detected any general resting even at night--
24 though they often rest on the bottom day or
25 night. They are remarkably aroused when
26 placed in the morning sun-- This sets them all
27 in motion-- Looking at them through a
28 a hundred at once
29 jar between you & the sun-- ^ They reflect
30 the colors of the rain bow--some purple--others
31 violet--green &c--&c It is a wonder how
32 they survive the accidents of their condition.

¹⁵⁹ Poss. "7" or "2"

1 By what instinct do they keep together
2 in a school--
3 I think that the spawn could not have been
4 laid long when I found it Ap. 3d--it
5 was so perfect--& the embryo so slightly{.}
6 if at all developed. That was a sudden very
7 warm day. In that case they may be hatched
8 in a fortnight.
9 That appeared to have been a general breeding place
10 for this species of fish-- I looked a good
11 while on the 14th but could find none
12 near home.
13 My hylodes in the tumbler will always hop
14 to the side toward the window as fast as I turn
15 it.
16 We may think these days of the myriads of
17 fishes just hatched which come rising to the
18 surface. The water swarms with them as with the
19 mosquito.
20 Pm to Conantum.
21 The rana sylvatica spawn at Hub's Grove
22 //begins to kick free-- This is early-- I put
23 some in a bottle which being shaken in my
24 walk--I find the embryos all separated
25 from the ova when I get home-- These are
26 now regular little pollywogs & wiggle
27 about in a lovely manner when the water
28 is shaken. They are chiefly tail & head--
29 They look like the samara of the ash--&
30 in both cases this winged--or feather like
31 tail it is that transports them--I
32 can already see {these} little feet or fins.

1 The bodkin-like bulb--considerably grown
2 in my tumbler & elsewhere--is prob. the water
3 free
4 purslane-- I see it floating ^ & sending out
5 many rootlets--on pools & ditches. In this
6 way it spreads itself.

7 The earliest red-maple I can see in this
8 walk is well out--on the Hub-Bridge Causeway--
9 prob some was yesterday--XX //

10 I sat a long time by the little pool behind
11 Lees'--to see the hylodes--Not one was heard there
12 only the skater insects were slightly rippling the
13 pursuing one another & breeding
14 surface ^ amid the grass-- The water is covered with
15 pretty ~~proser~~ proserpinacea-- At length I see one
16 hylodes--with heels up burying itself at the bottom
17 how wary they are-- After nearly half an hour I see
18 one sitting out on a blade of the floating purple
19 grass--but down he does¹⁶⁰ again. They see or hear you
20 3 or 4 rods off-- They are more active toward night

21 Ap. 17th 58

22 Pm via Assabet to Coral-Rock.

23 See several king-fishers--Redwings //
24 still in flocks--& crow b. birds feeding
25 amid leaves by Assabet side half a dozen to-
26 gether-- The female flowers of the Alder
27 are now very pretty when seen against the
28 sun--bright crimson. I take up a
29 wood turtle on the shore, whose sternum is
30 covered with small ants.-- The sedge
31 is shooting up in the meadows--erect //

¹⁶⁰ T probably meant "goes"

1 rigid & sharp--a glaucous green
2 unlike that of the grass on banks.
3 -- The Linnaea like plant--turns out
4 to be Golden Saxifrage-- Its leaf is the
5 same form but smooth & not shrubby.
6 // The R. halecina spawn in tumbler
7 begins to struggle free of the ova--but it
8 is not so much developed as the R. syl-
9 vatica-- Some of the first may be a little
10 more forward in the meadows-- I see some
11 prob. this kind
12 today ^ flatted out, though I do not see
13 the frog. It made the same sound however--
14 The R. sylvatica is prob. generally the earliest.
15 Ap. 18th '58
16 Pm to Hub. Grove
17 // A dandelion open--will shed pollen tomorrow--X
18 // The R. sylvatica tadpoles have mostly wiggled away from the
19 Put some R. halecina spawn which has ova¹⁶¹
20 ? flatted out in a ditch on Hubbards land--
21 I saw in those ditches many small pickerel
22 //land locked--which appeared to be transversely
23 barred! They bury themselves in the mud at my
24 approach.
25 Examined the pods & ditches in that neighbor-
26 hood--i.e. of skull-cap ditch--for frogs--
27 All that I saw distinctly--~~were what~~ except
28 2 R. fontinalis--were what I have con-
29 sidered young bull frogs--middling sized
30 frogs with a greenish brown back--& a throat
31 commonly white or whitish-- I saw in a

¹⁶¹ Line under "ova" prob. used to separate "from the ova" from line 19

1 deep & cold pool--some spawn placed just like
2 that of the R sylvatica & the R. halecina--(It was
3 in the open field) & the only frog I could distinguish
4 near it was a middling sized one or larger with a
5 yellow throat--not distinctly green but brown or
6 greenish brown above--but green a long each upper
7 jaw--a small portion of bright golden ring about
8 the eye was to be seen in front.

9 On the spring near by I see 2 unquestionably
10 R. fontinalis-- One much the largest & with
11 brighter mottlings (prob on ac. of the season)
12 The upper & forward part of their bodies distinct
13 green--but their throats white or whitish not
14 yellow. There were also 2 small & dark
15 colored frogs (yet with a little green tinge about
16 the snouts) in the same spring.

17 I suspect that all these frogs may be the
18 R. fontinalis--& none of them bull frogs. Certainly
19 those 2 unquestionable R fontinalis had no yellow
20 to throats--& prob. they vary very much in the
21 greenness of the back-- Those two were not
22 so much barred in the legs as mottled &
23 in one the mottlings had quite bright halos.
24 as also had the 2 smallest
25 halos-- They had the yellow segment in front part of eye ^{^162}
26 Have the bull frogs this? I doubt if I have
27 seen a bull frog yet--

28 I should say--with regard to that spawn, that
29 I heard in the neighboring pool--the stertorous
30 tut tut tut like the R. halecina. & also one
31 dump sound.

//

¹⁶² line from caret to inserted text

1 Frogs are strange creatures. One would
2 describe them as peculiarly wary
3 & timid--another as equally bold &
4 All that is required in studying them is patience--
5 imperturbable. ^ You will sometimes walk
6 a long way along a ditch-- I hear 20
7 or more leap in one after another before
8 you--and see where they rippled the water--
9 without getting sight of one of them--
10 Sometimes as this afternoon the 2 R. fontinalis--
11 when you approach a pool or spring--a frog
12 hops in & buries itself at the bottom--
13 You sit down on the brink & wait patiently
14 for his reappearance-- After a quarter of an
15 hour or more he is seen to rise¹⁶³ to the surface
16 & put out his nose quietly without making a
17 ripple--eyeing you steadily. At length he becomes
18 as curious about you as you can be about him
19 . He suddenly hops straight toward pausing within
20 a foot--& takes a near & leisurely view of you.
21 Perchance you may now scratch its nose with
22 your finger--& examine it to your hearts content
23 for it is become as imperturbable as it was shy be-
24 fore. You conquer them by superior patience
25 & immoveableness¹⁶⁴--not by quickness, but by
26 slowness--not by heat but by coldness,--
27 You see only a pair of heads disappearing in the
28 weedy bottom & raising a few insect the pool
29 becomes as smooth as a mirror and ap. as
30 uninhabited. At length--after half an hour
31 you detect a frogs' snout & a pair of eyes above
32 the green shine, turned toward you. &c

¹⁶³ Possibly "ris" or "rise" with the "e" above baseline or that "e" may be the dot for the "I"

¹⁶⁴ Possibly "immoveable-ness"

1 & yet I did not believe it to be a thrasher-- Deter-
2 mined to find out the singer I sat still with my
3 glass in hand--& at length detected the singer
4 a goldfinch sitting within gun shot all the
5 while-- This was the most varied & sprightly performer
6 of any bird I have heard this year--& it is strange that I
7 never heard the strain before. It may be this note
8 which is taken for the thrasher's before the latter comes.

9 Pm down river--

10 I find that my R. halecina spawn in the house
11 is considerably further advanced than¹⁷⁰ that
12 left in the meadows-- The latter is not only
13 deeper beneath the surface now on ac. of the
14 rain--but has gathered dirt from the water
15 so that the jelly itself is now plainly seen--
16 & some of it has been killed prob. by frost being
17 exposed at the surface-- I hear the same tut tut
18 tut prob--of the halecina still there--though not //
19 so generally as before.

20 See 2 or 3 yellow lilies nearly open--showing
21 most of their yellow--beneath the water. say in 2 //
22 or 3 days.

23 Rice tells me of winging a sheldrake once
24 just below F. H. Pond--& pursuing it in a boat
25 as it swam down the stream--till it went
26 above at Hubbard's¹⁷¹ wood & crawled into a
27 wood chuck's hole about a rod from the water
28 on a wooded bank-- He could see its tail
29 & pulled it out.

¹⁷⁰ poss. "than"

¹⁷¹ Stray mark or additional apostrophe after "s"

1 He tells of seeing cartloads of lamprey
 2 eels in the spawning season clinging to
 3 the shores at a dam in Saco. & that
 4 if you spat on a stone & cast it into
 5 the swift water above them they would directly
 6 let go & wigglee down the stream & you
 7 could hear their tails snap like whips
 8 on the surface--~~but if you~~¹⁷² as if the
 9 spittle was poison to them--but if you
 10 did not spit on the stone they would not
 11 let go. He thinks that a flock of
 12 geese will sometimes stop for a wounded
 13 one to get well.

14 // Hear of bluets found on Saturday the 17th
 15 how long?

16 // Hear a toad sing at 9 pm Perhaps
 17 I first hear them at night though cooler--
 18 //because it is still. R. W. E saw an anemone on the 18th
 19 Ap 20

20 // Pm Rain storm begins with hail
 21 Ap. 21st

22 Geo. Melvin says that Joshua Haynes once saw
 23 a perch depositing her spawn & the male following
 24 behind & devouring it.!? Garlic¹⁷³ in his book on
 25 Pisciculture says that the perch spawn in May.

26 Melvin says that these short nosed brook
 27 pickerel are caught in the river also--but
 28 rarely weigh more than 2 lbs.

29 The puddles have dried off along the road
 30 & left thick deposits or water lines of the dark
 31 & left thick deposits or water lines of the ^ purple

¹⁷² Stray mark after "you"?

¹⁷³ T is referring to Theodatus Garlick

1 anthers of the elm coloring the ground like saw-
2 dust-- You could collect great quantities of them
3 The arbor vitae is ap effete--already //
4 Ed. Hoar says he heard a wood-thrush the 18th //
5 Pm to Easterbrook's & Bateman's Pond--
6 The {Bendzonia} yesterday & possibly the 19th XXX //
7 So much being killed--it might otherwise have
8 been earlier yet-- Populus grandidentata some
9 days at least-- The C. florida flower-beds //
10 are killed. The rocks on the E side
11 of Bateman's Pond are a very good place for
12 ferns. I see some very large Leather apron
13 umbilicaria there-- They are flaccid &
14 unrolled now showing most of the olivaciceous¹⁷⁴
15 purslanes upper side. This side feels cold & damp
16 while the other the black is dry & warm--not-
17 withstanding the warm air-- This side evidently is
18 not expanded by moisture. It is a little
19 exciting even to meet with a rock covered
20 with these livid (?) green aprons--betraying so
21 much life. Some of them are 3/4 of a foot
22 in diameter. What a growth for a bare
23 rock!
24 Ap 22d //
25 Hear martins about a box
26 Pm To Hubbard's Great meadow.
27 The spawn of April 18th is gone! It
28 was fresh there & ap. some creature has eaten
29 it.-- I see spawn (R halecina-like) in the

¹⁷⁴ actual word is "olivaceous" meaning olive-green

1 large pool S. E. of this & catch a¹⁷⁵ I catch
2 an¹⁷⁶ ap common sized! R halecina near it
3 The general aspect dark brown with a bronze
4 colored stripes along sides of back--1/10 of
5 an inch wide. Spots roundish with a dull
6 green halo--a roundish spot on each orbit
7 --no bright spots. I catch ap another in
8 the Great meadow--& I think some R. halecina
9 are still spawning--for I see some perch
10 spawn there.

11 // Andromeda¹⁷⁷ ap. a day or 2--(at least at
12 edge of Island wood which I have not seen)
13 I walk along several brooks & ditches &
14 see a great many yet spot turtles--several
15 //couples copulating-- The upper most in-
16 variably has a depressed sternum while
17 the other's is full ~~and so~~ The E. pictas
18 see 2 ap. coupled on the shore--
19 //are evidently breeding also. ^ You see both
20 kinds now in little brooks not more than
21 a foot wide--slowly & awkwardly moving
22 about one another. They can hardly make
23 their way against the swift stream.
24 I see one E. picta holding on to a weed
25 with one of its fore feet-- Meanwhile
26 a yel-spot-turtle shoots swiftly down
27 the stream carried along by the current
28 & is soon out of sight-- The E pictas,
29 are also quite common in the shallows on
30 the river's meadows-- I see many masses

¹⁷⁵ large blotch after "a" in between lines 1 and 2

¹⁷⁶ Possibly "an"

¹⁷⁷ T switched "r" and "o" in andromeda

1 Spots on back--but smaller & roundish ones
2 & many fine dusky spots interspersed--is
3 thicky¹⁸⁰ dark spotted on sides--Throat & belly
4 white or pale cream color--Sides of abdomen
5 only & inside of limbs much paler yellow
6 than the male.--has no %dark spots on orbits
7 or on head in front% (another specimen {prob})
8 ¹⁸¹50
9 150
10 1.03) (5
11 115

¹⁸⁰ Or "thickly"

¹⁸¹ "50" to "115" is written perpendicularly to last line of text of attached note that is adhered to MS 210

1 of empty or half empty R. halecina spawn-

2 Ap. 23d

3 I receive today Sanguinaria Canadensis

4 from Brattleboro well in bloom how long? //

5 In a large box full of May-flowers.

6 {The} toads sing now by day--but not //

7 very loud now generally--

8 What is that Salix just //

9 out XX by the oak stump on S. Brown's

10 land S of the Island? There is more of it--

11 %ap.% both sexes--by the elm on the hill-Shore

12 % {perhaps} {Salix} %

13 N of Dod's. Is it S. rostrata? ^ I see the

14 large head ap. of a bull frog??% by the //

15 river side {of} many mid sized frogs

16 (ap. bull-frogs--green above & more

17 or less dark spotted--with either yellow

18 or white throats.) sitting along the

19 waters edge now--

20 v May 1st & 2nd

21 Catch 2 R. palustris coupled--^ They //

22 jump together into the river-- The male is 2 1/4 inches

23 This I find to be about an average sized one of 4 or 5 that I distinguish

24 long ^ -- Above pale brown--or fawn brown (another which

25 I think is a male from the size & the equally bright yellow

26 of the abdomen & inside of limbs)¹⁸² is dusky¹⁸³ brown--& next

27 day, both the males are of this color-- So you must

28 notice¹⁸⁴ the change of color of frogs.)--with 2 rows of

29 %2 or 3%

30 very oblong ~~4~~¹⁸⁵ or more times as long as broad, squarish

31 ended dark brown spots with a light brown edge.

32 The near ones becoming smaller & roundish--

33 Also a similar row along each side V. S.

¹⁸² Parenthesis is crossed out in pen

¹⁸³ "dusky" is underlined in pencil

¹⁸⁴ "tice" was added in pencil

¹⁸⁵ "4" is crossed out in pencil and "2 or 3" was added

1 //Saw a viola blanda in a girl's hand--
2 Ap 24th
3 // A cold N. W. wind-- I go at 8 Am
4 to catch frogs to compare with the
5 R. palustris & ~~halecin~~ bull frog which I
6 have-- But¹⁸⁶ I find it too cold for
7 them. Though I walk more than a
8 mile along the river I do not get
9 sight of one--and only of one or
10 2 turtles-- Neither do I find any more
11 frogs (though many E. picta) ~~late~~
12 at 4 pm it being still cold. Yet
13 the frogs were quite numerous yesterday--
14 This shows how sensitive they are to changes
15 of temperature. Hardly one puts its head
16 out of the water--if ever he creeps out the
17 grassy or muddy bottom, this cold day.
18 That proserpinacea deserves to be named
19 after the frog--ranunculus, or what not? it
20 & pretty
21 is so common ^ at the bottom the shallow
22 grassy pools where I go looking for spawn--
23 It is remarkable that I see many E. pictas
24 dead along the shore--dead within a few
25 weeks apparently--also a sternothaerus.¹⁸⁷
26 alive
27 //One of the last ^ emitted no odor today.
28 // Salix alba at W end of RR bridge XXXX
29 I find washed up by the river side part
30 of a pale greenish egg-shell bigger than
31 a hen's egg which was prob the egg

¹⁸⁶ "But" first written with a lower case "b"
¹⁸⁷ blotch?

1 of a duck--laid in the meadow last
2 year or lately.

3 There is an abundance of the R halecina
4 spawn near the elms at the hill Shore
5 semi opaque
6 N of Dod's¹⁸⁸. It is now ^ greenish & flatted down
7 & run together--mostly hatched & a good deal
8 has been killed up--by the cold-- The
9 water thereabouts is swarming with
10 the young polly wogs for a rod about--
11 but where have all the frogs hidden
12 themselves?

13 E. Hoar saw the myrtle-bird to-day //

14 The polly wogs must be a long time growing
15 for I see those of last year not more
16 than 2 inches long--also some much larger.

17 The hatched frog spawn is quite soft & ap.
18 dissolving at last in the water-- Yet possibly
19 that mass of jelly once brought are on a
20 stake--was this jelly consolidated.

21 I think that my willow of yesterday (V.l.p.6.1.)
22 is the "narrow serrate-glaucous" of any 25 57-- //

23 The sterile catkins are 1/2 inch or a little more in
24 length--& broad in proportion--of a downy reddish
25 with rounded scales black-brown
26 gray aspect when bursting into bloom ^¹⁸⁹--begins to bloom
27 After a few days when {fallen} out the flowers are greenish yellow
28 on one side. It is earlier than the R. rostrata,
29 i.e.
30 (^ stringed near the Joe Bennett Bridge)-- The twigs
31 are either yellow with dusky green blotches--or
32 they are
33 also ^ dark purplish. The stipules (if they are
34 not leaves) are quite conspicuous & 1/4 of

¹⁸⁸ Possibly "Dad's"

¹⁸⁹ line drawn from caret to inserted text

1 an inch or more in length--more conspicuous
2 /¹⁹⁰than those of any other ~~native~~ indigenous
3 willow that I have seen unless it be the
4 pistillate old S. sericea by bath rock (altered
5 downy catkins S. petiolaris of aug 25 '57 not so forward.
6 to ^ S. petiolaris aug 25 57) ^ The S. rostrata
7 in my pressed specimen has not such developpe{r}
8 stipules when in bloom, or some days yet.
9 At the elm what is prob--the pistillate
10 of the same S. growing by its side--has
11 yet larger stipules, on leaves,--but smaller
12 & more slender & ovate catkins--less
13 downy with fewer, but more conspicuous
14 black tipped scales.
15 downy cat kins¹⁹¹
16 The Old. S. Sericea by Rock (low ^ S. Petiolaris)
17 X judging from its fertile catkins should be in bloom
18 now.
19 I find that my fish ova was not all killed
20 some weeks ago in the firkin as I supposed
21 --for many that were accidentally left in
22 it have hatched--& they love the cold of
23 last night better than those hatched earlier
24 & kept in the larger vessel--(tub) which
25 froze but thinly--while the firkin froze ~~nearly~~
26 1/4 of an inch thick last night.
27 Ap. 25th
28 Pm to Assabet. Approaching the
29 Island I hear the phe phe, phe phe,
30 phe phe, phe phe, phe--the sharp

¹⁹⁰ stray mark?

¹⁹¹ Possibly "kinned"

1 whistling note of a fish-hawk--& looking //

2 round--see him just afterward launching away

3 from one of the swamp white oaks S. W. of the

4 Island-- There is about half a second between

5 each note--& she utters them either while

6 perched or while flying-- He shows a great.

7 proportion of wing--& some white on back.

8 The wings are much curved-- He sails along

9 some 80 feet above the water.¹⁹² edge--

10 looking for fish--& alights again quite

11 near-- I see him an hour after ward about

12 the same spot.

13 See a barn swallow¹⁹³ //

14 Also see one myrtle-bird--& Goodwin says //

15 he heard a stake-driver several days ago. //

16 Ap. 26th 58

17 A little snow in the night--which is seen //

18 against the fences this morning-- {See} a chewink //

19 (male) in the Kettell Place woods.

20 Pm go to River to look for willows

21 indigenous The 2 early families Discolor? & Humilis being about done-- //

22 The ^ willows now in bloom or just coming

23 except {when} named

24 into bloom (I look esp. at the staminate ones.) {are}

25 1st {th e}¹⁹⁴ ap. W. of rock one of Ap 23d--which grows

26 by S. Browns oak stump--& by elm at Hill shore N of Dodds (ap.

27 (yet W of rock it is much later now!!)

28 both sexes--& in a large clump 8 or 9 ft high op. the 2 {&} 3

29 balm of gileads--also commonly in Hubbards Great

30 The 1st 2 {of}

31 all males which I {will} {string}--

32 meadow near Rocked maple! ^-- These

33 sterile ~~flower~~ catkins are small & pretty downy with

34 black scales seen through the down--oval in bloom

35 with stipules at least 1/2 the length of the catkins{--}&c

36 &c V. 1¹⁹⁵.p.b.1¹⁹⁶. The scales mostly of one-- Is not that the same

37 with catkins 1 inch long at river edge of the French rock?

¹⁹² "water." poss. "waters"

¹⁹³ looks like there is a pencil line drawn from end of "swallow" to slashes

¹⁹⁴ Possibly "there"

¹⁹⁵ Possibly "1"

¹⁹⁶ Possibly "1"

1 The fertile catkins--(if it be the {U} of rock one
2 & off Wheeler gate one}) are quite small at
3 first--with stipules or leaves about their
4 own length--or more developed than those
5 of the sterile-- They differ from the sericea & seri-
6 cea like in being pointedly ovate--with few
7 flowers & conspicuous scattered black scales
8 little concealed by down--& they rapidly extend them-
9 selves & grow looser & looser--

10 // The 2d apparently in order of time (if it is not
11 the same with the last) is stringed about 8 rods
12 N of stone bridge by shore 3 feet high--out a
13 long
14 //day or 2. The ^ twigs are very densely covered with
15 catkins about 5/8 of an inch long & opening nearer
16 broadly & regularly cylindrical, &
17 the apex than the last-- They are ^ almost parallel
18 with the twig-- Stipules very slightly developed
19 1/8 of an inch or more in length only--large black
20 scales generally adhering-- The down about the same
21 as in last, but more conspicuously in rows (as if
22 combed) with the black scales seen between them--

23 The 3d perhaps in order of time (or with last)
24 is stringed about 15 rods SE of the rocked maples
25 //in Hubbards meadow--opened up yesterday. The
26 catkins just before expanding about 5/8 inch long
27 & peculiarly dense black-scaled¹⁹⁷ narrow cylindrical
28 with very little or short down
29 ^ with conspicuous stipules about 1/2 their length.
30 opens on the side--on long slender twigs--reddish
31 or dark purplish-- Is it not a decidedly dif in {hop}
32 from what I suppose the W. of rock--5-6 rods nearer the
33 maple & stringed?

34 4th The Sericea like of bath rock--also
35 by hill of Wheeler cottage--& at RR S side--

¹⁹⁷ "dense" "black" and "scaled" also have an additional underline. See MS 216

1 maybe¹⁹⁸ be out but I do not know it. //

2 5th a peculiarly loose fuzzy woolly stringed-

3 one in a large clump by meadow edge

4 W. of grindstone rock-- may open tomorrow or

5 next day--begins to open on side near apex //

6 catkins 1/2 to 3/4 inch long--rather conspicuously

7 {&} catkin bud, not obviously double

8 stalked with brownish scales ^ & stipules moderately

9 developed {or}¹⁹⁹ about 1/2 their length-- Twig brownish

10 yellow-- The wool or down peculiarly long & fuzzy as if

11 unkempt nearly concealing as yet the black or dark

12 In prime May 4th //

13 scales

14 6th An S. rostrata stringed ~~by~~ near stone bridge

15 stump--not yet for ap. 2 or 3 days V Ap. 27th //

16 7-th by the W edge of the river opposite

17 & stringed

18 {no} 2d & 8 or 9 feet high-- Very densely woolly ovate

19 about 1/2 inch long or more

20 catkin ^ thickly placed along dark purple twigs

21 --generally showing neither scales nor anthers yet

22 with well developed stipules at least 1/2 their length--

23 %In prime may 4th% //

24 may open in 2 or 3 days--

25 Stringed bet. woods bridge & RR--an

26 ap. Discolor--now going to seed--& effete-- It is chiefly

27 sterile--but has also fertile catkins--& also catkins

28 both fertile & sterile--the ovaries being smooth bright

29 green.

30 Ap 27

31 Am looked at willows by RR-- The earliest

32 S. rostrata on the W. side not far from road will

33 open ap. tomorrow XXX This is earlier than the //

34 others with larger & more cylindrical catkins.

¹⁹⁸ Line 1 appears to be written over a false start
¹⁹⁹ poss. "in"

1 All the *S. rostrata* sterile catkins I
2 can find are at present--or before opening
3 peculiarly tender pale greenish catkins--generally
4 ovoid & about 1/2 inch or less in length--
5 with slightly developed & not yet spreading²⁰⁰
6 stipules (One var. as the above is more
7 forward a little--longer²⁰¹ cylindrical & more reddish)
8 all
9 They ^ have minute reddish tipped greenish yellow
10 scales--with large brownish red catkin-bud
11 scales on red or reddish twigs--
12 // The *S. torreyana* sterile ap. yesterday x
13 with viable²⁰² double scales
14 against {Colber's} fence-catkins an inch long--
15 The {fertile} on opposite side of RR. at present
16 narrow lanceolate in form & {pointed} with 3/4 inch long--
17 dark colored with fuzzy wool & bearing the long
18 pointed brown inner scale like a { p } on the top of
19 the Catkin.
20 It has been so cold since the 23d that I have
21 not been able to catch a single frog--have hardly
22 seen where one jumped--as I walked through the
23 meadows looking for them--though in some warmer
24 places I heard a low stertorous R-halecina like
25 note from afar-- The tortoises are stirring
26 much more. Frogs appear to love warm &
27 moist weather--rainy or cloudy. They will sit
28 thickly along the shore--ap. small bull frogs &c--*R. palustris*
29 My young fishes had the pectoral fins &
30 tail very early developing--& I { } but not yet
31 can I detect any other fins with my glass. They
32 had mouths which I saw them open as soon as
33 hatched & more & more a perch-like head--
34 I think that with Hoar's microscope I de
35 tected 2 dorsals fins such as the perch have--
36 When I put them suddenly in the sun

²⁰⁰ Underlined in pencil

²⁰¹ Ampersand before "longer"?

²⁰² Possibly "variable"

1 they sink & rest on the bottom a moment.

2 The French work for schools of Edwards & {Comte}
3 not till of
4 it is said that the perch spawns ~~only~~ ^ ~~at~~ the
5 age of 3 years--& in the spring. "The ova are
6 joined together by some glutinous matter in long
7 strings (cordons) intertwined with the weeds." p 36

8 I noticed yesterday that ~~the~~ again the
9 newly laid spawn at the cold pool on Hubbard's
10 land was all gone--& that in the Bangor pool
11 S of it was much diminished-- What creature
12 devoured it?

13 Snows hard in Pm & evening--quite wintry //
14 about an inch on ground the next morning.

15 Ap. 28th

16 Blustery N W wind & wintry aspect-- Am //
17 Down river to look at willows

18 The Common S. cordata ap not 3 within 3 2 days //
19 at least-- This S. is not always conspicuous--
20 by double {~~escaele~~} scaled--now is the scale carried
21 up on the catkin-- It is not always even on
22 that of the S. Torreyana.

23 Is not that small willow now well out, & stringed
24 by shore 3ds SW of Shattuck's elm the same with NB
25 no 3d of 26th--only a little less black scaled. a foot
26 or 2 N. E. of it toward oak is a very slight female
27 stringed (2 tied together). ap same kind {of} v. NB

28 I see the fish-hawk again {above} { }²⁰³
29 low
30 Island--as it flies ^ directly over my head-- I
31 see that its body is white beneath--& the white
32 on the forward side of the wings beneath-

²⁰³ We think "Island" refers Egg rock based on other nearby mentions of it but cannot make out the word before it.

1 ²⁰⁴if extended across the breast could form a
2 regular crescent {drawing} Its wings do not
3 form a regular curve in front but an
4 abrupter angle. They are loose & broad
5 at tips {drawing} This bird goes fishing slowly
6 down one side of the river & up again,
7 on the other 40 to 60 ft high continually
8 poising itself almost or quite stationary
9 with its head to the NW wind & looking down
10 flapping its wings enough to keep its place
11 -- Sometimes stationary for about a minute-- It is
12 not shy. This boisterous weather is the time to
13 see it.

14 I see the myrtle bird in the same sunny place
15 S. of the Island woods--as formerly-- Thus are
16 the earliest seen each spring-- In some warm
17 & calm place by the water side--when it is cool
18 & blustering elsewhere-- The barn swallows & a
19 martin are already skimming low over that
20 small area of smooth water within a few feet
21 of one--never leaving that spot & I do not
22 observe them thus playing else where-- Incessantly
23 stooping back & forth there.

24 Pm to Ledum Swamp
25 At Clam Shell ditch one equisetum
26 //sylvaticum will ap open tomorrow XX
27 //Strawberries are abundantly out, there how long?
28 Some Salix tristis--bank near beomyces
29 //X. Did I not put it too early in last
30 year's bit²⁰⁵ of willows?--prob. earlier elsewhere?
31 The snow peas generally gone about

²⁰⁴ This page is MS 220 and also MS 222 (duplication)

²⁰⁵ Possibly "list"

1 ²⁰⁶10 Am, except in circular patches in
2 the shadow of the still leafless trees.

3 Ap. 29th

4 St{orrow}²⁰⁷ Higginson plucked the Uva ursi
5 fully out the 25th {ult}--perhaps 2 or 3 days //
6 for it was nearly out, he says, the 18th!!! By his
7 account it was on Pine Hill

8 I heard yesterday at Ledum swamp the
9 lively ~~y~~ sweet yet somewhat whimsical note
10 of the Ruby crowned wren--& had sight of him //
11 a moment-- Did I not hear it there the
12 10th ult(?)

13 Noticed a man killing on the side walk by Mi-
14 nott's a little brown snake{--}²⁰⁸with blackish
15 marks along each side of back-- --&c pink belly--
16 Was it not the C. amoenus? //

17 Ap 30th

18 Pm I carry the rest of my little
19 fishes 15 or 20 to the cold pool in Hubbards //
20 ground-- They are about 1/4 inch long still &
21 have scarcely increased in length.

22 I learn that one farmer seeing me stand-
23 ing a long time still in the midst of a
24 pool (I was watching for hylodes) said
25 that it was his father who had been drinking
26 some of Pat Haggerty's rum, & had lost
27 his way home-- So setting out to lead
28 him home he discovered that it was I--

²⁰⁶ This page is MS 221 and also MS 223 (duplication)

²⁰⁷ according to 1906

²⁰⁸ Maybe a period

1 I find a Fringilla melodia nest with
2 //5 eggs--part at least must have been
3 laid before the snow of the 27th but
4 it is perfectly sheltered under the shelving
5 turf & grass on the brink of a ditch.
6 The snow would not even have touched the
7 bird sitting on them.
8 It is much warmer, & now for the
9 //first time since Ap. 23d I find frogs out
10 (perhaps I could have found some yesterday.)
11 -- The earliest S. rostrata by RR--W side of
12 //X*--{some} on E side is hardly later--
13 I noticed one of the large scroll ferns
14 //with its rusty wool up 8 inches on the 28th
15 //See a white-throated sparrow by Cheney's
16 wall--the stout chubby bird--
17 After sundown
18 By river-side-- The frogs & toads are
19 //now fairly awake-- Both are most musical
20 now at evening. I hear now on various
21 sides along the river & its meadows--that
22 low stertorous sound--(like that of the
23 Rana halecina--) which I have heard occasionally
24 for a few days--(I also hear it in Stows' field
25 by RR--with toad's singing- --²⁰⁹ It is exceedingly
26 like the note of the R. halecina, yet
27 I fancy it is somewhat more softly purring--
28 quivering
29 with frequently a low ^ chuckling or in-
30 quisitive croak-which last takes the place
31 of the bull-frog-like er er er of the halecina.
32 This is the only dif--bet it & the halecina

1 that I am sure of-- The short quivering croak
2 reminds me of the alarm (?) note of the hylodes
3 I suspect it is the R. Palustris, now breeding //
4 v. May 1st I hear no snipe. //

5 Frogs &c are perfect thermometers-- Some
6 that I had in a firkin were chilled to stiffness
7 --which their fellows buried themselves again in
8 the mud of the meadows--i.e. in a cold
9 night at this season they are stiffened in
10 the small ones r. palustris
11 a tub of water ^ --not being able to bury themselves
12 They appear to loose their links or portions of them--which
13 in mud. slough off in consequence

14 May 1st

15 A warm & pleasant day--reminding me //
16 of the 3d of April---when the R. halecina
17 waked up so suddenly & generally. & now { }s
18 then, ap a new allied frog--is almost equally
19 wide awake--the one of last evening (& before)
20 this warm & still Pm
21 When I am behind Cheney's I hear a voice
22 calling to oxen 3/4 of a mile distant--& I know
23 it to be Elijah Woods-- It is wonderful how
24 far the individual proclaims himself--
25 out of the thousand millions of human beings
26 on this globe I know that this sound was
27 made by the lungs & larynx & lips of E--
28 wood--and as sure of it as if he nudged
29 me with his elbow & shouted in my ear-- He
30 can impress himself on the very atmosphere
31 then--can launch himself a mile ~~through~~
32 on the wind--through tree{s} & rustling sedge

1 & over rippling water--associating with
2 a myriad sounds--& yet arrive distinct
3 at my ear--& yet this creature that
4 that was so noticeable
5 is felt so far-- ^ lives but a short
6 time--quietly dies & makes no more noise
7 that I know of-- I can tell him too
8 with my eyes by the very gait & motion
9 of him half a mile distant-- Far more
10 wonderful his purely spiritual influence
11 --that after the lapse of thousands of
12 years--you may still detect the indi-
13 vidual--in the turn of a sentence or the
14 tone of a thought!! E. Wood has a pe-
15 culiar way of modulating the air--
16 {imparts} to it peculiar vibrations--which
17 several times when standing near him I
18 have noticed--& now a vibration spreading
19 far & wide over the fields & up & down
20 the river--reaches me & may be hundreds
21 of others--which we all know to have been
22 produced by Mr Wood's pipes.
23 However--E. Wood is not a match for
24 a little peeping hylodes in this respect.
25 & there is no peculiar divinity in this.
26 The inhabitants of the river are
27 peculiarly wide awake this warm day--
28 fishes frogs & toads-- From time
29 to time--& quite often I hear a tremen-
30 dous rush of a pickerel after his prey--
31 --they are peculiarly active--may be after

1 the rana palustris now breeding-- It is a perfect
2 frog & toad day-- I hear the stertorous notes
3 of last evening from all sides of the river
4 at intervals--but most from the grassiest
5 & warmest or most sheltered & sunniest
6 shores-- I get sight of 10 or 12 rana--
7 one ap. male utters one fine sharp squeak when caught.
8 palustris--& catch 3 of them ^ -- Also
9 see by the shore one ap a young bull-frog (?)
10 with bright or vivid light green just along //
11 [a dark line bet. this & jaws] & a white throat
12 its jaws-- ^ head brown above-- This is the case
13 with one I have in the firkin--which I think
14 was at first a dull green-- These are the
15 only kinds I find sitting along the river--
16 The rana palustris is the prevailing one--& I
17 suppose it makes the halecina like sound described
18 It does--V May 2d
19 last night. They will be silent for a long
20 time-- you will see perhaps one or 2 snouts & eyes
21 above the surface--then at last may hear a coarsely
22 [often rapid and as if it began with a p.]
23 purring croak-- ^ at a distance sounding softer &
24 like tut tut tut tut tut lasting a 2nd or 2
25 & then perchance others far & near will be
26 excited to utter similar sounds & all the shore
27 seems alive with them. However I do not as yet
28 succeed to see one make this sound-- Then there may
29 be another pause of 15-30 minutes
30 The rana palustris leaves a peculiar strong
31 scent on the hand--which reminds me of
32 day when I went a-fishing for pickerel
33 & used a frog's leg for { }²¹⁰

²¹⁰remainder of line cut off on transcriber's copy

1 try to think what it smells like-- I am
2 inclined to say that it might be
3 the bark of some plant-- It is disagreeable.
4 Some are in the water others on the shore.

5 I do not see a single *R. halecina*--

6 ? What has become of the thousands

7 with which the meadow swarmed a

8 month ago? They have given place

9 to the *R. palustris*. Only their spawn

10 mostly hatched & dissolving remains--&

11 detect

12 I expect to ~~see~~ the spawn of the *palustris*

13 soon--

14 I find many ap. young bull frogs in

15 *%prob. R. palustris%*

16 the shaded pools on the Island neck. ^

17 There is one good sized bull frog among them

%NB18 The toads are so numerous--

This¹⁹prob the first

bul²⁰frog of the season²¹¹

21

22 some sitting on all sides, that their

23 ring is a continuous sound throughout

24 the day & night--if it is warm enough--

25 as it now is--except perhaps in the morn-

26 ing. It is as uninterrupted to the ear--

27 as the rippling breeze or the circulations

28 of the air itself--for when it dies away

29 on one side it swells again on another--

30 & if it should suddenly cease all men would

31 exclaim--at the pause--though they might

32 not have noticed the sound itself

33 It occurs to me that that early

34 purple grass on pools--corresponds to

35 the color of leaves acquired after the

36 frosts in the fall--as if the cold

²¹¹ Three lines of text (N.B. - season") appear in the left margin.

1 had after all more to do with it than
2 is supposed--

3 As I sit above the Island waiting for
4 the rana palustris to croak--I see many //
5 minnows from 3/4 to 2 inches long--but mostly
6 about 1 inch-- They have that distinct
7 black line along each side from eye to tail
8 --on a somewhat transparent brownish body--
9 dace-like--& a very sharply forked tail--

10 When were they hatched?-- Certainly 2 or 3 months
11 perhaps last year
12 ago at least. ^ Is it not the brook minnow?

13 I also hear the myrtle birds on the Island
14 wood-- Their common note is somewhat like the
15 chill-lill or jingle of the F. hiemalis--
16 Ephemeræ quite common over the water. //

17 Suddenly a large hawk^d sailed over from
18 the Assabet--which at first I took for a
19 hen harrier-- It was so neat a bird & ap.
20 not very large. It was a fish hawk--with //
21 a very conspicuous white crown or head & a
22 uniform brown above elsewhere beneath
23 white breast & belly Probably it was
24 the male--which is the smaller & whiter beneath--
25 A wedge-shaped tail-- He alighted on a
26 dead elm limb on Pritchards ground--
27 & at this distance with my glass I could
28 see some dark of head above the white of
29 throat or breast-- He was incessantly looking
30 about as if on his guard-- After 15

1 minutes came a crow from the Assabet
2 & alighted cawing about 20 rods from
3 him--& 10 minutes later another--
4 How²¹² alert they are to detect these
5 great birds of prey-- They do not thus
6 pursue ordinary hawks--& their attendance
7 alone might suggest to unskil-
8 ful observers the presence of a fish-
9 hawk or eagle-- Some crows up
10 the Assabet--evidently know that he
11 was sitting on that elm far away.
12 He sailed low almost directly over my boat,--
13 fishing. His wings had not obviously that
14 angular form which I thought those of
15 another had the other day.

16 The old *S. sericea* is now all alive
17 // with the hum of honey bees. This would show
18 that it is in bloom-- I see & hear one
19 // bumble-bee among them--inaugurating
20 summer with his deep base--may it be
21 such a summer to me as it suggests--
22 It sounds a little like mockery however²¹³
23 to cheat me again with the promise of
24 such tropical opportunities-- I have learned
25 to suspect him, as I do all fortune-
26 tellers. But no sound so brings round the
27 summer again-- It is like the drum of
28 May-training.²¹⁴ This reminds me that
29 men & boys & the most enlightened

²¹²"H" formed over false start "Th"

²¹³The word "however" has been altered from something else and HDT has crossed out the bottom tail of a "y" or "g."

²¹⁴There is a stray mark under the "a" in "May."

1 communities still love to march after the
2 beating of a drum as do the most aboriginal
3 of savages.

4 2 sternothaerusses which I catch emit no
5 scent yet-- Hear a thrasher // //

6 Hear that a shad-bush is out at Lee's //

7 Cliff--prob about X

8 Is that willow which I have stringed on
9 the Island neck²¹⁵ 3 rds S. of oak--the ?

10 sericea of above Hemlocks?-- The salix seri-
11 cea above Hemlocks say 2 days--if the stringed one //

12 is it, & dif from that 6 ft NE on bank--which
13 opened with what I have called the W of rock {ones}.

14 May 2d

15 Sit without fire today & yesterday //

16 I compare the 3 rana palustris caught
17 yesterday--with the male & female of Ap 23d
18 The males agree very well-- What I have re-
19 garded as the groundwork--varies from pale
20 brown to darkly brown--even in the same specimen
21 at dif. times-- The present female is larger
22 than that of Ap 23d more than 1/2 inch
23 longer than her male--& she has the round
24 dark spots on the orbits & one in front on head--
25 & also oblong square spots on back-- She is
26 also dusky brown like male-- None of all
27 have any green-- I at²¹⁶ last hear the
28 note--for 2 are coupled in a firkin in my
29 under my face
30 chamber--^ It is made by the male alone--
31 & is as I supposed the sound of Ap 30th &

²¹⁵ There is a dot after "neck" which might just be a blotch.

²¹⁶"at" poss written over "hear"

1 // May 1st-- The tut tut tut more
2 or less rapidly repeated & a frequent
3 querulous or inquisitive cr-r-rack²¹⁷
4 1/2 second long. It makes these
5 sounds only when I excite it by putting
6 others of its kind near it-- Its pouches
7 are distended laterally ap. beneath & be-
8 hind the eye--& not very conspicuous.
9 Close by--it sounds like a dry belching
10 sound--the bursting of little bubbles--more
11 or less rapidly--& the querulous note
12 V. bottom of p.
13 may be the same very rapidly repeated--
14 ? I doubt if I have heard any sound from
15 a bull frog in river yet.
16 Pm Down River--
17 The staminate Balm of Gilead evidently
18 // yesterday--X (or same as any slip in tumbler
19 this year & therefore prob. same as in tumbler
20 last year) The S. Babylonica (fertile,
21 behind Dodds--is more forward than the
22 // Alba by my boat-- Put it just before it.
23 // See stake-driver-- At mouth of the
24 Mill brook I hear I should say the true
25 ?R. halecina croak--i.e with the faint bull-
26 frog like er-er-er intermixed-- Are they still
27 // breeding? Peetweet on a rock.
28 // See & hear the redwings in flocks yet
29 making a great noise--

²¹⁷ Something is crossed out after the "cr"

1 If I were to be a frog-hawk for a
2 month I should soon know some things
3 about the frogs. How patiently they skim
4 the meadows--occasionally alighting &
5 fluttering as if it were difficult ever to stand
6 still on the ground-- I have seen more of them
7 than usual since I too have been looking
8 for frogs--²¹⁸ Hear a tree-toad-- -- -- //

9 Stringed a peculiar willow out ap., with
10 near large oak--S side op. Abner buttricks--
11 W. of Rock -- & like it except its large ?
12 bud
13 yellowish ^ scale--whose inner membrane does
14 not show itself but very readily separates--
15 Some dried leaves are like the {~~palustris~~}--sericea
16 also a hemlock ie not heart shaped--& quite
17 downy under a glass. Can it be one of the cordate
18 willows which is not {hearted}--? Or is it same
19 with the large clump on N side just below Flint's
20 Is not that a {Comb.} birds nest just built //
21 meadow-- below Flints bridge?
22 May 3d--

23 Pm Ride to Flints pond--to look for
24 uvularia perfoliata-- S. purpurea in
25 Monroe's garden effete-- Ap. blooms with //
26 our early willows--say 10th of April?
27 At Hosmers medicinal(?) Spring Everett's Farm--Ra-
28 repens
29 nunculus ~~bulbosa~~--abundantly out ap several days //
30 Hear of a peach out in Lincoln X //
31 {~~the~~} Probably²¹⁹ I heard the black & white creeper Ap 25 ?
32 I hear it & see it well today. //
33 Comptonia well out--how long?²²⁰ //

²¹⁸ Large space in MS.

²¹⁹ "p" written over a "p"

²²⁰ Punctuation mark looks more like an exclamation point in MS.

1 // Viola cucullata how long? Hear of
2 // Robins nests with 4 eggs-- See no
3 // signs of the uvularia perfoliata yet--
4 ap will not bloom within 10 days.
5 E. Hoar--brings me a twig of a willow
6 plucked in Newton which was killed
7 some weeks ago--when it had just begun
8 to bloom-- The catkins look peculiarly woolly
9 & the scales peculiarly rounded or blunt
10 ? Is it the eriocephala? Red Dutch
11 // Currant ap XXX but our earliest
12 // gooseberry not yet--perhaps because
13 there will be but few blossoms on it this
14 // year-- Partridges have been heard drumming.²²¹
15 In the woods near the Uvularia per-
16 foliata--see & hear a new bird to
17 me-- At first it was silent--& I
18 took it for the common pewee--
19 But bringing my glass to bear on it found
20 it to be pure white throat & beneath--yellow
21 on sides of body or wings, greenish yellow
22 or whitish
23 back & shoulders--a white ^ ring about
24 eyes--& a light mark along sides of head--
25 2 white bars on wings--ap. black bill
26 & dark or perhaps slate colored (?) wings--
27 & above tail. It surprised me by singing
28 in a novel & powerful & rich strain.
29 V. the 9th
30 Yet it may be the white-eyed vireo ^
31 // (which I do not know) if it comes so early.
32 %Nuttall says it comes to Cambridge about the middle of April%²²²

²²¹ Sentence might be in pencil.

²²² The interlined text appears in space below final line and bottom of page.

1 many frogs--(R. palustris chiefly I suppose)
2 as then. As with the halecina--it
3 is the 1st sudden heats that excite them
4 most methinks.
5 I find hopping in the meadow--a Rana
6 halecina--much brighter than any I have
7 seen this year-- There is not only a vivid
8 green halo about each spot--, but the
9 light I think this was not the case with any
10 ? back is vivid ^ green between the spots-- ^ The
11 of the hundreds I saw a month ago!! why??
12 brassy lines along the sides of the back--
13 & more prominent
14 are narrower (only about 1/16 of an inch) ^ than
15 the more fawn-colored lines of the R. palustris--
16 In this one, which I carry home &
17 compare with the palustris--there is a
18 large spot on each orbit but none
19 on the top of the head in front-- It is
20 all white beneath--except a tinge of
21 greenish yellow on the abdomen.
22 Witherel speaks of the R. palustris as the
23 yellow legged frog very properly--
24 // See several bull-frogs along river--but silent
25 I go into Holden swamp to hear warblers
26 see a little blue butterfly (or moth)
27 // (saw one yesterday) fluttering about over the
28 dry brown leaves in a warm place by the
29 swamp {~~below~~} side making a pleasant
30 contrast. From time to time have seen
31 the large vanessa antiopa resting on the
32 black-willows--like a leaf still adhering--
33 {As} I sit there by the swamp

1 side this warm summery pm I
2 hear the crows cawing hoarsely--& from
3 time to time see one flying toward the top
4 of a tall white pine-- At length I dis-
5 tinguish a hen-hawk perched on the top--
6 The crow repeatedly stoops toward {time}--
7 now from this side--now from that
8 {drawing}²²⁵ passing near his head each
9 time but he pays not the least
10 attention to it.
11 I hear the weese wese wese of the creeper
12 continuously from the swamp it is the pre-
13 vailing note there--& methought I heard
14 a red-start's note? but oftener than ?
15 the last I heard the tweezer note--
16 or screeper screeper screeper²²⁶ note of the
17 particolored warbler--bluish above--yellow //
18 & breast
19 or orange throat ^ white vent--& white
20 neck above yellowish
21 on wings-- ^²²⁷ going restlessly over the trees
22 maples &c by the swamp--in creeper fashion
23 & as you may hear at the same time the
24 true creeper's note without seeing it--
25 you might think--it uttered the creeper's
26 note also.
27 The red-wing's though {heare} & there in flocks--
28 are ap beginning to build--{&} I judge //
29 by their shyness & alarm in the bushes along
30 the river--& their richer solitary warbling--
31 Coming back I talk with Witherell

²²⁵ drawing goes down to line 9

²²⁶ Underline runs through one word so that it seems possible HDT meant to strike it out rather than underline it.

²²⁷ T draws horizontal line over caret

1 at Wm Wheeler's landing-- He comes
2 pushing Wheeler's square ended boat
3 down stream with a fish spear--says
4 // he caught a snapping turtle in
5 the river May 1st-- He sits on the side
6 of my boat by the shore a little while
7 talking with me-- There is a hole in the
8 knee of his pants as big as your hand--&
9 he keeps passing his hand over this slowly
10 to hide his bare skin--which is sun burnt
11 {~~take~~} & the color of his face-- Though the
12 latter is reddened by rum of which his
13 breath smells-- But how intimate he
14 is with mud & its inhabitants. He says
15 he caught a large pickerel the other
16 night with spawn in it yet--that
17 Henry Bigelow put many little trout
18 into that round pond (Green Pond he
19 calls it) on the Marlboro Road--
20 which Eldridge Haynes²²⁸ caught a few
21 years after weighing 2 or 3 lbs apiece--
22 A man told him that he saw a trout
23 weighing about 1 1/2 lbs darting at a pickerel
24 & every time he darted he took a bit off
25 a fin--& at last the man walked in &
26 caught the pickerel & it weighed 5 lbs--
27 This was in Spectacle pond in little-
28 ton-- A²²⁹ fisherman told him once that
29 the common eel "gendered" into the
30 river clam & the young fed on the

²²⁸Poss "H" written over "h"

²²⁹ horizontal line over "A"

1 clam till they were big enough to get other
2 food--& hence you found so many dead clams
3 in the river. I asked him if he knew what fish
4 made the stone heaps in the river-- He said
5 the lamprey eel-- He saw one making one
6 last spring--about this time--as he was going
7 across the fields by the river near Tarbells
8 to get seed corn-- It was a single lamprey
9 piling on the stones-- He used to see thousands
10 of them where he lived a boy where the lead-
11 pipe factory was.

12 Agassiz says in his {Introduction} p 175
13 "I have known it [the Chelonara serpentina]
14 snapping in the same fierce manner [~~which some~~²³⁰⁻
15 body else had described at a later period when it was very
16 young] as it does when full grown, at
17 a time it was still a pale almost colorless
18 embryo, wrapped up in its foetal envelopes,
19 with a yolk larger than itself hanging
20 from its sternum, 3 months before hatching."

21 May 5

22 The 2 rana-palustris which I caught
23 May 1st have been coupled ever since in a firkin
24 in my chamber-- They were not coupled when
25 I caught them-- Last²³¹ night I heard them
26 hopping about, for the first time, {~~& of~~} as
27 if trying to get out. Perhaps the female
28 was trying to find a good place to deposit
29 her spawn-- As soon as I get up I find
30 that she has dropped her spawn--a globular //
31 mass wrong or white side up--about 2 inches

²³⁰ It is difficult to know whether the line here is an underscore, an overstrike, or an inadvertent mark.

²³¹"L" written over "l"

1 in diameter--which still adheres to her posterior
2 & the male still lies on her back-- A few
3 moments later they are separate-- The
4 female moves about restlessly from time
5 to time the spawn still attached but soon
6 it is detached from her posterior--still adhering
7 to her right {leg} leg, as if merely sticking to
8 it-- In the course of the forenoon--It
9 becomes quite detached-- At night they
10 are coupled again. The spawn was
11 not dropt at 10 Pm the evening before
12 --but apparently in the night. The female
13 now looked long & dark. This is the first
14 spawn I have known to be dropped by the R.
15 by
16 palustris. I should not know it ~~from~~ its
17 appearance from that of the Sylvatica &
18 halecina. The only frogs hereabouts whose
19 spawn I do not know are the bull-frogs
20 --R fontinalis--& hylodes-- The 1st have
21 not begun to trump & I conclude are not
22 yet breeding--the last I think must be
23 nearly done breeding--& prob do not put their
24 spawn in the river proper--possibly therefore
25 the oat spawn of yesterday--may be that
26 ?
27 of the R. fonitnalis. %V June 8th%²³²
28 Saw & heard the small peewee yesterday--
29 The aspen leaves at Island today appear
30 //
31 as big as a ninepence--suddenly
32 May 6th I heard from time to
33 time--a new note from my rana palus-
34 tris in the firkin in my chamber. It

²³² Appears to be in pencil.

1 was that strong vibrating purr or pr-r-r-
2 r-a-a-a --as if it began with a
3 p lasting 2 or 3 seconds & sometimes longer

4 In the firkin near my bed it sounded
5 just like a vibrating sliver which struck
6 hard and rapidly against the rail belonged
7 to--dry like a fine & steady watchman's rattle
8 sounding but little while-- I recognized it as a
9 sound I hear along the river side-- It was
10 like the tut tut tut more sharply & very rapidly
11 or closely sounded--perchance-- Perhaps even like
12 the tapping of a woodpecker--yes quite like it
13 thus²³³ close by

14 This morning--that spawn laid night before
15 last has expanded to 3 1/2²³⁴ inches in diameter--

16 Pm to Trillium Wood.

17 It is a muggy & louring afternoon
18 & I go looking for toad spawn & for
19 frogs-- In all cases in which I have noticed
20 frogs coupled this year²³⁵ the sylvatica--
21 halecina--& palustris--the female has been
22 considerably the longest-- The most com-
23 mon frog that I get sight of along the
24 brooks & ditches this pm & indeed for
25 some weeks in similar localities & even
26 in some parts of the river shore is what
27 young
28 I have called the ^ R. pipiens--with
29 commonly a dull green head & sides of
30 of head sometimes bright green & back--

²³³ Text appears to be all the way into the left-hand margin and could possibly be *then*, as well.

²³⁴ Looks like HDT wrote a 2 initially and changed it to a 3.

²³⁵ blotch or period after "year"

1 dusky spotted-- Can this be the bull
2 ? frog? Is it not the fontinalis with less
3 bright green & a white throat? Some-
4 times it is yellow throated. I saw lately in
5 the river a full grow bull frog with
6 I think a white throat.

7 I see a *Rana sylvatica* by a ditch in
8 Stows Meadow 15 rds from the [Trillium]
9 Wood. The salix rostrata staminate
10 flowers are of very peculiar yellow--
11 a a bright--what you might call
12 yellow yellow--

13 A boy brings me today an *Attacus cecro-*
14 // *pia* moth--which has come out of a
15 cocoon in his trunk. It is I think the
16 male--a darke brown above--& considerably
17 larger than mine-- It must be about
18 7 inches in alar extent.

19 Minott remembers the *Rana palustris*, or
20 yellow legged one--as "the one that stinks
21 so"--as if that scent were peculiar to it
22 I suppose it is. He says that the white
23 legged one (the halecina) was prepared
24 for invalids--ie their legs--as being
25 sweeter-- He says that there used
26 to be a great many more bull frogs

1 than there are now--& what has got
2 them he does not know--
3 About 9 pm I went to the edge
4 of the river to hear the frogs-- It was a
5 warm & moist rather foggy evening--&
6 the air full of the ring of the toad--the
7 peep of the hylodes--& the low growling
8 croak--or stertoration of the Rana palus-
9 tris-- Just there however I did not hear
10 much of the toad--but rather from the
11 road--but I heard the steady peeping
12 of innumerable hylodes for a background
13 to the palustris snoring--further over the
14 meadow-- There was a universal snor-
15 R.
16 ing of the ^ palustris all up & down the river
17 on each side--the very sounds that
18 mine made in my chamber last night,
19 (v {1.pb1}) & prob it began in earnest
20 last evening on the river-- It is a hard
21 dry unmusical--fine watchman's rattle-like
22 stertoration--swelling to a speedy conclusion
23 --lasting say some 4 or 5 seconds usually--
24 The rhythm of it is like that of the toad's
25 ring--but not the sound-- This is considerably
26 like that of the tree toad when you think
27 of it critically after all--but is not so
28 musical or sonorous as that even
29 There is an occasional more articulate
30 querrulous or rather quivering alarm note
31 such as I have described [May 2nd]--

//

1 Each shore of the river now for
2 its whole length is all alive with
3 It is such a sound as I make in my throat when I imitate the growling of
4 this stertorous purring ^ -- I have heard
5 wild animals in my throat
6 a little of it at intervals for a
7 week--in the warmest days--but
8 now at night it universal all
9 along the river-- If the note of
10 the R halecina April 3rd was the first
11 awakening of the river meadows this
12 is the 2nd--(considering the hylodes
13 (?)
14 & toads less ^ peculiarly of the river
15 meadows)-- Yet²³⁶ how few distinguish
16 this sound at all--& I know not one
17 who can tell what frog makes it--
18 though it is almost as universal
19 as the breeze itself-- The sounds
20 of those 3 reptiles now fill the air--
21 esp. at night-- The toads are most
22 regardless of the light--& regard
23 less a cold day than the r. palus-
24 tris does-- In the mornings now I hear
25 no R. palustris & no hylodes--but
26 a few toads still--but now at
27 night all ring²³⁷ together--the toads
28 ringing²³⁸ through the day--the hylodes begin-
29 ing in earnest toward night--& the palus-

²³⁶"Yet" written over text

²³⁷ "ring" could be "sing".

²³⁸ Again, "ringing" could be "singing".

1 tris at evening-- I think that the
2 different epochs in the revolution of the
3 seasons may perhaps be best marked by the
4 notes of reptiles--they express as it were
5 the very feelings of the earth or nature--
6 They are perfect thermometers--hygrometers--
7 & barometers--

8 One of our cherries opens //
9 %{White throated sparrow}%
10 I heard a myrtle²³⁹ birds tull-lull yesterday

11 & that somebody else heard it 4 or 5 days ago-- //

12 Many are catching pouts this louring
13 Pm in the little meadow by Walden-- //

14 The thinker--he who is serene & self-
15 possessed is the²⁴⁰ brave--not the desperate soldier.

16 He who can deal with his thoughts as
17 a material building them into poems in which
18 future generations will delight--he is
19 the man of the greatest & rarest vigor--
20 not sturdy diggers & lusty polygamists
21 He is the man of energy in whom subtle
22 & poetic thoughts are bred-- Common men
23 can enjoy partially--they can go a fishing
24 rainy days--they can read poems perchance
25 but they have not the vigor to beget poems--
26 They can enjoy feebly but they cannot
27 create. Men talk of freedom--! How many
28 are free to think? Free from fear--from
29 perturbation--from prejudice? 999 in a
30 1000 are perfect slaves. How many can

²³⁹"myrtle" cancelled in pencil

²⁴⁰ "the" inserted

1 exercise the highest human faculties?
2 He is the man truly--courageous--wise
3 --ingenious--who can use his thoughts
4 & extacies as the material of fair &
5 durable creations. One man shall
6 derive from the fisherman's story more
7 than the fisher has got who tells it-- The
8 mass of men do not know how to culti-
9 vate the fields they traverse-- The
10 mass glean only a scanty pittance where
11 the thinker reaps an abundant har-
12 vest-- What is all your building if you
13 do not build with thoughts?
14 No exercise implies more real manhood
15 & vigor--than joining thought to thought.
16 How few men can tell what they have thought!
17 I hardly know half a dozen who are not
18 too lazy for this. ^241 You conquer fate
19 %They cannot get over some difficulty--therefore they are
20 by thought. If you think the fatal
21 on the long²⁴² way {round --}%²⁴³
22 thought of men & institutions--you need
23 never pull the trigger-- The consequences
24 of thinking inevitably follow. There is no
25 more Herculean task than to think a thought
26 about this life & then get it expressed.
27 Horticulturalists think that they make
28 flower gardens--though in their thoughts
29 they are barren & flowerless--but to
30 the poet the earth is a flower garden

²⁴¹ caret is upside down in MS

²⁴² something crossed out above "long"

²⁴³ Interlined text appears to be in pencil and *round* is the word used in the 1906 edition but without the dash, which appears to be correct if the word is, in fact, *round*.

1 wherever he goes--or thinks-- Most men
2 can keep a horse--or keep up a certain
3 fashionable style of living--but few indeed
4 can keep up great expectations. They
5 justly think very meanly of themselves--

6 May 7th 58

7 Plant melons-- Hear young blue- //
8 birds in the box-- Did I not see a //
9 bank swallow fly by--? //

10 Cousin Charles says that he drove
11 grandmother over to Weston the 2d of
12 may²⁴⁴ on the 3d it snowed &
13 he rode about there in a sleigh on the
14 4th & the 5th when he returned in a
15 chaise to Concord it was considered dangerous
16 on account of the drifts.

17 Pm to Assabet by Tarbels--

18 I see the 2d Amelanchier--well out
19 by RR. how long elsewhere? The wild gooseberry
20 here & there along the edge of river in front
21 of Tarbell's like our 2d one--{was} ap. as early
22 as in garden & will open in a few days.

23 I see a wood tortoise by the river there--half-
24 covered with the old withered leaves-- Taking it
25 up I find that it must have lain perfectly
26 still there for some weeks, for though
27 all
28 the grass is ^ green about it²⁴⁵ when I take
29 it up it leaves just such a bare cavity

²⁴⁴1 inch + space between "May" and "on"

²⁴⁵poss "it" written over "--"

1 in which are seen the compressed
2 white roots of the grass only--as when
3 you take up a stone. This shows
4 how sluggish these creatures are--
5 It is quite lively when I touch it--
6 but I see that it has some time
7 lost the end of its tail--& possibly
8 it has been sick-- Yet there was
9 another crawling about within 4 or
10 5 feet. It seems then that it will
11 lie just like a stone for weeks im-
12 moveably in the grass. It lets the season
13 slide. The male yel. spotted & also
14 wood turtle have very distinctly depressed
15 sternums--but not so the male E. pictas
16 that I have noticed.²⁴⁶ The earliest ap-
17 // ple trees begin to leave & to show green
18 veils against the ground & the sky.
19 See already a considerable patch of viola pedata on the dry bushy
20 bank NE of Tarbells--
21 May 8
22 Pm to stone heaps--
23 Mr Wright of the Factory village with
24 whom I talked yesterday--an old fisherman--
25 remembers the lamprey eels well--which
26 he used to see in the Assabet then but
27 thinks that there have been none in the
28 river for a dozen years & that the stone
29 heaps are not made by them

²⁴⁶ blotch

1 I saw one ap. just formed, ~ ~~this Pm~~ //
2 could find none Ap. 15th yesterday²⁴⁷
3 This afternoon I overheard 2 new //
4 ones in the river opposite Prescott Barrett's
5 & get up more than a peck of stones-- The
6 nests are quite large & very high rising
7 to within a foot of the surface where the
8 water is some 3 feet deep-- I cannot
9 detect any ova or young fishes or eels in the
10 heap but a great many insects--pashas
11 with 2 tails--& I think some little leeches
12 only-- The larger stones are a little longer
13 than a hen's egg--but the greatest part
14 of the heap is merely a coarse gravel
15 I see a great deal of the oat spawn--generally
16 just flatted out in that long²⁴⁸ poke-logan
17 by the Assabet Bath place-- It is over the
18 coarse weedy--(Pontederia & yel lily stubble) and
19 not the grassy bottom--commonly where there is
20 more or less water all summer.
21 The Herb of St. Barbara X. Broke //
22 off a twig of Pritchards Canada plum in
23 the evening from which I judge that it may //
24 have opened today X (?)
25 May 9th
26 Pm to Holden & to Ledum Swamp--
27 See 2 Rana halecina-- They have the
28 green halo--but are plain brown
29 between the spots on the back--& not
30 vivid light green like the one of May 4th

²⁴⁷ Yesterday appears to replace *this Pm* and is separate from *could find none April 15th*. The caret here could be a V, but HDT does not refer to the stone heaps on the 7th.

²⁴⁸ stray mark between "long" and "poke"

1 nest tree.²⁵⁰ The particolored warbler
 2 is very common & musical there--my tweezer
 3 bird--making the screep screep screep
 4 note-- It is an almost incessant singer
 5 & a very handsomely marked bird-- It frequents
 6 the spruce trees--at regular²⁵¹ intervals pausing
 7 as it flits hops & creeps about from limb to
 8 limb or up the main stem--& holding up its head
 9 --utters its humble notes--like ah twze
 10 twze twze, or ah twze twze twze twze.
 11 I notice very large clams ap. the unio
 12 v. {2} specimen in drawer
 13 complanatus ^ or common in west meadow
 14 bank near the road--one more than 4 1/2
 15 inches long-- I have before seen them very large
 16 A dandelion perfectly gone to seed -- a //
 17 in books. complete globe--a system in itself.²⁵²
 18 My Rana palustris spawn layed in house May 5
 19 in the sun this pm swells & rises to the surface in
 20 the jar--so that the uppermost ova pro-
 21 ject slightly above it.
 22 May 10th
 23 A rather warm & pleasant--day
 24 going down town in the morning--I hear-- //
 25 the warbling vireo--golden robin--cat- //
 26 bird--& summer yellow-bird-- For some //
 27 days the salix alba have shown their
 28 yellow wreaths here & there--suggesting the
 29 coming of the yellow bird--& now they are
 30 alive with them--
 31 About 8 1/2 Am I go down the river to Ball's Hill

²⁵⁰1 inch + space between "tree." and "The"

²⁵¹ The 1906 version has this as *regular*, as well, but either HDT misspelled it or it is another word.

²⁵² Added text appears in two lines in space at end of main line.

1 As I paddle along--hear the Mary-
2// //land yellow throat--the bobolink--the
3// //oven-bird--& this yellow-throated vireo--
4 That early glaucous--sharp pointed erect
5 sedge--grass like by the river side is
6 ? now ap in prime-- Is it the C.aquaticilis?
7 I hear in several places the low dumping
8 notes of awakened bull-frogs--what I
9 // call their pebbly notes--as if they were
10 cracking pebbles in their mouths--not
11 the plump dont dont or ker dont but
12 kerdle dont dont-- As if they sat round
13 mumbling pebbles. At length near Ball's
14 // Hill I hear the first regular bull-
15 frogs trump--some fainter ones far off
16 are very like the {looming} of cows-- This sound
17 heard low & far over the meadows--
18 when the warmer hours have come grandly
19 inaugurates the summer-- I perspire with
20 rowing in my thick coat--& wish I had worn
21 a thin one-- This trumpeter marching or leap-
22 of advancing
23 ing in the van ^ of summer--whom I now
24 hear coming on over the green meads
25 seems to say--take off your coat--
26 take off your coat--take off your
27 coat! He says here comes a gale that I
28 can breath--this is something like--this is
29 what I call summer-- I see 3 or 4
30 of them sitting silent together in one

1 warm meadow bay-- Evidently their breeding sea-
2 son now begins. But they are soon silent as
3 yet--& it is only an occasional & transient
4 trump that you hear-- That season which
5 is bounded in the north--on the spring side
6 at least by the trump of the bull-frog. This
7 note is like the first colored petals within the
8 calyx of a flower-- It conducts us toward the
9 germ of the flower summer-- He knows no
10 winter-- I hear in his tone the rumours of sum-
11 mer heat-- By his note he summons the
12 season-- Not till the air is of that quality
13 that it can support this sound--does he emit
14 it-- it requires a certain sonorousness-- The van
15 is lead by the croaking wood frog & the little peeping
16 hylodes--& at last comes this pursy trumpeter--
17 The air growing more & more genial & even sultry
18 as well as sonorous. As soon as nature is ready
19 for him to play his part--she awakens him with
20 a warmer perchance a sultry breath--& excites
21 him to sound his trombone. It reminds me at
22 once of tepid waters--& of bathing. His trump
23 is to the ear what the yellow lily or spatterdock
24 is to the eye-- He swears by the powers of mud.

25 It is enough for the day to have heard
26 only the first half trump of an early awakened
27 one--from far in some warm meadow bay
28 It is a certain revelation & anticipation of
29 the livelong summer to come-- It gives leave

1 to the corn to grow & to the heavens to
2 thunder & lighten-- It gives leave to the
3 invalid to take the air-- Our climate
4 is now as tropical as any-- It says
5 Put out your fires & sit in the fire which
6 the Sun has kindled.

7 I hear from some far meadow{s} bay--(across
8 the Great Meadows) The half sounded
9 trump of a bull frog this warm morning--
10 It is like the tap of a drum when human legions
11 are mustering. It reminds me that summer
12 is now in earnest mustering her forces--
13 & that ere long I shall see their waving
14 plumes & glancing armor--& hear the full
15 bands & steady tread. The bull-frog is
16 earths trumpeter--at the head of the terrene
17 band--he replies to the sky with answering
18 // thunder.²⁵³ I see still 5 or 6 ducks
19 which I scare from the Great Meadows
20 Some may be going to breed here--

21 How much expression there is in the viola
22 pedata! I do not know on the whole but
23 it is the handsomest of them all, it is
24 so large--& grows in such large masses--
25 Yet I have thought there was a certain
26 shallowness in its expression-- Yet it spreads
27 so perfectly open with its face turned up-
28 ward--that you get its whole expression.

29 Pm to Walden--

²⁵³ long space after "thunder"

1 ones. The back was the dark greenish brown
2 with a pale brown dorsal line. Both have
3 the vertical dark or black line beneath the
4 eyes & appearing with the pupile & a mark
5 noticed the same in the reticulatus the other day
6 above to pass through it. ^ The head{s} i.e. to
7 the rear of the gills just 1/4 the whole length.
8 from the front of the eye to the end of the
9 lower jaw about 1/9 the whole length. In the
10 largest specimen the lower jaw projects 1/11 of
11 an inch beyond the upper²⁵⁶. I put the small
12 ?/ one 6 or 7 inches long in spirits. Opening
13 the larger I found that it was a female
14 & that the ova were few & small as yet!!
15 I also found that ap. its last food was another
16 pickerel 2/3 as big as itself--the tail end
17 not yet digested. So it appears that
18 you may dig a ditch in the river meadow--
19 for the sake of peat--& though it have no
20 other connection with brook or river ex-
21 cept that it is occasionally over flowed
22 though only 20 or 30 feet long by 3 or 4
23 wide & 1 to 3 deep-- You may have pickerel
24 in it 9 inches long at least--& these live
25 in part by devouring one another-- Surely
26 it cannot be many pickerel that the
27 bigger ones find to devour there-- You might
28 think they would have more sympathy with
29 their fellow prisoners. This ditch--or these
30 ditches--for I caught one in 2 ditches--
31 have not been over-flowed or connected

²⁵⁶"upper" written over "lower"

1 with the brook or river ~~for~~ since the
2 spring of 57--I think--certainly not any
3 of them since last fall. Yet you may
4 find a few sizeable pickerel in such narrow
5 quarters-- I have seen them several together
6 in much smaller & shallower ditches there
7 --& they will bury themselves in the sand at
8 your approach-- Yet opening one you may
9 perchance discover that he has just swallowed
10 his sole surviving companion! You can easily
11 distinguish the transverse bars--a rod off--where
12 the fish is in the water-- Melvin says they get to
13 weigh about 2 lbs. It appears to be the *Esox fasciatus*
14 V May 27²⁵⁷
15 May 12th '58

16 Chimney swallows-- //

17 Pm up Assabet-- On the 8th I noticed a
18 little pickerel recently dead in the river--with
19 a slit in its upper lip 3/4 inch long--ap where
20 a hook had pulled ~~out~~ out There was a white
21 fuzzy swelling at the end of the snout accordingly
22 & this ap. had killed it.

23 It rained last night & now I see the elm //
24 seed or samarae generally fallen or falling
25 It not only strews the street but the surface of the
26 river--floating off in green patches to plant
27 at the shores. The rain evidently hastened its fall.
28 This must be the earliest of trees & shrubs
29 to go to seed or drop its seed-- The white
30 maple keys have not fallen. The elm seed

²⁵⁷ The line beginning *It appears* and ending *V May 27* looks like it was added later.

1 floats off down the stream & over the
2 meadows--& thus these trees are found
3 bordering the stream-- By the way
4 I notice that birches--near meadows
5 where there is an exceedingly gentle inclina-
6 tion grow in more or less parallel lines
7 a foot or 2 apart--parallel with
8 the shore--Apparently the seed having been
9 dropt there either by a freshet or
10 else lodged in the parallel waving hollows
11 of the snow--

12 It clears off in the forenoon--&
13 promises to be warm in the Pm (though
14 it at last becomes cool) I see
15 now as I go forth on the river--
16 the first summer shower coming up in
17 the N. W.--a dark & well defined cloud
18 with rain falling sheaflike from it
19 --but fortunately moving off NE along
20 the horizon--or down the river-- The
21 peculiarity seems to be that the sky
22 is not generally overcast--but
23 elsewhere S & NE is a fair weather
24 sky--with only innocent cummuli &c
25 in it-- The thunder cloud is like the
26 ovary of a perfect flower-- Other
27 showers are merely staminiferous or
28 barren-- There are 20 barren to one
29 fertile-- It is not commonly till

1 thus late in the season that the fertile
2 are seen-- In the thunder cloud--so distinct
3 & condensed--there is a positive energy--&
4 I notice the first as the bursting of the
5 pollen cells in the flower of the sky.

6 Waded through the W of rock or Wheeler
7 & the next day over the large meadow S.
8 meadow-- ^ but I find no frog spawn there!!
9 much I do not even notice tadpoles
10 There is ^ less water there than a month ago--?
11 beside that those places are now half full of grass. Some pools where was
12 Where then do the *R. palustris* lay their
13 spawn are about dried up(!) as that in Stows land by RR. Where are the tadpoles?--
14 spawn-- I think in the river because it is

15 there I hear them--but I cannot see any--
16 Perhaps they choose pretty deep water now it so warm--
17 Now & for a week I have noticed {a}
18 with wrinkled edges
19 few pads ^ blown up by the wind-- Already
20 coarse
21 the ^ grass along the meadow shore--or

22 where it is wettest is a luxuriant green--
23 --answering in {is} deep dark color to the thunder
24 cloud--both summer phenomena--as if it
25 too had some lightning in its bosom.

26 Some early brakes at the Island woods are
27 a foot high--& already opened 3 //
28 or 4 inches-- The *polygonatum pubescens*
29 is strongly huddled--

30 The *S. lucida*--above Assabet Spring will
31 not open for several days-- //

32 The early form of the cinque-foil is
33 now ap. in prime--& very pretty spotting //
34 the banks with its clear bright yellow--

35 See ap young toad-tadpoles now judging
36 from their blackness--now quite free from the //
37 eggs or spawn.

1 last--raising wreathes of mud--amid the
2 tadpoles--to which it must be a very sea-
3 serpent. I afterward saw another running
4 under Sam Barrets grist-mill the same Pm. //

5 He said that he saw a water snake--which
6 he distinguished from a black snake--in an
7 apple tree near by--last year with a
8 young robin in its mouth--having taken it from
9 the nest. There was a cleft or fork in the
10 tree which enabled it to ascend.

11 Find the Viola Muhlenbergii abundantly //

12 out--(how long?) in the meadow SW of
13 Farmer's Spring.

14 The cinnamon & interrupted ferns are both //

15 about 2 feet high in some places. The first is
16 more uniformly woolly down the stem--the
17 other other, though very woolly at top being
18 the wool of the last is coarser
19 partly bare on the stem ^ -- George the carpenter
20 says that he used to see a great many stone
21 heaps in the Saco in Bartlett near the
22 White Mts--like {there} in the Assabet--&
23 that there were no lampreys there & they called
24 them "{Snakes} heaps."

25 Saw some unusually broad chestnut
26 planks jut sawed at the mill-- Barrett
27 said that they came from Lincoln--whereupon
28 I said that I guessed I knew where they came
29 from--judging by their size alone²⁵⁸--& it
30 turned out that I was right. I had

²⁵⁸"alone" written over "along"

1 often gathered the nuts of those very trees
2 --& had observed within a year that they were
3 cut down-- So it appears that we have
4 come to this that if I see any peculiarly
5 large chestnuts at the saw mill I
6 can guess where they come from--even
7 know them in the log. These planks
8 were quite shaky & the heart had fallen out
9 of one. Barrett said that it was apt to be
10 the case with large chestnut. They use this
11 wood for coffins instead of black walnut.

12 May 13th

13 Pm to Island--

14 // Uvularia sessilifolia is well out in Island
15 woods--op. Bath rock--how long?

16 The small willows ~~like~~ which have a
17 loose fertile catkin now--like that W
18 of rock--& which I think is in the
19 main petiolaris, have not brittle twigs²⁵⁹
20 at base--like the 2 forms of sericea--

21 ? I am bothered however by finding that
22 the leaves of the fertile plants--are, as far
23 as I observed this Pm--entire--while those
24 of the W. of rock pressed--& of some ^ other
25 sterile ones
26 which I take to be the same as west of rock--
27 though growing with the first as if the same
28 plant--one already sessile! Can there
29 be 2 species with loose catkins--or is my
30 narrow glaucous serrate one--the sterile of
31 a dif. species from the entire {leaves}--?
32 now
33 ? I {can} ^ {entire} leaves are the small sericea above? no²⁶⁰
34 The early willows now show great

²⁵⁹ A line of ink, perhaps meant to show transposition of text (?), runs from below "twigs" back between and above "brittle."
²⁶⁰ Entire line is interlined text, beginning with *I*, ending *no*.

1 green wands a foot or 2 long consisting //
2 {worm}-like
3 of curled ^ catkins 3 inches long--
4 now in their prime-- They present conspicuous
5 masses of green now before the leaves are
6 like the fruit of the elm at present
7 noticeable--^ Some have begun to show their //
8 down-- So this is ap. the next tree (or shrub?)
9 after the elm to shed its seeds--
10 A betula populifolia by elm edge of Hill Meadow ap. X //
11 not the earliest place--
12 I wade through the great Lee Farm Meadow--
13 Many E. picta which I see have²⁶¹ perfectly
14 fresh & clear black scales now-- I can even
15 see the outlines of the bony plates beneath
16 impressed in the scales-- These turtles abound
17 now in the shallow pools in the meadows
18 with {dirty} grassy or weedy bottoms-- I notice
19 on one--part of whose rear marginal plate is broken
20 2 small claw like horny appendages on the
21 skin just over the tail--
22 {Viola} lanceolata how long? //
23 As I sat in my boat near the Bath rock
24 at Island--I saw a red squirrel--steal ~~light~~
25 slyly up a red maple as if he were in search
26 of a bird's nest, (though it is early for most)
27 & I thought I would see what he was at--
28 He crept far out on the slender branches
29 & reaching out his neck--nibbled off the
30 fruit stems--sometimes bending them withing
31 reach with his paw & then squatting on

²⁶¹ Have might be bear.

1 the twig he voraciously devoured the
2 half grown keys--using his paws
3 to (put them in) direct them to his mouth
4 as a nut-- Bunch after bunch he
5 plucked and ate, letting many fall,
6 & he made an abundant if not sump-
7 tuous feast--the whole tree hanging red
8 with fruit around him. It seemed like
9 a fairy fruit as I sat looking toward
10 the sun--& saw the red keys made all
11 glowing & transparent by the sun between
12 me & the body of the squirrel. It was
13 certainly a cheering sight--a cunning red
14 squirrel perched on a slender twig between
15 you & the sun--feasting on the handsome
16 red maple keys. He nibbled voraciously as
17 if they were a sweet & luscious fruit to him.
18 What an abundance & variety of food is
19 now ready for him! At length when
20 the wind suddenly began to blow hard &
21 shake the twig on which he sat, he quickly
22 ran down a dozen feet.

23 The large globular masses of oat-spawn
24 often on the very top of the old pontederia
25 stems--and also on the shooting Equisetum
26 limosum--of the same color with the
27 weeds & bottom--look like ~~masses~~
28 a ~~of~~ seedy fruit which is divested of its
29 rind.

1 many of them at the tan-yard meadow--
2 The Equisetum limosum will ap(?) open there in //
3 2 or 3 days-- Thalictrum dioicum abundant-- //
4 ap in prime how long? It is a very interesting
5 esp. the sterile
6 graceful & delicate plant--^ with its pretty
7 commonly purple petal-like sepals & its conspicuous
8 long yellow anthers in little bare clusters(?) trembling over
9 the meadow. Yet a frail & rather inobvious
10 plant. It grows on moist commonly rocky
11 slopes next to meadows at the base of hills--
12 or by rocks in rather swampy woods.
13 The meadows are now full of sedges in bloom which shed clouds of pollen & cover
14 my shoes with it.
15 The cassia has not come up yet. //
16 High blueberry well out-- //
17 Hear the evergreen forest note-- Also in //
18 rather low ground in Bedford a note much like
19 the summer yel bird's or bet. that & the redstart--
20 & see the bird quite near but hopping quite low
21 on the bushes-- It looked like the yel-bird with
22 a bluish-ash top of head. What was it? Prob. Parti-
23 colored warbler--v {n p b. l.}.
24 The shad bush in bloom is now conspicuous--its
25 white flags on all sides-- Is it not the most
26 massy & conspicuous of any wild plant now
27 in bloom. I see where the farmer mending his
28 fence has just cut one to make part of the
29 fence--& it is stretched out horizontally a mass of
30 white bloom--
31 Measured 2 apple trees--by the road from
32 the middle of Bedford to Fitch's mill-- One
33 which divided at the ground--was 13 1/2 feet
34 in circumfrence there--around the double trunk

1 But another in a field on the opposite
2 side of the road--was the more remarkable
3 tree for size. This tree was exceedingly
4 low for the size of its trunk & the top rather
5 small. At 3 ft from the ground it measured
6 10 1/4 ft in circumference--& immediately
7 above this sent off a branch as big as a
8 large apple tree-- It was hollow & on one
9 side part of the trunk had fallen out.
10 These trees mark the residence of an old settler
11 evidently.

12 May 16th 58

13 Am Up Assabet-- Aralia nudicaulis at
14 // island XXX. The leaf-stalks are often eaten
15 off--prob by some quadruped-- The flower
16 // buds of the C. florida are 5/8 inch in diameter
17 // The upright cerastium on the rock ap X but without petals--
18 // The Salix lucida will hardly bloom within 2 days
19 The s. Torreyana catkins are so reddish that
20 at a little distance it looks somewhat like
21 the common black cherry now leafing.
22 // A Humming bird yesterday--came into
23 the next house & was caught. Flew about
24 our parlor to-day & tasted Sophias flowers.
25 In some lights you saw none of the colors of
26 its throat-- In others in the shade the throat
27 was a clear bright scarlet--but in the sun
28 it glowed with splendid metallic fiery reflections
29 about the neck--& throat--. It uttered from
30 time to time as it flew a faint squeaking chirp
31 or chirrup. The hum sounded more hollow when
32 it approached a flower-- Its wings fanned the

1 air so forcibly that you felt the cool wind
2 they raised a foot off--& nearer it was very {remarkable}
3 Does not this very motion of the wings keep a bird
4 cool in hot weather?

5 The only indigenous willow I noticed yesterday
6 on the Shawsheen a mile below Fitch's
7 mill was the small sericea--such as by
8 Assabet white maple-- What was that
9 loud but distant note of a bird--ap.
10 in the lowland--somewhat like the
11 Guinea hen note--also reminding me a little //
12 of the plover about Truro light--{but} ap
13 a hawk--? Got quite a view down the
14 valley of the Shawsheen below the junction
15 of Vine Brook--N. E. from a hill in the extreme
16 NE of Bedford.

17 Pm to uvularia perfoliata at F. Pond.
18 See again the warbler of yesterday-- All bright
19 yellow beneath and ap. bluish slate above--but
20 I do not see it well. Its note with little vari-
21 ation is like twit twit, twit twit, twitter
22 twitter tve. It must be the particolored warbler //

23 Sat down in the sun in the path
24 through Wright's wood lot above Goose²⁶⁴
25 pond--{but soon} hearing a slight rustling
26 I looked around and saw a very large
27 about 5 feet long
28 black snake ^ on the dry leaves about //}
29 a rod off-- When I moved it vibrated
30 its tail very f rapidly & smartly which

²⁶⁴"G" written over "g"

1 made quite a loud rustling or rattling
2 sound reminding me of the rattle snake--
3 as if many snakes obeyed the same
4 instinct as the rattle-snake when they
5 vibrate their tails. Once I thought
6 I heard a low hiss.(?)-- It was on the
7 edge of a young wood of oaks &
8 white
9 a few ^ pines from 10 to 18 feet high--the
10 oaks as yet bare of leaves-- As I moved
11 toward the snake I thought it would take
12 refuge in some hole--but it appeared
13 that it was out on a scout & did not
14 know of any place of refuge near-- Suddenly
15 as it moved along it erected itself half
16 its length--& when I thought it was preparing
17 to my surprise
18 to strike at me--^ it glided up a slender
19 oak sapling about an inch in diameter
20 at the ground & 10 feet high-- It ascended
21 this easily & quickly--at first I think,
22 slanting its body over the lowest twig of the
23 next tree-- There were 7 little branches for
24 9 feet averaging about the size of a
25 pipe stem. It moved up in a somewhat
26 zig zag manner availing itself of the
27 branches--yet also {spir} in part spirally
28 about the main stem. It finds {finaly}
29 a rest (or hold if necessary) for its neck
30 or forward part of its body--moving

1 crosswise the small twigs--then draws up the
2 rest of its body. {~~to~~} From the top of this little
3 oak it passed into the top of a white pine
4 of the same height 1 1/2 inches in diameter
5 & 2 feet off
6 at the ground ^--from this into another oak 15
7 feet high & 3 feet from the pine--from this
8 to another oak 3 feet from the last & about the
9 same height--from this to a larger oak
10 or 4
11 about 4 feet off & 3 ^ inches in diameter--
12 in which it was about 14 feet from the
13 ground--thence through 2 more oaks ~~not~~
14 a little lower--at intervals of 4 feet &
15 white
16 so into a ^ pine--& at last into a smaller
17 white pine & thence to the ground-- The
18 distance in a straight line from where it
19 left the ground to where it descended was about
20 25 feet--& the greatest height it reached
21 about 14 feet. It moved quite deliberately
22 for the most part--choosing its course
23 from tree to tree with great skill--&
24 resting from time to time while it watched
25 me-- Only my approach compelling it
26 to move again. It surprised me very
27 much to see it ~~crossed~~ from tree to
28 tree exactly like a squirrel--where
29 there appeared little or no support for
30 such a body-- It would glide down
31 the proper twig--its body resting at in-
32 tervals of a foot or 2 on the smaller

1 side twigs perchance--& then would
2 easily cross an interval of 2 feet--
3 sometimes in an ascending sometimes
4 a descending direction-- If the latter, its
5 weight at last bent the 1st twig
6 down nearer to the opposite one--
7 It would extend its neck very much
8 as I could see by the increased width
9 of the scales exposed--till its neck rested
10 across the opposite twig--hold on tight
11 tightly
12 all the while ^ to some part of the last
13 twig by the very tip of its tail which was
14 curled round it just like a monkeys--
15 I have hardly seen a squirrel rest on
16 such slight twigs--as it would rest
17 on in mid air--only 2 or 3 not
18 bigger than a pipe stem, while its
19 body stretched clear apart at least between
20 2 trees-- It was not at all like creeping
21 over a coarse basket work--but suggested
22 long practice & skill--like the rope dancers--
23 There were no limbs for it to use comparable
24 for size with its own body--& you hardly
25 noticed the few slight twigs it rested on as
26 it glided through the air-- When its
27 neck settled on the opposite twig, it was
28 as it were glued to it-- It helped itself
29 over or up them as surely as if it grasped
30 with a hand-- There were no doubt rigid

1 tinctly pencilled with black--a tawny head
2 & utters now only a sharp cluck for a
3 // chirp-- Nemopanthus XXX
4 See & hear a redstart, the rhythm of
5 whose strain is tse tse, tse tse, tse
6 emphasizing the last syllable of all--&
7 not ending with the common tsear. Hear
8 // the night warbler-- The uvularia perfoliata
9 which did not show itself at all on the 3d
10 is now conspicuous--& one is open but
11 // will not shed pollen before tomorrow XXX
12 It has thrust shot up about 10 inches in one case & bloomed within 13 days!!
13 // Ranunculus repens at Bristers spring--How long
14 Was that R. repens at the Everett spring on
15 // the 3d-- %yes--% The whippoorwill heard.
16 E. Hoar detected the other day 2 ovaries
17 under one scale of a salix rostrata--
18 & under another a stamen & another stamen
19 converted into an ovary--
20 May 17th
21 Lourcing & more or less rainy--
22 Pm to Ledum Swamp--
23 Near Beomyces bank I see the Salix
24 // humilis showing its down or cotton--& also
25As I see the last still in bloom on the 20th on a N. side hill--perhaps this was a very small humilis?
26 // the S. tristis^ ?-- Prob. the last is wholly
27 out of bloom some time-- These then have
28 // ripe seed before the white maple.
29 It rains gently from time to time as I walk
30 --but I see a farmer with his boys-- John
31 Hosmer still working in the rain, bent on

1 finishing his planting-- He is slowly getting
2 a soaking--quietly dropping manure in the
3 furrows-- This rain is good for thought--
4 --it is especially agreeable to me as I
5 enter this wood & hear the soothing dripping
6 on the leaves-- It domiciliates me in
7 Nature-- The woods are the more like
8 a house for the rain--the few slight noises
9 sound more ~~like~~ hollow in them--the
10 birds hop nearer--the very trees seem still
11 & pensive-- The clouds are but a higher
12 roof-- The clouds & rain confine me to near
13 objects the surface of the earth & the
14 trees-- On the first holdings up in the
15 intervals of the rain the chewink²⁶⁶ is heard
16 again & the huckleberry bird--& the
17 evergreen forest-note. &c I am coming in
18 sight of the Charles Miles house-- What
19 a pleasant sandy road soaking up the
20 rain--that from the woods to the Miles
21 house! The house becomes a controlling feature
22 in the landscape where there is but one or 2
23 in sight.

24 The red maple tops 10 days ago looked
25 like red paint scaling off--when seen against
26 houses-- Now they have acquired a browner red

27 The T. grandidentata now shows large
28 silvery downy--but still folded leafets.

29 You are more than paid for a wet

²⁶⁶"k" written over "g"

1 coat & feet not only by the exhili-
2 ration that the fertile moist air im-
3 parts but by the increased fragrance--&
4 more gemlike character of expanding buds
5 & leafets in the rain. All vegetation
6 is now fuller of life & expression somewhat
7 like lichens in wet weather--and the grass.
8 Buds are set in syrup or amber.

9 Measured the large apple tree in
10 front of the Charles Miles house-- It is
11 9 ft 10/12 in circumfrence at 2 1/2 feet
12 from the ground--the smallest place below
13 the branches--which are now 4 once 5 (one
14 being cut--starting at about 5 feet from the
15 ground & each as big as a good sized modern
16 tree-- The top is large-- The trunk looks
17 healthy & is scarcely larger at the ground
18 than where measured-- It is large for
19 an oak--a sturdy looking tree--reminding
20 one of the portly bodies of some of our grand-
21 fathers. It is not grafted. Once stood by the
22 fence.

23 While I was measuring the
24 tree Puffer came along & I had a
25 long talk with him--standing under the
26 tree in the cool sprinkling rain till we
27 shivered. He said that he had seen
28 pout spawn attached to the under side
29 of the white lily pads!! He thought he
30 knew it from having seen it in their bodies

31 He thought that the pickerel spawn
32 was dropt in deep water & was devoured

1 by pouts & eels--wondered where eels bred--
2 & how--for he never detected any spawn in them.
3 Had been told (like Witherel) that they gendered
4 into (i.e. copulated with) the clam. Told
5 of a winter some 15 years ago when
6 there was a freshet in February--& the snapping
7 turtles thought it was spring & came up with
8 it on to the meadows--but it froze & the
9 ice settled on them & killed them when
10 the water went down--& they were found dead
11 in great numbers in the spring--one
12 that must have weighed 100 lbs. Had seen
13 pickerel that had been frozen 4 or 5 hours
14 brought to life in water-- Said that the
15 black snake layed 8 or 10 eggs in
16 a--field-- Once killed a very large
17 water adder--& counted over 60 little snakes
18 in it an inch or 2 long--& that was not
19 all. Once he was going along--saw a
20 water adder & heard a low sound which
21 it make with its mouth--& he saw as
22 many as 25 little snakes run into its mouth
23 Says the foxes eat the E. picta which
24 I believe he called grass turtles--he
25 had seen where they had opened them--but
26 they could not get at the box turtle.
27 Found some young stake-drivers as he was
28 mowing.

29 Kalmia glauca ap yesterday XX on
30 the driest part of the swamp--

//

1 glass, had a white throat with a white
2 spot on his wings--was dark above & moved
3 from time to time like a creeper--& it was ?
4 The plate of of Sylvia Canadensis in NY reports has since reminded me of this,
5 about the creeper's size ^-- The other bird
6 which I did not examine particularly was a
7 little larger & more tawny--perhaps G. C. thrush²⁶⁷
8 It is remarkable how little way most
9 men get in their account of the mysteries of
10 nature. Puffer after describing the habits of
11 a snake or turtle--some peculiarly which struck
12 him in its behavior--would say with a²⁶⁸ {remarkable}
13 air as if he was communicating or suggesting
14 something--possibly explaining something-- Now
15 I take it that is nature. Nature did that."
16 May 18th 58
17 Set an Arbor vitae hedge 15 inches E of our line-- NB
18 about 20 inches high--²⁶⁹
19 May 19th
20 Am Surveying (by the eye--) for Warner
21 the meadow surveyed for John Hosmer in
22 June 56. The black currant near
23 Field R. Floridum
24 S. W. corner of his Saw Mill property out-- //
25 how long?
26 Is the willow--with a large ~~catk~~ fertile
27 catkin there the small sericea--& less downy
28 than the large one--distinct from both? ?
29 Along the brook by paint factory.
30 Pm to Everett Spring--

²⁶⁷phrase added

²⁶⁸There is a blotch after the "a" which might be a crossed out "n"

²⁶⁹The entire passage below the dateline "May 18th" has either a line drawn around it or a line atop and another below.

1 There appears to be quite a variety in the
2 colors of the *V. cucullata*--some dark
3 blue if not lilac (?)--some with a very
4 dark blue center & whitish circumference--
5 others dark blue within & dark without--
6 others all very pale blue--
7 // *Stellaria borealis*--well out--ap several
8 days-- What I ~~fi~~ called the *R. bulbosus*
9 there May 3d proves to be the *R. repens*. It would
10 ? appear then to be the earliest *ranunculus*. It
11 is a dense bed of yellow now-- I am struck
12 by the light spot in the sinuses of the leaves--
13 The *Eg. sylvaticum*--there is now of a reddish cast.
14 R. W. E. says that Pratt found yesterday
/15// //out the *Trientalis*, *Trillium cernuum* &
16 *Smilacina trifolia*.
17 4 rods + S. of the cross fence over Everett's hill
18 on the W slope I find the *Ranunculus abortivus*
19 // 2 plants open only but will not shed pollen till tomorrow
20 // A rod or 2 further the *Eg. hiemalis*--ap
21 a little past bloom--or effete--all the heads
22 open
23 Looking with my glass into the Gourgas
24 // pond hole-- & see 3 or 4 buck bean blossoms.
25 2 birds about the size & of the appearance
26 of a pigeon or turtle dove start up with
27 a loud alarm note from the shallow muddy
28 flat there--with a harsh shrill cry--whil
29 whil whil or the like. at first I

1 could not guess what they were, but since con-
2 clude that they were the large yellow legs. //

3 Could this bird have made the sound heard on the 15th
4 ult? There remained feeding on the mud along the
5 water's edge 2 peetweet like birds but ap. larger
6 & less tetering-- I thought they were T. solitarius. ?

7 Heard the night warbler--begin his strain
8 just like an ~~wood~~ oven bird! I have noticed that when
9 it drops down into the woods--it darts suddenly one side to a perch
10 when low.²⁷⁰

11 May 20th '58

12 Pm up Assabet

13 A cloudy afternoon--with a cool east wind
14 producing a mist-- Hundreds of swallows
15 are now skimming close over the river at its
16 broadest part where it is shallow & runs
17 the swiftest--just below the Island--for a
18 distance of 20 rods-- There are bank- barn-
19 cliff & chimney swallows all mingled together
20 & continually scaling back & forth--a very
21 lively sight-- They keep descending or stooping
22 to within a few inches of the water on
23 without quite touching it
24 a curving wing--^ & I suppose are attracted
25 by some small insects which hover close over it--

26 They also stoop low about me as I stand
27 on the flat island there--but I do not
28 perceive the insects. They rarely rise more
29 than 5 feet above the surface--& a general
30 twittering--adds to the impression of sociability.
31 The principal note is the low grating
32 sound of the bank swallow & then the
33 vit vit of the barn-swallow

²⁷⁰ The final sentence, beginning with "I have noticed..." seems to have been written in the space at the end of the main line and in the space between the main line and the dateline.

1 The cliff swallow then is here-- Are
2 the insects in any measure confined
3 to that part of the river?-- Or are they con-
4 gregated for the sake of society.
5 I have also in other years noticed them over
6 another swift place--at Hubbard's bath--
7 And also when they first come in smaller
8 numbers over the still & smooth water under
9 // the lea of the Island wood. They are thick as
10 the gnats which perhaps they catch. Swallows
11 are more confident & fly nearer to man
12 than most birds-- It may be because they
13 are more protected by the sentiment & superstitions
14 of men.

15 // The salix lucida XXX
16 The season is more backward on ac. of the
17 cloudy & rainy weather of the last 4 or
18 5 days--& some preceeding. The polygonatum

19 // pubescens not quite-- The red oak is not out--

20 // Hear a quail whistle.

21 I notice that the sugar maple op. Barretts
22 does not bloom this year--nor does the
23 the canoe birch by the hemlocks bear sterile cat-
24 kins-- Perhaps they more or less respect the
25 alternate years.

26 3 1/2 Pm to Brister's Hill

27 Going along the deep valley in the woods, just
28 before entering the part called Laurel glen

29 I heard a noise & saw a fox running off along
30 shrubby
31 the^ side hill. It looked like a rather small

dirty brown fox & very clumsy running much like a

33 It had a dirty or dark brown tail with very little white to the tip
34 wood chuck-- ^ A few steps further I came upon

35 the remains of a wood chuck yet warm

1 which it had been eating--head {&} legs & tail
2 all remained united by the skin but the bowels
3 & a good part of the flesh was eaten--
4 This was evidently a young fox say 3/4 grown //
5 or perhaps less
6 ^& appeared as full as a tick. There was
7 a fox hole within 3 rods with a very large
8 sand heap several cartloads before it, much
9 trodden. Hearing a bird of which I was in
10 search I turned to examine it-- When I
11 heard a bark behind me--& looking round saw
12 an old fox on the brow of the hill on the west side
13 of the valley amid the bushes about 10 rods
14 off looking down at me. At first it was a
15 short puppy-like bark--but afterward it began
16 to bark on a higher key--& more prolonged--very
17 unlike a dog--a very ragged half screaming
18 bur-ar-r-r. I proceeded along the
19 valley half a dozen rods after a little
20 delay (the fox being gone) & then looked
21 round to see if it returned to the wood chuck--
22 I then saw a full grown fox perhaps
23 the same as the last, cross the valley
24 through the thin low wood 15 or 20 rods
25 behind me--but from E to W--pausing
26 & looking at me anxiously from time to time
27 It was rather light tawny (not fox colored)
28 with dusky brown bars--& looked very large
29 wolf like-- The full grown fox stood
30 much higher on its legs--& was larger, but

1 the body was ap. not much heavier than
2 that of the young. Going a little further
3 I came to another hole--& 10 feet off was
4 of square
5 a space ^ a dozen ^ feet {t} amid some
6 little oaks worn quite bare & smooth ap.
7 by the playing of the foxes--and the ground
8 close around a large stump about a rod from
9 the hole was worn bare & hard--& then all
10 the bark & much of the rotten wood was pawed
11 They had pawed a deep channel about one--& in between the roots--perhaps for insects
12 or gnawed off--lately. ^ There lay the remains
13 of another woodchuck--now dry--the
14 head skin & legs being left--& also part
15 of the skin of a 3d {~~ant~~} & the bones of
16 another animal & some partridge
17 feathers-- The old foxes had kept their
18 larder well supplied--within a rod was
19 another hole ap. a back door having no
20 heap of sand--& 5 or 6 rods off another
21 in the side of the hill with a small sand
22 heap--& as far down the valley another
23 with a large sand heap--& a back door
24 with none-- There was a well beaten
25 path from the one on the side hill
26 5 or 6 rods long to one in the valley--&
27 there was much blackish dung about the
28 holes & stump & the path-- By the
29 hole furthest down the valley was another
30 stump which had been gnawed (?)²⁷¹ very much
31 & trampled & pawed about like the other.

²⁷¹"(?)" inserted

1 --I suppose the young foxes play there
2 There were half a dozen holes or more
3 and what with the skulls & feathers & skins &
4 bones about I was reminded of Golgotha. These
5 holes were some of them very large & conspicuous
6 1 foot wide vertically by 8 or 10 inches going into
7 the side hill with a curving stoop--& there
8 was commonly a ^{very} large heap of sand before
9 them trodden smooth-- It was a sproutland
10 valley--cut off but a year or 2 since--
11 As I stood by the last hole--I heard the old fox bark
12 & saw her (?) near the brow of the hill on the NW.
13 amid the bushes restless & anxious overlooking me
14 a dozen or 14 rods off-- I was no doubt by the hole
15 in which the young were. She uttered at very short
16 intervals a ^{pro-} longed shrill screeching kind of bark
17 beginning lower & rising a very broken & ragged sound
18 ^to a very high key--lasting 2 ~~or~~ 3 seconds--^
19 more like the scream of a large & angry bird than
20 the bark of a dog--trilled like a piece of vibrating
21 metal at the end. It moved restlessly back
22 & forth--or approached nearer--& stood or sat
23 on its haunches like a dog with its tail layed
24 out in a curve on one side--& when it barked
25 it layed its ears flat back & stretched its nose
26 forward. Sometimes it uttered a short puppy
27 like snappish bark. It was not fox-colored
28 or wolf-color
29 now--but a very light tawny ^--dark brown or
30 had 3line from its throat; its legs the same perpendicular
31 dusky beneath ^-- with a broad dusky ^ band on its
32 haunches & similar ones on its tail--& a small
33 whitish spot on each side of its ~~face~~ mouth--
34
35

1 There it sat like a chieftain on his hills
2 looking methought as big as a prairie wolf--
3 & shaggy like²⁷² it--anxious & ever fierce--
4 as I peered through my glass. I noticed
5 when it withdrew--(I too withdrawing in the
6 opposite direction) that as it had descended
7 the hill a little way & wanted to go off over
8 the pinnacle without my seeing which way it
9 went, it ran one side about 10 feet till
10 it was behind a small white pine then
11 turned at a right angle--& ascended the
12 hill directly with the pine between us. The sight
13 of him suggested that 2 or 3 might attack
14 a man. The note was a shrill vibrating scream or
15 cry. Could easily be heard a quarter of a mile.
16 How many woodchucks--rabbits--partridges
17 &c &c they must kill! & yet how few
18 of them are seen. A very wolfish color--
19 It must have been a large fox--& if it
20 is true that the old are white on the sides
21 of the face.-- an old one-- They evidently used
22 more than half a dozen holes within 15 rods.
23 I withdrew the sooner for fear by his barking
24 he would be betrayed to some dog or
25 gunner-- It was a very wild sight--to see
26 the wolf like parent circling about me
27 in the thin wood--from time to time pausing
28 to look back at me. --This appeared to
29 and is considered a var of the red by him and most others
30 be nearest to the cross fox of Audubon ^--
31 not white beneath as the red-fox of Harlan
32 Emmonds says of the red fox "In the spring the
33 color appears to fade" & that some are "pale yellow"--
34 but does not describe minutely. This was prob. a

²⁷² "l" extends down and the extraneous part is crossed out

1 female--for Bell says of the Eng. fox that the
2 female "loses all her timidity & shyness when suck-
3 ling her young"-- also that they are a year & a half
4 I find afterward 3 or 4 more fox holes nearby--& see
5 where they have sat on a large upturned stump which had heaved up--
6 in attaining their full size. earth with it-- Many large pieces
7 of woodchuck skin about their holes-- they leave the head & feet.
8 a scent of carrion about the holes
9 Hear the pepe-- See tanagers male & female--in //

10 the top of a pine--one red--other yellow--from below-- //

11 We have got to these high colors among birds.

12 Saw in the street a young cat owl, 1 of 2 //

13 which Skinner killed in Walden woods yesterday-- It
14 was almost ready to fly--at least 2 1/2 feet in alar extent
15 tawny with many black bars & darker on wings-- Holmes²⁷³
16 in Patent office report says they "pair early in February."
17 So I visited the nest. It was in a large white
18 pine close on the N side of the path some
19 10 rods W of the old Stratton cellar in the
20 woods-- This is the largest ~~white~~ pine there-
21 abouts & the nest is some 35 feet high on 2
22 limbs close to the mainstem & ac. to Skinner
23 was not much more than a foot across made
24 of small sticks nearly flat--"without fine stuff." !
25 There were but 2 young. This {~~in~~} a path which
26 somebody travels every half day at least--²⁷⁴
27 & only a stone's {through} from the great road--
28 There were many white droppings about--&
29 large rejected pellets containing the vertebrae
30 & hair of a skunk-- As I stood there
31 I heard the crows making a great noise
32 some 30 or 40 rods off & immediately
33 suspected that they were pestering one

²⁷³"Holmes" written over text

²⁷⁴ dash might be a t cross

1 of the old owls which Skinner had not seen
2 It proved so--for as I approached the
3 owl sailed away from amidst a white pine
4 top--with the crows in full pursuit--& he
5 looked very large stately & heavy like a
6 74 among schooners. I soon knew by the
7 loud cawing of the crows that he had alighted
8 again some 40 rods off--& there again I
9 found him perched high on a white pine--
10 the large tawny fellow with black dashes
11 & large erect horns. Away he goes again
12 & the crows after him.

13 NB I have compared the black currant which I
14 planted yesterday--with RWE--& I conclude
15 are both
16 that ac to Loudon--they ~~first is~~
17 its
18 the R. floridum--& the 2d perhaps ~~the~~ var. "grandi-
19 florum" which "has the flowers & racemes
20 larger than those of the species--"unless the
21 1st is the other var-- parviflorus {which}?

22 ²⁷⁵He says that the R. {nigrum} has
23 "bractea minute"²⁷⁶ much shorter than the pedicels--
24 -- -- -- a solitary one-flowered pedicel at the
25 This is the case with {species} ²⁷⁷of R. W. E."
26 base of each raceme. ^ In the plate are 4 to 6
27 flowers {ra} raceme--yet in his plate of R. floridum
28 are only 4 to 7!!

29 My first found yesterday--differs from the 2nd
30 (RWE's) in these respects--its raceme pedicels
31 & flowers are much more slender--few flowered
32 (10 to 11 RWEs 13 to 20) It has no pedicel & flow
33 in the axil of a leaf at the base of the racemes (at least
34 these 2 racemes have not) as most of RWEs have--

²⁷⁵This paragraph marked with parenthesis-like brackets preceding "He" and following "7!!"

²⁷⁶ sticken end quote

²⁷⁷ dot before "of"

1 The flowers are not only more slender but the
2 sepals less recurved--its leaves are much broader
3 at present, and much larger. The bractea of R. W. E.
4 are even larger than those of this but only in prop-
5 to the greater size of the flowers & racemes--

6 May 21st '58

7 Pm to Boulder field--

8 Horse chestnut X Actaea²⁷⁸ spicata //

9 var rubra will bloom ap in 4 or 5 days-- //

10 It is now 15 inches high-- Lilac X Pratt //

11 shows me what I take to be genista Tinctoria //

12 It has leafed when? //

13 (not budded) from the boulder field. Also a //

14 ranunculus from his land which has been out //

15 how long?--which is very near to R. repens but

16 has small flowers--petals less than the calyx

17 & leaves methinks more divided--but I did not see

18 When I look May 29th the

19 flower open is of usual

20 it open-- It may be a var. of repens size & true R. repens.

21 His daughter has found in bloom huckleberry on the 19th //

22 viola pubescens 16th //

23 Geranium maculatum 18th //

24 old

25 I noticed that the ^ Indigo bird path behind

26 Pratts is for some distance distinctly defined by

27 young birches 3 or 4 feet high which are now

28 young

29 clothed with tender leaves before the ^ oaks &c on

30 each side-- They are esp. thick in the ruts--

31 while there are but few here & there in the

32 sproutland generally. I suspect that the

33 seed was blown and lodged there in the winter.

34 E. Hoar saw Silene Pennsylvanica out in //

35 in a warm cleft of a rock--also Cerasus pumila //

36 Lincoln today-- bet here & Newton

²⁷⁸ Large space between "X" and "Actaea" in MS.

1 Sat May 22d '58
2 Ed. Emerson brings me the egg. of a
3 hawk--dirty bluish white %V May 30th%²⁷⁹

4 just found with 3 other eggs--not much developed
5 // in a nest on the ground-- Prob. a Hen-Harrier's
6 Pm by cars to Worcester on
7 way to New York-- We have had much
8 rainy weather for about a week & it has
9 just cleared up f. I notice as I glide along
10 that the sun coming out shines brightly on
11 smooth waters ponds & flooded meadows
12 raised by the rain--& is reflected from the
13 new lily pads which most now first generally
14 notice spread out on the surface-- The foul
15 weather having prevented our observing their
16 growth. Something like this annually oc-
17 curs. After this May storm the sun bursts
18 brightly
19 forth & is reflected ^ in some placid hour
20 from the new leaves of the lily spread out
21 on the surface in the ponds & pools raised
22 the rain--& we seem to have taken a long
23 stride into summer-- So was it also in a
24 former geological age--when water & water
25 plants prevailed & before man was here
26 then
27 to behold them. The sun was ^reflected from
28 the lily pad after the May storms as brightly

²⁷⁹extra spacing between lines in manuscript

1 as now--
2 May 23d in Worcester--
3 5 Am Walk with Blake--Brown & Rogers
4 to Quinisigamond Pond--carrying our Breakfast
5 Paddled up the pond Northerly 3/4 of a
6 mile from the bridge--& lunched in Shrews-
7 bury on the E. side. See some quite fresh
8 frog-spawn of the dark kind--like the R. palus- //
9 tris for instance-- Cross & ascend Wigwam
10 Hill-- Krigia & Comandra out there-- //
11 Brown thrashers nest on ground under a small //
12 tree with 4 eggs
13 Found in the water 8 or 10 inches deep--just behind
14 the Lake house--a Nasturtium not quite open, //?
15 a var of
16 which I think must be ^the horse radish N. Armoracia.
17 Yet such a var is not described by Gray--for the
18 immersed stem leaves were all narrowly dissected &
19 pinnate (v. pressed specimen) & I saw similar ones
20 in the streets in Worcester in dry ground. The lowest
21 portion--for I had not the root--had the true
22 horseradish taste. It seemed to be the result of
23 its growing at some time in water. Has the N. lacustre
24 the common horseradish taste?
25 A little south of the Boston & Worcester turn-
26 pike & 6 rods from the W side of the pond
27 I saw a chestnut about 18 inches in diameter
28 in the night
29 which was struck by lightning ^ some 10 days ago
30 There was left standing only a splinter of the
31 stump some 7 feet high--with the main limbs

1 fallen upon & around it. The bank &
2 thin slivers or strips of the wood had been cut
3 to a dozen rods around in all directions--
4 the ground being strewn with them an²⁸⁰
5 ^ & some rested on the top of ~~the~~ adjacent wood
6 Also one or 2 large limbs were thrown to a
7 distance. But what was most remarkable
8 & peculiar there was a trench somewhat
9 more than 2 rods long--5 feet wide
10 at top & more than 2 feet deep leading
11 perfectly straight from the foot of the tree
12 toward the pond--large old roots being burst
13 through--in the gravelly soil--& masses
14 of the earth cut a rod each way--yet most
15 of the dirt formed a bank to the trench--
16 It would have taken an Irishman at least
17 3 hours to have dug this-- Then after an
18 interval of 3 or 4 rods where the ground
19 was a little higher--the trenches reappeared
20 though quite short there
21 at the waters edge--^ exactly in the line
22 of the 1st ditch continued--& there some 2
23 cartloads of gravelly soil were thrown out
24 & the water stood in it. I counted in all
25 7 places within 8 or 10 rods along the waters
26 (or 6 to 8 rods from the tree)
27 edge--^ where it had made a short furrow
28 in the ground--& in some cases there were
29 bet.
30 slight furrows here & there ~~from~~ these
31 & the tree--as if the lightning had diverged
32 in rays from the base of the tree--
33 perhaps (?) at first along the roots to the
34 pond.-- Did it pass through the

²⁸⁰ The word "an" appears directly above the stricken word "the"

1 ground where it did not break the surface?

2 The bark was not so much stripped off as I have
3 seen--but the wood was finely splintered

4 Monday May 24th

5 To New York by RR.

6 All through Connecticut & N. York--the
7 white involucres of the cornel (c. Florida) recently
8 expanded, some of them reddish or rosaceous, are
9 now conspicuous-- It is not quite expanded in
10 Concord. It is the most showy indigenous tree
11 now open-- (One plant at Staten Island on the 25th had
12 but just begun to flower ie the true flowers to open--)

13 After entering the state of N.Y. I observed
14 now fully in bloom what I call the
15 vib. prunifolium--looking very like our //
16 v. lentago in flower at a little distance. It
17 is²⁸¹ thorny, as they told me at Staten I. &
18 the same I dealt with at Perth Amboy--&
19 is insufficiently described. It grows on higher &
20 drier ground than our v. nudum--but its fruit
21 which is called "nanny berries" resembles that
22 rather than the v. lentago. It shows now
23 rich dense rounded masses of white
24 flowers--i.e. the surface of the bushes makes
25 the impression of regular curves or convex
26 masses of bloom bearing a large proportion
27 to the green leaves-- The pink azalea //
28 too not yet out at home is generally

²⁸¹"is" written over "has"

1 out with the cornel--(I see it also next
2 day at Staten I.)

3 I saw a musquash swimming across a pool,
4 I think after entering upon Manhattan
5 Island!

6 In the evening looked at the aquarium at
7 Barnum's. The glass boxes with nothing
8 but water (labelled fresh or salt) & pebbles
9 seemed sufficiently interesting. There were breams
10 // only 2 inches long--prob hatched only last year.
11 The sea anemones were new & interesting to me.
12 The ferns &c under glass a fine parlor or-
13 nament.

14 May 25th

15 Visited the Egyptian Museum
16 The chariot wheel might have been picked
17 out of a ditch in Carlisle--& the infant's
18 {shore} have been found with it.

19 ~~May 26th~~²⁸² Pm to Staten island

20 See an abundance of R. arbortivus in the
21 wood path behind Mr E's house going
22 to seed & in bloom-- The branches are fine
23 and spreading about 8 or 10 inches high ^{V pressed} plants
24
25 Also some R. recurvatus--& well out
26 // what appears to be Thaspium trifoliatum? in flower
27 in path to house--v pressed. Potatoes just
28 hoed ours not fairly up--

29 May 26²⁸³ 3 Pm return to Boston

²⁸² The date has been stricken with three parallel lines.

²⁸³ There is a large space between the "26" and "3" in MS

1 May 27th

2 At Boston--Cambridge & Concord--

3 De Kay describes the Esox fasciatus which is
4 ap. mine of May 11th as I count the rays are
5 the same in no--viz "p 13--V 9--D 14--A 13
6 C 20th he says it is from 6 to 10 inches long & abundant
7 in N.Y--among other things is distinguished by "a
8 muddy tinge of the roundish pectoral abdominal
9 & ~~f~~ ventral fins; & by a broad concave
10 or lunated tail--" I do not observe the
11 peculiarity in the tail in mine now it is in
12 spirits.

13 an
14 Ed. Emerson shows me ~~the~~ egg of a bittern //
15 (Ardea Minor) from a nest in the midst of the
16 great meadows which 4 boys found--scaring up
17 the bird last Monday the 24th-- It was about
18 a foot wide on the top of a tussock where the
19 water around was almost 1 foot deep-- I will measure
20 the egg-- (They were a little developed--) It is clay-colored
21 1 7/8 inch long x 1 9/16 about the same size at each end²⁸⁴

22 Also an egg of a turtle dove--one of 2 //
23 in a nest in a pitch pine about 6 feet from
24 the ground in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery by the side of a
25 frequented walk on a fork on a nearly horizontal
26 limb-- The egg is milk-white elliptical--1 3/16 inch long x
27 7/8 wide

28 May 28

29 Azalea in garden XX -- I get the²⁸⁵ //

²⁸⁴Extra spacing after this line in the manuscript
²⁸⁵ blotch at end of line

1 nest of the turtle dove above named. it
2 being perched & no egg left. It appears to
3 have been built on the foundation of an
4 old robin's nest & consists of a loose
5 the seedy ends projecting
6 wisp of straw & pin-weed ^ 10 inches long laid
7 across the mud foundation of the robins
8 nest with a very slight depression-- Very
9 loose & coarse material is artificially disposed
10 without any lining or architecture-- It was
11 close to a frequented path of the cemetery & within
12 reach of the hand.

13 // Hear the wood peewee--

14 Pm by boat to great Meadows to
15 look for the bittern nest.

16 // The Cornus florida--involucre are partly
17 expanded--but not yet very showy-- Salix
18 // nigra ap one day in one place XXX

19 The Salix pedicellaris which abounds in the
20 great meadows--is a peculiar & rather
21 interesting willow some 15 inches high &
22 scarcely rising above the grass even now--with
23 its expanded reddish veins it looks like the
24 choke-berry in bud at a little distance--
25 The Ranunculus Purshii is now abundant & conspicuous in river--
26 // I see common in these meadows what ap-
27 pears to be that coarse grass growing in circles
28 light or yellowish green--with dense--{wool}
29 grass like heads--and almost black in-
30 volucre--just begun to bloom X. Is it
31 ? the Scirpus sylvaticus var atrovirens?
32 far
33 v. pressed-- As I look ^ over the meadow
34 which is very wet--often a foot of water

1 amid the grass-- I see this yellowish green
2 interspersed with irregular dark green patches
3 where it is wettest, just like the shadow of
4 a cloud--& mistook it for that at first--
5 & fine
6 That was a dark green ^ kind of sedge-- These
7 various shades of grass remind me of June
8 now close at hand. From time to time I
9 hear--the sound of the bittern concealed in
10 the grass indefinitely far or near--& can--
11 only guess at the direction not the distance.
12 I fail to find the nest.

13 I come in the midst of the meadow--on 2 of the
14 Emys melegris--much larger than I have found //
15 the one's sternum being decidedly depressed 1/8 of an inch the other not at all
16 before--perhaps they are male & female--^ They
17 are just out of the water partly concealed by
18 some withered grass & hiss loudly & run
19 out their long necks very far & struggle
20 a good deal when caught-- They con-
21 tinue to scratch my hand in their efforts
22 to escape as I carry them--more than other
23 turtles do. The dorsal shield of each is just
24 7 inches long-- The sternum of what appears to be
25 the female is about 1/8 inch shorter of the male
26 near 1/4 inch longer--yet in both the projection of the
27 sternum is chiefly forward-- Breadth of shell in
28 the male 4 7/8 of female 4 1/2 in middle--but the
29 female widens a little behind. Height of each about
30 2 3/4 inches-- The smoothish dark brown shells
31 high regularly rounded--are very thickly--but not
32 conspicuously spotted (unless in water) with

1 small oval or elongated yellow spots as many
2 as 50 or 60 to a scale & more or less raying from
3 the origin of the scale--becoming larger & horn colored
4 on the marginal scales esp. of one. The thickly &
5 evenly distributed yellow marks of the head & neck
6 correspond to those of the shell ~~with~~ {w} pretty well
7 They are high backed turtles. The sternum is
8 horn color--with a large dark or blackish
9 spot occupying a third or more of the rear outer
10 angle of each scale-- The throat is clear
11 light
12 ~~pale~~ ^ yellow & much & frequently exposed--tail
13 tapering & short--the claws are quite sharp
14 & perfect. One closes its forward valve to within
15 1/8 of an inch--but the posterior not so much
16 & evidently they are not inclined to shut up close
17 if indeed they can at this season--or at all.
18 The sternum of the male notwithstanding the depression
19 curves upward at each extremity much more than the
20 female's.
21 They run out their heads remarkably far &
22 yet from the visible length of neck the more snake-like
23 have quite a harmless & helpless expression. ^
24 About the size of the wood-tortoise. Very regularly
25 Voided²⁸⁶ many fragments of common
26 snail shells {drawing} & some insect exuviae
27 & smoothly rounded shells--
28 Hear for a long time as I sit under a willow
29 a ~~yet~~ summer yellow bird sing--without
30 knowing what it is-- It is a rich & varied
31 singer with but few notes to remind me of its
32 common one--continuously hopping about.
33 ? See already one or 2? white maple keys on
34 the water-- Saw the mouse-ear going to seed
35 // in Worcester the 23d. The redactaea
36 //²⁸⁷ is fully expand and prob has been open 2 or 3 days²⁸⁸

²⁸⁶ The line under voided separates it from the line below (rather than emphasizing it.)

²⁸⁷ After the "//" in the margin T writes something in very compact script: "v. np."

²⁸⁸ Some tiny pen marks appear in extreme lower left corner of page.

1 pond have escaped after all.

2 Farmer describes an animal which he saw
3 lately near Bateman's pond--which he thought
4 would weigh 50 or 60 lbs--color of a she fox
5 at this season--low but very long & ran some-
6 what like a woodchuck-- I think it must
7 have been an otter--though they are described as
8 dark glossy brown

9 May 30th 58

10 // Hear of Ladie's slipper seen the 23d how long?

11 I saw the Nuphar advena above water & yellow
12 //
13 in Shrewsbury the 23d--

14 pm to Hen Harriers nest & to Ledum
15 Swamp--

16 Ed.ward Emerson shows me the nest which
17 he and another discovered. It is in the
18 midst of the low wood--sometimes inundated
19 just SW of Hubbards bath--the island
20 of wood in the meadow-- The hawk rises when
21 we approach--& circles about over the wood
22 uttering a note singularly like the common
23 one of the flicker. The nest is in a more
24 bushy or open place in the low wood--

25 & consists of a large mass of sedge
26 & stubble
27 ^ with a ~~few~~ very few small twigs as it were
28 accidentally intermingled-- It is about 20
29 inches in diameter & remarkably flat
30 the slight depression in the middle not
31 exceeding 3/4 of an inch-- The whole open-
32 ing amid the low bushes is not more

1 than 2 feet in diameter. The thickness of
 2 it raises the surface about 4 inches above
 3 the ground. The inner & upper part is uniformly
 rather & pale brown sedge-- There are 2 dirty ^{%or rather dirtied%} white
 fine ^6 & pale brown sedge-- There are 2 dirty ^{%one of them%} white
 7 eggs left (of 4 that were) ^{%^%} 1 7/10 inch long
 8 & not "spherical" as Brewer says--but broad
 9 in prop. to length-- %Another is 1 7/8 inch long x 1 1/2 inches
 10 V. the {one} (which was addled) in my collection--%
 11 Ledum one flower out XX but perhaps if Pratt //
 12 had not plucked some last Sunday it might have
 13 bloomed here yesterday! It is decidedly leafing also //
 14 Andromeda polifolia by the ditch well out--how //
 15 long? I perceive the turpentine scent of the Ledum
 16 in the air as I walk through it--
 17 As I stand by the river side some time
 18 after sundown I see a light white
 19 mist rising here & there in wisps from
 20 the meadow far & near, less visible
 21 within a foot of me--to the height of
 22 3 or 4 or 10 feet-- It does not rise
 23 generally & evenly from every part of the
 24 meadow, but, as yet, over certain spots
 25 only-- Where there is some warm breath of
 26 the meadow turned into cloud.
 27 May 31st
 28 Am to Island. Choke cherry a day or 2 XXX //
 29 C. Florida not yet for 2 or 3 days. I saw //
 30 some in Connecticut with involucre much more
 31 rosaceous than ours. A yellow birds nest of //
 32 that greyish-milkweed ~~silk~~ fibre 1²⁹⁰ egg in alder
 33 by wall W of Ind. burying (?) ground.

²⁹⁰ pd. or blotch after 1

1 Pm to Laurel Glen
2 I see running along on the flat side
3 of a R. R. rail on the causeway--a
4 wild mouse--with an exceedingly long tail
5 // --perhaps it would be called the long-tailed
6 meadow mouse-- It has no white
7 only the feet are light flesh-color--
8 but it is uniformly brown as far as I can
9 see for it rests a long time on the
10 rail within a rod--but when I look
11 at it from behind in the sun it
12 is a very tawny almost golden brown--
13 quite handsome. It finally runs with
14 a slight hop--(the tarsus of the hind legs
15 being very long while the fore legs are
16 short & its head ac. low--) down
17 the bank to the meadow--
18 I saw on²⁹¹ the 29th white viola pedatas
19 & today a white v. cucullata.
20 There were severe frosts on the night of
21 // the 28 & 29th & now I see the hickories
22 turned quite black--& in low ground the
23 white oak shoots--though they do not show
24 black in drying--also many ferns are
25 withered & black & some prinus laevigata
26 tips{--}&c
27 // I find a chewink nest with 4 eggs (fresh)
28 on the side hill at Jarvis' woodlot 20 feet
29 below woodchuck's hole at canoe birch-- The
30 nest is first of withered leaves--then stubble, thickly
31 lined with withered grass & partly sheltered by dead

²⁹¹ dot over "o" might be a blotch

1 leaves shoved up a huckleberry bush.
2 the wind coming cool & easterly
3 There was a slight sea-turn ^ this Am //
4 which at first I mistook for the newly leafing
5 deciduous trees investing the evergreens--which
6 is a kind of sea-turn in harmony with the other.
7 I remember that the stage drivers riding back
8 & forth daily from C. to Boston--& becoming weather-
9 wise perforce--often meeting the the sea-breeze
10 on its way into the country--were wont to show
11 their weather wisdom by telling anxious travellers
12 that it was nothing but a sea-turn!

13 At 5 Pm go to see a gray squirrels //
14 nest in the oak at the Island point--
15 It is about 15 feet from the ground (the en-
16 trance) where a limb has been broken off--
17 & the tree is hollow above & below-- One young
18 one dashed past downward under my face with
19 the speed of a bird. There is much short brown
20 dung about & a smell of urine & the twigs
21 around have been gnawed.

22 Does not the voice of the toad along the river
23 sound differently now from what it did a month
24 ago? I think it is much less sonorous & ringing
25 --a more croaking & inquisitive or qui vive sound--
26 Is it not less prolonged also?

27 June 2d 8 1/2 Am

28 Start for Monadnock--
29 Between Shirley village & Lunenberg I notice
30 in a {meadow} the right hand close {to the} RR. the

1 Kalmia glauca in bloom as we are
2 whirled past-- The conductor says that he
3 has it growing in his garden-- Blake
4 joins me at Fitchburg. Between Fitch-
5 burg²⁹² & Troy--saw an abundance of
6 // wild red cherry--now ap. in prime in
7 full flower esp in burntlands & on hill
8 sides-- A small but cheerful lively white
9 bloom.²⁹³
10 Arrived at Troy station at 11-5 & shouldered
11 our knapsacks steering NE to the mt some
12 4 miles off--its top-- It is a pleasant
13 hilly road leading past a few farm houses
14 where you already begin to snuff the mts
15 or at least up-country air-- By the
16 roadside I plucked, now ap in prime,
17 // the ribes cynosbati--rather downy leaved--
18 // & nearby the same with smooth berries.
19 I noticed too the salix lucida by the road-
20 side there on high land-- The S. rostrata &c
21 %Best view of mt about 2 1/2 miles this side of
22 were common-- summit--%
23 Almost without interruption we had the
24 mt in sight before us--its sublime gray
25 mass--that antique brownish-gray Ararat
26 color-- Probably these crests of the earth
27 are for the most part of one color in
28 all lands--that gray or color of antiquity
29 which nature loves--color of unpainted
30 wood--weather stain--time stain.
31 Not glaring nor gaudy--the color
32 of all roofs--the color of things that

²⁹² blotch after "burg"

²⁹³ T starts a letter after "bloom"--probably A--and then crosses it out.

1 endure--& the color that wears well--
2 color of Egyptian ruins--of mummies &
3 all antiquity--baked in the sun--done
4 brown-- Methought I saw the same color
5 with which ararat & Caucasus and all
6 earth's brows are stained--which was mixed
7 in antiquity & receives a new coat every century.
8 Not scarlet like the crest of the bragging
9 cock--but that hard enduring gray--
10 a terrene sky color Solidified air with a
11 The red alder was in full bloom by the road //
12 tinge of earth-- ap in prime--
13 We left the road at a school house & crossing
14 a meadow--began to ascend gently through
15 very rocky pastures--
16 Previously an old man a mile back--who
17 lived on a hill top on the road--pointed out the
18 upper corner of his pasture as a short way up.
19 Said he had not been up for 7 years--&
20 looking at our packs asked "are you going
21 to carry them up"?--"Well" said he
22 with a tone half of pity & half regret--
23 adding I shall never go up again.
24 Here at the base by the course of a rocky
25 in moist ground
26 rill where we paused in the shade-- I saw
27 the Tiarella cordifolia abundant and ap //
28 in prime--with its white spike sometimes
29 a foot & more high--also the leaves
30 of the Geranium Robertianum emitting their
31 peculiar scent--with the radical a reddish tinge--

1 not yet budded-- The cress in the water
2 there was quite agreeable to our taste--&
3 methinks would be good to eat fresh with bread.
4 The neighboring hills began to sink--&
5 entering the wood we soon passed Fassett's
6 shanty--he so busily at work inside that
7 he did not see us--& we took our dinner by
8 the rocky brook-side in the woods just above--
9 a dozen people passed us early in the Pm
10 While we sat there men & women on their
11 way down from the summit--this suddenly
12 We met a man (ap an Indian or Canadian halfbreed) & a boy with guns who had
13 been out after pigeons but only killed 5 crows
14 very pleasant day after a louring one having
15 attracted them--
16 Thereabouts first I noticed the ribes prostratum
17 // abundantly in bloom ap in prime--with its pretty
18 erect racemes of small flowers sometimes purplish
19 with large leaves-- There too the trillium erythro-
20 // carpum; now in prime, was conspicuous-- 3 white
21 lanceolata--waved edged petals with a purple
22 base-- This the handsomest flower of the mt--
23 coextensive with the wooded sides. Also the
24 // vib. Lantanoides ap in prime--with its large
25 reminding me by its marginal flowering of the tree cranberry
26 & showy white outer florets ^ coextensive with last
27 // & uvularia grandiflora not long begun
28 %der% not
29 to bloom²⁹⁴ Red El%^berry hardly open ap
30 there--and Amelanchier Canadensis var Botry-
31 apium not long in bloom?
32 dwarfish
33 Having risen above the ^ woods (in which Mt
34 ash was very common) which reached higher
35 up along this ravine than elsewhere--& nearly
36 all the visitors having descended--we proceeded

²⁹⁴ large space between "bloom" and "Red" in MS

1 to find a place for & to prepare our camp
2 at mid Pm. We wished it to be near water
3 out of the way of the wind which was NW &
4 of the path--& also near to spruce trees for
5 There is a good place if you would be near the top within a stones throw of the
6 summit on the N side under some spruce trees-- !
7 a bed. We chose a sunken yard in

8 a rocky plateau on the S. E. side of the mt ^{^295}
9 perhaps 1/2 mile from the summit by the path
10 ^ a rod & 1/2 wide by many more in length--
11 & bushy
12 with a mossy ^floor about 5 or 6 feet beneath

13 the general level where a dozen black
14 though the surrounding rock was generally bare
15 spruce trees grew ^ There was a pretty good

16 spring within a dozen rods--and the western
17 wall shelved over a foot or 2. We slanted
18 2 scraggy spruce trees long since bleached--from
19 the western wall--& cutting many spruce
20 boughs with our knives made a thick
21 bed & walls on the 2 sides to keep out the
22 wind. Then putting several poles transversly
23 across our 2 rafters we covered with a thick roof
24 of spruce twigs--like shingles-- The spruce
25 though harsh for a bed was close at hand
26 --we cutting away one tree to make room--
27 We crawled under the low eaves of this roof
28 about 18 inches high & our extremities pro-
29 jected about a foot.

30 Having left our packs here & made all
31 ready for the night we went up to
32 the summit to see the sun set-- Our
33 path lay through a couple of small
34 swamps & then up the rocks-- Some 40'.²⁹⁶

²⁹⁵ This caret and a line in the margin points to the interlined material inserted after line 4

²⁹⁶ Both of the last two marks might be blotches.

1 seen in the surrounding low grounds
2 at this season-- The ancestors of this
3 bird had evidently perceived on their flight
4 northward that here--was a small
5 piece of arctic region--containing all
6 the conditions they acquire--coolness &
7 suitable food &c &c & so for how long
8 have builded here-- For ages they have made
9 their home here with the Arenaria Groenlandi-
10 ca & potentilla tridentata-- They discovered ~~an~~
11 arctic isles sprinkled in {our} southern sky-- I
12 did not see any of them below the rocky & generally
13 bare position of the mt. It finds here the same
14 conditions as in the north of Maine & in the
15 Labrador Mosses &c--
16 fur countries. ^ Now that the season is
17 advanced--migrating birds have gone to the
18 extreme north or gone to the mt tops--
19 By its color it harmonized with the gray
20 and brownish gray rocks. We felt that we
21 were so much nearer to perennial spring
22 & winter.

23 I observed rabbits dung commonly quite to the
24 top & all over the rocky portion & where they
25 had browsed the bushes-- For the last 15
26 or 20 rods the ground between the rocks is pretty
27 or carpeted
28 thickly clothed ^ with mt cranberry & potentilla //
29 tridentata--only the former as yet slightly budded //
30 but much lower than this the mt cranberry is not common
31 ^ The former grows also in m{e}re²⁹⁸ seams in the
32 nearly up right sides of rocks & occasionally I
33 found some of last years cranberries on the latter which
34 These were the prevailing plants of a high order on the very summit--
35 were an agreeable acid ^-- There was also on

²⁹⁸ could be "o"

1 %was it not Juncus trifidus?%
2 the same ground considerable fine grass ^{^299}
3 %Was it not the solidago Thyrsoides of Aug. { }³⁰⁰ 60?%
4 & radical leaves of a sericocarpus like aster (?) %^% (I
5 saw some withered heads) opening up commonly &
6 a little (hardly yet conspicuously budded except
7 // in the warmest places) arenaria Groenlandica
8 in dense tufts succulent-- There were a few
9 very dwarfish black spruce there--& a very
10 of that small leather colored lichen &
11 little dry moss, and on the rocks many ^ umbulicaria
12 common?
13 pustulata & ~~other allied lichens~~ & the 2 { }³⁰¹ kinds of
14 V specimens
15 Kladonia white & green between them of Aug 1 60
16 Scarcely if at all lower than the above named
17 // plants--grew the va{r} Pennsylvanicum ap X
18 (earlier below in warm places--& did I see the var.
19 angustifolium) is later than with us also
20 // Pyrus arbutifolia very minute & but just budded
21 & minute mt ashes--a few inches high only--
22 From them we may judge what plants
23 among others--grow far north--
24 We heard the hylodes preparing for a rain water
25 pool a little below the summit toward
26 night. As it was quite hazy we could not
27 see the shadow of the mt well--& so
28 returned just before the sun set--to our camp--
29 We lost the path coming down--for nothing
30 is easier than to lose your way here, where
31 so little trail is left upon the rocks--& the
32 different rocks & ravines are so much alike.
33 Perhaps no other equal area is so bewildering
34 in this respect as a rocky mt summit--
35 though it has so conspicuous a central
36 point. Notwithstanding the newspaper &
37 egg shell left by visitors these parts of
38 nature are still peculiarly unhandselled

²⁹⁹ There is a line from the carat (which is further to the right in MS to the interline above.

³⁰⁰ too faint to read but probably a date

³⁰¹ something crossed out

1 & untracked-- The natural terraces of
2 rock are the steps of this temple--&
3 it is the same whether it rises above
4 the desert or a New England village. Even
5 the inscribed rocks are as solemn as most
6 ancient grave stones--and nature reclaims
7 them with bog & lichens-- They remind me of
8 the graves & pass of Ben Waddi (?) ?
9 These sculptors seemed to me to court
10 such alliance with the grave as they
11 who put their names over tomb-stones
12 along the highway-- One who was probably
13 a blacksmith--how sculptured the emblems
14 of his craft--an anvil & hammer beneath
15 his name-- Ap. a part of the regular
16 outfit of mt climbers is a hammer &
17 cold chisel--& perhaps they allow themselves
18 a supply of garlic also-- Certainly you could
19 not hire a stone cutter to do so much
20 less than
21 engraving for ^ several thousand dollars.
22 But no old mortality will ever be caught
23 renewing these epitaphs. It reminds what
24 kinds of steeps do climb the false pretenders
25 to fame whose chief exploit is the carriage
26 of the tools with which to inscribe their names--
27 For speaking epitaphs they are & the mere name
28 is a sufficient revelation of the character
29 They are all of one trade stone cutters--
30 defacers--of mt tops--"Charles & Lizzie"!
31 Charles carried the sledge hammer & Lizzie the

1 cold chisel-- Some have carried up a
2 paint pot & painted their names on the
3 rocks
4 We returned to our camp & got our
5 tea in our sunken yard-- While one went
6 for water to the spring the other kindled
7 a fire-- The whole rocky part of the mt
8 except the extreme summit is strewn with
9 the relics of spruce trees {~~is~~} a dozen
10 or 15 feet long & long since dead &
11 bleached--so that there is plenty of
12 dry fuel at hand. We sat out on the
13 brink of
14 the rocky plateau near our camp--taking
15 ^our tea in the twilight--& found it quite
16 dry & warm there, though you would not have
17 thought of sitting out at evening in the sur-
18 rounding valleys-- It was evidently warmer & drier
19 there than below-- I have often perceived the
20 warm air high on the sides of hill late
21 into the night while the vallies were
22 filled with a cold damp night air as
23 with water--& here the air was warmer &
24 drier the greater part of the night--
25 We perceived no dew there this or the next
26 This was our parlor & supper room-- In another direction was our wash room--
27 night. ^ The chewink sang before night
28 ³⁰²& this as I have before observed is a very com-
29 & the wood-thrush indefinitely far or near--a little more
30 mon bird on mt tops-- ^ I seems to love a
31 distant & unseen as great poets are
32 cool atmosphere & sometimes lingers quite
33 late with us. Early in the evening the
34 night hawks were heard to spark & boom
35 over these bare gray rocks--& such was
36 our serenade at first as we lay on

³⁰² crossed out false start before "&"

1 our spruce bed-- We were left ~~a long~~ alone
2 with the nighthawks. These withdrawn bare
3 rocks must be a very suitable place for
4 them to lay their eggs--& their dry & unmusi-
5 cal--yet supra-mundane & spirit like
6 voices & sounds--gave fit expression
7 to this rocky mt solitude-- It struck the
8 barren
9 very key-note of the stern gray ^ solitude.
10 --It was a thrumming of the mt in rocky
11 chords-- Strains from the music of Chaos such
12 as were heard when the earth was rent
13 & these rocks heaved up-- Thus they went
14 sparking & booming while we were (c ting) the
15 first access of (sleep, & I could imagine
16 circling
17 their dainty limping flight ^--over the
18 kindred rock--with a spot of white quartz
19 in their wings. No sound could be more
20 Though common below it seemed peculiarly proper here--
21 in harmony with that scenery-- But
22 erelong the night hawks are stilled--
23 & we hear only the sound of our com-
24 panion's breathing or of a bug in our
25 spruce roof. I thought I heard once {~~th~~}
26 the
27 faintly ^ barking of a dog far down under the mt
28 my companion thought he heard a bull frog
29 A little after 1 Am I woke & found that the
30 moon had risen--& heard some little bird
31 near by sing a short stain³⁰³ of welcome to it
32 %~~{~~But every sound is a little strange there as if you were in Labrador}~~%~~³⁰⁴
33 somewhat song sparrow like--%^ Before dawn
34 the night hawks commenced their sounds
35 again & their sounds were as good as
36 a clock to us--telling how the night got on

³⁰³ T probably meant "strain."

³⁰⁴ This is according to the 1906 edition. The pencil was too faint to make out on MS copy.

1 a little of it--and also a little very dwarfish
2 hemlock & white pine (2 or 3 feet high)
3 {A} little may-flower & chiogenes hispidula--
4 We concluded to explore the whole
5 rocky part of the mt in this wise--to saunter
6 slowly about it about the height & distance
7 from the {summit} of our camp or say 1/2
8 a mile more or less--1st going north
9 from the summit & returning by the W. semicircle
10 & then exploring the east side completing
11 the circle & return over the summit at
12 night.

13 To sum up--these were the
14 Plants of the Summit
15 ie within a dozen rods of it
16 Potentilla tridentata & lower
17 vac. vitis Idaea
18 Fine grass %(was it not Juncus trifidus of Aug. 60?)%
19 Seriocarpus like {rad} leaves %(was it not S. Thysoidea of Aug. 60%
20 Arenaria Groenlandica
21 dwarf black spruce
22 A little dry moss %U erosa? or hyperborea?
23 v. Sep. 21st 58
24 The 2 kinds of cladonia white & green & a sp. from Lafayette
25 v sp. of Aug. 60%
26 & the small leather colored lichen of rocks³⁰⁹ mingled with
27 the larger umbilicaria pustulata--³¹⁰

28 Within 15 or 20 rods of it
29 or scarcely if at all lower than the last
30 vac. Pennsylvanicum--(& perhaps the var. angustifolium?)
31 Pyrus arbutifolium
32 mt ash³¹¹

³⁰⁹ A line is drawn from this carat to four lines (written on an angle) in the right margin of manuscript

³¹⁰ "All these but the V. vitis Idaea-- generally dispersed over the rocky part" added vertically in the left margin from line 27 to 14.

"--%The V. V. I also in {patches} lower down V. Aug. 60%" added vertically in left margin from lines 13-3

³¹¹ "generally distributed" added vertically in the left margin from line 32-28

1 We first descended somewhat toward
2 the north this forenoon--then turned
3 next over a ridge by which some ascend
4 from the north-- There are several large
5 ponds not far from the mt on the
6 north--, & I thought there was less
7 forest to be seen on this side than on the
8 S. We crossed one or 2 now dry water
9 courses--where, however, judging from the
10 collections of rubbish or drift, much water
11 must have flown at some other season--
12 Jackson in his map in the Report on
13 the Geology of Mass. calls this mt "mica
14 // slate & porphyritic granite" & that the rocks
15 on the summit are "a hard variety of gneiss
16 filled with small crystals of garnets."
17 We observed that the rocks were remarkably
18 almost polished
19 smoothed ^ & rounded--& also scratched--
20 the scratches seem from about NNW to SSE
21 The sides of the rocks often straight up right
22 N & S
23 walls several rods long ^ & 5 to 10 feet high
24 with a very smooth rounded edge--
25 There were many of these long straight rounded
26 walls of rock esp. on the NW & W--some
27 smaller or lower ones were so rounded & smooth
28 fallen
29 as to resemble at a little distance long trunks
30 of trees-- The rocks were indeed singulary
31 worn on a great scale--often a vertical
32 cross section would show some such profile as
33 this {drawing} as if they had been grooved

1 with a tool of a corresponding edge. There
2 were occasionally conspicuous masses & also
3 veins of white quartz--& very common were
4 bright purple or wine colored garnets imbedded
5 in the rock looking like berries in a pudding.
6 In many parts--as on the S. E. plateau
7 esp. the rocks were regularly stratified--
8 & split into regular horizontal slabs about
9 about a foot in thickness--projecting one beyond
10 another--like steps

11 The little bogs or mosses sometimes only a rod
12 in diameter are a singular feature--ordinarily
13 the cladonia & other lichens are crackling under
14 your feet--when suddenly you step into a miniature
15 filling the space X
16 bog ^ between two rocks--& you are at a loss
17 to tell where the moisture comes from--
18 The amount of it seems to be that some
19 spongy moss is enabled to grow there &
20 retain some of the the cloud which rest on it.
21 Moisture & aridity are singularly near neighbors
22 to each other up there-- The surface is made up
23 of masses of rock more or less smoothed & rounded
24 little between
25 --or else jagged & the ^~~only~~ soil ^ is a coarse
26 gravelly kind the ruins of the rocks--& the decayed
27 vegetation that has grown there-- You step
28 unexpectedly from Arabia petraea where
29 the dry lichens crackle under your feet--
30 say dismal swamp
31 into a miniature bog ^--where you suddenly
32 sink a foot in wet moss--& the next

1 step carries you into Arabia petraea again--
2 In more extensive swamps I slumped through moss
3 to water sometimes--though the bottom was of rock.
4 while a fire would rapidly spread in the arid lichens around.
5 Perhaps the mosses grow in the wettest season
6 chiefly & so are enabled to retain some moisture
7 through the driest-- Plants of the bogs &
8 of the rocks grow close to each other. You
9 are surprised to see a great many plants of bogs
10 growing close to the most barren & driest spots
11 where only cladonias cover the rocks. Often
12 your first notice of a bog in the midst of
13 the arid waste--where the lichens crackle under
14 your feet is your (slumbring) a foot into wet moss
15 Methinks there cannot be so much
16 evaporation going on up there--(witness
17 the water in the clintonia leaves as in
18 sandy
19 the solidago by the ^ sea-shore--) & this ~~rather~~
20 (which is owing to the coolness)--rather than
21 the prevalence of mist--may account for
22 the presence of this moisture forming bogs.
23 In a shallow rain water pool or
24 rock cistern about 3 rods long x 1 or 1 1/2 wide
25 on the west side
26 several hundred feet below the summit-- I
27 but still on the bare rocky top and on the steepest side of the summit--
28 saw toad spawn (black with white bellies) also
29 some very large spawn, new to me. There were
30 4 or 5 masses of it each 3 or 4 inches in diameter--
31 peculiar light
32 & of a ^ misty bluish white as it lay in the water near
33 the surface--attached to some weed or stick as usual.
34 Each mass consisted of but few large ova
35 more than a quarter of an inch in diameter
36 in which were pale brown tad poles ~~just~~

1 flattened out-- The outside of the mass when
2 taken up was found to consist of large spheri-
3 cal or rounded gelatinous projections
4 3/4 of an inch wide & blue in the light &
5 air while the ova within were greenish--
6 This rain water pool was generally less
7 than a foot deep--with scarcely a weed
8 in it--but considerable mud concealing
9 its rocky bottom-- The spawn was unusually
10 clean & clear-- I suspect it to be that of
11 %prob. *R. fontinalis* v Aug. 60%
12 bull frogs--though not a frog was to be seen //
13 -- They were probably lurking beneath the rocks
14 in the water at that hour-- This pool
15 was bounded on one or 2 sides by those
16 rounded walls of rock 5 or 6 feet high.
17 My companion had said that he heard a bull
18 frog the evening before. Is it likely that these
19 toads & frogs ever hopped up there? The hylodes
20 peeped regularly toward night each day in a
21 similar pool much nearer the summit. Agassiz
22 might say that they originated on the top--
23 perhaps they fell from the clouds in the
24 form of spawn or tadpoles--or young frogs.
25 I think it more likely that they fell down than
26 that they hopped up. Yet how can they escape
27 the frosts of winter? The mud is hardly deep enough
28 to protect them.

29 Having reached the neighborhood of our camp
30 again--& explored the wooded portion lower down
31 along the path up the mt-- We set out NE

1 along the east side of the mt-- The SE
2 part of the mt top is an expanded
3 broad rocky almost plateau--consisting
4 of large flat rocks with small bogs
5 & rain water pools & easy ascents to dif
6 ferent levels. The black spruce tree
7 which is scattered here & there over it--
8 the prevailing tree or shrub of the mt top--
9 evidently has many difficulties to contend with.
10 It is generally of a yellowish green--its foliage.
11 The most exposed trees are very stout & spreading
12 close to the rock--often much wider
13 close to the rock than they are high--&
14 these lower almost their only limbs completely
15 filling & covering openings between the rocks.
16 I saw one which {P} grew out of a narrow
17 crack in the rock--which was 3 feet high
18 5 inches in diameter at the ground & 6 feet
19 wide on the rock-- It was shaped like a
20 bodkin (the main stem.) The spruce commonly
21 grows in clefts of the rocks--has many large
22 limbs & longer than the tree is high perhaps
23 & flat
24 spreading close ^ over the rock in every direction--
25 sometimes 8 or 10 within a foot of the rock--
26 or midway for 3 or 6 feet
27 Then higher up the stem ^ though perfectly
28 perpendicular is quite bare on the N side
29 & commonly smooth showing no trace of a
30 limb--no stubs--but the limbs at this height
31 all ray out southward--& the top is
32 crowned with a tuft of tender twigs--

1 This proves the violence of the storms which they have
2 to contend with-- Its branches love to run along
3 flat on the rocks, filling the openings between
4 the rocks. It forms dense coverts & forms ap. for
5 the rabbits &c. A single spruce tree of this habit
6 would sometimes make a pretty good shelter while the rocks
7 on each side were your walls

8 As I walked over this plateau I first observed
9 looking toward the summit, that the steep
10 angular projections of the summit & elsewhere
11 & the brows of the rocks
12 ^were the parts chiefly covered with dark brown
13 lichens umbilicaria &c {drawing} as if they were to
14 grow on the ridge & slope of a man's nose
15 only-- It was the steepest & most exposed
16 parts of the high rocks {alone}³¹³ on which
17 they grew--where you would think it most
18 difficult for them to cling. They also covered
19 the more rounded brows on the sides of the mt
20 very
21 esp. the east side--where they were ^ dense--fine
22 crisp & firm like a sort of {shagreen} giving a
23 or hold to the feet
24 firm footing³¹⁴ ^ where it was needed. It was these
25 that gave that Ararat brown color of
26 antiquity to these portions of the mt which
27 a few miles distant could not be accounted for
28 compared with the ~~gra~~ more prevalent gray--
29 From the sky blue--you pass through the
30 misty gray of the rocks, to this darker &
31 more terrene color-- The temples of the mt
32 are covered with lichens which color the mt
33 for miles.

³¹³ above?

³¹⁴ It looks like "ing" was written over "ed."

1 The W. side descends steeply from the summit
 2 but there is a broad--almost plateau
 3 on the SE & E not much beneath the
 4 summit--with a precipitous termination on
 5 the east--& the rounded brows of the last
 6 are covered with the above³¹⁵ named lichens--
 7 A span of moderate length runs off northerly
 8 but
 9 another ^ lower & ~~longer~~ s s westerly--another
 10 much longer a little higher than the last
 11 southerly--& one {~~much~~} longer & higher
 12 than these 1 or 2 miles long--north easterly.
 13 As you creep down over those eastern brows
 14 to look off the precipice these {rough} & rigid
 15 forming a rigid crust as it were baked--done brown--in the sun of centuries
 16 lichens ^ afford a desirable hand & foot-
 17 hold. They seemed to me wild robins that
 18 placed their nests in the spruce up there--
 19 Wm Emerson says they do not breed on Staten I.
 20 I noticed one nest. They do breed at least at Hudson's Bay-- They are certainly
 21 a hardy bird & one at home on this cool mt top.
 22 We boiled some rice for our dinner close
 23 by the edge of a rain water pool & bog on the
 24 plateau SE from the summit. Though there
 25 was so little vegetation, our fire spread
 26 rapidly through the dry cladonia lichens
 27 on the rocks--& the wind being pretty high
 28 threatened to give us trouble--but we put
 29 such a moss for the sake of water
 30 it out with a spruce bough dipped in
 31 {~~about~~}
 32 & wet the ground with it. You cook beside
 33 the pool. ^ I thought that if it had spread
 34 further it must soon have come to a bog--
 35 Though you could hardly tell what was moist & what dry till the fire came to it.
 36 Nothing could be drier than the cladonia
 37 --& ~~nothing more saturated~~ {~~soot~~} which was
 38 often adjacent to a mass of moss saturated
 39 with moisture.
 40 These rain water pools or cisterns are a remarkable
 41 feature-- There is a scarcity of bubbling springs

³¹⁵ blotch after "above"

1 but this water was commonly cool enough in
2 that atmosphere & warm as the day was-- I do
3 not know why they were not warmer for they were
4 shallow & the nights were not cold. Can
5 there be some concealed snow or ice about? Hardly.
6 They are quite shallow, but sometimes
7 4 or 5 rods over--& with considerable mud at
8 the bottom--at first decayed lichens & disin-
9 tegrated rock. Ap. these were the origin of
10 Eriophorum vaginatum
11 the bogs--~~{& formed}~~ ^ moss & a few other boggy plants
12 springing up in them & gradually filling them
13 --yet though sometimes filled with sedge (?) {or}
14 fine dwarffish in the moss
15 grass & generally the ^ eriophorum vaginatum--^
16 they were singularly barren--& unless they were
17 fairly converted into swamps--contained very
18 little variety.

19 You never have to go far to find water of some
20 kind-- On the top perhaps of a square half
21 acre of almost bare rock--(as in what we
22 called our wash-room by our camp) you find a
23 disintegrated bog--~~{now}~~ wet across alternating with
24 dry cladonia--(sign & emblem of dryness
25 in our neighborhood)--& water stands in little
26 holes--or if you look under the edge of
27 a boulder there you find standing water yet
28 cool to drink.

29 After dinner we kept on NE over a high
30 ~~{far}~~ ridge E of the summit whence was a
31 good view of that part of Dublin & Jaffrey

1 immediately under the mt. There
2 is a fine large lake extending N & S
3 ap in Dublin which it would be worth
4 the while to sail on When on the summit
5 of this I heard the ring of toads from a
6 rain pool a little lower & N Easterly--
7 It carried me back nearly a month into
8 spring--(though they are still ringing & copu-
9 lating in Concord.)--it sounded so spring-like in
10 that clear fresh air-- Descend in to that
11 pool we found toads copulating at the
12 bottom of the water. In one or 2 places
13 on this side of the mt, which as I have
14 said terminated in an abrupt precipice--I
15 saw bogs or meadows 4 or 6 rods wide
16 or more but with only grass & moss &
17 Eriophorum without bushes in them--close
18 to the edge of the mt or precipice--
19
20 where if you stand between the meadow
21 & the summit looking E³¹⁶ there would appear
22 to be a notch in the rim of the cup or
23 almost running over
24 saucer on the E--& the meadow ready to
25 spill over & run down the mt on that side.
26 {drawing}³¹⁷ but when when you stood on
27 this notched edge the descent
28 was seen to be much less precipi-
29 spongy
30 tous than you had expected-- Such ^mt
31 bogs however--are evidently the sources of rivers.
32 --Lakes of the clouds--when they are clea{n}³¹⁸ water--

³¹⁶ dot after "E" might just be a stray mark

³¹⁷ drawing goes down 3 lines

³¹⁸ "n" could be "r"

1 Between this & the NE spur or ridge
2 was the largest swamp or bog that
3 I saw--consisting perhaps of {~~an~~} between 1 &
4 2 acres--as I remember--~~ther~~ it was a grassy &
5 large
6 mossy bog without ^ bushes--in which you sank
7 a foot--with a great many fallen
8 trees in it--showing their bleached upper side
9 here & there--but almost completely buried
10 in the moss. This must once have been a dense
11 The trees buried in the moss were much larger than any now standing at this height
12 swamp full of pretty large trees ^-- The outlet
13 of this if it had any must have been N. westerly.
14 This was a wild place enough.

15 Having ascended the highest part of the
16 N Eastern ridge--N of this bog--we returned
17 to the summit (1st to the ridge of the plateau &
18 west on it to the summit crossing a ravine between)

19 I noticed in many places upon the mt
20 {base} sandy or gravelly spaces from a few feet
21 to a rod in diameter where the thin sward &
22 loam appeared to have been recently removed or
23 swept away. I was inclined to call them scars
24 --& thought of very violent winds & tempests
25 of rain as the cause perhaps--but do not
26 know how to account for them.

27 We had thus made a pretty complete
28 survey of the top of the mt. It is a very
29 unique walk--& would be almost equally
30 interesting to take though it were not
31 elevated above the surrounding valleys--

1 It often reminded me of my walks on
2 the beach--& suggested how much both
3 depend for their sublimity on solitude &
4 dreariness. In both cases we feel the presence
5 of some vast Titanic power-- The rocks
6 & rain pools
7 and valleys & bogs ^ of the mt are so
8 wild & unfamiliar still--that you do
9 not recognize the one you left 15
10 minutes before-- This rocky region
11 forming what you may call the top
12 of the mt must be more than 2 miles
13 long by 1 wide in the middle--& you
14 would need to ramble about it it
15 many times before it would begin to be
16 familiar. There may be 20 little swamps
17 so much alike in the main that would
18 not know whether you had seen a
19 are trackless &
20 particular one before--& the rocks do
21 ^
22 not present the same point. So that
23 it has the effect of the ~~eff~~ most intricate
24 labyrinth & artificially extended walk.
25 This mt is said in the gazetteer to extend NE SW
26 5 miles x 3 wide & the streams on the east to empty into
27 Merrimack
28 the Contoocook & ~~Connecticut~~--on the west into the
29 Ashuelot & Connecticut.³¹⁹ is 3718 ft high--³²⁰& judging
30 from its account the top was wooded 50 years ago.
31 We proceeded to get our tea on the sum-
32 mit--in the very place where I had made
33 my bed for a night some 15 years before.
34 There were a great many insects of various

³¹⁹ blotch

³²⁰ false start crossed out before "&"

1 kinds on the top most rocks at this hour--&
2 among them I noticed a yellow butterfly & several
3 large brownish ones fluttering over the apex.

4 It was interesting to watch from that height
5 the shadows of fair weather clouds passing over
6 the landscape-- you could hrdly distinguish them
7 from forests. It reminded me of the ~~sha~~ simi-
8 lar shadows seen on the sea from the high bank
9 of Cape Cod Beach. There the perfect equality of
10 the sea atoned for the comparatively slight ele-
11 vation of the bank-- We do not commonly
12 realize how constant & amusing a phenomenon
13 this is in a summer day to one standing on
14 a sufficiently elevated point. In the valley
15 or on the plain you do not commonly notice
16 the shadow of a cloud unless you are in it
17 but on a mt top--or on a lower elevation
18 in a plane country or by the sea side--the
19 shadows of clouds flitting over the landscape
20 are a never failing source of amusement--

21 It is commonly easy to refer a shadow to its cloud--
22 since in one direction its form is preserved with
23 sufficient accuracy-- Yet I was surprised to observe
24 that a long stragglng downy cumulus extending
25 N & S a few miles east of us--where the sun was
26 perhaps an hour high cast its shadow along
27 the base of the Peterboro hills--& did not
28 fall on the other side as I should have expected.
29 It proved the clouds not so high as I sup-

1 posed. It suggested how with tolerable
2 accuracy you might easily calculate
3 the height of a cloud--with a quadrant
4 & a good map of the country-- E. G. Observe
5 at what distance the shadow of a cloud
6 directly over head strikes the earth--& then
7 take the altitude of the sun--& you
8 may presume that you have the base & angles
9 of a right angled triangle--from which the
10 rest may be calculated--or you may allow
11 for the angle of elevation of the mt as
12 seen from the place where the shadow falls.
13 Also you might determine the breadth
14 of a cloud by observing the breadth of the
15 shadow at a given distance. &c &c-- Many
16 such calculations would be easy in such
17 a locality. It was pleasant enough to see
18 one mans farm in the shadow of a cloud which
19 perhaps he thought covered all the northern states--
20 which his neighbor's farm was in sunshine. It
21 was still too hazy to allow of our seeing the
22 shadow of the mt-- So we descended a little
23 before the sun set--but already the hylodes
24 had been peeping for some time.
25 Again the wood-thrush chewink &c sang
26 at eve. I had also heard the song sparrow.

27 As the sky was more cloudy this evening
28 we looked out a shelving rock near our
29 camp where we might take shelter from the
30 rain in the night if necessary--i.e. if our roof

1 did not prove tight enough. There were
2 plenty of clefts & small caverns where you
3 The mosquitoes troubled us a little
4 might lie warm & dry-- this night.³²¹
5 Lying up there at this season when the
6 night hawk is most musical--reminded
7 me of what I had noticed before that this
8 bird is crepuscular in its habits. It was heard
9 ~~only~~ by night only up to 9 or 10 o'clock--&
10 again just before dawn--& marked those
11 periods or seasons like a clock-- Its note very
12 conveniently indicated the time of night. It was suffi-
13 cient to hear the night hawk booming when you
14 awoke ~~in the~~ to know how the night got on, though
15 you had no other evidence of the hour--

16 I did not hear the sound of any beast--
17 There are no longer any wolves to howl or pan-
18 thers to scream. One man told me that many
19 foxes took refuge from dogs & sportsmen on this
20 mt.

21 The plants of cold northern bogs grow on this
22 mt top--& even they have a boreal habit here
23 more dwarfish than such of them as grow in our
24 swamps--

25 The more memorable & peculiar plants of the
26 mt top--{~~perhaps~~} were the mt cranberry
27 & the Potentilla tridentatata--the dwarfish spruce--
28 arenaria groenlandica (not now conspicuous)
29 The ribes prostratum or foetid currant was very
30 abundant from quite near the summit to near the base
31 & its currant acid fragrance was quite agreeable
32 to me--partly perhaps from its relation to the currant of the gardens

³²¹ "this night" actually begins above the dash in MS

1 You also notice many small weed-like
 2 mt ashes--6 or 8 inches high--which on trying
 3 to pull up you find to be very firmly rooted--having
 4 an old & large root out of proportion to
 5 their top-- I might also name in this
 6 not only the blueberry but but³²²
 7 connexion ^ the very common dwarfish Eriophorum
 8 vaginatum & the Lycopodium annotinum
 9 also the Amelanchier var. oligocarpas.
 10 I was not prepared to find vegetation so
 11 much later there than below as with us, since
 12 I once found blueberries ripe on Wachusett unex-
 13 pectedly early-- However it was a pleasing lateness--
 14 and gives one a chance to review some of his
 15 On the rocky part,--The only plants, as I noticed, which were or had been in bloom--
 16 NB lessons in natural history. were the salix now generally done--Ribes prostratum in prime
 17 Eriophorum vaginatum vac. pennsylvanicum just begun-- Amelanchier oligocarpan a
 18 little not long--water andromeda
 19 do, do, (& prob (?) the populus, birches (?) may-flower & spruce ?)
 20 Friday June 4th
 21
 22 at {8} 6 Am we began to descend-- Near the
 23 upper edge of the wood, I heard as I had done
 24 in ascending a very peculiar lively & interesting
 25 strain from some bird--(which note was new to
 26 me) at the same time I caught sight
 27 of a bird with a very conspicuous deep orange
 28 throat--& otherwise dark with some streaks
 29 along the head-- This may have been the Black-burn-
 30 nian warbler, if it was not too large for that--&
 31 or continued
 32 may have been the singer. We descended ^ along
 33 the base of the mt southward taking the
 34 road to the state line station & Winchendon
 35 through the west part of Ridge.
 36 It is remarkable how as you are leaving a
 37 mt & looking back at it from time to time
 38 it gradually gathers up its slopes & spurs
 39 to itself--into a regular whole & makes a new & total
 40 impression.
 41 V. also ac. of ascent in Sep. 52³²³

³²²this interlined word appears without a carat between "common" and "dwarfish"

³²³Note appears written horizontally in the left margin from lines 40-26.

1 {Are} the 2 conspicuous staminate willows {up} kind of Colliers
2 one kind the { } has { }-- two other { }
3 {v} {there} { } 2 species of salix (petiolaris like) with {loose} catkins
4 { } one {serrate} the other entire or nearly so--
5 ~~v willows of April 26--& 28--& May 1 & 2nd~~
6 {cf} {fruit} of the N. Barrett {cherry}--
7 v genista--& Lepidium--yel-{throat} {west} toward Assabet bath
8 v. {leech} (?) spawn [April 3 entry]
9 { } {of} { } { } {spruce} ledum prob.--
10 King birds above {stone} bridge--& in apple near Cyrus Hosmer's {digging} {&c}
11 Get snap turtle in {rock}
12 Look at Sedges about June 8th 59 marking {some} earlier
13 {get} wood thrush nest of June 19th in maple sapling op {oupturned} {oak}
14 10 rods {S.} of opening--also veery nest by path to rock
15 Is {new} A. macrophyllus fragrant?³²⁴

³²⁴ This list, written on the paste-down end paper, likely cross-references the May 1 and May 2 entries of 1858; however, NB the reference to 1859 in line 12.