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Sunday Sep. 3d '54

Fair weather & a clear atmosphere after
2 days of mizzling--cloudy & rainy weather--
& some smart showers at daylight &
in the night. The street is washed hard
& white.

//

Pm With Minott Pratt into Carlisle.

Woodbine berries purple. X Even at this
season I see some fleets of yellow butterflies
in the damp road after the rain; as earlier.

//

//

Pratt showed me a tobacco-flower long &
tubular--slightly like a datura. In his yard
ap. a new variety of sweet briar which he took

//

out of the woods behind his house--larger
bush & leaves--leaves less glandular & sticky
beneath--the principal serrations deeper &
much sharper--& the whole leaf perhaps less rounded.

Saw some winged ants silvering a circular space
in the pasture grass about 5 inches in diameter--

//

~~some~~ a few very large ones among them. Very
thick & incessantly moving--one upon another--
some without wings--all running about in
great excitement-- It seemed the object of the
winged ones to climb to the top of the grass blades
one over another & then take to wing--which they
did. In the meadow SW of Hubbards Hill

saw white polygala sanguinea, not described.

//

1 // Lambkill again in Hunt pasture. Close
2 to the left hand side of Bridle road--about
3 // 100 rods S of the Oak a bay-berry bush
4 without fruit--prob. a male one. It
5 made me realize--that this was only
6 a more distant & elevated sea beech--and
7 that we were within reach of marine in-
8 fluences. My thoughts suffered a sea
9 turn. N. of the oak (4 or 5 rods) on the
10 left of the bridle road in the pasture next to
11 Masons tried to find the white hardhack
12 still out--but it was too late. Found the
13 sessile
14 // mt Laurel out again 1 flower close ^ on
15 end of this years shoot-- There were numerous
16 blossom buds expanding & they may possibly
17 open this fall. Running over the laurel
18 // an amphicarpaea in bloom--some pods
19 nearly an inch long--out prob. a week or 10 days at
20 linear
21 // most. Epilobium molle ^ still in flower in
22 // the spruce swamp--near my path. A white hardhack
23 out of bloom by a pile of stones on which I put
24 another in Robbins' field & a little south of
25 // it a clump of red huckleberries.

26 Monday Sep 4th

27 // A multiflorus XXX Observed the undersides of
28 a shrub willow by the river lit by the rays
29 of the rising sun--shining like silver or dew
30 drops-- Yet when I stood nearer & looked
31 down on them at a different angle they
32 were quite dull.

1
 2 I have provided my little snapping turtle
 3 with a tub of water & mud--& it is surprising
 4 how fast he learns to use his limbs & this
 5 with the yolk still trailing from him
 6 world. He actually runs. ^ The insensibility &
 7 as if he had got new vigor from contact with the mud.
 8 toughness of his infancy--make our life with
 9 its disease & low spirits ridiculous-- He
 10 impresses me as the rudiment of a man
 11 worthy to inhabit the earth. He is born with
 12 a shell-- That is symbolical of his toughness.
 13 His shell being so rounded & sharp on the
 14 back at this age he can turn over without
 15 trouble.
 16 %Climbing%
 17 Pm to Flowering¹ Fern--Polyg.
 18 articulatum ap 3 or 4 days-- In the //
 19 wood paths I find a great many
 20 of the cast-steel soap galls--more or
 21 some are saddled on the twigs
 22 less fresh--^ They are now dropping from
 23 the shrub oaks. Is not Art itself a
 24 gall? Nature is stung by God & the
 25 seed of man planted in her-- The artist
 26 changes the direction of nature--& makes
 27 her grow according to his idea. If
 28 the gall was anticipated when the oak
 29 was made--so was the canoe when
 30 the birch was made. Genius stings nature
 31 & she grows according to its idea.
 32 7 1/2
 33 To F. H. P by boat--full moon²--bats flying about.

¹ Cancelled in pencil.

²vertical pencil line through word

1 skaters &
2 ^ water bugs? like sparks³ of fire on the surface
3 between us & the moon The high shore
4 above the RR bridge was very simple
5 & grand--1st the bluish sky with the
6 moon & a few brighter stars--then
7 {drawing}
8 the near high level bank--like a distant
9 mountain ridge or a dark cloud in the
10 E horizon--then its reflection in the
11 water--making it double--& finally
12 the glassy water--& the sheen in⁴ one
13 spot on the white lily pads-- Some
14 willows for relief in the distance on the
15 right. It was Ossianic.
16 ⁵(I noticed this afternoon that bubbles would
17 not readily form on the water--& soon burst
18 forth on account of the late rains which have
19 changed its quality. There is prob. less stagnation
20 & ~~scum~~ scum-- It is less adhesive.)⁶
21 NB A fine transparent mist
22 Lily bay seemed as wide as a lake--
23 you referred the shore back to the
24 clam shell hills-- The mere edge which
25 a flat shore presents makes no

³Vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "moon &..."

⁴"in" blotted

⁵ Vertical line in left margin alongside lines 16 and 17

⁶ A large bracketing mark around adhesive- prob. paired with the vertical line in note for line 16.

1
2 distinct impression on the⁷ eye--& if seen
3 at all appears as the base of the dis-
4 tant hills-- Commonly a slight mist yet
5 low
6 more conceals it. The dim ^ shore but a few
7 distant
8 rods distant is seen as the base of the ^ hills
9 whose distance you know-- The low shore, if
10 not entirely concealed by the low mist--is seen
11 against the distant hills & passes for their
12 immediate base. For the same reason
13 hills near the water appear much more steep
14 than they are. We hear a faint metallic
15 chip from a sparrow on the button bushes
16 or willows now & then. Rowse was struck
17 by the simplicity of nature now--The sky the
18 greater part⁸--then a little dab of earth--
19 & after some water near you. Looking up
20 the reach beyond Clam⁹ Shell--the moon on
21 our east quarter--its sheen was reflected for
22 half a mile from the pads & the rippled
23 water next them on that side--while the
24 willows lined the shore in indistinct black
25 masses--like trees made with India ink--
26 (without distinct branches) & it looked like
27 a sort of Broadway with the sun reflected
28 from its pavements. Such willows might
29 be made with soot or smoke merely--lumpish
30 with fine edges. Meanwhile Fair H. Hill¹⁰

⁷vertical pencil line runs length of page

⁸vertical pencil line through "part"

⁹"Clam" altered from lower case (see "Shell")

¹⁰horizontal pencil line under word runs into margin

1 %transparent%
2 NB seen blue through the¹¹ %^% mist--was as
3 large & imposing as ¹²Wachusett--&
4 we seemed to be approaching the High-
5 lands of the river. A mt pass. Where
6 the river had burst through mts.
7 A high mt would be no more imposing.
8 Now I began to hear owls--screech? owls
9 at a distance up stream--but we
10 hardly got nearer to them as if they retreated
11 before us-- At length when off Wheelers
12 grape & cranberry meadow we heard one
13 near at hand. The rythm of it was
14 this once or twice repeated
15 pe-pe-ou ^ but more of a squeal--
16 & somewhat human. Or do not all
17 strange sounds thrill us as human--till
18 we have learned to refer them to their
19 proper source. They appeared to answer one
20 another half a mile apart--could be
21 heard from far woods a mile off.
22 The wind has risen & the echo is poor--it
23 does not reverberate up & down the river--
24 NB No sound of a bullfrog, but steadily
25 %mole%
26 // the %^% cricket %(%like--rana palustris%)% along shore.
27 Rowse heard a whippoorwill at Sleepy
28 // Hollow tonight. No scent of muskrats.
29 Sep 5th '54
30 ? Were those plump birds which looked some-
31 what like robins crossing the river yesterday Pm--

¹¹vertical pencil line from here through rest of day's entry

¹² "W" retraced several times over other letters, possibly "the"

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Golden plover--? I heard the upland plover note
at same time, but these were much stouter birds.
The dangle-berries--are¹³ now the only Whortle
berries which are quite fresh. The feverwort berries
began to turn about a fortnight ago. Now quite
yellow.

Pm Up Assabet¹⁴ to Sam Barrets Pond.
%The river rising {distinctly}%
The river weeds are now much decayed--almost
%& they are thinned%
all pads but the white lily have disappeared%^%--
%As I wade I trod on the great roots only
& in mid stream those dense beds of weeds of the yellow lily--%
are so much thinned (Potamogetons--heart-
leaf--sparganium--&c &c--) as to give one
the impression of the river having risen--though
it is not more than 6 inches higher on ac--
of the rain. I see now against the edge
of the pads on each side of the stream a
%at first%
floating wreck--of weeds, %^% almost ex- //
clusively the sparganium (%minor%)--which
%so thick% %The 1st { } contribution to the river wrack!%
stood %^% in mid stream. %^%These ap. become rotten
or loose--(though they are still green) and
the wind & water wash them to one side.¹⁵

They form floating masses of wreck--
small siums & %I observe} that also%
&¹⁶ a few ^ pontederias are already mixed
The Potamogetons are much decayed & washed & blown into a snarl
with them. The stream must be fullest
& no longer cover the surface with a smooth green shield--nor do the heartleaf
of weeds & most verdurous--(Potamogetons
heartleaf--sparganium &c) when the //
~~brin~~ brink is in perfection. ¹⁷This is a fall
%become rotten--though many are still green%
phenomenon. The river weeds¹⁸ %^% fall or are loosened.

¹³vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "began to..."
¹⁴vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "& a few..."
¹⁵"These . . . side." circled and cancelled in pencil
¹⁶"&" cancelled in pencil
¹⁷pencil line begins over "phenomenon" on the next line and goes over "This
is..." through rest of line
¹⁸vertical pencil line through word

1 the water rises--the winds¹⁹ come & they
2 are drifted to the shore--& the water is
3 cleared.²⁰
4 During the drought I used to see Sam
5 Wheeler's men carting hogsheads of
6 water from the river to water his shrubbery.
7 They drove into the river--& naked all but
8 a coat & hat--they dipped up the water
9 with a pail--though a shiftless, it
10 looked like an agreeable labor that
11 hot weather-- Bathed at the Swamp--
12 The water warmer again than I expected larger
13 white oak--^one of these ^ oaks is stript
14 // nearly bare by the caterpillars. Cranberry-
15 raking is now fairly²¹ begun. The very bottom
16 of the river there is loose & crumbly with
17 saw dust. I bring up the coarse bits
18 of wood (waterlogged) between my feet.
19 // I see much thistle down without the seed
20%//% floating on the river-- Saw a humming
21 bird about a cardinal flower--over
22 the water's edge-- Just this side the rock
23 the water near the shore & pads is quite
24 for 20 rods as with a white sawdust
25 white ^ with the exuviae of small insects
26 mixed with scum & weeds
27 about 1/8 of an inch long--^ap. like the
28 green lice on birches--though they want the
29 long antennae of the last-- --Yet I suspect
30 did not the rain destroy them?
31 they are the same--^ What others are so
32 plenty? I see as often before, a dozen

¹⁹vertical pencil line from here through following line

²⁰horizontal pencil line under this line runs width of page

²¹pencil line through "fairly"

1
2 doves on the rock--ap for coolness--
3 which fly before me. Polyg amphibium
4 va terrestre ap. in prime. I find some //
5 Zizania grains ~~ps~~ almost black. //
6 See a chip bird. See many galls //
7 thickly clustered & saddled about the
8 twigs of some young swamp white oaks-- //
9 hold on all winter
10 dome shaped {drawing} ^ (with grubs in middle)--
11 --reddish green A pretty large tupelo on a rock
12 behind Sam Barrets. some²² of its leaves a
13 very deep & brilliant scarlet--equal to any leaves
14 in this respect. Some waxwork²³ leaves variegated
15 greenish yellow & dark green-- His Pond has
16 been almost completely dry--more than he
17 ever knew--& is still mostly so-- The muddy
18 bottom is exposed high & dry half a dozen
19 rods wide & half covered with great drying
20 yel-- & white lily pads & stems-- He improves
21 the opportunity to skim off the fertile deposit
22 for his compost heap-- Saw some button
23 bush balls going to seed which were really
24 quite a rich red over a green base.--especially
25 in this evening light. They are commonly
26 greener--& much duller reddish-- Barrett
27 shows me some very handsome²⁴ pear- //
28 shaped cranberries {drawing} not uncommon
29 which may be a permanent var. dif. from
30 the common rounded ones.

²²pencil line through "some" and "brilliant scarlet" on following line

²³pencil line through "waxwork" and "green" on following line

²⁴vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "the common..."

1 Saw two pigeons which flew about his pond
2 & then lit on the elms over his house--he
3 said they had come to drink from Brooks'
4 // as they often did. He sees a blue heron
5 there almost every morning of late-- Such
6 // is the place for them. A soapwort gentian
7 by river--remarkably early?-- The top has been
8 // bitten off! I hear the tree-toad today.
9 Now at sundown A blue heron flaps
10 away from his perch on an oak over the
11 river before me just above the rock--
12 Hear locusts after sundown.
13 Sep 6th

14 6 Am to Hill--the sun is rising directly
15 mag. E
16 over the E ^ end of the street. Not yet the
17 // Equinox. I hear a faint warbling vireo on
18 the elms still--in the morning.
19 My little turtle taken out of the shell Sep
20 2nd has a shell 1 7/40 inch long or 4/40
21 longer than the diameter of the egg shell--
22 to say nothing of head & tail-- Warm weather
23 // again & sultry nights the last 2. The
24 last a splendid moon light & quite warm.
25 I am not sure that I have seen bobolinks
26 // for 10 days--nor blackbirds since aug. 28th
27 9+ pm There is now approaching
28 from the W. one of the heaviest thundershowers--apparently--&
29 with the most

1 on the devoted villages. It crinkles through
2 the clear yellow portion beneath the cloud
3 where it rains--like fiery snakes or worms
4 --like veins in the eye. At first it was a
5 small and very distant cloud in the
6 SW horizon revealed by its own flashes
7 {th}
8 --but it gradually advanced & extended--
9 2 itself & united with others N & S along
10 and the thunder began to be heard--& wind came & c
11 the horizon²⁷ its rugged upper
12 outline & its whole form revealed by
13 & no thunder heard
14 1 the flashes--^ It seemed like a ship firing
15 broad-sides²⁸
16 At last came the rain, but not heavy,
17 nor the thunder loud--but the flashes
18 were visible all around us.
19 Before this in the Pm--to the Hol-
20 lowell Place--via Hub-- Bath crossing the
21 // river. A very warm day one of the
22 warmest of the year-- The water is again
23 say an average summer warmth
24 // warmer than I should have believed--^
25 yet not so warm as it has been. It
26 makes me the more surprised that
27 only that day & a half of rain should
28 have made it so very cold when I last
29 bathed here. Is not all our really hot
30 weather always contained between the
31 20th of May & the middle of September?

²⁷"but . . . horizon" marked off by an ink line

²⁸"its . . . broad-sides" marked off by an ink line

1
2 The checker berries are just²⁹ beginning to redden XXX //

3 The cinnamon ferns along the edge of
4 many
5 woods next the meadow are ^ yellow
6 or cinnamon--or quite brown & withered.

7 The sarsaparilla leaves³⁰--green--or reddish
8 are spotted with yellow eyes centered with
9 or dull reddish eye with yellow iris
10 reddish.^ They have a very pretty effect
11 held over the forest floor--beautiful
12 in their decay. The sessile leaved bell-wort
13 is yellow green & brown all together or separately.
14 Some white oak leaves are covered with
15 dull yellow spots. Now ap. is the time
16 to gather the clusters of shrub oak acorns be- //
17 to adorn a shelf with
18 fore they drop. ^ some however are ready to fall
19 on account of the late drought-- I see where
20 the squirrels have eaten them (the ilicifolia) &
21 left the shells on a stump. See galls on the //
22 chinquapin sessile on the stem spherical--
23 & in ap. between that³¹ of yesterday on the swamp
24 white oak & the cast steel-soap galls. I think
25 I may say that large³² sol-seal berries have begun //
26 to be red. I see no swallows now at Clam shell //
27 They have probably migrated. Still see
28 the cracks in the ground. and no doubt
29 shall till the snow comes. very few of the
30 A undulatus this year & they late.
31 Some large roundish or³³ squarish vib. nudum

²⁹pencil line through "just"

³⁰vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "is yellow..."

³¹"that" possibly altered from "the"

³²pencil vertical line through line

³³vertical pencil line through line

1 // berries--by fence bet. Hosmer spring & Lupine Hill
2 near foot of hill--but I see no dif-- bet the
3 leaves &c & the others.
4 // An A. longifolius like some days at Hosmer ditch
5 %27 rayed%
6 with smaller flowers %^%--~~le~~ smaller scales--leaves
7 rough
8 rough above & serrate & purple stem ^--I will call it A
9 A similar with flesh colored blossom & longer scales at ^ Heywood ditch.
10 ? A carneus for present^. It may³⁴ be a var of what
11 I saw by Mill brook & called Tenuifolius--scales alike
12 but that had smooth leaves.
13 Thursday Sep 7th 54
14 // The rain of last night has brought down more leaves of elms & buttonwoods
15 Pm to Moores swamp & Walden.
16 rose
17 See some hips of the mooss ^ very large
18 & handsome bright scarlet--very much
19 flattened globular-- On the Walden
20 road heard a some what robin like
21 clicking note--looked round &
22 saw one of those small slate col--
23 %male marsh hawk%
24 // black tipt--%^white-rumped hawks
25 skimming over the meadows with
26 head down--~~{drawing}~~--at first 30 feet
27 high--then low till he appeared to drop
28 into the grass. It was quite a loud
29 clicketling sound
30 Paddled to Baker Farm--just after
31 sundown--by full moon--
32 I suppose this is the Harvest moon
33 since the sun must be in Virgo--enters

³⁴"It may" altered from another word, poss. "I how"

1

2 libra the 23d inst.
 3 The wind has gone down.³⁵ & it is a still warm night, & no mist.
 4 %the moon not yet risen%
 5 It is just after sundown ^ %^%-- One star--
 6 & many bats over & about our heads
 7 Jupiter (?) visible. ^There are many clouds
 8 and small skaters creating a myriad dimples on the evening waters. We
 9 see a muskrat-crossing--& pass a white cat on the shore.
 10 about & a beautiful sunset sky--~~whi~~
 11 dunnish?
 12 A yellowish golden sky between them ~~clouds~~
 13 an elm in the yellow twilight looks very rich as if moss or ivy-clad
 14 All & this is
 15 in the horizon--looking up the river^--~~which~~
 16 & A dark blue cloud extends into the dun golden sky--on which there is a little
 17 fantastic
 18 the point of
 19 cloud like a chicken--walking up ^ it--with its neck outstretched
 20 we see reflected in the water-- The beauty
 21 of the sunset is doubled by the reflection.
 22 Being on the water we have double
 23 dun-colored
 24 the amount of lit & colored sky
 25 in our west³⁶--above & beneath-- The
 26 or reddish³⁷
 27 reflected sky is more dun ^ & richer than the
 28 real one-- This seems the first autumnal
 29 sunset. The small skaters seem more active
 30 than by day--or their slight dimpling is more
 31 obvious in the lit twilight-- A stray white
 32 cat sits on the shore looking over the water.
 33 This is her hour-- A Night-hawk dashes
 34 past low over the water--³⁸ Take a glorious
 35 sunset sky & double it--so that it shall
 36 extend downward beneath the horizon as
 37 much as above it--blotting out the earth--
 38 of
 39 & the lowest half be ^ the deepest tint--
 40 & every beauty more than before insisted
 41 on--& you seem withal to be floating
 42 directly into it-- This is what we had.
 43 It was in harmony with this fair evening

³⁵two vertical pencil lines run length of page

³⁶"in our west" cancelled in pencil

³⁷"or reddish" cancelled in pencil

³⁸"This . . . water." in lines 28-34 set off with a vertical pencil line in left margin and marked with a pencilled "2". "Take . . . it--" in lines 34-42 set off with a vertical pencil line in left margin and marked with a "1"

1 that we were not walking³⁹ or riding
2 with dust and noise through it
3 but moved by a paddle without a
4 almost
5 jar over the liquid & ^ invisible surface--
6 floating directly towards those islands
7 %which we call clouds in the {swest} sky%
8 of the blessed.%^^ I thought of the Indian
9 who so many similar ± evenings had
10 paddled up this stream--with what advantage
11 he beheld the twilight sky-- So we advanced
12 %without dust or sound%
13 %^^by gentle impulses as the twilight gradually
14 faded-away. The height of the RR.
15 bridge--already high--(more than 20
16 ft to the top of the rail) was doubled by the
17 reflection--equalling that of a Roman
18 aqueduct--for we could not possibly
19 see where the reflection began--& the
20 piers appeared to rise from the lowest
21 part of the reflection of the rail above
22 about 50 feet-- We floated directly under
23 it between the piers as if⁴⁰ in mid air--
24 not being able to distinguish the surface
25 more than
26 of the water--& looked down ^ 20 feet to
27 the reflected flooring through whose inter-
28 vals we saw the starlit sky-- The ghostly
29 piers stretched downward on all sides--
30 & only the angle made by their meeting
31 the real ones betrayed where was the water
32 surface⁴¹. The twilight had now paled
33 (lost its red & dun) & faintly illumined the
34%//% high⁴² bank. I observed no firefly this
35 evening nor the 4th ult.⁴³ The moon had not

³⁹vertical pencil line from here through length of page

⁴⁰"if" reformed

⁴¹Line in pencil from below "surface" and into the left margin.

⁴²Line in pencil from below "high" into left margin.

⁴³Pencil line following "ult--"

1 which is ever lighted. C. thought that
2 in the ever-lit sky inconceivable
3 these few faint lights ^--whose ~~infinite~~ dis-
4 tance was enhanced by a few downy ~~wispy~~ wisps
5 of cloud--surpassed any scene that earth
6 could⁴⁹ ~~should~~--show. When the moon was
7 behind these small black clouds in the horizon
8 they had a splendid silver edging-- At length
9 She rose above them & shone aslant like a
10 ball⁵⁰ of fire over the woods-- It was re-
11 markably clear tonight--& the water was
12 not so remarkably broad therefore--and
13 F Haven was⁵¹ not clothed with that blue
14 veil--like a mt which it wore on the 4th
15 reflected
16 The⁵² ^ shadow of the Hill was black as night
17 & we seemed to be paddling directly into
18 a rod or two before us
19 it⁵³ ^ but we never reached it at all--(But
20 it was not till we had past the bridge
21 that the first sheen was reflected from the pads)
22 The trees & hills were distinctly black between
23 us and the moon--& the water black or
24 gleaming⁵⁴ accordingly. It was quite dry
25 & warm. Above the Cliffs we heard only one
26 or 2 owls at a distance, a-hooting owl
27 &⁵⁵ a screech owl--& several whippoorwills.
28 The delicious fragrance of ripe grapes was
29 by the night air
30 wafted to us ^ as we paddled by from every
31 fertile Vine on the shore--& thus
32 its locality was revealed more surely
33 than by daylight-- We knew their fragrance
34 was better than their flavor-- They perfumed
35 thi whole river for a mile--by night.
36 You might have thought you ~~were~~ had reached

⁴⁹ Horizontal pencil line in left margin extending from below "could".

⁵⁰ Horizontal pencil line in left margin extending from below "ball".

⁵¹"was" altered from "ha": no AL necessary

⁵² Lines 16-18 set off with a vertical line in pencil in the left margin and marked with a "2".

⁵³ Lines 18-21 set off with a vertical line in pencil in the left margin and marked with a "1."

⁵⁴ Horizontal pencil line in left margin extending from below "gleaming".

⁵⁵ Horizontal pencil line in left margin extending from below "&".

1
 2 the confines of elysium. A slight zephyr wafted
 3 us almost imperceptibly into the middle of F. H. Pond--
 4 while we lay watching & listening-- The sheen of the
 5 moon extended quite across the pond to us in a
 6 long & narrow triangule--or rather with concave sides
 7 like a very narrow Eddystone light house, with its
 8 base in the SW shore {drawing} & we heard the dis-
 9 tant sound of the wind thro the pines on
 10 the hill top. Or if we listened closely--we heard
 11 still the faint & distant barking of dogs. They⁵⁶
 12 rule the night. Near the south shore disturbed some
 13 ducks--in the water--which slowly flew away to
 14 seek a new resting place--uttering a distinct
 15 & alarmed quack--something like a goose.⁵⁷
 16 We walked up to the old Baker House--
 17 In the bright moonlight the character of
 18 the ground under our feet was not easy
 19 to detect--& we did not know at first but
 20 we were walking on sod and not on
 21 a field laid down & harrowed. From
 22 the upland the pond in the moon-
 23 light ~~was~~ looked blue--as much so as the⁵⁸
 24 sky. We sat on the window sill of the
 25 thought of its former inhabitants
 26 old house--^saw our bandit shadows
 27 down the cellar way--listened to each sound⁵⁹
 28 & observed each ray of moonlight through
 29 the cracks. Heard an apple fall in the
 30 little orchard close by. while-- a whippoorwill
 31 was heard in the pines--⁶⁰

⁵⁶ Horizontal pencil line extending to right edge of page from beneath "They"
⁵⁷ Horizontal pencil line extending to right edge of page from beneath
 "goose."
⁵⁸ Horizontal pencil line extending to right edge of page from beneath "the"
⁵⁹ Vertical pencil line in right margin from "sound" to "whippoorwill", l. 27-
 31, and labeled "2."
⁶⁰"while . . . pines--" possibly added

1 C.⁶¹ had on f a red flannel shirt over
2 his thin coat--since he expected it would
3 %& looked like one%
4 be⁶² cold & damp%^%-- Returning to the
5 boat saw a glow worm in the damp
6 path in the low ground. Returning later--
7 better
8 we experienced ^ the weird-like character of
9 the night--especially perceived the fra-
10 grance of the grapes--& admired the
11 fair smooth fields in the bright moon-
12 reflections
13 light. There being no mist the ~~shadows~~
14 were wonderfully distinct--the whole
15 of bittern cliff with its grove was seen beneath
16 the waves--

17 Sep 8th 54

18 Pm to boat under Fair H. Hill via
19 // Hub Bath &c. &c. A-graping
20 The ivy at ivy tree is scarlet 1/4 part--
21 // Saw one of my small slate-col hawks
22 of yesterday sitting in the midst of the
23 upland field beyond like a crow--
24 There is a great crop of vib. nudum
25 berries this year. The green briar berries
26 not quite ripe-- Clams still lie up--
27 The grapes would no doubt be riper
28 a week hence but I am compelled to
29 go now before the vines are stripped.
30 I partly smell them out. I pluck splendid
31 great bunches of the purple ones

⁶¹Lines 1-4 set off with a vertical pencil line in the margin and marked with a "1"

⁶²horizontal pencil line under word in margin

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with a rich bloom on them & the purple
glowing through it like a fire. Large
red ones also with light dots--& some
clear green. Sometimes I crawl under
low & thick bowers where they have run
over the alders only 4 or 5 feet high
& see the grapes hanging from a hollow
hemisphere of leaves over my head-- At
other times I see them dark purple or black
against the silvery undersides of the
leaves--high overhead where they have
run over birches or maples--and either
climb--or pull them down to pluck them.
The witch-hazel on dwarf sumac Hill
looks as if it would beg. to blossom in a day or 2
Talked with Garfield who was fishing off
his shore-- By the way that shore might
be named from him--for he is the genius
of it & ~~I see him~~ is almost the only man
I ever see on that part of the river
He says that the 2 turtles, of one of which
I have the shell, weighed together 89 lbs.
which his father caught in F H Pond v n p b 1
He saw one when he was a boy ^ which
several who saw it thought would
have weighed 60 lbs--That the biggest
story he could tell-- Referred to the years
not long since when so many were found
dead. There was one rotting right

//

1 on that shore where we were "as big as
2 a tray". Once he & another man were
3 digging a ditch in a meadow in Waltham
4 --(he thought it was the last of September
5 or first of October--and that we
6 did not see them put there put their
7 // heads out much later than this.) they
8 found two mud turtles 3 feet beneath
9 the surface--& no hole visible by which
10 they entered. They lay them out on the
11 grass--but when they went to look for
12 them again--one was lost & the other
13 had buried himself in the meadow all
14 but the tip of his tail.

15 He heard some years ago a large flock
16 of brant go over--"yelling" very loud
17 flying low & in an irregular dense flock
18 He says the E. shore of F. H. under the Hill is covered with
19 Heron tracks
20 like pigeons-- ^One of his boys had
21 seen marks where an otter had slid
22 & eaten fish near the mouth of Pole
23 Brook (My Bidens Brook) Remembered
24 old people saying that this river
25 used to be a great hunting place
26 a hundred years ago or more-- A still
27 stream with meadows & the deer used
28 to come out on it. Had heard an old
29 Mr Hosmer who lived where E. Conant
30 does--say that he had shot 3 doz.
31 muskrats at one shot at Birch

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Island (The Island at mouth of F. H. Pond.)

His⁶³ father caught the great turtle while fishing--& sent him up to the house on Bakers farm to cut his head off where a Jones lived to get an axe^. There were 2 or 3 men--Luke Potter who lived where Haden does for one--playing cards--& when they learned what he wanted the axe for--they came down to the shore to see him--& they judged that he would weigh 60 lbs. 2 or 3 years ago he saw one caught that weighed 42 lbs.

I saw a muskrat cabin ap. begun on
Now just before the 1st frost & when the river wreck has begun to wash about a small humock for a core.^ Those fine mouth

//

fills--appear to be gathered from the river bottom fine pontederias--sium--fontinalis &c &c decayed--but somewhat adhesive. See

fresh⁶⁴ pontederia blossoms still-- Started up 10 ducks which had settled for the night below the bath-place--ap-- wood ducks.

//

I doubt if I have distinguished the bidens cernua-- It may be the one I have thought a small chrysanthemoides.

?

I find these last with smaller rays & larger outer involucres--& more or less bristly stems yet equally connate & as regularly serrate & it looks like a dif. produced by growing in a drier soil.

That S. in Hubbards swamp--which I have called virgata like⁶⁵--which has been

//

⁶³Preceded by false start

⁶⁴Possibly "Fresh" altered from lower case

⁶⁵"which I...like" poss. cancelled in pencil

1 out about a week & which I will
2 call the Hub swamp S. is quite peculiar--
3 is smooth &
4 It ^ has an erect narrow wandlike compound
5 & dense raceme--about 14 to 17 rayed heads--
6 -- Leaves very entire thin peculiarly elliptic (?)
7 lancolate & pointed at both ends--not
8 triple veined--only the lower slightly serrate
9 --spatulate lanceolate with long slender
10 partly clasping winged petioles.
11 Many green briar leaves are very agreeably
12 thickly or pine green
13 ^spotted now with reddish brown ^ on a yellow
14 or green ground--producing a wildly variegated
15 leaf-- I have seen nothing more rich.
16 Some of these curled leaves are 5 inches wide.
17 with a short point. It is a leaf now
18 for poets to sing about--a leaf to
19 inspire poets. Now while I am gathering
20 grapes I see them. It excites me to
21 a sort of autumnal madness--
22 They are leaves for Satyrus & Faunus
23 to make their garlands of-- My
24 thoughts break out like them spotted
25 all over--yellow & green & brown-- The
26 freckled leaf-- Perhaps they should be
27 poison to be thus spotted-- I fancied these
28 brown⁶⁶ were blood red spots--by contrast--but they
29 are not-- Now for the ripening year--
30 even leaves are beginning to be ripe--
31 Garfield says he found a hen-
32 hawks nest near Holden's swamp--(the old
33 ones had got his chickens) 60 feet up
34 a white pine-- He climbed up & set a
35 trap in it⁶⁷ baited with a fish--) The
36 with a string 10 feet long attached

⁶⁶"brown" possibly added in margin
⁶⁷"it" possibly written over "wit"

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young but just hatched faced him--
& he caught the old one by the legs
thus--
I have brought home a half bushel
of grapes to scent my chamber with.
It is impossible to get them home in a
basket with all their rich bloom on them.
which, no less than the form of the clusters,
makes their beauty. As I paddled
home with my basket of grapes in the
bow every now & then their perfume was
wafted to me in the stern & I thought that
I was passing a richly laden vine on shore--
Some goldfinches twitter over while I am
pulling down the vines from the birch tops--
The ripest ~~fall~~ rattle off & strew the
ground before I reach the clusters--
or ~~the~~ while I am standing on tiptoe
& endeavoring gently to break the tough
peduncle--the petiole of a leaf gets en-
tangled in the bunch & I am compelled
to strip them all off loosely.
"Yet once more -- --⁶⁸ -- -- --
-- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --
I come to pluck your berries harsh & crude:
And with forc'd fingers rude,
Shatter your leaves before the mellowing year:"
{3-4 blank lines}

⁶⁸vertical pencil line from here though line beginning "Shatter..."

1 Sep 9th

2 // This morn I find a little hole 3/4 of
3 an inch over above my small tortoise
4 eggs--& find a young tortoise coming out
5 (ap. in the rainy night) just beneath--
6 It is the sternothaerus⁶⁹-odoratus already
7 has the strong scent--& now has drawn in
8 & there are no traces of the yolk or what not attached
9 It may have been out of the egg some days
10 its head & legs^ Only one as yet. I buried
11 them in the garden June 15th--

12 I am affected by the thought that
13 the earth nurses these eggs-- They are
14 planted in the earth--& the earth takes
15 care of them--she is genial to them & does
16 not kill them. It suggests a certain vi-
17 & intelligence
18 tality ^ in the earth--which I had not realized.
19 This mother is not merely inanimate--& in-
20 organic-- Though the immediate mother
21 turtle abandons her off spring--the
22 earth & sun are kind to them-- The old
23 earth
24 turtle on which the ~~world~~ rests takes
25 while the other waddles off
26 care of them^-- Earth was not made poison-
27 ous & deadly to them. The earth has some virtue
28 in it--when seeds are⁷⁰ put into it they
29 germinate--when turtles' eggs they hatch.
30 in due time-- Though the mother turtle
31 remained and brooded them--it would
32 still nevertheless be the universal world
33 turtle which through her cared for
34 them as now-- Thus the earth is the
35 mother of all creatures--

36 Garfield said that one of his sons
37 while they were haying in the river meadows
38 once found a hundred little pickerel

⁶⁹ Correct spelling: "sternothoerus"

⁷⁰ "are" possibly altered from "&"

1
 2 an inch or inch & a half long in little hole
 3 in the meadow not bigger than a bushel
 4 basket & nearly dry-- He took them out &
 5 put them into the river-- Another time he
 6 himself found many hundred in a ditch
 7 brought them home & put them into his
 8 large tub-- They there lived a spell without
 9 his feeding them--but small as they were--
 10 lived on one another--& you could see the
 11 tails sticking out their mouths. It would
 12 seem as if their spawn was deposited in those
 13 little muddy bottomed hollows in the meadows
 14 where we find the schools of young thus land-
 15 locked.

16 Sep 10th 54

17 Yesterday & today the first regular //
 18 rain storm--bringing down more leaves
 19 elms button-woods & apple tree
 20 ^& decidedly raising the river--& brooks--
 21 The still cloudy mizzling days Sep 1st & 2nd the
 22 thunder shower of eve of Sep 6th & this regular
 23 storm--are the first fall rains after the
 24 long drought. Aready the grass both in
 25 meadows & on hills looks greener--& the
 26 whole landscape this overcast rainy day
 27 darker & more verdurous. Hills which have
 28 been russet & tawny begin to show some green-
 29 ness

30 On account of the drought one crop has

1 almost entirely failed this year thus far--
2 which the papers have not spoken of. Last
3 year for the last 3 weeks of august
4 the woods were filled with the strong musty
5 scent of decaying fungi--but this year
6 I have seen very few fungi--& have not noticed
7 that odor at all-- A failure more
8 perceptible to frogs & toads but no doubt
9 serious to those whom it concerns.

10 As for birds.⁷¹

11 About 10 days ago especially I saw many
12 large hawks--prob. hen hawks & young about--

13 Within a week several of the small
14 slate-col-- & black tipt hawks⁷²--

15 Aug. 20th saw a sucker which I suppose must
16 have been caught by a fish-hawk--

17 Hear screech owls & hooting owls these evenings.

18 Have not noticed blue-jays of late

19 Occasionally hear the phe-be note of chicadees

20 Partridges prob. cease to mew for their young.

21 For about 3 weeks have seen 1 or 2 small dippers

22 For 10⁷³ days a few wood--& prob-- black ducks

23 Small flocks of bluebirds about apple trees

24 Larks common--but have not heard them sing for

25 some time

26 Am not sure that I have seen redwings or

27 other b. birds for 20 days

28 ~~For~~ about 3 weeks ago a small flock of

29 robins {&} pig. woodpeckers.

30 Robins common & still hear some faint notes

⁷¹What follows is a list--will need to decide how to indent or paragraph and how to handle runovers; it now follows copy

⁷²Possibly "black-tipt-hawks"

⁷³Blotched; possibly written over another number

1
2 of woodpeckers--
3 Saw a downy woodpecker as a rarity within a week.
4 Believe I hear no song sparrows sing now adays
5 See no F hiemalis--hear no quails.
6 Heard my last phoebe Aug 26
7 See no flocks of white in tails--
8 Hear the nuthatch as a novelty within a week about
9 street--
10 Saw 1st tree sparrow about a week since
11 in first rain
12 Have seen pigeons about a fortnight.
13 Have not distinguished rush sparrows for
14 a long time--nor Savannah, nor
15 yellowwinged.
16 Seen no snipe since Aug. 16
17 Turtle doves for more than a month--
18 A chip-sparrow seen within a few days
19 The warbling vireo still heard faintly in the morning.
20 For 3 weeks blue herons common on meadows
21 & great--~~& green~~ bittern
22 Green bittern rather earlier for most part--
23 Have not heard king fisher of late, not for
24 3 weeks methinks.
25 Methinks I heard a faint sound from a che-wink within
26 a week?
27 Seen no barn swallows for a week
28 Heard no Catbirds nor brown thrashers sing
29 for a long time--but saw the last at least
30 within 10 days.
31 Whippoorwills still common.
32 Think I saw white-throated (?) sparrows on button bushes
33 about a week ago--the mizzling day.
34 Hear no golden robins for the last fortnight
35 Bats common
36 Not sure I have seen bobolinks since Aug-- 20
37 Kingbirds seen within a day or 2

1 Hummingbird within a week
2 Goldfinches common--
3 Nighthawks still--but have not noticed the booming lately
4 Cherrybirds common--
5 Cuckoo not heard lately--
6 Meadow hen?⁷⁴ seen Aug 30th
7 Now generally ducks & other migratory birds are
8 returning from N-- & ours going S.
9 {1 blank line}
10 Diplopappus ~~und~~ linarifolia & A. undulatus
11 // ap. now in prime.
12 Sep. 11th
13 Measured today the little sternothaerus⁷⁵ odoratus
14 which came out the ground in the garden Sep. 9th
15 Its shell is 32/40 of an inch long, by 25/40 wide. It
16 has a distinct dorsal ridge & its head & ^{flippers} ~~claws~~
17 are remarkably developed-- Its raised back
18 & dorsal ridge--as in the case of the mud-
19 turtle, enable it to turn over very easily.⁷⁶
20 It may have been hatched some time be-
21 fore it came out--for not only there
22 was no trace of the yolk (?) but its shell
23 was much wider than the egg, when it
24 first came out of the ground. I placed
25 a sieve over it, & it remained in the hole
26 it had made mostly concealed the 2 rainy
27 days--the 9th & 10th--but today I found it
28 its head & legs drawn in & quite motionless
29 against the edge of the seive^. I put it
30 so that you would have said the pulses of life had not fairly begun to beat--
31 into the ~~tub~~ tub on the edge of the mud.
32

⁷⁴"?" possibly inserted

⁷⁵Correct spelling: "sternothoerus"

⁷⁶Possible short line

1
 2 It seems that it does not have to learn
 3 to walk--but walks at once-- It seems
 4 to have no infancy--such as birds have. It
 5 is surprising how much cunning it already
 6 exhibits. It is defended both by its form &
 7 color & its instincts. As it lay on the mud
 8 its ~~fo~~ color made it very inobvious--but
 9 besides it kept its head & legs drawn in &
 10 perfectly still, as if feigning death. But
 11 this was not sluggishness. At a little
 12 distance I watched it for ten minutes or more.
 13 A length it put its head out far enough to
 14 see if the coast was clear--then with its
 15 flippers it launced itself toward the water (which
 16 element it had never seen before)--& suddenly
 17 & with rapidity turned itself into it
 18 & dove to the bottom-- Its whole behavior
 19 was calculated to enable it to reach its
 20 proper element safely [&] without attracting
 21 attention. Not only was it made of a
 22 color and form (like a bit of coal)
 23 but⁷⁷ which alone almost effectually con-
 24 cealed it--but it was made, infant as it
 25 was to be perfectly still as if inanimate
 26 and then to move with rapidity when unobserved.
 27 The oldest turtle does not show more, if so
 28 much cunning. I think I may truly say
 29

⁷⁷Either smudged or cancelled

1 that it ~~meditates~~--uses cunning & meditates
2 reach
3 how it may⁷⁸ the water in safety-- When
4 I first took it out of its hole on the morn. of
5 the 9th it shrunk into its shell & was motionless--
6 feigning death-- That this was not sluggishness
7 I have proved. When today it lay within half an
8 inch of the water's edge-- It knew it for a friendly
9 element--& without deliberation or experiment,
10 but at last, when it thought me and all
11 foes unobservant of its motions--with remarkable
12 as if realizing a long cherished idea
13 precipitation it committed itself to it^. Plainly
14 all its motions were as much the re-
15 sult of what is called instinct-- as is
16 the act of sucking in infants. Our own
17 subtlest is likewise but another kind
18 of instinct. The wise man is a wise infant
19 & never failing--
20 obeying his finest ^ instincts. It does not
21 so much impress me as an infantile be-
22 ginning of life--as an epitome of all the
23 past of turtledom and of the earth.
24 I think of it as the result of all the turtles
25 that have been
26 The little snap. turtle lies almost constantly
27 on the mud with its snout out of water--
28 It does not keep under water long. Yesterday
29 in the cold rain, however, it lay buried in the
30 mud all day!

⁷⁸Followed by false start

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Surveying this forenoon--I saw a small
round bright Some are red on one side
^yellow gall--^as big as a moderate cran-
berry--hard & smooth--saddled on a white
oak twig-- So I have seen them on
the swamp White--the chinquapin--& the
white. not to mention the cast steel-soap
one on the ilicifolia acorn edge--

This is a cold eve--with a white
twilight--& threatens frost. The first in
these respects decidedly autumnal evening.
It makes us think of wood for the
winter-- For a week or so the evenings have
been sensibly longer--& I am beginning to
throw off my summer idleness.

//

//

This twilight is succeeded by a brighter starlight
than heretofore--

Tuesday Sep 12

A cool overcast day threatening a storm--
Yesterday--after the 2 days cold rain the
air was very clear & fine grained-- This
is a phenomenon we observe now after dog days.
--until it is summed up in Ind. Summer.

Pm to Hub. Bath-- Methinks these
cool cloudy days are important to⁷⁹ show
the colors of some flowers--that with
an absence of light their own colors are
more conspicuous and grateful against

⁷⁹Blotted.

1 the cool moist dark green earth--the
2 A. puniceus--(the most densely massed) the
3 (now beginning to prevail) tradescanti--purple
4 gerardia &c &c-- The river has at length
5 risen perceptibly--and bathing I find it
6 colder again than on the 2nd ult--
7 So that I stay in but a moment--
8 I fear that it will not again be warm
9 The weeds in mid stream are mostly
10 drowned--& are washing up to the
11 shore--much valisneria⁸⁰ & heartleaf--
12 ~~are~~ (with its thread like stems) are added⁸¹ to
13 the previous wreck (v Sep. 5th)
14 A sprinkling drove me back for an
15 umbrella & I started again for Smith's
16 Hill--via Hub's Close. I see plump young
17 blue birds in small flocks along the fences
18 with only the primaries & tail a bright blue
19 the other feathers above dusky ashy brown
20 tipped with white. How much more the
21 crickets are heard a cool cloudy day like
22 this! Is it not partly because the air is stiller!
23 // I see the Epilobium molle? (linear) in Hub's Close
24 still out--but I cannot find a trace of the
25 fringed gentian. I scare pigeons from
26 Hub's oaks beyond-- How like the creaking
27 slight
28 of trees the ~~faint~~ sounds they make!-- Thus

⁸⁰Correct spelling: "vallisneria".

⁸¹Possibly written over another word

1
2 Not only
3 they are concealed. ^Their prating or quivet
4 is like a sharp creak--but I heard a sound
5 or cracking
6 from them like a dull grating ^ of bough on bough.
7 small in the woods at
8 I see the aster (?)^ with ink black spots ~~near~~ the //

9 base of the leaves--(It looks like a dumosus, but has no
10 flowers.) Whit oak acorns have many of //

11 them fallen-- They are ~~are~~ small & very neat
12 light green
13 ^acorns--with small cups--commonly arranged
14 2 by 2 close together {drawing} often
15 with a leaf growing
16 out between them; but
17 frequently 3 forming a little
18 star with 3 rays looking very artificial
19 Some black scrub oak acorns have fallen &
20 ^A few black oak acorns also have fallen //

21 The red. oak began to ~~a~~ fall first.⁸²
22 Thorn apples are now commonly ripe⁸³ //

23 & the prinus berries are conspicuous.
24 Beside many white birch I now see
25 many chestnut leaves fallen & brown //

26 in the woods. There is now at last some
27 smell of fungi in the woods since the //

28 rains. On a white oake beyond Everett's
29 orchard by the road I see quite a flock
30 of pigeons & their blue black droppings
31 & their feathers spot the road-- The bare
32 limbs of the oak ap. attracted them--
33 though its--acorns are thick on the ground.
34 These are found whole in their crops. They swallow them whole.⁸⁴

⁸²Possible short line

⁸³This and following line bracketed in ink in right margin

⁸⁴This line probably added; entry currently in AL table

1 I should think from the droppings that
2 they had been eating berries. I hear that
3 Wetherbee caught 92 dozen last
4 // week. I see maple⁸⁵ viburnum berries
5 blue black with but little bloom--
6 no full cymes--& the cymes rather less
7 spreading than the other kinds. Some time.
8 Now especially the strong bracing scent
9 of the delicate fern by the Saw-mill Brook
10 path. Dicksonia? or a coarser. How
11 // long has the mitchella⁸⁶ been ripe? I see
12 many still perfectly green in the swamp.
13 Fruit of the damp & mossy forest floor
14 --ripening amid the now mildewy &
15 bracing fern scent of the damp wood.
16 shining
17 Medeola berries ^ black--or perhaps
18 on long peduncles
19 dark blue-black ? ^how long? The whorls
20 of leaves--now stand⁸⁷ empty for most
21 part like shallow saucers, with their
22 purple centers--& bare peduncles--
23 upland
24 I hear that many ^ plover have been
25 seen on the burnt Brook's meadow.
26 // Marsh speedwell & yel--beth star still out.
27 Wednesday Sep 13th 54
28 Pm to Great Fields
29 Many butternuts have⁸⁸ dropped--more
30 // than walnuts-- A few raspberries still fresh.

⁸⁵vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "spreading than..."

⁸⁶vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "Medeola..."

⁸⁷vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "purple centers..."

⁸⁸double vertical pencil lines through last 2 lines of page

1
 2 I find the large thistle--*Cirsium muticum* out //
 3 of bloom 7 or 8 rods perhaps N of the potatoe
 4 field & 7 feet W of ditch amid a clump of
 5 raspberry vines.

6 Thursday Sep. 14th 54

7 6 Am to Hill-- I hear a vireo still in //
 8 the elms. The banks have now begun fairly to
 9 be sugared with the *A. Tradescanti*. I get //
 10 very near a small dipper behind Dods--which
 11 sails out from the weeds fairly before me--then
 12 ^{crosswise the river}
 13 scoots over the surface ^ ~~through~~ throwing the
 14 water high--dives & is lost.--*A. v. lanceolata* //
 15 out on the meadow-- The sun soon after rising
 16 has gone into a mackerel sky this morning--
 17 and as I come down the hill I observe
 18 a singular mirage (?) There is a large
 19 dense field of mackerel sky with a straight
 20 ^{SE}
 21 & distinct edge--parallel with the ^ horizon
 22 & lifted above it ap. about double the
 23 height of the highest hills there--beneath
 24 this a clear sky--& lower still some level
 25 bars of mist which cut off the top
 26 of Pine hill--causing it to loom-- The top
 27 fringed with pines on account of the in-
 28 tervening lower mist is seen as it were
 29 above the clouds--appears much to high
 30 being referred to a far greater distance
 31 than the reality. Our humble scenery appears

1 on a grand scale-- I see the fair
2 forms of mighty pines standing
3 along a mt ridge above the clouds
4 and overlooking from a vast dis-
5 tance our low valley-- I think that the
6 image is not really elevated, but the
7 bars of mist below make me refer it
8 to too great a distance & therefore it
9 is seen as higher. The appearance of those
10 fine edged pines--a narrow strip of a
11 mt ridge half a mile in length, is
12 stupendous & imposing. It is as if we
13 lived in a valley amid the Himmaleh
14 mts--A vale of Cashmere. There
15 was a fog last night which I think
16 prevented a frost.

17 8 Am to op. Pelham's Pond
18 by boat-- Quite cool--with some wind from
19 E & SE.
20 Took a watermelon for drink. I see
21 upright
22 many new & perfect ^ cobwebs on the
23 Sium gone to seed by the side of
24 the river-- Now instead of haying they
25 are raking cranberries⁸⁹ all along the
26 river. The raker moves slowly along with
27 a basket before him into which he rakes
28 (hawling) the berries--& his wagon stands
29 // one side. It is now the middle of the

⁸⁹vertical pencil line through the rest of the page

1
2 cranberry season. ⁹⁰The river has risen about
3 a foot within a week--& now the weeds //
4 in mid stream have⁹¹ generally disappeared
5 washed away or drowned-- The ranunculus
6 stems & leaves are added to the floating wreck.⁹²
7 Now our oars leave a broad wake of
8 large
9 ^bubbles which are slow to burst-- Methinks
10 they are most numerous large & slow to
11 burst near the end of a warm & dry spell--
12 & that the water loses some of this tenacity in
13 a rain. But now we have had rain--
14 At any rate on the 4th ult, just after the
15 1st rains of the 1st & 2nd they would not readily
16 form to the hand. There is such a dif. in the
17 state of the water. As we go up the Clam
18 Shell reach I see the reflections of oaks
19 very much prolonged--by the fine ripple
20 -- Perhaps it is re-reflected from ripple to
21 ripple. The rain-bow portion of the
22 bayonet rush is just covered now by the
23 rise of the river-- This cooler morning
24 methinks the jays are heard more
25 Now that the pontederias have mostly
26 fallen the polygonums are the most
27 common & conspicuous flowers of
28 the river. The smaller one has not
29 shown more before. I see a stream

⁹⁰horizontal pencil line starts over "a foot..." and runs over this line at "The river..."

⁹¹vertical pencil line from here though line beginning "stems &..."

⁹²horizontal pencil runs under this line for width of page

1 of small⁹³ white insects in the air over
2 the side of the river-- W. Wheeler is burning
3 his hill by the Corner road.--just cut over--
4 -- I see the scarlet flame licking along
5 not in a continuous rank--but upright individual tongues
6 of flame
7 the ground--^undulating flashing
8 erect
9 forked--narrow ^ waves about the
10 size of a man or boy-- Next the
11 rising perpendicularly blue
12 ~~blue~~ smoke ^ against the pines--&
13 ~~fuscous~~ fuscous against the sky. Not
14 till high in the sky does it feel the southerly
15 wind-- When I look⁹⁴ around for those
16 light undersides of the crisped leaves
17 which were so conspicuous in the
18 drought 3 weeks & more ago-- I
19 see none⁹⁵-- Methinks they have not so
20 much flattened out again since the
21 rains--but have fallen--and that
22 thus there are two falls every year--
23 Those leaves which are curled by the
24 drought of July & August--ap. fall
25 about
26 with the first fall rains--~~near~~ the
27 first week of September--& those which
28 remain are green as usual--& go on
29 to experience their regular october change.
30 The only dif. this year will be that there
31 will not be so many leaves for the 2nd
32 // fall. The first fall is now over
33 e.g.(on the 17th I see that all those which had changed on Pine Hill have fallen
34 & many tree tops maple & chestnut are bare)

⁹³"small" possibly altered to upper case

⁹⁴vertical pencil line from here through length of page

⁹⁵Possibly altered

1
 2 ~~Going by Lees~~ Crossing F-- H. the reflections
 3 were very fine--not quite distinct but
 4 prolonged by the fine ripples made by an
 5 east wind just risen-- At a distance entering
 6 the pond we mistook some fine sparkles
 7 prob. of insects--for ducks in the water--
 8 they were so large
 9 ^which ~~seem~~ when we were nearer looking
 10 down ~~more~~ at a greater angle with
 11 the surface--wholly disappeared-- Some
 12 large leaved willow bushes in the meadow
 13 SE of Lee's reflected the light from the
 14 under sides of a part of their leaves--as if
 15 frost covered--or as if white asters were
 16 mingled with them. We saw but two
 17 white lilies on this voyage--they are now done. //
 18 about a dozen pontederia spikes--no Mika-
 19 nia--(that is now white or grey) ~~The f~~ 4 or
 20 5 large yel. lilies & 2 or 3 small yel-
 21 lilies. The B. Beckii is drowned or dried
 22 up--& has given place to to the Great
 23 Bidens the flower & ornament of
 24 the river sides at present--& now
 25 in its glory--especially at I. Rice's
 26 shore--where there are dense beds.
 27 It is a splendid yellow Channing says
 28 a lemon yellow--& looks larger than
 29 more or less ~~or {so}~~
 30 it is (2 inches in diameter^--)~~or~~

1 Full of the sun-- It needs a name
2 tufts of
3 I see ^ ferns on⁹⁶ the edge of the meadows
4 at a little distance--handsomely
5 tipped on edge with cinnamon brown--
6 --like so many brown fires--they light
7 up the meadows-- The button bush every
8 where yellowing-- We see half
9 a dozen herons in this voyage--
10 Their wings are so long in prop. to their
11 bodies--that there seems to be more
12 than one undulation to a wing ~~at~~ as
13 they are disappearing in the distance &
14 so you can distinguish them. You see another
15 begun before the first has ended. It is re-
16 markable how common these birds
17 are about our sluggish & marshy river--
18 we must attract them from a wide section
19 of country-- It abounds in those fenny
20 districts--& meadow pond holes in which
21 they delight-- A flock of 13 tell-tales--
22 great yel-- legs--start up with their
23 shrill whistle from the midst of the
24 great Sudbury meadow--& away they
25 or skimming
26 sail in a flock--(a sailing flock
27 showing their white tails
28 that is some thing rare methinks)^ to alight
29 in a more distant place-- We see some
30 small dippers & scare up many ducks

⁹⁶vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "where yellowing..."

//

1
2 --black mostly--which prob. came as soon as
3 the earliest-- The great bittern too rises from
4 time to time slowly flapping his way along
5 at no great height above the meadow--
6 The small polygonum is first particularly
7 abundant in the bend above the coreopsis--
8 but it is greatest abundance & perfection
9 at 3/4 through the great meadow
10 --in great beds 1 to 3 rods wide very
11 or 8
12 dense & now rising but 6 ^ inches or so above
13 See swallow like a barn swallow
14 the water. It is now ap. in perfection.
15 Counted 20 haycocks in the Great meadow
16 on staddles, of various forms--
17 {drawing} tied round with hay ropes--
18 --they⁹⁷ are pituresque objects in the meadow--
19 Little as the river has risen these meadows
20 are already wet-- ~~what is~~ The Phragmi-
21 tes is still green. Why does not that
22 %It does. V July 31 59%
23 large typha above the Causeway bear fruit?
24 Just above the Mill Village Bridge
25 there is an interesting view of Nobscot
26 clad with wood--up the broad meadows
27 on Larned Brook--which comes in
28 there-- Above the Pelham Pond bridge
29 a short distance further we dined.
30 Then went one An interesting view &
31 part of the river--quite broad at the
32 Great Chestnut house--& a good

⁹⁷Possibly altered from "these" or "there"

1 land just before on the left. Went half
 2 a mile or more above the chestnut
 3 // house-- Plenty of hibiscus out of bloom
 4 just above the Chestnut house on the
 5 W side--& some op. some elms where
 6 we had dined--all in Wayland.
 7 // What is that large sharply 3 angular
 8 % v July 31 '59%
 9 hollow sided sedge about 4 feet high
 10 on the N edge of the river in mid of the
 11 great Meadow?--coarse grass like somewhat.
 12 We went up 13 or 14 miles at least &
 13 as we stopped at F. H. Hill. returning rowed
 14 about 25 miles today.
 15 Sep 15
 16 Pm to boat under F. H. Hill & down river
 17 // Desmodium? or lespedeza ticks cover my clothes.
 18 I know not when I get them. The Witch
 19 // Hazel has opened since the 8th say 11th XXX.
 20 It was abundantly out the 14th (yesterday) on Wachusett mt where it is prob. more
 21 exposed to the sun & drier. Sophia was there
 22 Its the leaves 1/3 or 1/2 of them are yel. and brown
 23 // S. speciosa at Clam-shell out several days.
 24 Goodwin the one-eyed fisherman is back again
 25 at his old business--(& Haynes also) he
 26 says he has been to Cape Cod a-haying.
 27 He says that their "salt grass ^{cuts} about
 28 the same with our fresh⁹⁸ Meadow."
 29 // Saw a chewink.
 30 Mrs Mowatt, the actress, describes a fancy
 31 ball in Paris, given by an American Millionaire,
 32 at which "One lady -- -- --wore so many

⁹⁸Followed by possible cancelled period

1 makes about 3 months before they came out
2 The nest was full of sand & egg shells. I saw no tracks of the old one--
3 of the ground. ^I took out the remaining one--
4 which perhaps could not get out alone--&
5 it began slowly to crawl toward the brook about
6 5 rods distant. It went about 5 feet in as
7 At this rate it would have reached the water in a couple of
8 hours at most
9 many minutes. ^ Then being disturbed by my moving,
10 stopped--& when it started again retraced its steps--crossed
11 the hole which I had filled and got into a rut
12 leading toward another part of the brook--
13 It climbed directly over some weeds & tufts of grass in its way
14 about 10 rods dist. ^Now & then it paused--stretched
15 out its head looked round--& appeared to be
16 deliberating--waiting for information or listening
17 to its instinct. It seemed to be but a blunder-
18 ing instinct which it obeyed--and as if it
19 might be easily turned from its proper course
20 Whenever I took it up it drew in its head & legs ~~and so~~ shut its
21 eyes & remained motionless
22 --Yet in no case did it go wholly wrong-- ^It
23 was so slow that I could not stop to watch
24 it--& so carried it to within 7 or 8 inches of
25 the water--turning its head inland. At length
26 it put out its head & legs--turned itself round--
27 crawled to the water, & endeavored as soon as it
28 entered it to bury itself at the bottom--but
29 it being sand it could not. I put it
30 further into the stream--& it was at once
31 carried down head over heels by the current.
32 I think they come out in the night.
33 // Another little sternothaerus has come out of the ground
34 since ~~no~~ 8 this morning (It is now 11 Am)
35 Another the 18th bet 8 & 11 Am
36 Am
37 (Another Sep 17th found in morning.) another " " " 11 ^ & 1 Pm.¹⁰⁰

¹⁰⁰This added material carries over to bottom of p. 47. It probably belongs in LR table and is not currently in AL table.

1 of obscurity & poverty which I have enjoyed
2 so long--(& may still perhaps enjoy--)
3 I thought with what more than
4 princely==with what poetical leisure I
5 had spent my years hitherto--without
6 care or engagement--fancy free--
7 I have given myself up to nature-- I have
8 tried so many Springs & summers & autumns
9 and winters as if I had nothing else
10 to do but to live them--& imbibe whatever
11 nutriment they had for me-- I have
12 spent a couple of years, for instance,
13 with the flowers chiefly, having none
14 other so binding engagement as to
15 observe when they opened-- I could have
16 afforded to spend a Whole fall observing
17 the changing tints of the foliage
18 Ah how I have thriven on solitude &
19 poverty-- I cannot overstate this ad-
20 vantage. I do not see how I could
21 have enjoyed it--if the public had
22 been expecting as much of me as there
23 is danger now that they will-- If
24 I go abroad lecturing how shall
25 I ever recover the lost winter?
26 It has been my vacation--my sea-
27 son of growth & expansion--a prolonged

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youth--
An upland plover goes off from Conantum
top--though with a white belly--uttering
a sharp white, tu white.

That drought was so severe that a
few trees--here & there--birch--maple--chest-
nut--apple--oak--have lost nearly all
their leaves. I see large flocks of robins
with a few flickers--the former keeping
up their familiar peeping & chirping.
Many pignuts¹⁰⁵ have fallen-- Hardhack
is very ~~generally~~ commonly putting forth
new leaves--where it has lost the old. They
are half an inch or 3/4 long & green the
stems well. The stone-crop fruit has for
a week or more had a purplish or pinkish(?)
tinge by the roadside--

//

//

//

Fallen acorns in a few days acquire
shining
that wholesome ^ dark chestnut(?)
color-- Did I see a returned yellow¹⁰⁶ redpoll?
fly by?
I saw some nights ago a great
deal of light reflected from a fog
bank over the river upon Monroes
white fence--making it conspicuous
almost as by moonlight from my
window.

Scarlet oak {drawing} acorn commonly
a broader cup--%V. another figure%
with more shelf Sep. 20th %in fall of 58%
Windy rainstorm last night.

¹⁰⁵pencil line through "pignuts"
¹⁰⁶"yellow" written over another word

1
 2 They are handsomest looking
 3 up from below-- --the light
 4 concealed by the green leaves.¹⁰⁷ ^ through them
 5 %{chinquapins some scarlet}%
 6 With this bright clear but rather cool
 7
 8 air--the bright yellow of the aut. dandelion
 9 is in harmony--& the heads of the dilapidated
 10 golden rods. The gentian is already frost-
 11 bitten%?? almost as soon as it is open-- Those
 12 pretty little white oak acorn¹⁰⁸ stars of 3 rays
 13 are now quite common on the ground.
 14 L.
 15 Utricularia (the leafless) abundant & dort- //
 16 manna still out at F Pond. That //
 17 small erect milfoil is very abundant now
 18 the pond is low near the bathing rock.
 19 I hear many jays since the frosts began //
 20 The nuthatch is common in woods & on street-- //
 21 Hear the chewink & the cluck of the thrasher //
 22 I sometimes seem to myself
 23 all for which men commend me
 24 to owe all my little ^ success to my
 25 vices. I am perhaps more willfull than
 26 others--and make enormous sacrifices
 27 even of others' happiness it may be to gain
 28 even
 29 my ends-- It would seem ^ as if nothing
 30 good could be accomplished without
 31 some vice to aid in it.
 32 The leaves of the wild¹⁰⁹ cherry being sound & entire
 33 handsome
 34 are in some places a particularly ^ clear uniform
 35 what you may call cherry red. perhaps
 36 inclining to crimson (perhaps like the stain of cherry
 37 juice. %v Sep 30% %V. Chestnut--%

¹⁰⁷Slanted line follows "leaves.", probably to set off added material.

¹⁰⁸pencil line through "acorn"

¹⁰⁹vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "inclining to..."

1 I am surprised to see how many
2 leaves in the woods have been apparently
3 by some instinct
4 eaten through on the edges^--leaving only a
5 contrasting with the green centers
6 faded net-work of veins there.^ In some
7 places almost every leaf of the young
8 white oaks (and {scrub} black or shrub oak)
9 & chestnuts has this very handsome &
10 regular pale edging ~~of net~~ as of lace
11 work-- ~~it is~~ It is about 1/12 of an inch
12 in diameter and is exceedingly sigular
13 following strictly the outline of the leaf
14 however cut or lobed--by nature or accident.
15 and preserving the same width. As these
16 leaves (of young oaks &c.) are commonly several
17 together in one plane disposed ray-wise
18 rosettes
19 ^the effect of this edging is enhanced--
20 These young leaves are still of a clear &
21 delicate--& now somewhat precious green.
22 The extreme edge is left firm & entire
23 pulp of the
24 & the ^ leaf is eaten through only just within
25 it.

26 Friday Sep. 22nd 54
27 not withstanding some fog at same time--
28 // Another hard frost this morning--^and
29 another fine day after it

30 Pm Over Nawshawtuct. The river is pe-
31 culiarly smooth & the water clear--& sunny--
32 stone
33 as I took from the ^ bridge. A painted tortoise
34 outside of the--
35 with his head out--(where there are no) weeds--
36 looks as if resting in the air in that attitude--
37 or suggests it. an angle of 45° with

1
2 head & flippers outstretched. I see no particular
3 effects of frost on the Pontederias--they have
4 been falling steadily without regard to it--
5 It would be worth the while to observe all
6 the effects of the 1st frosts--on vegetation &c. &c.
7 Celtis berries begin¹¹⁰ to yellow. As I look off
8 from the hill-top I wonder if there are any finer
9 days in the year than these-- The air is so fine
10 & more bracing--& the landscape has acquired some
11 fresh verdure withal¹¹¹. The frosts come to
12 ripen the year the days like¹¹² fruits--persimmons.
13 What if we were¹¹³ to walk by sun-
14 light with equal abstraction--& aloofness--
15 yet with equally impartial observation
16 %As if it shone not for you nor you for it--but you had come forth%
17 and criticism. %^%By moonlight we are not
18 %into it for the nonce--to admire it--%
19 of the earth earthy--but we are of the earth
20 be sunlight
21 spiritual-- So might we (walk (by \day,\ seeing
22 the sun but as a moon--a comparatively
23 & reflected
24 faint ^ light--and the day as a brooding night.
25 in which we glimpse some stars still.
26 Some shrub oak acorns are prettily rayed
27 --green & yellowish--some wht oak ones
28 are turned salmon color--or blushing like
29 the leaves-- Grape¹¹⁴ leaves in¹¹⁵ low grounds are
30 frostbitten & crisped before they have yellowed.
31 %V. top 3 ps forward%
32 Crossing the hill behind Minott's
33 just as the sun is preparing to dip below the

¹¹⁰pencil line through "begin"

¹¹¹Possibly altered from something, "in the"?

¹¹²pencil line through "like"

¹¹³vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "are turned..."

¹¹⁴Altered from "Graped"?

¹¹⁵vertical pencil line through this and following line

1 horizon--the thin haze in the atmosphere,
2 north & south along the W. horizon ~~5~~^W
3 reflects a purple tinge--& bathes the mts
4 with the same--like a bloom on fruits--
5 I wonder if this phenomenon is observed in warm
6 weather--or before the frosts have come. Is it not
7 another evidence of the ripe days? I saw it yesterday.

8 I am surprised to see balls on the scarlet
9 oak. Its acorn & cup are peculiarly top
10 -shaped--the point of the acorn being the bottom.
11 The cup is broader than in the black oak--
12 making a broader shelf about the acorn--&
13 is more pear shaped or prolonged at top-- The acorn
14 is not so rounded but more tapering at point.

15 And some scarlet oak leaves which I have
16 their two main veins or diverging ribs nearly oppo-
17 a leaf
18 ¹¹⁶site--while in ~~the~~ black oak ^ these veins &
19 nearly
20 hence lobes are not ^ opposite

21 By moonlight¹¹⁷ all is simple--
22 we are enabled to erect ourselves--our
23 minds on account of the fewness of objects--
24 We are no longer distracted. It is simple
25 as bread & water-- It is simple as the rudiments
26 of an art-- A lesson to be taken before
27 sun-light perchance--to prepare us for
28 that.

29 Sep 23rd 54

30 Pm to Great Meadows via Gowing's Swamp.
31 I was struck with the peculiar & interesting
32 colors of the naked arms of the button
33 wood at the brick house--delicate tints

¹¹⁶"Not general" written in pencil vertically in the left margin.

¹¹⁷vertical pencil line from here through end of day's entry

1
2 seen from the ground--whitish--greenish--
3 & fawn (?) colored-- They look as if recently bared
4 The button woods are
5 by the scaling off of the old bark. in a flourishing condition
6 this year. The first time.
7 My pink azaleas which had lost their leaves //

8 in the drought are beginning to leave out again.

9 The Helianthus tuberosus (Jerusalem Artichoke) //

10 beyond Moore's shows a little yellow--but will not
11 Low
12 open then for some days yet. ^Blackberry vines
13 generally red. There are many lice on birches //

14 still notwithstanding the frosts. The high blue-
15 berry bushes scattered here¹¹⁸ & there--the higher islands--
16 in Beck Stows swamp--begin to paint it bright
17 red-- Now look out for redness on the face
18 of the earth--such as is seen on the cheek of
19 the sweet viburnum--or as frosty morning
20 walk imparts to a man's face-- Very brilliant
21 & remarkable now are the prinus berries--~~when~~
22 so brilliant & pert--when most things
23 flowers & berries have withered. I gather pretty
24 good wild pears near the New Road--now //

25 in prime. The C. sericea bushes along the //

26 edge of the great meadows--are now turned
27 mulberry--& here is an end of its berries then.
28 The hard frosts of the 21st & 22nd have put an
29 end to several kinds of plants & prob.
30 berries for this year-- This is the crisis when
31 many kinds conclude their summer--.

¹¹⁸vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "in prime...."

1 Bull says it is only the¹¹⁹ miniature leaves of his
 2 new grape--which are crisped by the frost as yet.
 3 Here on the east edge of the great meadows--
 4 all the Flowering¹²⁰ fern is turned brown & with-
 5 ered--(I am not sure but it began before the frost)
 6 & the common Eupatoriums are a very
 7 dark brown or black for the same reason.
 8 All along the river the upper half of the
 9 // button bushes is turned brown & withered
 10 in consequence of the frost--while many other
 11 plants in their midst are untouched-- As
 12 it began late, it falls early. Its balls are
 13 // equally browned & may now be said to be ripened
 14 by frost-- After those frosts a day's sun revealed
 15 what mischief the frost had done--by the
 16 withering & blackened leaves. Many plants
 17 fall with the first frosts¹²¹--Grapes--button-bushes
 18 what else? Prob. some asters & g. rods.¹²²
 19 // Monroe has shot a loon today.
 20 Sunday Sep. 24.
 21 // 6 Am to Hill.
 22 Low fog--like veil on meadows--¹²³
 23 On the large sassafras trees¹²⁴ on the hill--
 24 clubshaped
 25 I see many of the handsome red ^ pedicels
 26 left--with their empty cups which have held
 27 fruit--& I see one or 2 elliptical but
 28 // still green berries-- Ap. the rest have ripened
 29 or been gathered by birds
 30 & fallen ^ already--unless the fell prematurely.
 31 Grey says that the berries are dark blue &
 32 ripen in September.
 33 // Catnip still in bloom. Hear the flicker note.
 34 // See a song-sparrow like bird singing

¹¹⁹vertical pencil line through this and the following lines

¹²⁰vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "withering &..."

¹²¹pencil line through "first frosts"

¹²²"Prob. . . . rods." possibly added

¹²³"Low . . . meadows--" possibly added

¹²⁴vertical pencil line from here through end of paragraph

1 The button bushes¹²⁸ thus withered,
2 covered still with the gray already withered
3 suddenly
4 mikania--^ paint with a rich brown
5 the river's brim-- It is like the crust, the
6 edging of a boy's turn over done brown--
7 And the Black willows--slightly faded
8 & crisped with age or heat--enhance my
9 sense of the years maturity-- There
10 where the land appears to lap over
11 the water--by a mere edging--these
12 thinner portions are first done brown--
13 I float over the still liquid middle.
14 I have not seen any such conspicuous
15 effect of frost as this sudden withering
16 of the button bushes. The muskrats make
17 haste now to rear their cabins & conceal
18 themselves. %Looking over the {woods} {backward} & {forward} from a hill top}
19 %V VII--114% %westward}%
20 // I see still what I take to be small
21 flocks of grakles--feeding beneath the
22 covert of the button bushes--& fitting
23 from bush to bush. They seldom expose them-
24 selves long-- The water begins to be clear
25 of weeds & the fishes are exposed. It is
26 now too cold to bathe with comfort--yet
27 the clams have not gone down-- The river is
28 still low-- I scared up a duck (wood?)
29 side
30 (white under ^ wings) which circled round 4 times
31 middle times
32 2^ce high in the air--a diameter of 100 rods--&
33 finally alighted with a long slanting flight
34 near where it rose.
35 The sumach (though I have not observed

¹²⁸vertical pencil line through end of paragraph

1
 2 the poison (venenat)¹²⁹ are now turned before
 3 trees. Green briar berries--ripe blue black or
 4 purplish--ap with the frosts of 21st & 22nd

5 The red maple leaves along the river are
 6 much curled & show their whitish undersides
 7 even more than a month ago--owing prob.
 8 to their age as well as the summer's drought
 9 (from which last they had partly recovered)
 10 a fortnight (?) ago

11 (Saw a warbler which inquisitively approached //
 12 me creeper-wise along some dead brush twigs--
 13 It may have been the pine creeping warbler--though
 14 I could see no white bars on wings-- I should say
 15 all yel-- olivaceous above--clear lemon yellow
 16 throat & breast--& vent (?) narrow white ring round
 17 eye--black bill straight--clay col (?) legs--edge
 18 of wings white)

19 Young hickories pretty generally--& some black oaks
 20 are frost bitten--but no young white oaks--
 21 %Look {now} at a { } {flood} hill side--{it also &} { }--{&} it is variously
 22 {tintted}--clad%
 23 %all in a { } {of any colors as burst forth} in its {cap}%
 24 On the shruboak plain under Cliffs--the
 25 young wht oaks are generally¹³⁰ now tending to
 26 a dull inward red-- The ilicifolia generally
 27 green still with a few yellowish or else
 28 young
 29 scarlet leaves-- The ^ black oaks with many
 30 red--scarlet--or yellowish leaves-- The
 31 chinquapin pretty generally a clear brilliant
 32 dark red-- The same with ~~sea~~ a few twigs
 33 of the scarlet oak, but not brilliant i.e.
 34 glossy-- The tupelo green--reddish¹³¹ & brilliant
 35 scarlet all together-- The brightest hazel
 36 dim vermillion. Some red maple sprouts

¹²⁹vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "to their..."
¹³⁰vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "chinquapin..."
¹³¹pencil lines cancel "green--reddish" and "together-- The brightest" in the following line

1 clear scarlet deepening to purplish--

2 The panicled cornel¹³² green with a tinge of
3 reddish purple--

4 Only these young trees & bushes are yet
5 conspicuously changed--

6 The tupelo & the chinquapin the most
7 brilliant of the above-- The scarlet oak
8 the clearest red.

9 But little bright S nemorosa is left--
10 It is generally withered or dim.

11 What name of a natural object
12 is most poetic? That which he has given
13 for convenience--whose life is most nearly
14 related to it--who has known it longest
15 & best.

16 The perception of truth--as of the du-
17 ration of time &c--produces a pleasur-
18 able sensation--

19 Sep 25th 54

20 Pm to boat op Bittern Cliff via Cliffs.

21 I suspect that I know¹³³ on what the
22 brilliancy of the autumnal tints will--
23 depend-- -- On the greater or less drought
24 of the summer-- If the drought has been
25 uncommonly severe, as this year, I should
26 think it would so far destroy the vitality
27 of the leaf that it would attain only to a
28 dull dead color in autumn--that to
29 produce a brilliant autumn the plant should
30 be full of sap & vigor to the last.

¹³²vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "conspicuously..."
¹³³vertical pencil line from here through bottom of page

1
2 Do I see an F. hiemalis in the deep cut-- //

3 it is a month earlier than last year

4 I am detained by the¹³⁴ very bright red blackberry

5 leaves strewn along the sod--the vine being incon-

6 spicuous-- How they spot it!

7 On the shruboak plain--as seen from

8 Cliffs the red at least balances the green.

9 It looks like a rich shaggy rug--now--before

10 several

11 the woods are changed. I see ~~many~~

12 smokes--in the distance--of burning brush (?) //

13 The button bush leaves¹³⁵ are rapidly falling--

14 & covering the ground with a rich brown

15 carpet. The pontederias too show decidedly //

16 the effect of the frost. The river is as low

17 ordinarily in summer--8 or 9 inches below the

18 long stone--& the ~~pink~~¹³⁶ stripe of the bayonet

19 rush--, now clear dark pink 8 or 9 inches wide,

20 is again exposed. Saw at a distance a

21 fox or an otter withdrawing from the

22 river side. I think that if that Au-

23 gust haze had been much of it smoke

24 I should have smelt it much more strongly,

25 strongly

26 for I now smell ^ the smoke of this burning

27 half a mile off though it is scarcely

28 perceptible in the air.

29 There was a splendid sunset while I

30 was on the water--beginning at the

¹³⁴vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "It looks..."
¹³⁵vertical pencil line through this and following lines
¹³⁶vertical pencil line through this and following lines

1 Clam Shell reach. All the lower edge
2 of a very broad dark slate cloud
3 which reached up backward almost to
4 the zenith--was lit up through & through
5 the sun being below the horizon
6 with a dun golden fire^--like a furze
7 plain densely on fire--a short distance
8 above the horizon--for there was a clear
9 pale robin's egg sky beneath--& some
10 on which the light fell
11 little clouds ^ high in the sky but nearer--
12 upper part of the
13 seen against the ^ distant uniform
14 dark slate one were of a fine greyish
15 silver color--with fine mother o'pearl
16 tints--unusual at sunset!?
17 The furze gradually burnt out
18 on the lower edge of the cloud--changed
19 into a smooth hard-pale pink ver-
20 million--which gradually faded
21 in to a grey satiny pearl--a fine
22 Quaker color. All these colors
23 were prolonged in the rippled reflection to
24 5 or 6 times their proper length-- The effect
25 was particularly remarkable in the case
26 of the reds--which were long bands of red
27 perpendicular in the water {drawing}
28 Bats come out 15 min after sunset--
29 // & then I hear some clear song sparrow strains
30 as from a fence post amid snows in early spring.
31 {2-3 blank lines}

1 %64%

2 The sassafras trees¹³⁹ on the hill are
3 wholly
4 now ^ a bright orange scarlet as
5 seen from my window--& the small
6 one elsewhere are also changed--

7 // Sweet briar hips¹⁴⁰ ripe X--

8 As I complain that the voyager
9 to arctic regions--in his description
10 of the scenery does not enough re-
11 directly or indirectly of the peculiar dreariness of the scene or
12 mind the reader^--of the perpetual
13 twilight of the arctic night--so he whose
14 theme is moonlight--will find it
15 %as he should%
16 difficult to illustrate it %^% with the light
17 %exclusively%
18 of the moon alone--

19 Sep 29th '54

20 Pm-- To Lees Bridge via Mt Misery &
21 return by Conantum--

22 Yesterday was quite warm requiring
23 the thinnest coat-- To day is cooler. The
24 // elm leaves have in some places more than
25 half fallen--& strew the ground with¹⁴¹
26 thick molting beds--as front of Hubbards--
27 perhaps earlier than usual--

28 // Bass berries dry & brown¹⁴²-- Now is the time to gather
29 barberries--

30 Looking from the Cliffs--the young-oak plain
31 is now prob as brightly colored as it will be.
32 The bright reds appear here to be next the
33 ground, the lower parts of those¹⁴³ young trees
34 --& I find on descending--that it is com-
35 monly so as yet with the scarlet oak

¹³⁹vertical pencil line through line beginning "seen from..."

¹⁴⁰vertical pencil line through line beginning "of the moon..."

¹⁴¹"The dry year" written vertically in pencil up the right margin along this and the two previous lines.

¹⁴²vertical pencil line from here through bottom of page

¹⁴³"those" possibly "these"

1
 2 which is the brightest¹⁴⁴-- It is the ~~the~~ lower
 3 1/2 or 2/3 which have changed--and this
 4 is surmounted by the slender still green
 5 top. In many cases these¹⁴⁵ leaves have ~~b~~ only
 6 begun to be sprinkled with bloody spots &
 7 stains-- Sometimes as if¹⁴⁶ one had cast
 8 up a quart of blood from beneath--&
 9 stained them. I now see the effect of that
 10 long drought on some young oaks--especially
 11 black oaks-- Their leaves¹⁴⁷ are in many instances
 12 all turned to a clear & uniform brown
 13 having so far past their vitality--but still
 14 plump & full veined & not yet withered--
 15 Many are so affected & of course show
 16 no bright tints-- They are hastening to a pre-
 17 mature decay-- The tops of many young
 18 white oaks which had¹⁴⁸ turned--are already
 19 withered ap. by frost. Saw 2 either pig. or
 20 sparrow hawks--ap male & female--the one
 21 much larger than the other. I see in many
 22 places the fallen leaves quite thickly covering //
 23 the ground in the woods. A large flock of //
 24 crows wandering about & cawing as
 25 usual at this season-- I hear a very pleasant
 26 & now unusual strain on the sunny side
 27 of an oak wood from many--I think F.
 28 hiemalis (?) though I do not get a clear view

¹⁴⁴vertical pencil line through line beginning "begun to..."
¹⁴⁵Altered from "the"
¹⁴⁶Possibly altered from another word
¹⁴⁷vertical pencil line through line beginning "withered..."
¹⁴⁸Altered from "are"

1 of them-- Even their slight jingling strain--
2 is
3 ~~sounds~~ remarkle at this still season.

4 // -- The catbird still mews-- I see 2
5 ducks alternately diving in a smooth
6 water near the shore of F. H. P. Sometimes
7 // both are under at once-- The milkweed down
8 is flying at Clematis ditch.

9 This evening is quite cool & breezy with a
10 prolonged white twilight--quite Septem-
11 berish.

12 When I look at the stars nothing
13 which the astronomers have said
14 attaches to them, they are so simple
15 & remote-- Their knowledge is felt¹⁴⁹
16 to be all terrestrial & to concern the
17 earth alone-- It suggests that
18 the same is the case with every object
19 however familiar--our so called knowledge
20 of it is equally vulgar & remote.

21 One might say that all views
22 through a telscope or microscope¹⁵⁰ were
23 purely visionary--for it is only by his
24 eye & not by any other sense--not
25 by his whole man, that the beholder
26 is there where he is presumed to be--
27 It is a disruptive mode of viewing
28 as far as the beholder is concerned.

¹⁴⁹Possibly altered from "fell"

¹⁵⁰Possibly underlined

1 Oct 16th '54
2 In the streets the ash & most of
3 the elms trees are bare of leaves--
4 The red maples also for the most part
5 ap. at a distance-- The pines too have fallen--

6 Oct 19th 54
7 7 1/4 Am To Westminster by cars--
8 thence on foot to Wachuset--mt--
9 4 ms to Fosters & 2 ms thence to mt
10 top by road. The country above
11 Littleton--(ploughed ground) more
12 // or less sugared with snow--the first
13 I have seen-- We find a little on the
14 mt top. The prevailing tree on
15 this mt-- top & all is ap. the red
16 oak--which toward & on the top is
17 very low & spreading. Other trees
18 & shrubs which I remember on the top
19 are beech--P. tremuliformis--Mt
20 ash--(Looking somewhat like sumac) witch
21 hazel--white & yellow birch--white pine
22 Most of the deciduous woods look as if dead
23 Black spruce &c^{155^} On the sides
24 beside red oak, are rock maple
25 beech
26 yellow birches--lever wood^--chestnut--
27 shag bark--hemlock--striped maple
28 witch-hazel--&c &c--

¹⁵⁵In MS, caret written underneath dash.

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With a glass you can see vessels in Boston Harbor--from the summit--just north of the Waltham hills.

2 white asters the common ones not yet quite out of bloom--A-- acuminatus & perhaps cordifolius? hearted with long sharp teeth. The geranium Robertsonianum in bloom ~~under~~ below the woods on the east side.

Oct 20th Saw the sun rise from the mt top-- This is the time to look westward--all the villages--steeple & houses on that side were revealed-- But on the east all the ¹⁵⁶landscape was a misty & gilded obscurity-- a glowing obscurity It was worth the while to see Westward the countless ~~w~~ hills & fields all ap-- flat now white with frost.

A little white fog marked the site of many a lake--& the course of the Nashua--& in the east horizon the Great Pond¹⁵⁷ had its own fog mark in a long low bank of cloud.

Soon after sunrise I saw the pyramidal shadow of the mt reaching quite across the state ~~to th~~¹⁵⁸--its apex resting on the Green or Hossac¹⁵⁹ Mts--appearing as

¹⁵⁶Preceded by cancelled false start, poss. "cl".
¹⁵⁷Possibly altered to upper case
¹⁵⁸A hook shaped mark written before the dash: poss. a false start.
¹⁵⁹Correct spelling: "Hoosac"

1 a deep blue section of a cone
2 there--{drawing} It rapidly contracted
3 & its apex approached the mt itself
4 --& when about 3 miles distant the
5 whole conical shadow was very distant--
6 The shadow of the mt makes some
7 minutes dif-- in the time of sunrise to
8 the inhabitants of Hubbardston within
9 // a few miles west.
10 F hiemalis how long?
11 Saw some very tall & large dead
12 chestnuts--in the wood between Fosters
13 & the mt. Wachuset Pond appeared
14 the best place from which to view the
15 Our host had picked 34 bushels of
16 // mt--(from a boat--) shag barks last year. For the most
17 part they do not rattle out yet--but it
18 is time to gather them on account¹⁶⁰ of squirrels
19 now is the time.
20 Oct 22nd This & the last 2
21 // days--Ind-- Summer weather--following
22 sprinkling of Concord
23 hard on that ^ snow west of ~~us~~¹⁶¹.
24 Pretty hard frosts¹⁶² these nights--
25 // many leaves fell last night--& the
26 assabet is covered with their fleets.
27 Now they rustle as you walk through them
28 in the woods. Bass trees are bare--
29 the redness of huckleberry bushes is past its
30 // prime-- I see a snapping turtle not
31 yet in winter quarters-- -- The chicadees
32 are picking the seeds out of p. pine
33 cones.

¹⁶⁰vertical pencil line through this and following interlined line

¹⁶¹Followed by a canceled high period.

¹⁶²vertical pencil line through line beginning "the redness..."

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Oct 25th

On Assabet-- The maples being
bare the great hornet-nests are ex-
posed-- A beautiful calm Ind. Sum-
mer afternoon--the withered seeds
on the brink reflected in the water--

Oct 26th Pm to Conantum--

As warm as summer-- Cannot wear
a thick coat-- (Sit¹⁶³ with windows open)
I see considerable gossamer on the
causeway & elsewhere-- Iis it the
tree sparrows whose jingle I hear?

As the weather grows cooler & the
woods more silent, I attend to the
cheerful notes of chicadees on their sun-
ny sides. Apple trees are generally bare--
ash
as well as bass^--elm--maple--

//

Sat Oct 28-- The¹⁶⁴ woods begin

to look bare reflected in the water--
& I look far in between the stems of
the trees under the bank. Birches
which began to change & fall so early
are still in many places yellow.

²⁹
Sunday^--detected¹⁶⁵ a large

Eng. cherry in Smiths woods beyond
Saw Mill Brook by the peculiar fresh
orange scarlet color of its leaves--now

¹⁶³Possibly altered from "Set" or another word
¹⁶⁴vertical pencil line through line beginning "the trees..."
¹⁶⁵vertical pencil line through bottom of page

1 that almost¹⁶⁶ all leaves are quite
2 The same in gardens
3 // dull or withered-- ^ The gooseberry
4 leaves in our garden¹⁶⁷ & in fields are
5 equally & peculiarly fresh scarlet--
6 Oct 31st. Rain--still warm--
7 // Ever since Oct 27th we have had remarka-
8 bly warm & pleasant Ind summer--
9 with frequent frosts in the morning-- Sat
10 with open window for a week.
11 ~~Oct~~ Nov. 1st It is a little cooler.
12 Thursday Nov. 2nd
13 Pm by boat to Clam-
14 Shell. I suspect the clams are partly
15 gone down (?). May not this movement
16 contribute to compell the muskrats to
17 erect their cabins near the brink or
18 channel in order still to be near their
19 food. Other things being equal they
20 would have to swim further than before
21 to get the clams in the middle--but
22 now in addition the water is beginning
23 to rise & widen the river.
24 I see larks hovering over the meadow
25 & hear a faint note or two--& a
26 pleasant note from tree sparrows (?)

27

¹⁶⁶"lm" lost in dry strokes

¹⁶⁷vertical pencil line through this and following lines

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Sailing past the bank above the RR
a clear Close to the shore on the E side
just before ^ sundown-- ^I see a 2nd
fainter shadow of the boat sail myself
& upon
& paddle &c directly above ^ the first--
on the bank. What makes the 2nd?
I at length I discovered that it was
the reflected sun which cast a higher
shadow like the true one--
As I moved
{drawing} to the west
side--the upper
shad rose grew larger & less perceptible.
& at last when I was so near the
W shore that I could not see
the reflected sun--it disappeared--
but then there appeared one upside
down in its place!
Nov 4th Saw a shrike //
in an apple tree with ap. a
worm in its mouth-- The shad bush //
buds have expanded into small leafets
on
already-- This while surveying ^ the
old Colburn Farm.
Sunday Nov 5th-- To White Pond
with Ch. Wheeler. Passing the mouth
of John Hosmer's hollow near the
river--was hailed by him & Anthony Wright

1 sitting there--to come & see where
2 they had dug for money. There was
3 a hole 6 feet square & as many
4 deep--and the sand was heaped about
5 over a rod square-- Hosmer--said
6 that it was dug 2 or 3 weeks before
7 --that 3 men came in a chaise &
8 dug it in the night-- They were seen
9 about there by day. Some body dug
10 near there in June & then they covered
11 up the hole again. He said they
12 had been digging thereabouts from
13 time to time for a hundred years.
14 I asked him Why. He said that
15 Dr Lee (who hid where Joe Barrett did)
16 told him that ^{Old} a¹⁶⁸ ^ Mr Wood. who
17 lived in a house very near his (Hosmer's)
18 told him that one night in Capt--
19 Kid's day--3 pirates came to his
20 house with a pair of old fashioned
21 deer-skin breeches--both legs full
22 of coin--& asked leave to bury it
23 in his cellar. He was afraid & refused
24 them. They then asked for some ear-
25 thern pots & shovels & a lanthon
26 which he let them have. A woman
27

¹⁶⁸Possibly altered to "an"

1
 2 in the house followed the pirates at a
 3 distance down the next hollow on the
 4 south--& saw them go along the meadow
 5 side & turn up this hollow--& then being
 6 alone & afraid she returned. Soon
 7 after the men returned with the tools
 8 and an old fashioned hat full of
 9 holding
 10 the coin (^ about a quart) which
 11 they gave to Wood. He being afraid
 12 buried it in his cellar but after
 13 ward becoming a poor man dug it
 14 up & used it. A bailiff mad some
 15 inquiry hereabouts after the pirates.
 16 Hosmer said that one thing which
 17 confirmed the diggers in their belief
 18 was the fact that when he was a little
 19 boy--plowing one day with his father
 20 on the hill-side they found 3 old fashioned
 21 bottles bottom upward but empty under
 22 the plow. Somebody consulted Moll--
 23 Pitcher¹⁶⁹--who directed to ~~at~~ dig at
 24 a certain distance from an apple
 25 tree on a line with the bottles & there
 26 they would find the treasure.

27 I think it is the fox-col. sparrow //
 28 I see in flocks--& hear sing now--
 29 by woodsides

¹⁶⁹Altered from lower case

1 Nov 6th Surveying on Colburn Place
2 // -- It is suddenly cold. Pools frozen so
3 as to bear--& ground frozen so that
4 it is difficult if not impossible to force down
5 a stake in plowed ground. Was that a
6 fish-hawk I saw flying over the Assabet--
7 or a goshawk? White beneath, with slender
8 wings.
9 Nov. 8th I can still rake
10 // clams near the shore--but they are chiefly
11 in the weeds I think. I see a snipe-like
12 bird by river side this windy Pm--which
13 goes off with a sound like creaking
14 tackle
15 Nov. 10 Pm Sail to Ball's
16 Hill--with W. E. C. See where the
17 muskrats have eaten much pontederia
18 // root. Got some donasia¹⁷⁰ grubs
19 for Harris--but find no chrysalids.
20 The sight of the masses of yellow
21 hastate leaves & flower buds of the
22 yellow lily--alrready 4 or 6 inches
23 long at the bottom of the river--reminds
24 me that nature is prepared for
25 an infinity of springs yet.
26 Nov. 11 Minott heard
27 // geese go over night before last

¹⁷⁰Correct spelling: "donacia"

1
 2 about 8 Pm. Therien too heard them
 3 where he is cutting
 4 "%yelling like anything%" over Walden^ the
 5 same evening. He cut down a tree
 6 with a flying squirrel on it--after sees
 7 them. Receive this eve. a letter
 8 in French--& 3 "ouvrages" from
 9 the Abbè Rouquette in Louisiana.

10 Nov. 13 It has rained hard
 11 the 11-12. & 13th & the river is at last
 12 10th
 13 decidedly rising. On Friday ^ it was //
 14 still at summer level.

15 Nov 14th The river is slightly over
 16 the meadows. The willow twigs on the
 17 right of the red bridge cause-way are bright
 18 greenish & yellow & reddish as in the spring. //
 19 Also on the right rr. sandbank at Heywood's
 20 meadow-- Is it because they are preparing
 21 their catkins now against another spring?¹⁷¹

22 The first wreck line--of pontederia--spar- //
 23 ganum &c is observable.¹⁷²

24 Nov. 15 The first snow, a mere //
 25 sugaring which went off the next morn-
 26 ing.¹⁷³

27 Nov 16. Pm sailed to Hubbard's
 28 Bridge. Almost every muskrat's house
 29 is covered by the flood--though they
 30 were unusually high, as well as numerous.--

¹⁷¹horizontal pencil line below this line for width of page

¹⁷²horizontal pencil line below this line for width of page

¹⁷³ Followed by canceled false start.

1
 2 To Philadelphia--
 3 Nov 20th 7 Am--to Boston--
 4 9 Am Boston to ~~Phil~~ New York--by express
 5 train land route-- See the reddish soil
 6 (red sandstone?) all through Connecti-
 7 cut-- Beyond Hartford a range of
 8 rocky hills crossing the state on each
 9 side the RR-- The E one very precipitous
 10 & ap terminating at E rock at N. Haven.
 11 Pleasantest part of the whole route
 12 Between Springfield & Hartford along
 13 the river--perhaps include the hilly
 14 region this side of Springfield. Reached
 15 Canal Street at 5 Pm. or Candlelight.
 16 Started for Philadelphia from foot
 17 of Liberty St-- at 6 Pm--via Newark &c
 18 &c--Bordentown--&c &c Camden-ferry--to
 19 Phil--all in the dark-- Saw only the
 20 glossy pannelling of the cars reflected
 21 out into the dark like the mag-
 22 nificent lit facade of a row of edifices
 23 reaching all the way to Philad.--
 24 except when we stopped & a lanthorn
 25 or two showed us a ragged boy & the
 26 dark buildings of some New Jersey town--
 27 Arrive at 10 Pm--Time 4 hours from
 28 NY--13 from Boston--15 from Concord.

1 Put up at Jones' Exchange Hotel
2 77 Dock Street-- Lodgings 37 1/2
3 per night--meals separate Not
4 to be named with French's in NY.
5 Next door to the fair of the Franklin
6 Institute then open--& over against the
7 Exchange--in the neighborhood of the
8 printing offices.

9 Nov 21st

10 Looked from the Cupola of the State House
11 where the Declaration of Ind. was declared.
12 The best view of the city I got-- Was interested
13 grey & black
14 in the squirrels ^ in Independence & Washing-
15 ton squares-- (Heard that they have or
16 have had deer in Logan square--) The
17 squirrels are fed and live in boxes in the
18 trees in the winter.

19 Fine view from Fairmount waterworks--
20 hypothenuse on the
21 The line of the ^ gable end of Girard College
22 was ap deflected in the middle 6 inches
23 or more--reminding me of the anecdote
24 of the church of the Madeline in Paris.

25 Was admitted into the ~~Cha~~
26 Building of the Academy of Nat. sciences
27 by a Mr Durand of the botanical depart
28 ment-- Mr Furness applying to him.
29 The carpenters were still at work ad

1
 2 !
 3 ding 4 stories ^ (of galleries) to the top--
 4 These 4--(Furness thought all of them) I
 5 am not sure but Durand referred to one
 6 side only) to be devoted to the birds.

7 It is said to be the largest collection of
 8 birds in the world--. They belonged to the
 9 son of Massena (Prince of Essling?) and
 10 were sold at auction--& bought by
 11 a Yankee for \$22000 over ^{all} ^ the ~~heads~~
 12 crowned heads of Europe--& presented to
 13 the Academy. Other collections also are added
 14 to this. The Academy has received great
 15 donations.
 16

17 There is Mortons collection of Crania
 18 with I suppose a cast from an Ind skull
 19 found in an Ohio mound.

20 A Polar bear killed by Dr. Kane.
 21 A male moose not so high as the fe-
 22 male which we shot-- A European
 23 elk--(a skeleton) about 7 feet high--with
 24 horns each about 5 feet long & tremen-
 25 dously heavy.

26 Grinders &c of the mastodon giganteum
 27 from Benton Co. Missouri. &c &c--

28 Zinzinger was named as of the geological
 29 department.

30 In Phil & also N.Y. an orna-
 31 mental tree with bunches of seed vessels

1 supplying the place of leaves now--I sup-
2 pose it the Ailanthus--or Tree of Heaven.

3 What were those trees with long black
4 sickle-shaped pods? I did not see
5 Steinhauser's Bird family--at St Stephen's
6 Church. The Am Phil. Society is des-
7 cribed as a company of old women.

8 In the narrow market houses in
9 the middle of the streets was struck by
10 the neat looking women marketers with
11 full cheeks-- Furness described a
12 lotus identical with an Egyptian one
13 as found some-where down the river be-
14 low Philadelphia-- Also¹⁷⁴ spoke of
15 a spotted chrysalis which he had
16 also seen in Mass. There was
17 a mosquito about my head at night.

18 Lodged at the U.S. Hotel of the
19 Girard (formerly U.S.) Bank.

20 Nov. 22nd Left a 7 1/2 Am
21 for NY--by boat to Tacony & rail via
22 Bristol--Trenton--Princeton (nearby) N. Brunswick
23 Rahaway--Newark &c¹⁷⁵--Uninteresting except
24 the boat. The country very level--(red
25 sandstone (?) sand--) ap. all N. Jersey
26 except the N part. Saw wheat stubble
27 & winter wheat come up like rye.

¹⁷⁴ "Also" possibly altered from "also", or vice versa
¹⁷⁵"&c" written after false start

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Was that James T. weed with a prickly burr?--
 seen also in Connecticut? Many Dutch
 barns {drawing} Just after leaving Newark
 bet the RR & the Kill
 an extensive marsh ^ full of the arundo phrag-
 mitis--I should say--which had been burnt over--
 Went to Crystal Palace--admired
 the houses on 5th avenue--the specimens of
 coal at the Palace--one 50 feet thick
 as it was cut from the mine--in the form
 square
 of a ^ column.--iron & copper oar &c--
 sculptures
 Saw ~~statues~~ & paintings innumerable--&
 armor from the tower of London--some of the
 8th century. Saw Greeley--Snow the com-
 mercial editor of the tribune--John Robinson--
 Fry the musical critic &c--and others
 Greeley carried me to the New opera
 house--where I heard Grisi & her troupe
 First at Barnum's Museum I saw
 the Camelopards said to be one 18 the
 other 16 feet high I should say the highest
 The body was only about 5 feet long.
 stood about 15 feet high at most. (12
 why has it horns but for ornament
 or 13 ordinarily) ^Looked through
 his diorama--& found the houses
 all over the world much alike--
 Greely appeared to know & be known
 by everybody--was admitted free to
 the opera & ~~were~~ were led by a page
 to various parts of the house at dif. times

1 Saw at museum some large flakes
2 // of cutting arrowhead stone made into a
3 sort of wide cleavers--also a hollow
4 stone tube prob from mounds.
5 6
6 Nov 27th 54
7 // What that little long sharp nosed mouse
8 I found in the Walden road today--~~white~~
9 ~~tawn dark~~ brown above grey beneath--black
10 incisors 5 toes with claws on each foot--long
11 snout with small blunt black extremity--many
12 moustachios--eyes far forward feet light or
13 dirty white--tail 1 1/2 inches long ~~to~~ whole length
14 3 3/4 inches--on causeway.
15 Nov. 28 Paddled to Clam Shell
16 Still very clear & bright as well as comfortable
17 weather-- River not so high as on the 16th ult
18 // Were those Plover which just after sunset
19 flew low over the bank above the RR & a-
20 lighted in the op. meadow--with some white in
21 tails like larks--graybirds--rather heavier than
22 robins?
23 Nov 30th Pm Sail down river
24 No ice but strong cold wind--river slightly
25 // over meadows-- Was that large diver which
26 was on the edge of the shore & scooted away down
27 stream as usual--throwing the water about for a
28 some time
29 quarter of a mile--then diving--^afterward

1
 2 flying up stream over our head--the goosander
 3 or red-breasted merganser?-- It was
 4 large with I should say a white breast--long
 5 reddish bill--bright red or pink on sides or
 6 beneath--reddish brown crest--white speculum
 7 --upper part of throat dark--lower white with
 8 breast--

9 Dec 2nd Got up my boat &
 10 housed it--ice having formed about it. //

11 Sunday Dec 3d--The first
 12 snow of consequence fell in the evening--
 13 wind NE
 14 very damp^--5 or 6 inches deep in
 15 morning. After very high wind in the night.
 16 Snow birds in garden in the midst of
 17 the snow in the P. m.

18 Dec 4th Pm down RR. to Walden

19 Walden went down quite rapidly about //

20 the middle of November--leaving the isthmus
 21 to Emerson's meadow bare-- Flint's has been
 22 very low all summer-- The NE sides of the
 23 trees are thickly incrustated with snowy
 24 shields--visible afar--(the snow was
 25 so damp--> At Boston it turned to rain)--
 26 This had not of the dry delicate powdery
 27 beauties of a common first snow.
 28 Already the bird-like birch scales dot the snow
 29 Dec 5th

30 Very cold last night-- Probably //

31 river skimmed over in some places.

1 The damp snow with water beneath
2 (in all (5 or 6 inches deep & not drifted
3 notwithstanding the wind) is frozen solid
4 // making a crust which bears well--
5 This I think is unusual at this stage
6 of the winter.

7 Dec 6th to Providence--to lecture--
8 thick
9 I see ^ ice and boys skating all the
10 way to Providence--but know not
11 when it froze I have been so busy writing
12 my lecture--prob. the night of the 4th.
13 // In order to go to Blue Hill by Prov. RR--
14 stop at Readville Station (~~ap~~ Dedham
15 low Plain once) 8 miles: The hill ap
16 2 miles East. Was struck with
17 the Providence depot--its towers & great
18 length of brick-- Lectured in it.

19 Went to R. Williams Rock on the
20 Blackstone with Newcomb--& thence
21 to hill with an old fort atop in Seekonk
22 Mass-- on the E side of the Bay whence
23 fine
24 a ^ view down it. At Lectures spoke
25 with a Mr Clark--& Vaughn
26 & Eaton--

27 After lecturing twice this winter
28 I feel that I am in danger of
29 cheapening myself--by trying to

1
2 become a successful lecturer--i.e. to
3 interest ~~the~~ my audiences. I am dis-
4 appointed to find that most that
5 I am & value myself for is lost
6 or worse than lost on my audience.
7 I fail to get even the attention of the
8 mass. I should suit them better if
9 I suited myself less. I feel that the
10 public demand an average man--
11 average thoughts & manners--not
12 originality--nor even absolute excellence.
13 You cannot interest them except as
14 you are like them--& sympathize
15 with them. I would rather that
16 my audience come to me--than
17 that I should go to them--and so
18 they be sifted--i.e. I would rather
19 write books than lectures-- That
20 is fine--this coarse. To read to
21 promiscuous
22 am ^ audience who are at your
23 mercy--the fine thoughts you solaced
24 yourself with far away--is as violent
25 as to fatten geese by cramming--&
26 in this case they do not get fatter--
27 through
28 Dec 7th Walked to ^ Olney-ville in
29 Johnstone 2 1/2 or 3 miles west of Providence.

1
 2 the river is open when I look from
 3 the light--by contrast with the surrounding
 4 white, the ice & snow--! a black artery
 5 here and there concealed under a pellicle
 6 of ice. Went over the fields on the
 7 crust to Walden--over side of Bear-
 8 Garden--already foxes have lef their tracks--
 9 How the crust shines afar, the sun now
 10 setting. There is a glorious clear sunset
 11 sky--soft and delicate & warm even like
 12 a pigeon's neck. Why do the mts never
 13 look so fair as from my native fields?

14 Dec 9th Surveying for T.

15 Holden--a cold morning-- What is
 16 that green pipes on the side-hill at Nut- //
 17 about a dozen rods
 18 It forms a dense bed ^along the side of the bank in the woods, a rod in width rising
 19 Meadow on his land--looking at first
 20 to 10 or 12 feet above the swamp.
 21 like green briar cut off. Equisetum hiemale
 22 Scouring rush--Shave grass
 23 White Pond mostly skimmed over. //

24 The scouring rush is as large round as
 25 a bull-rush--forming dense green beds
 26 conspicuous and interesting above the
 27 snow--an evergreen rush.

28 C. says he saw 3 larks on the 5th ult. //

29 Dec 10th

30 Pm to Nut Meadow-- Weather warmer
 31 snow softened-- Saw a large flock of
 32 snow-buntings--(quite white against //
 33 woods at any rate) though it is quite warm.

1 // Snow fleas in paths--First¹⁷⁶ I have seen
2 -- Hear the small wood pecker's whistle--
3 not much else--only crows & partridges
4 else--& chickadees. How quickly the snow
5 feels the warmer wind-- The crust which
6 was so firm & rigid--is now suddenly
7 softend--& there is much water in the road.
8 Dec 11th Pm to Bare Hill.
9 // C says he found Fair Haven frozen over
10 %how much before?
11 // last Friday i.e. the 8th%^%-- I find Flint's
12 frozen today--& how long?
13 We have now those early still clear
14 winter sunsets over the snow-- It is but
15 mid afternoon when I see the sun
16 setting far thro' the woods--and there
17 is that peculiar clear vitreous greenish
18 sky in the west--as it were a molten
19 gem-- The day is short--it seems to be
20 composed of two twilights merely--the morn-
21 ing & the evening twilight make the whole
22 day-- You must make haste to do the work
23 of the day before it is dark-- I hear rarely
24 a bird except the chickadee--or perchance
25 a jay or crow-- A gray rabbit scuds away
26 over the crust in the swamp on the
27 edge of the Great Meadows beyond Peters.
28 A partridge goes off--& coming up
29 I see where she struck the snow

¹⁷⁶Possibly altered from lower case

1 spring, as in summer--but instead of that
2 dark green ground absorbing the light is
3 this abrupt white field of ice. We see so
4 little open & smooth water at this season
5 that I am inclined to improve such an op-
6 portunity to walk along the river, and
7 moreover the meadows being more or less
8 frozen make it more feasible than in
9 summer. I am singularly interested by the
10 sight of the shrubs which grow along rivers
11 rising now above the snow--with buds
12 & catkins--the willows--alders--sweet-
13 gale &c. At our old bathing place on
14 // the Assabet Saw 2 ducks which at
15 length took to wing-- They had large dark
16 heads--dark wings--& clear white breasts
17 I think they were buffel-headed or spirit ducks.

18 Dec 15
19 Up river side via Hub. bath P. m.
20 // I see again a large flock of what I
21 called buntings on the 10th--Also another
22 flock surely not buntings--perhaps F. linarias.
23 May they not all be these? How interesting a
24 on the shore
25 few clean dry weeds ^ a dozen rods off seen
26 distinctly against the smooth reflecting water
27 between ice. I see on the ice half a dozen
28 rods from shore a small brown striped
29 // grub--and again a black one 5/8 inch
30 long. ~~How~~ The last has ap. melted quite

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a cavity in the ice. How came they there?

I saw on the 11th an abundance¹⁷⁷ of dried huckleberries on Bare Hill--still holding-- They are such as dried ripe prematurely on account of the drought. I do not perceive any sweetness. How handsome the narrow regularly toothed brown leaves of the sweet-fern now above the snow--! Handsome in their seer state--. The buds of the bass are pretty now they are a clear light red on short ash (?) ~~sprouts~~ twigs.

Dec 18th 54

P. m. Down RR--via Andromeda Ponds to river-- Snowed a little finely last night & this forenoon-- I see a few squirrels tracks in the woods--& here & there in one or two places where a mouse's gallery approached the surface. The powdery surface is broken by it. I am surprised to find in the Andromeda ponds--especially the westernmost one N side an abundance of Decodon or swamp loose strife.

Where a partridge took to wing I find the round red buds of the high blueberry plucked about the swamps.

Dec 19th

Pm Skated 1/2 mile up Assabet & then to foot of Fair Haven Hill. This is the first tolerable skating. Last night

//

¹⁷⁷vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "of the drought..."

1 was so cold that the river closed up
2 almost everywhere--and made good
3 skating where there had been no ice to
4 catch the snow of the night before.
5 on the sides
6 First there is the snow ice^--~~wh~~ somewhat
7 rough & brown or yellowish
8 spotted where the water overflowed
9 the ice on each side yesterday--& next
10 over the middle the new dark smooth
11 ice--And where the river is wider
12 thick
13 than usual a ^ fine grey ice--marbled--
14 prob.
15 where there there was ^ a thin ice yesterday
16 --probably the top froze as the snow
17 fell. I am surprised to find how rapidly
18 & easily I get along--how soon I am
19 at this brook or that bend in the river
20 which it takes me so long to reach on
21 the bank or by water. I can go more
22 than double the usual distance before
23 dark-- It takes a little while to learn
24 to trust the new black ice-- I look
25 for cracks to see how thick it is--
26 Near the island I saw a muskrat
27 close by swimming in an open reach--
28 He was always headed upstream
29 a great proportion of the head out
30 of water {drawing} and its

1 brown or dusky above streaked with yellowish
2 white or ash and more or less white or
3 ash beneath. Most had a crimson crown
4 or frontlet & a few a crimson neck & breast,
5 very handsome. Some with a bright crimson
6 crown had clean white breasts-- I suspect
7 that these were young males. They keep
8 up an incessant twittering varied from time
9 to time with some mewling notes, and occasionally
10 for some unknown scaring they will all suddenly
11 dash a way with that universal loud note
12 (twitter--) like a bag of nuts. They are busily
13 clustered in the tops of the birches picking the
14 seeds out of the catkins--and sustain themselves
15 in all kinds of attitudes--sometimes
16 head downwards while about this. Common
17 as they are now--& were winter before last--I saw
18 none last winter.

19 Dec 20th 7 Am to Hill. Said¹⁷⁸
20 to be the coldest morning as yet. The river appears
21 to be frozen everywhere-- Where was water last
22 night is a firm bridge of ice this morning.

23 The snow which has blown on to the ice has taken
24 the form of regular star shaped crystals
25 an inch in diameter-- Sometimes these are ar-
26 ranged in a spear 3 feet long quite straight
27 I see the mother o'pearl tints now at sun-
28 rise, on the clouds high over the east-
29 ern horizon before the sun has risen above
30 the low bank in the east. The sky in

¹⁷⁸Possibly right flush

1

2 The eastern horizon has that same greenish
 3 which it has at sundown--
 4 vitreous gem-like appearance^--as if it were
 5 of perfectly clear glass--with the green tint of a
 6 large mass of glass. Here are some crows already
 7 seeking their breakfast in the orchard--& I hear
 8 a red-squirrel's reproof. The woodchoppers
 9 far off
 10 are making haste to their work^--walking
 11 fast to keep warm--before the sun has
 12 risen--their ears & hands well covered--
 13 the dry cold snow squeaking under
 14 their feet. They will be warmer after
 15 they have been at work an hour.

16 P. m. Skated to Fair Haven
 17 with C. C's skates are not the best,
 18 and beside he is far from an easy skater
 19 so that as he said it was killing work
 20 for him. Time & again the perspiration
 21 actually dropped from his forehead onto
 22 the ice--& it froze in long icicles on
 23 his ~~beed~~ beard-- Yet he kept up his
 24 spirits & his fun-- Said he seen much
 25 more suffering than I--&c &c

26 It has been a glorious winter day.
 27 Its elements so simple--the sharp clear
 28 air--the white snow every where covering
 29 the earth--& the polished ice--
 30 cold as it is--the sun seems warmer on
 31 my back even than in summer--as if

1 its rays met with less obstruction.
2 And then the air is so beautifully
3 still--there is not an insect in
4 the air--& hardly a leaf to rustle.
5 you are sure to detect it
6 If there is a grub out ^ on the snow or
7 ice.
8 The shadows of the clam shell hills
9 are beautifully blue as I look back
10 half a mile at them. And in some
11 places where the sun falls on it, the
12 snow has a pinkish tinge.
13 I am surprised to find how fast the dog
14 can run in a straight line on the ice.
15 I am not sure that I can beat him
16 on skates--but I can turn much
17 shorter--
18 It is very fine skating for the
19 most part--all of the river that
20 before
21 was not frozen ^ & therefore not
22 covered with snow on the 18th--is now
23 frozen quite smoothly-- But in some
24 places for a quarter of a mile it
25 is uneven like frozen suds--
26 in rounded pancakes as when
27 bread spews out in baking.
28 At sundown ~~it~~ or before, it begins
29 It is so cold that only in one place did I
30 to belch. see a drop of water flowing out on the
31 ice.

Dec 21st. '

Pm. To Walden & Fair H. Ponds & down river--

I snowed slightly this morning so as to cover
the 1/2 inch deep-- Walden is frozen over ap. //

about 2 inches thick-- It must have frozen
the whole of it since the snow of the 18th probably
the night of the 18th. It is very thickly what C
9 those
10 calls ice-rosettes i.e. ^ small pinches of crystallized
11 snow--as thickly as if it had snowed in
12 that form-- I think it is a sort of hoar
13 frost on the ice. It was all done last
14 night--for we see them thickly clustered
15 about our skate tracks on the river
16 --where it was quite bare yesterday.

We are tempted to call these the finest days
of the year. Take Fair Haven Pond for-
19 instance--a perfectly level plain of white
20 snow--untrodden as yet by any fisherman.
21 surrounded by snow clad hills--dark
22 evergreen woods--& reddish oak leaves--
23 so pure & still-- The last rays of the
24 sun falling on the Baker Farm reflect
25 a clear pink color-- I see the feathers
26 of a partridge strewn along on the
27 snow a long distance. The work of
28 some hawk perhaps for there is no
29 track.

1 What a grovelling appetite
2 for profitless jest & amusement
3 our countrymen have! Next to a
4 good dinner, at least, they love a
5 good joke. to have their sides
6 tickled--to laugh sociably--as in the
7 east they bathe and are shampooed.
8 Curators of Lyceums write to me

9 Dear Sir--

10 I hear that you have
11 a lecture of some humor--will you
12 do us the favor to read it before the
13 Bungtown Institute--?

14 Dec 24th

15 Some 3 inches of snow fell last night
16 & this morning concluding with a
17 // fine rain--which produced a slight
18 glaze--the first of the winter. This gives
19 the woods a hoary aspect--& increases
20 the stillness by making the leaves immova-
21 ble even in considerable wind.

22 Dec 25th

23 To New Bedford via Cambridge.

24 I think that I never saw a denser growth
25 than the young white cedar in swamps
26 on the Taunton & New Bedford RR-- In most
27 places it looked as if there was not room
28 for a man to pass between the young

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trees-- That part of the¹⁷⁹ country is re-
The evergreen prinis very common in the low ground.
markably level & wooded.^ At N. B--saw
of oil
the ~~oil~~ casks ^ covered with seaweed to
prevent fire--the weed holds moisture.

Town not lively--whalers abroad at this
season.

- Ricketson has Bewick's British Birds 2 vols
- " AEsop's Fables 1 vol
- " Select Fables 1 vol larger
(partly the same)
- " Quadrupeds 1 vol.

Has taken some pains to obtain them. The
tail pieces were the attraction to him.
He suggested to Howitt to write his Abodes of
the poets.

Dec 26th

at Ricketsons

I do not remember to have ever seen
such a day as this in Concord. There is
no snow here (though there has been excellent
sleighbing at Concord since the 5th ult) but
it is very muddy--the frost coming out of
the ground as in spring with us. I went
to walk in the woods with R. It was
& the cockerels crowed
wonderfully warm & pleasant ^ just
as in a spring day at home-- I felt the
winter breaking up in me & if I had
been at home I should have tried to
write poetry. They told me that this

¹⁷⁹vertical pencil line from here through bottom of page

1 was not a rare day¹⁸⁰ there--that
2 they had little or no winter such as
3 we have--& it was owing to the in-
4 fluence of the gulf stream which was
5 only 60 miles from Nantucket at the
6 nearest--or 120 miles from them
7 In mid winter when the wind was SE or
8 even SW they frequently had days as
9 warm & debilitating as in summer-- There
10 is a dif. of about a degree in Lat. bet--
11 C. & N. B.--but far more in climate.

12 The American holly is quite common there
13 with its red berries still holding on--and
14 is now their christmas evergreen-- I heard
15 the larks sing strong & sweet & saw robins.
16 R. lives in that part of N. B. 3 miles N of
17 the town called The Head of the River--i.e.
18 the Acushnet River. There is a Quaker meeting
19 house there-- Such an ugly shed, without
20 a tree or bush about it--which they
21 call their meeting house--(without steeple
22 of course) is altogether repulsive to me--
23 like a powder house or grave. & even
24 the quietness & perhaps unworldliness of
25 an aged quaker has something ghostly
26 & saddening about it--as it were a mere
27 preparation for the grave.

28 R. said that pheasants from England
29 (~~to which~~ where they are not indigenous) had
30 been imported into Naushon--¹⁸¹& were now

¹⁸⁰vertical pencil line from here through bottom of page

¹⁸¹Dash over dash

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killed there.

Dec 27th

To Nantucket via Hyannis in misty rain.

On Cape Cod saw the hills through the mist covered with cladonias. A head wind & rather rough passage of 3 hours to Nantucket--the water being 30 miles over-- Capt. Edward W. Gardiner (where I spent the evening) thought there was a beach at Barnegat similar to that at Cape Cod. Mr Barney (formerly a Quaker minister there) who was at Gardiner's told of one Bunker of Nantucket ~~who~~ in old times "who had 8 sons, & steered each in his turn to the killing of a whale"-- Gardiner said you must have been awhaling there before you could be married--& must have struck a whale before you could dance. They do not think much of crossing from Hyannis in a small boat in pleasant weather--i.e. but they can ^ do it-- A boy was drifted across thus in a storm in a row boat about 2 years ago-- By luck he struck Nantucket.

The outline of the island is continually changing-- The Whalers now go chiefly to Behring's straits & everywhere bet 35 N & S lat. & catch several kinds of whales.

1 It was Edmund Gardiner of N. B. (a relative
2 of Edwards--) who was carried down by a whale--
3 & Hussey of Nantucket who, I believe, was one
4 to draw lots to see who should be eaten.

5 As for communication with the mainland
6 being interrupted Gardiner remembers when 31
7 mails were landed at once--which taking out
8 sundays--made 5 weeks & one day.

9 The snow 10 days ago fell¹⁸² about 2 inches
10 deep--but melted instantly.

11 At the Ocean House I copied from Wm
12 Coffin's map of the town 1834.--this
13 30.590 acres including 3 isles beside 1.050
14 are fresh ponds--about 750 peat swamp.
15 Clay in all parts--But only granite or gneiss
16 boulders. ~~Population of island over 80~~

17 Dec 28th

18 A misty rain as yesterday-- Capt. Gardiner
19 carried me to Siasconset in his carriage.
20 He has got from 40 to 45 or 50 bushels
21 of corn to an acre from his land. Wished
22 to know how to distinguish guinea cocks
23 from Guinea hens-- He is extensively engaged
24 in raising pines on the island. There
25 is not a tree to be seen--except such
26 as are set out about houses-- The
27 land is worth commonly from 1 dollar
28 to a dollar & a half. He showed me
29 several lots of his--of different ages

¹⁸²Altered from "was"

1
2 --one tract of 300 acres sewn in rows
3 2 yrs old
4 with a planter--where the young trees ^ were
5 just beginning to green the ground--& I
6 saw one of Norway pine & our Pitch--mixed
7 8 years old--which looked quite like
8 a forest at a distance-- ~~Some~~ The Nor-
9 with a longer shoot
10 way pines had grown the fastest ^ & had
11 a bluer look at a distance more like
12 the white pine. The com pitch pines have
13 a reddish crisped look at top. Some are
14 sown in rows some broad-cast. At first
15 he was alarmed to find that the ground
16 moles had gone along in the furrows
17 directly under the plants & so injured the
18 roots as to kill many of the trees ~~but~~
19 sowed
20 ~~enough surviv--~~ & he ~~planted~~ over again.
21 He was also discouraged to find that
22 a sort of spindle-worm had killed the
23 leading shoot of a great part of his
24 neighbors older trees. These planta-
25 tions must very soon change the
26 aspect of the island. His com. P. pine
27 Cape
28 seed obtained from the ~~nearest main~~
29 ~~land~~ cost him about 20 dollars
30 at least about a dollar a quart.
31 a bushel ^ with the wings--& they told him
32 it took about 80 bushels of cones to
33 make one such bushel¹⁸³ of seeds.

¹⁸³pencil line through "bushel"

1 I was surprised to hear that the Norway
2 imported from France had
3 pine seed without the wings ^ cost
4 not quite \$200 a bushel delivered at
5 New York or Philadelphia. He has
6 ordered 8 hogsheads!!! of the last clear¹⁸⁴
7 wingless seeds at this rate-- I think he
8 said it took about a gallon to sow an acre.
9 He had trid to get White pine seed, but in vain.
10 cones
11 They had not contained any of late (?).

12 This looks as if he meant to sow a
13 good part of the island though he said he
14 might sell some of the seed. It is an in-
15 teresting enterprise.

16 Half way to Siasconset I saw the old
17 corn hills where they had formerly cultivated.
18 --the authorities laying out a new tract
19 for this purpose each year. This
20 island must look exactly like a prairie
21 the view in clear weather
22 except that ^ it is bounded by the sea--
23 Saw crows--saw & heard larks frequently--
24 & saw robins--but most abundant
25 running along the ruts or circling
26 about just over the ground in small
27 flocks--what the inhabitants call
28 snow birds a grey bunting like
29 bird about the size of the snow bunting--
30 Can it be the Sea-side finch--? or
31 the Savannah Sparrow?--or the shore lark?
32 Gardiner said that they had

¹⁸⁴ Poss. "dear"

1
2 %k%
3 Pigeon--hen--& other haw%^s--but ~~where~~
4 there are no places for them to breed--
5 also owls, which must breed, for he
6 had seen their young. A few years ago
7 some on imported a dozen partridges
8 from the mainland--but ~~one had a~~
9 though some were seen for a year or 2 not
10 one had been seen for some time & they
11 were thought to be extinct. He thought
12 the raccoons which had been very numerous,
13 might have caught them. In Harrison's days
14 some coons were imported & turned loose--
15 & they multiplied very fast & became quite
16 a pest killing hens &c--& were killed
17 in turn-- Finally they turned out & hunted
18 them with hounds--& killed 75 at one time
19 since which he had not heard of any.
20 There were foxes once but none now--
21 & no indigenous animal bigger than a
22 "ground mole". The nearest approach to
23 woods that I saw was the swamps
24 where the blueberries maples &c are
25 higher than ones head. I saw as I rode
26 & maple in the swamps
27 High blueberry bushes--^huckleberries--
28 shrub-oaks--uva ursula (which he called
29 mealy plum) gaultheria--beach plum
30 --clethra--may-flower (well budded). Also

1 withered poverty grass--golden-rods--
2 asters-- In the swamps are
3 cranberries & I saw one carting the
4 vines home to set out.--which also
5 many are doing. G. described what he
6 made out to be "star-grass" as common.
7 Saw at Siasconset perhaps 50 little houses
8 but almost every one empty-- Saw some
9 peculiar horse carts for conveying fish up
10 the bank--made like a wheel barrow--
11 with a whole iron bound barrel for
12 the wheel--a rude square box for
13 the body resting on the shafts--&
14 the horse to draw it after him-- The barrel
15 makes a good wheel in the sand. They may
16 get sea weed in them. A man asked 37
17 cents for a horse cart load of sea weed
18 carried 1/4 mile from the shore. G.
19 pointed out the house of a singular old
20 hermit & genealogist Franklin Folger--
21 over 70 years old
22 ^who for 30 years at least has lived
23 alone & devoted his thoughts to genealogy--
24 He knows the genealogy of the whole island.
25 & a relative supports him by making
26 genealogical charts from his dictation for those
27 who will pay for them. ~~G. he~~ He at last
28 lives in a very filthy manner--& G. helped
29 clean his house when he was absent about 2
30 years ago-- They took up 3 barrels of dirt

1
 2 Ascended the light house at Sancoty head
 3 in his room.^ The mist still prevented my
 4 seeing off--& around the island. I saw
 5 the eggs (?) of some creature in dry masses
 6 as big as my fist like the skins of so many
 7 beans--on the beach. G. told me of
 8 a boy who a few years since stole near to
 9 some wild geese which had alighted &
 10 rushing on them seized 2--before they could
 11 rise--& though he was obliged to let one
 12 go--secured¹ the other.

13 Visited the museum at the Athenaeum
 14 various south sea implements--&c &c brought
 15 home by whalers.

16 The last Indian--not of pure blood--
 17 died this very month--& I saw his picture
 18 with a basket of huckleberries in his
 19 hand.

20 Dec 29th

21 Nantucket to Concord at 7 1/2 Am--still in
 22 ~~fi~~ mist. The fog was so thick that we
 23 were lost on the water--stopped & sounded
 24 ~~of~~ ^{1}
 25 many times. The clerk said the depth^
 26 varied from 3 to 8 fathoms bet the
 27 island & Cape. Whistled & ~~wait~~ listened
 28 for the locomotive's answer--but
 29 probably heard only the echo of our own
 30 whistle at first--but at last the

¹Possibly preceded by "h"

1 locomotive's whistle & the life boat bell.
2 I forgot to say yesterday that there was
3 at one place an almost imperceptible
4 rise not far west of Siasconset--to
5 or swell
6 a slight ridge ^ running from Tom Nevers
7 [John] This conceals the town of Nantucket
8 Head northward to ^ Gibbs' Swamp--^(John Gibbs was
9 the name of the Ind. Philip came after) This seen ~~throu~~
10 a mile off through the mist which concealed the
11 relative distance of the base & ~~sumit~~ summit
12 appeared like an abrupt hill--though
13 an extremely gradual swell--
14 At the end of Obed Macy's Hist of
15 Nantucket are some verses signed
16 "Peter Folger 1676" as for the sin
17 which God would punish by the Indian war
18 "Sure 'tis not chiefly for those sins
19 that magistrates do name,"
20 but for the sins of persecution & the like--the
21 banishing & whipping of godly men--
22 "The cause of this their suffering
23 was not for any sin,
24 But for the witness that they bare
25 against babes sprinkling."
26 x
27 x
28 x
29 "The church may now go stay at home,
30 there's nothing for to do;
31 Their work is all cut out by law,
32 and almost made up too."

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"'Tis like that some may think and say,
our war would not remain,
If so be that a thousand more
of natives were but slain.

Alas! these are but foolish thoughts;
God can make more arise,
And if that there were none at all,
He can make war with flies."

Dec 31st 54

Pm on river to F. H. P.

A beautiful clear not very cold day-- The
shadows on the snow an Indigo blue--
The pines look very dark. The wht oak leaves are a cinnamon
I see mice & rabbit & fox tracks on the
color--the black & red (?) oak leaves a reddish brown or leather
meadow Once a partridge rises from the
color--
alders & skims across the river at its widest
part just before me--a fine sight. On
the edge of A. Wheelers' cranberry meadow
I see the track of an otter track made since
yesterday morning.. How glorious the per-
fect stillness & peace of the winter landscape!

Jan 1st %55% P. m.²

Skated to Pantry Brook with C.
All the tolerable skating was a narrow strip often only 2 or 3 feet wide--bet. the
frozen spew & the broken ice of the middle--
Jan 2nd

I see, on the path near Goose Pond, where

²Possibly its own line

1 whistle
2 locomotives ^ & ~~the life boat's bell.~~³
3 the rabbits have eaten the bark of
4 smooth sumachs⁴ & young locusts--
5 also barberry
6 rising above the snow.^ Yesterday
7 we saw the pink light on the snow
8 within a rod of us-- The shadow
9 of the bridges &c on the snow was
10 a dark indigo blue--
11 Jan 4th 55
12 To Worcester to Lecture--
13 Visited the Antiquarian Library of 22 or 3
14 000 vols. It is richer in pamphlets & news-
15 papers than Harvard. One alcove contains
16 Cotton Mather's library--chiefly theologi-
17 cal works--reading which exclusively
18 you might live in his days & believe in
19 witchcraft--old leather bound tomes
20 many of them as black externally as
21 if they had been charred with fire. Time
22 & and fire have the same effect-- Haven
23 said that the Rev.⁵ Mr. Somebody
24 had spent almost every day ~~for~~ the past
25 a year in that ~~year~~ alcove.
26 Saw after my lecture a young
27 who introduced himself as
28 negro ^ a native of Africa--Leo L.
29 Lloyd--who lectures on "Young Afri-
30 ca!!" I never heard of anything but
31 old Africa before--

³This sentence is actually the first sentence on p. 112. T probably accidentally skipped a page when turning over pp. 110-111, started writing, recognized his mistake, cancelled this line, and turned back to p. 112 to continue his thought. Notice that "whistle" is online on p. 112 and was interlined with a caret here. There is now an AL written for this line; probably "whistle" should be emended out, and a TN written describing the situation.

⁴"sumachs" altered from "sumacs"

⁵Possibly altered from another word

1
 2 Higginson told me of a simple strong-
 3 minded man named Dexter Broad who
 4 was at my lecture whom I should see--

5 Jan 5th

6 A. m. Walked to Quinsigamond Pond
 7 via Quinsigamond Vill. to southerely end &
 8 returned by Floating Bridge-- Saw the straw-built
 9 wigwam of an Indian from St Louis (rapids?)
 10 Canada--ap a half breed-- Not being able to buy
 11 straw he had made it chiefly of dry grass which
 12 he had cut in a meadow with his knife. ~~The~~
 13 It was against a bank--& partly of earth all
 14 or grass
 15 round-- The straw^laid on horizontal poles--
 16 & kept down by similar ones outside like our
 17 thatching--makes them of straw often in Canada
 18 Can make one--if he has the straw--in one day.
 19 on hinges
 20 The door ^ was of straw also put on perpendicularly--
 21 pointed at top to fit the roof {drawing}
 22 The roof steep--6 or 8 inches thick. He
 23 ~~The~~
 24 was making baskets--~~Did not~~ wholly of
 25 Sugar Maple--could find no black ash.
 26 Sowed or bound the edge with maple also--
 27 Did not look up once--while were there.

28 There was a fireplace of stone oven like
 29 one side
 30 running out ^ & covered with earth
 31 It was the nest of a large meadow mouse--
 32 Had he ever hunted moose--when he
 33 was down at Green island⁶ (Greenland(?))⁷
 34 where was that oh far down--very

⁶"island" altered to "Island" in pencil

⁷"Greenland (?)" cancelled in pencil; parens not cancelled

1 far--caught seals there--No books
2 down that way."
3 Saw men catching minnows for fishing through large
4 holes in the ice of the Blac Stone
5 At Quinsigamond Vill. a Mr Washburn
6 showed me the wire rolling & drawing mill
7 in which he is concerned. All sorts of scrap
8 iron is first heated to a welding heat in
9 masses of about 200 weight--then
10 rolled between fast Iron rollers in successive
11 grooves till it is reduced to long rods ~~an~~ little
12 more than inch in diameter. These are
13 cut up by powerful shears into lengths of
14 about 3 feet--heated again⁸ & rolled
15 bet. other rollers in grooves successively
16 of various forms square oval, round
17 diamond & c {drawing} & c which part of the
18 work only one man in the concern fully
19 understood & kept secret-- It was
20 here rolled & reduced to a large sized
21 wire may 3/8 inch in diameter--of which
22 screws are made-- At this stage first
23 it begins to be drawn-- Though it must
24 be heated again in the course of the
25 drawing to restore its ductility. Make
26 a great deal of telegraph wire--&
27 for pail ~~pai~~⁹ bails--&c About
28 20 miles of Tel. wire in a day--of
29 the best Swedish iron for strength--

⁸"again" written over "&"

⁹lighter ink seems to read "pail" but then darker ink seems to reform the "a" and poss the tip of "p"

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Cannot make so good iron in this country
because we cannot afford to work it over so
much--labor being higher. Said they had but
few competitors now in making tel. wire--all the
mills in England being just now engaged in making
wire for telegraph bet. Eng. & sevastopol. These
were the first wheels turned by the Blackstone.
Sometimes their great wheel breaks--yielding
to the centrifugal force--) though it is one
mans duty to watch it & immense masses are
thrown through the roof or sides of the building
They commonly hear premonitory ~~sy~~ symptoms
when all run. I saw a part of the glowing
mass which had been heated to a welding
heat--~~but~~ ready to be rolled but had dropt
on its way-- I could still trace the outlines of
~~old screws~~ of the various scraps which com-
posed it--screws--bolts--bar iron--an old
axe curiously twisted &c &c all which by mere
pressure would have been rolled into a homo-
geneous mass-- It was now in the
condition of many a piece of composition
--which however mere compression would
weld together into a homogeneous mass.
--or a continuous rod. Washburn
said the workmen were like sailors
--their work was exciting & They drank

1 more spirit than other laborers--In hot
2 sometimes
3 weather would^drink 2 quarts of water an
4 hour--& sweat as much--If they would
5 not sweat left off work.

6 Showed me a peculiar coarse yellow sand which
7 they imported from the shore of Long Island--
8 where quartz examined by a microscope was seen to be
9 perfect crystals-- This they used to on the floor
10 of their furnace to repair & level it where
11
12 In the cavernous furnace I saw the roof dripping with ^{dark} ^ stalactites
13 from the mortar & bricks.
14 their iron bars had furrowed it.

15 In one place they boiled the wire in water &
16 vitriol which cleaned it and ate out
17 grease & other foreign particles.
18 drawn
19 Wire is hard ~~rolled~~--when it is rapidly reduced
20 ie from one size to another much smaller.

21 Higginson showed me a new transla-
22 tion of the Vishnu Sarma--Spoke of
23 the autobiography of %a% felon older than
24 Stephen Burroughs--one Fitch--of Revolutionary
25 days.

26 R. W. E told Mr Hill his classmate of
27 Banger who was much interested in
28 my Walden--but relished it merely as
29 a captital satire & joke--& even
30 thought that the survey & map of
31 the pond were (not real † but) a
32 caricature of the ~~er~~ Coast surveys.

1 Also of Mr. Frost the botanist of Brattle-
 2 boro--who has found 5 or 6 new species
 3 of lichens thereabouts¹⁰-- Geo. Emerson--
 4 is aware that he has confounded 2
 5 black oaks--one is found on Nantuck-
 6 et. Is it not the Q. nigra--& have we not
 7 got it in C.?

//

9 Jan 6th

10 Pm to Great Meadows

11 Saw one of those silver-gray cocoons
 12 which are so securely attached--by the
 13 silk being wound round the leaf stalk
 14 and the twig. This was more than a
 15 year old and empty--& having been
 16 attached to a red-maple shoot a foot
 17 or more above the meadow--it had
 18 girdled it just as a wire might, it
 19 & the wood had overgrown it on each side
 20 was so unyielding--^

21 What is that small insect with large
 22 slender wings which I see on the
 23 snow or fluttering in the air these
 24 days? Also some little black beetles
 25 on the ice of the meadow ten rods from
 26 shore

27 In many places near the shore
 28 the water has overflowed the ice to
 29 a great extent--and frozen again
 30 with water between of a yellowish tinge--
 31 in which you see motes moving about
 32 as you walk.

¹⁰stray mark preceding "t"

1 The skating is for the most part
2 spoiled by a thin crispy ice on top
3 of the old ice--which was frozen
4 in great crystals & crackles under
5 your feet-- This is ap. the puddles
6 produced by the late thaw & rain--which
7 froze thinly while the rest of the water
8 was soaked up. A fine snow
9 is falling--& drifting before the
10 wind over the ice & lodging in
11 shallow drifts at regular intervals

12 I see where a woodpecker has
13 drilled a hole about 2 inches over
14 in a decayed white maple--quite
15 recently--for the chippings are strewed
16 over the ice beneath--& were the
17 first sign that betrayed it. The
18 tree was hollow-- Is it for a nest next
19 season? There was an old hole higher
20 up.--

21 I see that the locust pods are
22 still closed or but partially open--but
23 they open wider after ~~being~~ lying in
24 my chamber--

25 Sunday Jan 7th
26 Pm JP Brown Road & Hub-Bridge.
27 Cloudy & misty--
28 On opening the door I feel a very warm

1
2 South westerly wind contrasting with the
3 cooler air of the house--& find it
4 & the manure is being washed off the ice into the gutter
5 unexpectedly wet in the street^-- It is in
6 fact a Jan. thaw-- The channel of the
7 river is quite open in many places, & in
8 others I remark--that the ice & water
9 alternate like waves & the hollow between
10 them-- There are long reaches of open water
11 where I look for muskrats & ducks, as
12 I go along to Clamshell Hill. I hear
13 the pleasant sound of running water--
14 I see that black scum on the
15 surface of water above the ice.

16 The delicious soft spring-suggesting
17 air--how it fills my veins with life
18 -- Life becomes again credible to me--
19 A certain dormant life awakes
20 in me--& I begin to love nature again.
21 Here is my Italy--my heaven--my New
22 England. I understand why the Indians
23 hereabouts placed heaven in the SW--
24 The Soft South. On the slopes the
25 ground is laid bare & radical
26 leaves revealed--crowfoot--shep-
27 herds purse--clover &c a fresh green
28 & in the meadow the skunk cabbage
29 buds--with a bluish bloom--& the reddish

1 leaves of the meadow saxifrage & these
2 & the many withered plants laid bare
3 ^remind me of spring & of botany.

4 On the same bare sand is revealed a
5 new crop of arrowheads-- I pick up
6 2 perfect ones of quartz, sharp as if
7 just from the hands of the maker.
8 Still birds are very rare-- Here comes
9 a little flock of titmice plainly to keep
10 me company--with their black caps &
11 throats--making them look top heavy--rest-
12 lessly hopping along the alders. with a
13 sharp clear--lispng note-- There begin
14 to be greenish pools in the fields
15 where there is a bottom of icy-snow--
16 I saw what looked like clay-colored
17 snow fleas on the under side of a stone.

18 The bank is tinged with a most del-
19 icate pink or bright flesh color--where
20 the beomyces rosaeus grows. It is a
21 lichen day. The ground is covered with
22 cetrariae &c under the pines. How
23 full of life & of eyes is the damp bark--
24 It would not be worth the while to die
25 & leave all this life behind one.

26 The hill sides covered with the bear scrub
27 oak--methinks are of the deepest red at
28 a distance. The p pine tops were much

1
 2 broken by the damp snow last month-- I see
 3 where the birches which were weighed down
 4 & lay across the road have been cut off--& all
 5 their scales & seeds shaken off by the sleighs
 6 in one spot color the snow like thick saw-dust.
 7 The sky seen here & there through the
 8 wrack--bluish--& greenish--& perchance
 9 with a vein of red in the west--seems like
 10 the inside of a shell--deserted of its tenant
 11 into which I have ~~calle~~ crawled.

12 The willow catkins began to peep from
 13 under their scales as early as the 26th of
 14 buds
 15 last month. Many ^ have lost their scales
 16 ~~entirely~~.

17 Jan 8th 55

18 7 1/2 Am to river

19 Still warm & cloudy--but with a great
 20 ~~clear~~ crescent of clear sky increasing in the
 21 north by west-- The streets are washed bare
 22 down to the ice. It is pleasant to see the
 23 sky reflected in the open river reach--now
 24 perfectly smooth-

25 10 Am. To Easterbrooks place via

26 Old mill site. It is now a clear warm
 27 The willow osiers by the Red Bridge decidedly are not bright now--were too old%
 28 & sunny day-- There is a healthy earthy
 29 sound of cock-crowing-- I hear a few
 30 chicadees near at hand--& hear & see
 31 jays further off--& as yesterday--a crow

1 sitting sentinel on an apple tree-- Soon
2 he gives the alarm & several more take
3 their places near him. Then off they flap
4 with their "caw" of various hoarseness. I see
5 various caterpillars & grubs on the snow--
6 & in one place a reddish ant about 1/3 of
7 an inch long walking off. In the swamps
8 you see the mouths of squirrels' holes in the
9 snow--with dirt & leaves & perhaps pine scales
10 about them-- The fever bush is betrayed by
11 its little spherical buds.

12 Jan 9th '55

13 Pm to Conantum-

14 A cloudy day--threatening snow, wet under
15 foot-- How pretty the evergreen radical
16 shoots of the St-- Johnswort now exposed--
17 partly red or lake--various species of it.
18 Have they not grown since fall? I put
19 at the end of
20 a stone ^ by one to try it. A little wreath
21 of green and red lying along on the
22 muddy ground amid the melting snows.

23 I am attracted at this season by
24 the fine bright red buds of the privet an-
25 couchant
26 dromeda sleeping ^ along the slender light
27 brown twigs-- They look brightest against
28 I notice the pink shoots of low blueberries
29 a dark ground. where they are thick

30 How handsome now the fertile fronds
31 of the sensitive fern standing up
32 a foot or more on the sides of

1
 2 or stipe?
 3 causeways--the neat pale brown rachis
 4 clothed with rich dark brown fruit
 5 pinnae
 6 at top-- The /divisions of the frond/ on
 7 "a one sided spike or raceme"
 8 one side & slightly curved.--Still full
 9 of seed. They look quite fresh though
 10 dry & rigid. Walked up on the river
 11 a piece above the Holden Swamp--though
 12 there were very few places where I could get
 13 on to it it has so melted along the shore
 14 & on the meadows-- The ice over the channel
 15 looks {om} dangerously dark & rotten in spots.
 16 The oak leaves are of the various leather
 17 colors-- The white oak which is least so
 18 & most curled & withered has to my eye a
 19 or pink
 20 tinge of salmon color ^ in it. The black shrub
 21 oak is particularly dark reddish & firm.
 22 ~~I think~~ it is the ~~red oak or maybe~~ the black
 23 whose leaves are such a pale brown verging
 24 some times reddish
 25 on yellowish--but well preserved.
 26 This winter I hear the axe in almost every
 27 wood of any consequence left standing
 28 in the township.
 29 Made a splendid discovery this pm--as
 30 I was walking through Holden's white spruce
 31 swamp--I saw peeping above the snow crust some
 32 slender delicate evergreen shoots very much
 33 like the andromeda polifolia--amid sphag-
 34 num, lambkill--andromeda calyculata
 35 blueberry bushes &c--though there was

1 very little to be seen above the snow--
2 // It is I have little doubt--the Kalmia glauca
3 var Rosmarinifolia%(?)%--with very delicate
4 opposite
5 evergreen^linear leaves--strongly revolute-
6 as it were slightly weather beaten imbrowned or ripened by the winter
7 its cheeks made ruddy by the cold.
8 somewhat reddish green above^--white glaucous
9 beneath--with a yellow midrib--(not veined
10 nor mucronated nor alternate like the Andromeda
11 on the ends of the twigs which are
12 polifolia)^~~The twigs~~ sharply 2-edged. The
13 blossom buds quite conspicuous. The whole
14 aspect more tender & yellowish than the And.
15 and ~~for~~ green while that is mulberry now V Jan. 10
16 Polifolia.^The pretty little blossom buds--arranged
17 cross-wise in the axils of the leaves as you
18 look down on them.
19 What a strong & hearty--but reckless, hit-or-
20 miss style had some of the early writers
21 of New England--like Josselyn--& Wm Wood--
22 and others elsewhere in those days-- As if
23 they spoke with a relish making their
24 lips--like a coach whip--caring more to
25 speak heartily than scientifically true.
26 They are not to be caught napping by the
27 wonders of nature in a new country &
28 perhaps are often more ready to appreci-
29 ate them than she is to exhibit them.
30 They give you one piece of nature at any
31 %Cotton Mather too was a rich phrase%
32 rate, & that is themselves. They use a strong
33 homely
34 coarse ^ speech which cannot always
35 be found in the dictionary--nor some-
36 times be heard in polite society--but which
37 brings you very near to the thing itself

1
 2 described. The strong new soil speaks thro'
 3 them. (I have just been reading some
 4 in Woods "New England's Prospect.") He
 5 speaks a good word for NE--indeed
 6 will come very near lying for her--& when
 7 justness
 8 he doubts the truth of his praise he brings it
 9 out not the less soundly--as who cares
 10 if it is not so¹¹--we love her not the
 11 less for all that. Certainly that gene-
 12 ration stood nearer to nature, nearer
 13 to the facts than this, and hence their
 14 books have more life in them.

15 (Sometimes a lost man will be so be-
 16 side himself that he will not have sense
 17 enough to trace back his own tracks in
 18 the snow--)

19 Expressions he uses which you now hear
 20 only in Kitchens & bar-rooms--which
 21 therefore sound particularly fresh & telling
 22 --not book worn. They speak like men
 23 who have backs & stomachs & bowels--with
 24 all the advantages & disadvantages that
 25 attach to them-- Read%y% to find lions here--
 26 some having "heard such terrible roarings"--
 27 --"which must be either Devils or¹² Lions; there
 28 being no other creatures which use to roar."
 29 What a gormandizing faith (or belief) he
 30 has ready to swallow all kinds of portents & prodigies

¹¹"so" altered from "see"

¹²"or" reformed in pencil

Says the wolves have no joints from head to tail.^

Most admirable when--they most ~~are~~ outrage
common taste & the rules of composition. Of
Mosquitoes he says--those "that swell with
their biting the first year, never swell the
second." %v forward%

Jan 10th 55

Pm to Beck Stow's.

The swamp is suddenly frozen up again--& they
are carting home the mud which was dug out
last fall--in great frozen masses--
The twigs of the andromeda polifolia
with its rich leaves turned to a mulberry
color above by the winter--with a bluish
a delicate
bloom--& ^ bluish white, as in summer, beneath
project above the ice-- The tallest
twigs recurved at top with the leaves
standing up on the upper side like teeth--%of a rake%
%^%

The intermingling shades of mulberry brown (?)
& bluish bloom--& glaucous white make
it peculiarly rich--as it lies along the ice
frozen in. The leaves uninjured by insects--

Then there is the Andromeda Calycu-
lata--its leaves (now(?)) appressed to the
twigs--pale brown beneath--reddish above--
with minute whitish dots-- As I go toward
the sun now at 4 Pm the translucent leaves
are lit up by it and appear of a soft red

1
 2 like cathedral windows
 3 more or less brown--^but when I look back
 4 from the sun the whole bed appears merely
 5 gray & brown.

6 The leaves of the lambkill, now recurved, are
 7 more or less reddish.

8 The great buds of the swamp pink--in the central
 9 twig clustered together are more or less imbrowned
 10 and reddened.

11 At Europ. Cranberry Swamp--I saw great quantities
 12 of the seeds of that low 3 celled rush or sedge--about
 13 %Scheuchzeria palustris%
 14 the edge of the pool--%^on the ice black & elliptical
 15 looking like the droppings of mice this size {drawing}
 16 So thick in many places that by absorbing the
 17 sun's heat they had melted an inch or more into
 18 the ice. ~~wh~~ No doubt they are the food of
 19 some creatures. Saw a ~~whi~~ thorn with
 20 long thorns and its peculiarly shining varnished
 21 ~~ste~~ twigs.

22 Cold & blustering as it is the crows are flapping
 23 & sailing about--& buffeting one another as
 24 usual. It is hard to tell what they would be
 25 at.

26 Jan 11th P.m.

27 Skated to Lee's bridge & Farrar's swamp-- Call
 28 it otter swamp-- A fine snow had just begun
 29 to fall--So we made haste to improve the
 30 skating before it was too late-- Our skates
 31 made tracks often nearly an inch broad

1 in the slight snow which soon covered
2 the ice-- All along the shores and about
3 the islets the water had broadly overflowed
4 the ice of the meadows--& frequently we
5 had to skate through it making it fly--
6 The snow soon showed where the water
7 was. It was a pleasant time to skate
8 so still & the air so thick with snow
9 flakes that the outline of near hills
10 was seen against it--& not against
11 the more distant & higher hills. Single
12 pines stood out distinctly against it
13 in the near horizon-- The ground which
14 was 2/3 bare before--began to gray
15 about Fair Haven--Pond--as if it
16 were all rocks. There were many of
17 those grubs & caterpillars on the
18 ice half a dozen rods from shore--
19 some sunk deep into it-- This air thick
20 with snow flakes making a back-
21 ground enabled me to detect a
22 very picturesque clump of trees on
23 an islet ~~off~~ at pole brook--A
24 red (?) oak in midst with birches on
25 each side.

26 Jan 12th Pm

27 To Flints Pond via Minott's meadow.

1

2 After a spitting of snow in the fore-
 3 I see the blue sky here & there &
 4 noon--^the sun is coming out-- It is
 5 still & warm-- The earth is 2/3 bare--
 6 I walk along the Mill-Brook below
 7 Emerson's looking into it for some life--
 8 Perhaps what most moves us in winter
 9 is some reminiscence of far off sum-
 10 mer-- How we leap by the side of the
 11 open brooks-- What beauty in the run-
 12 ning brooks--! What life! What society!
 13 The cold is merely superficial--it is sum-
 14 mer still at the core--far far within--
 15 It¹³ is in the cawing of the crow--the crowing
 16 of the cock--the warmth of the
 17 sun on our backs. I hear faintly the
 18 cawing of a crow far far away--echoing
 19 from some unseen woodside--as if
 20 deadened by the spring-like vapor which
 21 the sun is drawing from the ground--
 22 It mingles with the slight murmur
 23 of the Village--the sound of children
 24 at play--as one stream empties
 25 gently into another--& the wild & tame
 26 are one-- What a delicious sound. It
 27 is not merely ~~the~~ the crow calling to
 28 crow--for it speaks to me too. I am
 29 part of one great creature with
 30 him--if he has voice I have ears.

¹³possibly altered to upper case

1 I can hear When he calls--& have engaged
2 not to shoot nor stone him.--if he will
3 ^{one}
4 caw to me each spring. On the^hand it may
5 be is the sound of children at school saying
6 their a.b. abs--on the other far in the
7 wood-fringed horizon--the cawing of crows
8 ^{out at their long recess}
9 from their blessed eternal vacation.^--Children
10 who have got dismissed! While the vapor-
11 ous incense goes up from all the fields
12 of the spring--(if it were spring). Ah bless
13 the Lord O my soul, bless him for
14 wildness--for crows that will not
15 alight within gunshot--& bless him
16 for hens too that croak and cackle
17 in the yard.
18 Where are the shiners now & the trout--?
19 I see none in the brook-- Have the for-
20 Ah may I be there to see when they go down-- Why can they not tell me?
21 mer descended to the deep water of the river^?
22 or gone into the mud? There are few or no in-
23 sects for them now--
24 The strong scent of this red oak--just split
25 & corded is a slight compensation for the
26 loss of the tree.
27 How cheering the sight of the evergreens
28 now--on the forest floor--the various
29 pyrolas &c--fresh as in summer.
30 What is that mint whose seed vessels
31 rubbed are so spicy to smell--minty--
32 at the further end of the pond by the

1
 2 %Lycopus%
 3 Gourgas woodlot--?¹⁴ horsemint? or calamint?
 4 On Flints Pond I find Nat Rice¹⁵
 5 fishing-- He has not caught one-- I asked
 6 him what he thought the best time to fish--
 7 He said--When the wind first comes south
 8 after a cold spell--on¹⁶ a bright morning.
 9 Well may the tender buds attract us at
 10 this season--no less than partridges--for they
 11 are the hope of the year--the spring rolled up--
 12 the summer is all packed in them.
 13 Observed this Pm the following oak
 14 leaves--1st¹⁷ the white oak--the most withered
 15 spotted
 16 & faded & curled--Many ^ with black dot-lichens
 17 2nd the Bear Scrub--the most firm--& fresh-colored
 18 & flat
 19 3d the Black--moderately firm--the darkest above
 20 much curled--
 21 Bear
 22 4th scarlet ^ Firmest after the ^ Scrub--with much freshness & life--
 23 some conspicuously red still (unwithered)-- Lobes
 24 remarkably distorted.
 25 considerably
 26 5 Red-- ~~very much~~ ^ withered & lifeless & worn--
 27 some reddish slightly
 28 thin & faded--~~^not small~~ & not inclined to curl--
 29 6 Swamp White Pretty firm & bright but
 30 considerably curled
 31 7 I suspect that the small chinquapin is deciduous
 32 leaf
 33 for I could not find one ^ in all my walk Jan 1st though I look
 34 along the Lupine Wall. These on the ground are considerably
 35 withered faded & curled--yet pretty firm.

¹⁴"?" possibly added in pencil
¹⁵"Rice" written over "rice"
¹⁶"on" written over "of"
¹⁷What follows is a list that is not spaced according to MS here, and will have to be mocked up.

1 For color--perhaps all may be
2 called brown--& vary into each other more or less
3 The 1st--as both sides are seen--pale brown with a
4 salmon tinge beneath--
5 Leather like often paler
6 2nd clear reddish brown ^ above^--whitish or very
7 light beneath--silveryish¹⁸
8 [not always]
9 3d-- Dusky brown above^--clear tawny (?) brown
10 beneath
11 4th clear pale brown--(except the unfaded red ones)
12 very generally reddish
13 leather-like--nearly the same both sides
14 or slightly reddish
15 5th Quite pale brown^--nearly the same both sides
16 Some prematurely dead are yellowish--
17 6th Deep rusty-colored brown often bright leather red--
18 silveryish white beneath--
19 Leaves on ground
20 7th ~~Quite~~^Pale brown much like a withered red. but
21 whitish beneath like bear scrub.
22 {one-half blank page}

¹⁸"or . . . silveryish" in AL table as added. Yes?

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The oak leaves now resemble the dif. kinds.
of calf--sheep--& Russia^{19^} ~~le~~ leather [& Morocco--a
few Scarlet oaks] of different ages--

Jan 13th

Warm & wet with rain threatening clouds
drifting from SW--muddy--wet--& slippery.
Surprised to see oak balls on a red oak.

//

Picked up a pitch pine cone which had evi-
dently been cut off by a squirrel. ~~There were~~ successive^{20^}
grooves made by his teeth--while probably he bent
it down--were quite distinct-- The woody stem was
1/4 of an inch thick--& I counted 8 strokes of his
chisel.

14²¹ ~~15~~

Jan ~~14~~ Skated to Baker Farm

with a rapidity which astonished myself
--before the wind, feeling the rise and
fall (the water having settled in the
suddenly cold night) which I had not
time to see. Saw the intestines of ap--
a rabbit--(betrayed by a morcel of fur--)
left on the ice--prob. the prey of a
fox. A man feels like a new creature
a deer perhaps
^moving at this rate--he takes
new possession of nature in the
name of {~~the~~} his own majesty--
There was I, & there & there, as
mercury went down the Idaen²²
mts.

¹⁹"R" written over "r"

²⁰"The" written over "the"

²¹An AL for this is presently in the AL table, but may need to be deleted.
This may be ruled a correction or clarification, rather than an alteration.

²²"a" is smeared

1 I judged that in a quarter of an
2 hour I was 3 1/2 miles from home--
3 without having made any particular
4 exertion.--à la volaille.

5 Jan 15th Pm. Skated to Bedford

6 It had just been showing²³--& this
7 on the Grt meadows
8 lay in shallow drifts⁷, or waves[^] ~~of~~ al-
9 ternate snow & ice-- Skated into a
10 crack & slid on my side 25 feet--
11 ~~fragmen~~ & rough
12 The river channel dark ^ ~~ice~~ --with frag-
13 ments of old ice cemented togethe--not
14 strong. polygons of various forms.

15 Jan 16--to Cambridge & Boston.

16 Carried to Harris the worms--brown light--
17 striped--& fuzzy black cater-pillars-- He
18 calls the first also caterpillars. Also
19 2 black beetles, all which I have found
20 ice &
21 within a week or two on ^ snow; Thickest
22 in a thaw.

23 Showed me in a German work plates
24 of the larvae of dragon flies & ephemerae
25 or their cases
26 such as I see ^ on rushes &c over water.
27 Says the Ant lion is found at Burling-
28 ton Vt. and may be at Concord.

29 I can buy Ind. coats in Milk street
30 from 3 1/2 to 6 dolls--depending on the length.
31 also leggins²⁴ from 1.50 to 3 or more dolls,
32 also depending on the length--

²³top of "h" cancelled in pencil

²⁴poss. "leggins" written over "&"

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Saw a Nantucket man--who said that
their waters were not so good as
the South side of Long Island to
steer in by sounding. Off Long Island
it deepened 1 mile every fathom for
at least 40 miles--as he had
proved. Perhaps 80. But at Barne-
gat it was not so.

Jan 19th 7 Am

Yesterday it rained hard all day washing off
the little snow that was left--down to the
ice--the gutters being good sized mill brooks--
& the water ~~of~~ over shoes in the mid. of the road.

In the night it turned to snow--(which
~~now~~ still falls--& now covers the ^{wet} ^ ground
3 or 4 inches deep. It is a very damp snow or sleet
perhaps mixed with rain which the strong NW
wind plasters to that side of the trees &
houses. I never saw the blue in snow
so bright as this damp dark stormy morn-
ing at 7 Am as I was coming down the
RR. I did not have to make a hole in
it--but I saw it some rods off in the
deep narrow ravines of the drifts & under
their edges or eaves--like the serenest
blue of heaven--though the sky was of course
wholly concealed by the driving snow storm²⁵
--suggesting that in darkest storms

²⁵possibly followed by a period

1 we may still have the hue of heaven in us.
2 At noon it is still a driving snow
3 storm--& a little flock of red-poles is busily
4 picking the seeds of the pigweed &c in the garden.
5 Almost all have more or less crimson a²⁶ few are
6 very splendid with their particularly bright crimson
7 breasts. The white on the edge of their wing coverts is
8 very conspicuous--
9 damp
10 Pm. The ^ snow still
11 drives from the NW nearly horizontally
12 over the fields--while I go with C--
13 toward the Cliffs & Walden-- There is
14 not a single fresh track on the
15 Back road & the aspect of the
16 road & trees & houses is very wintry.
17 Thuch²⁷ considerable snow has fallen
18 it lies chiefly in drifts under the
19 walls. We went through the Spring
20 woods--over the Cliff--by the wood
21 path at its base to Walden & thence
22 by the path to Bristers Hill--& by²⁸
23 road home-- It was worth the while
24 damp
25 to see what a burden of ^ snow
26 lay on the trees not withstanding the
27 wind-- Pitch pines were bowed to the
28 ground with it--and birches also--
29 and white oaks-- I saw one of²⁹ the last

²⁶Possibly altered from another word.

²⁷poss "Much"

²⁸Altered from "to"?

²⁹Possibly inserted.

1
 2 splintered
 3 at least 25 feet high ~~broken~~ near the
 4 ground past recovery. All kinds of ever-
 5 oaks
 6 greens--and ~~trees~~ which retain their
 7 leaves--and birches which do not ~~were~~
 8 ~~bent to~~ up to 25 feet or more in height
 9 were bent to the earth--and these novel
 10 but graceful curves were a new feature
 11 in
 12 ~~of~~ the woodland scenery. Young white
 13 veiled
 14 pines often stood draped in the robes of purest
 15 like a maiden that has taken the veil
 16 white--emblems of purity^--with their heads
 17 main
 18 slightly bowed & their ^ stems slanting to one
 19 side, like travellers bending to meet the
 20 storm with their heads muffled in their
 21 cloaks³⁰-- The windard side of the
 22 wood & the very tops of the trees every-
 23 where--for the most part--were com-
 24 paritively bare--but within the woods
 25 the whole lower 2/3 of the trees were
 26 laden with the snowy burden which
 27 had sifted down onto them. The snow
 28 a little damp had lodged ~~on every~~
 29 ~~br~~ not only on the oak leaves & the
 30 evergreens--but on every twig &
 31 branch--~~but~~ & stood in upright walls
 32 like miniature chinese walls zig zag over hill & dale
 33 or ruffs 5 or 6 inches high,³¹making
 34 more conspicuous than ever the ar-

³⁰Probably altered from "cloth" or "clothes".

³¹Comma possibly cancelled by caret/flourish indicating placement.

1 rangement & the multitude of the twigs
2 & branches, & the trunks also being plastered
3 with snow--a peculiar soft ~~left~~ light
4 very unlike the ordinary darkness of the forest
5 was diffused around,³² as if you were
6 This was when you stood on the windward side
7 inside a drift or snow house--^ In
8 most directions you could not see
9 more than 4 or 5 rods into this labyrinth
10 This is to be insisted on--on every side it was like a snow drift that lay loose
11 to that height.
12 or maze of white arms--^ They were
13 so thick that they left no crevice through
14 which the eye could penetrate further.³³
15 The path was for the most part blockd
16 up with the trees bent to the ground
17 which we were obliged to go round by
18 zig zag paths in the woods--or carefully
19 creep under at the risk of getting our
20 necks filled with an avalanch of
21 snow-- In many places the path was
22 shut up by as dense a labyrinth high
23 as the tree tops & impermeable to vision
24 as if there had neve been a path there.
25 Often we touched a tree with our foot--
26 or shook it with our hand--& so relieved
27 it of a part of its burden--& rising a
28 little it made room for us to pass
29 beneath-- Often singular portals &
30 winding passages were left between
31 the pitch pines--through stooping--& grazing
32 the touchy walls, we made our way--

³²comma under caret

³³"," possibly ":" or ";"

1
 2 When the path was open in the midst
 3 of the woods--the snow was about 7 or
 4 8 inches deep. The trunks of the trees
 5 so uniformly covered on the northerly
 6 as happens frequently every winter & sometimes continuing so for weeks
 7 side--^suggested that this might be
 8 a principal reason why the lichens watered
 9 by the melting snow flourished there
 10 most. The snow lay in great contin-
 11 uous masses in the pitch pines & the
 12 white--not only like napkins but
 13 great white table-spreads and
 14 ~~carpets~~ counterpains--when you
 15 looked off at the wood from a little
 16 distance--Looking thus up at the
 17 Cliff. I could not tell where it
 18 lay an unbroken mass on the smooth
 19 It was so massed on the last also
 20 rock--& where on the trees.^White
 21 pines were changed into firs by it--
 22 & the limbs & twigs of some large ones
 23 were so matted together by the
 24 like immense
 25 weight--that they looked^ solid fungi
 26 on the side of the trees--or those
 27 nests of the social grossbeak (?) of
 28 africa which I have seen represented.
 29 Some White pine bows hung down
 30 like fans or the webbed feet of
 31 birds-- On som pitch pines it lay in

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side are broad dirty or yellowish green strips of
~~water~~ slosh. Where³⁶ comes this green color?

One of the first snows of the
 winter was a similar damp one which
 lodged on the trees & broke them down. & the
 sides of woodland roads were strewn with
 birche ~~at~~ tops which had obstructed the
 which
 way & ^ travellers had been obliged to cut off.

There are plenty of these shell-
 like drifts along the south sides of the
 walls now-- There are countless per-
 forations through which the fine snow
 drives & blinds you--

It was surprising to see what a burden of
 snow had lodged on the trees--especially the pitch
 pines in secluded dells in the woods out of
 the way of the wind-- White oaks also 6 inches
 maybe the white oaks are more flexible than the others--or their leaves are higher
 up & they are more slender below
 in diameter & 25 feet high were bent to the
 ground & sometimes broken or splintered by it.
 Some are split in the crotch
 It lay on the smaller shrubs & bushes through
 which you walked ~~damp as it was~~ like
 lightest down--only the lightest part sifting
 down there

The houses have that peculiarly wintry aspect
 now on the W-- side being all plastered over
 with snow--adhering to the clapboards--& half-
 concealing the doors & windows--

The trees were everywhere bent into the path like
 bows tortly strung--& you had only to shake
 them with your hand or foot--when they rose
 up & made way for you--

³⁶"Where" reformed.

1
 2 around affected you as if you stood in a
 3 Titanic sculptor's studio. So purely & delicately
 4 white--transmitting the light--their dark trunks
 5 all concealed. And in many places where
 6 the snow lay on withered oak leaves bet. you
 7 & the light--various delicate fawn colored
 8 & cinnamon tints mingling & blending with
 9 the white still enhanced the beauty.

10 A fine clear day not very cold.--
 11 P. m.
 12 To Conantum & C. Miles place--with
 13 Tappan. There was a high wind last night which
 14 relieved the trees of their burden--almost entirely.
 15 --but I may still see the drifts. The surface
 16 of the snow every where in the fields where it is
 17 hard blown--has a fine %grain%
 18 like a slate stone that does not split well
 19 {drawing} We cross the fields behind
 20 Hubbard's--& suddenly slump into dry
 21 ditches ^ up to the middle--& flounder out
 22 concealed by the snow⁴¹
 23 again-- How⁴² new all things seem-- Here
 24 is a broad shallow pool in the fields
 25 which yesterday was slosh--now converted
 26 into a soft white fleecy snow ice--like
 27 bread that has spewed and backed
 28 outside the pan. It is like the be-
 29 ginning of the world. There is nothing
 30

⁴¹poss "snow,"

⁴²Possibly reformed

1 hacknied where a new snow can come
2 & cover all the landscape. The snow
3 lies chiefly behind the walls-- It is sur-
4 prising how much a stragglng rail fence
5 detains it--and it forms a broad low
6 swell beyond it 2 or 3 rods wide, also
7 just beyond the brow of⁴³ a hill where⁴⁴
8 it begins to slope to the S. You can
9 tell by the ridges of the drifts on the
10 S side of the walls which way the
11 wind was--They all run from N to S
12 {drawing} i.e. the common drift
13 or plaits⁴⁵
14 is divided into ridges ^ this
15 directly--frequently down to the
16 ground between--Which separate drifts
17 are of graceful outlines somewhat
18 like fishes with a sharp ridge⁴⁶ or fin
19 gracefully curverd both as you look
20 Their sides curveing like waves about to break
21 from one side & down on them.^ The
22 at the wall end
23 thin edge of some of these drifts^, where
24 the air has come⁴⁷ through the wall
25 & made an eddy, are remarkably curved
26 like some shells even thus {drawing}--I would
27 not have believed it. More than once round.⁴⁸
28 The world is not only new to the eye--but
29 is still as at creation--every blade & leaf
30 is hushed--not a bird or insect is heard
31 --{onl}, perchance--a faint tinkling sleigh-

⁴³Possibly altered from "on"

⁴⁴Possibly "when"

⁴⁵Followed by blotted words

⁴⁶Possibly altered from "side"

⁴⁷Possibly altered from another word

⁴⁸Caption--part of drawing, not of body of text.

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bell in the distance.

As there was water on the ice of the river which the snow converted into slosh-- now frozen it looks like fleece.

The snow still adheres conspicuously to the NW side of the stems of the trees quite up to their summits--with a remarkably sharp edge in that direction in a horizontal section like this {drawing} It would be about as good as a compass to steer by in a cloudy day or by night. You see where the trees have deposited their load on the snow beneath. making it uneven. Saw suddenly directly over-head a remarkable mackerel sky with ~~singul~~ peculiarly soft large flakes--polyhedrons--showing the celestial blue between them--soft & duskyish like new steam-- This covered the greater part of the sky. In the zenith a more leaden blue in the crevices on the sides a more celestial. This was just beyond the Holden swamp-- We admired the C. Miles elms-- Their strong branches now more conspicuous zigzag or gracefully curved.

We came upon the tracks of a man

1 & dog--which I guessed to be channing's. Further
2 still a mile & a half from home
3 ^as I was showing to T. under a bank
4 the single flesh colored or pink ~~bee~~ apo-
5 thecia of a baeomyces which was not covered
6 by the snow--~~when~~ I saw the print
7 of C's foot by its side & knew that his
8 eyes had rested on it that afternoon--
9 It was about the size of a pin's head.
10 Saw also where he had examined the lichens on
11 & all was clear again
12 the rails. Now the mackerel sky was⁴⁹
13 gone⁵⁰& I could hardly realize that
14 low dark stratus far in the east was
15 it, still delighting perchance some
16 sailor on the Atlantic in whose zenith
17 it--was--whose sky it occupied.
18 T. admired much the addition to the
19 red-house--with its steep bevelled roof--
20 Thought he should send Mr. Upjohn to see it.
21 The whole house methought was well planted
22 --rested solidly on the earth--with its
23 great bank (green in summer). &
24 few stately elms before--it so much
25 simpler & more attractive than a front
26 yard with its knick-knacks. To contrast
27 with this pleasing structure--which is
28 painted a wholesome red--was a modern
29 addition in the rear--perhaps no
30 uglier than usual--only by contrast
31 such an outline alone as our--carpen-
32 ters have learned to produce--{drawing}. I see
33 that I cannot draw any thing so bad

⁴⁹Possibly "has"

⁵⁰Indicates interlineation, line 11

1
 2 so you will often see an ugly new barn beside
 3 a pleasing old house.
 4 as the reality.^ Causeways are no sooner
 5 made--than the swamp white oak
 6 springs up by their sides--its⁵¹ acorns
 7 prob. washed there by the freshets--

8 In Sagard's Hist. I read--"the villager
 9 did not wish to hear the Huguenot min-
 10 ister, saying that there was not yet
 11 any ivy on the walls of his church,
 12 and that ours were all grey with
 13 age" [chennes de vieillesse.] The walls
 14 %in their turn%
 15 of the Protestant church %^% have now
 16 got some ivy on them--& the villager
 17 does not wish to hear the preacher of any
 18 new%er% church which has not.⁵²

19 In Bewick's Birds it is said that the Night-
 20 Jar--(also called Goat-sucker, Dor-Hawk,
 21 or Fern Owl) *Caprimulgus Europeus*,--
 22 L'Engoulivent, Buffon.--"When perched
 23 the Night-Jar sits usually on a bare twig,
 24 its head lower than its tail, and in
 25 this attitude utters its jarring note: ['by which,'
 26 he says elsewhere, 'it is peculiarly distinguished.']
 27 It is likewise distinguished by a sort of buzzing
 28 which it makes while on the wing, and
 29 which has been compared to the noise caused
 30 by the quick rotation of a spinning wheel, from

⁵¹Possibly altered from another word
⁵²One blank line between lines 18 and 19

1 which in some places, it is called the
2 Wheel bird:"--"It is seldom seen in the
3 daytime." This last sound is ap. the same
4 which I hear our Whip-poor-will make
5 & which I do not remember to have heard
6 %????%
7 described.

8 On the sides of dry hills the dried heads
9 of the hard hack rising above the snow are
10 very perfect and handsome now. I think it
11 may be owing to the drought of the last
12 summer which caused them to dry up prema-
13 turely--but before they began to be brittle & to
14 crumble. This on the first Cladonia
15 pasture of Conantum. I sit there
16 looking up at the mackerel sky--and
17 also at the neighboring wood so suddenly
18 relieved of its snowy burden. The
19 Pines--mostly white--have ~~now~~ at this season
20 a warm brown or yellowish tinge, & the
21 oak--chiefly ~~wh~~ young white ones--are
22 comparatively red--The black oak I see
23 is more yellowish. You have these colors
24 of the ~~pin~~ evergreens and oaks in winter
25 for warmth & contrast with the snow.

26 Seeds are still left on the birches
27 which after each new snow--are sprinkled
28 over its surface--ap. to keep the birds supplied
29 with food.

30 You see where yesterdays snowy billows

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have broken at last in the sun or by their
own weight--their curling edges fallen &
crumbled in the snow beneath--

I see the tracks of countless little
birds--prob. red-polls, where these have
run over broad pastures & visited every weed--
johns-wort--& coarse grasses--whose oat-like
seed-scales ~~they~~ or {culms} they have scattered
about--{drawing} It is surprising
they did not sink deeper in the
light snow--- Often the impression is
so faint that they seem to have been
supported by their wings.

The Pines & oaks in the deepest hollows in the
woods still support some snow--but especially
the low swamps are half filled with snow
to the height of 10 feet resting on the bent
underwood--as if affording covert to wolves--

Very musical & even sweet now like
a horn is the hounding of a fox hound
heard now in some distant wood--while
I stand listning in some far solitary &
silent field.

I doubt if I can convey an idea of the
appearance of the woods yesterday--as you
stood in their midst--& looked round on their
boughs & twigs laden with snow-- ~~There~~ It seemed
as if there could have been none left to reach

1 the ground--these countless zigzag white
2 arms crossing each other at every possible angle
3 completely closed ~~up~~ up the view like a light
4 drift within 3 or 4 rods on every side--The win-
5 triest prospect imaginable. That snow which
6 sifted down into the wood paths was much
7 drier & lighter than elsewhere.

8 Jan 21st

9 2 1/2 Pm. The sky has gradually become over-
10 cast & now it is just beginning to snow--
11 looking against a dark roof--I detect
12 a ~~fla~~ single flake from time to time--but
13 dark side of the
14 when I look at the ^ woods 2 miles off
15 in the horizon there already is seen a slight
16 thickness or mistiness in the air-- In this ^{way,} ^ perhaps
17
18 may it first be detected.

19 Pm to Andromeda Ponds--via

20 RR--return by base of Cliffs--

21 The snow is turning to rain through a
22 fine hail.

23 Pines & oaks seen at a distance--say 2 miles
24 off--are considerably blended & make
25 one harmonious impression--the former
26 the former if you attend are seen
27 or misty
28 to be of a blue ^ black--and the latter⁵³
29 form commonly a reddish brown ground
30 out of which the former rise-- These
31 colors are no longer in strong contrast
32 with each other--

⁵³Possibly altered from "a" or "h"

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~~F~~ Few twigs are conspicuous at a distance like those of the golden willow -- The tree is easily distinguished at a distance by its color.

Saw in ald White pine stump about 15 inches from the ground a hole ^{pecked} ^ about 1 1/2 inches in diameter-- It was about 6 inches deep ~~in the~~ downward in the rotten stump & was bottomed with hypnum--rabbits fur & hair--& a little dry grass-- was it a mouse-nest?--or a nuthatch--creeper's or chic-a-dee's nest--? ^{%Prob. last%} %^%It has a slight musky smell.

Jan 22nd

Heavy rain in the night & half of today with very high wind from the Southward --Washing off the snow--& filling the road with water-- The roads are well nigh impassable to foot travellers.

Pm
To Stone bridge--Lorings pond
Derby's & Nut meadow--

It is a good lichen day--for the high wind has strewn the bark over the fields & the rain has made them very bright. In some places for 15 rods the ^{whole} ^ road is like a lake from 3 to 15 inches deep. It is very exciting to see where was so lately only ice & snow--dark wavy lakes--dashing in furious

//

1 torrents through the commonly dry
2 under
3 channels ^ ~~of~~ the causeways--to hear
4 only the rush & roar of waters & look
5 down on mad billows where in summer is
6 commonly only dry pebbles--great cakes
7 of ice ~~tilter~~⁵⁴ lodged & sometimes tilted up
8 against the causeway bridges over which
9 the water pours as over a dam. After
10 their passage under these commonly dry
11 bridges the crowding waters are at least
12 6 or 8 inches higher than those⁵⁵ of the
13 surrounding meadow-- What a tumult
14 at the Stone Bridge--where cakes of
15 a foot
16 ice a rod in diameter & ~~10~~ inches thick are
17 carried rounded & round by the eddy
18 or 10
19 ~~only by~~ in circles ~~6 or 8~~ ^ rods in cir
20 diameter, & rarely get a chance to go
21 down stream--while others are seen
22 coming up edgewise from below in
23 the midst of the torrent. The musk-
24 of
25 rats driven out ~~by~~ their holes by the
26 yet many of their cabins are above water on the S branch here there are none
27 water are exceedingly numerous--^ We saw
28 15 or 20 at least bet Derby's bridge
29 & the Tarbel spring--either swimming
30 with surprising swiftness up or down or across
31 the stream--to avoid us--or sitting at
32 resting
33 the waters edge--or ^ ~~on~~ the edge

⁵⁴Full word? Remove from AL table?

⁵⁵Altered from "the"

1
 2 One refreshed himself there after his cold swim regardless of us--probed its fur
 3 with its nose & scratched its ear like a dog--
 4 of the ice^--or on som alder bough just
 5 on the surface-- They frequently swam
 6 toward an apple tree in the midst of
 7 the water--in the vain hope of finding a
 8 resting place & refuge there. I saw
 9 one--looking quite a reddish brown
 10 busily feeding on some plant just at
 11 the waters edge--thrusting his head
 12 under for it-- But I hear the sound
 13 of Goodwin's gun up stream--&
 14 see his bag stuffed out with their dead
 15 bodies. The radical leaves of the
 16 yellow thistle are now very fresh &
 17 conspicuous in Tarbel's meadow--the rain
 18 having suddenly carried off the snow.

19 Jan 23d

20 Pm-- The water is still higher than yester-
 21 day--I found just over the red-bridge road--
 22 near the bridge. The willow row near there
 23 is not now bright--but a dull greenish
 24 below--with a yard at the ends of the
 25 twigs red. The water in many hollows
 26 in the fields has suddenly fallen away
 27 run off or soaked up--leaving last
 28 night's ice to mark its hight around
 29 the edges & the bushes-- It has fallen
 30 2 feet in many cases--leaving some-

1 times a mere feathery crystallization to sup-
2 ply its place-- I was pleased to see the
3 vapor of Sam. Barrett's fall--and after--
4 the icy caves of the alder & willow stems
5 below-- But the river is higher than ever--
6 especially the N. river. I was obliged ~~to~~
7 after crossing Hunt's Bridge to keep on
8 round to the⁵⁶ RR bridge at Loring's before
9 I could recross--it being over the road
10 with a roar like a mill dam this side
11 the further stone-bridge--& I could not
12 get over dry for the feebleness ~~of the~~
13 and incontinuity of the fence-- In front
14 of G. M. Barretts was a great curving
15 bay--which crossed the road bet him &
16 Heywoods--and by Fort Pond bridge at
17 Lornings it had been over for 10 rods in
18 the night. A great cake a foot
19 thick stands on end against the
20 RR bridge-- I do not quite like to see
21 so much bare ground in mid win-
22 ter-- The rad. leaves of the shepherd's purse
23 seen in green circles on the water-washed
24 plowed grounds--remind me of the
25 internal heat & life of the globe--anon
26 to burst forth anew--
27 Yesterday I met Godwin shooting musk-
28 rats--& saw the form & bloody stains of
29 two through his game bag-- He shot

⁵⁶altered from "to"

1
 2 such as were close to the shore where he could
 3 get them--for he had no dog--the water
 4 being too cold he said. I saw one poor
 5 rat lying on the edge of the ice ^{reddined with its blood} ~~4~~ or half
 6
 7 a dozen rods from the shore--which he
 8 had shot but was unwilling to wade for.

9 It is surprising how much work will be
 10 accomplished in such a night as the last--
 11 so many a brook will have run itself
 12 out & now be found reduced within
 13 reasonable bounds. This settling away
 14 of the water leaves much crackling white ice
 15 in the roads.

16 Jan 24th '55

17 I am Wm Wood's N. E.'s Prospect--
 18 He left NE. Aug 15th 1633--and the last Eng. Edition
 19 referred to in this Am. one of 1764 is that of Lond. 1639.

20 The wild meadow grasses appear to
 21 have grown more rankly in those days. He
 22 describes them as "thick & long, as high as a
 23 man's ~~shoulder~~ middle; some as high as
 24 the shoulder,"--v. Ind.⁵⁷ book. Strawberries too
 25 were more abundant and large before they
 26 were so cornered up by cultivation "some being
 27 2 inches about; one may gather half a
 28 bushel in a forenoon;" and no doubt many
 29 other berries were far more abundant--

⁵⁷vertical pencil line from here through bottom of page

1 as gooseberries--raspberries⁵⁸--& ~~also~~ especially
2 currants--which last so many old writers
3 speak of but so few moderns find wild.
4 We can perhaps imagine how the primitive
5 wood looked from the samples still left
6 in Maine-- He says "The timber of the country
7 grows straight, & tall, some trees being
8 20, some 30 foot high before they spread
9 forth their branches; generally the trees
10 be not very thick, tho' there be many
11 that will serve for mill-posts, some
12 being 3 foot & a half over." One
13 would judge from accounts that the
14 woods were clearer than the primitive wood
15 on ac. of Ind. fires
16 that is left^--for he says you might
17 ride a hunting in most places--"There is
18 no underwood saving in swamps" which
19 the Ind. fires did not burn. v. Ind. book.
20 "Here no doubt might be good done with
21 saw mills; for I have seen of these
22 [he is speaking of pines] particularly]
23 stately high grown trees, ^ ten miles together
24 [prob. Charles R.]
25 close by the river^side,"-- He says at first
26 "fir & pine" as if the fir once grew in this
27 part of the state abundantly as now in
28 Maine & farther west. Of the oaks he says
29 "These trees afford much⁵⁹ mast for
30 19 hogs, especially every third year,"-- Does not
31 this imply many more of them than now--

⁵⁸vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "speak of..."

⁵⁹vertical pencil line through this and the following lines

1
 2 "The hornbound tree is a tough kind of wood,
 3 that requires so much pains in riving as
 4 is almost incredible, being the best to make
 5 bowls & dishes, not being subject to crack or
 6 leak." & speaks, both in prose & verse, of the
 7 vines being particularly inclined to run over this tree.
 8 If this is the true hornbeam it was probably
 9 larger then--but I am inclined to think it the
 10 tupelo--& that it was both larger & more abundant
 11 for he says it⁶⁰ was good for bowls & it has been so used since
 12 than commonly now.^ Of the plums of the
 13 country he says "they be black & yellow, about
 14 the bigness of damsons, of a reasonable
 15 good taste." Yet Emerson has not found
 16 the Yellow plum i.e. Canada--growing wild
 17 in Mass.
 18 Of quadrupeds no longer found in Concord he--
 19 "which some affirm that they have seen"
 20 names--the Lion--that Cape Ann Lion^--which
 21 may have been a cougar for he adds--"Plimouth
 22 men have traded for lions skins in former times".--
 23 Bear, Moose--Deer--Porcupines--"The grim fac'd
 24 a verse
 25 Ounce,⁶¹ --& ravinous howling wolf," & Beaver. Martins.
 26 "For bears they be common, being a black
 27 kind of bear, which be most fierce in strawberry
 28 time, at which time they have young ones; at which
 29 time likewise they will go upright like a man,
 30 & climb trees, & swim to the islands;" &c v Ind. book.
 31 In the winter they lie in "the clifts of rocks & thick
 32 The wolves hunt these in packs & "tear ~~one as~~ him as a
 33 swamps"-- dog will tear a kid."

⁶⁰Possibly altered from "its"

⁶¹"O" in "Ounce" written over "o"

1
2 Of the Crane "almost as tall as a man"
3 possibly the Whooping? C. or else the Sand-hill?
4 prob blue heron^--he says "I have seen many
5 of these fowls, yet did I never see one
6 that was fat, though very sleeky;" neither
7 did I. "There be likewise many swans, which
8 frequent the fresh ponds & rivers, seldom
9 consorting themselves with ducks & geese; these
10 be very good meat, the price of one is 6 shillings."
11 Think of that. They had not only
12 brant & common grey wild geese--but
13 "a white goose"--prob the Snow-Goose
14 "sometimes there will be 2 or 3000 in a flock"--
15 continue 6 weeks after Michaelmas & return
16 again N in March. Peabody says of the Snow
17 Goose "They are occasionally seen in Mass. Bay."
18 Sturgeon were taken at Cape Cod & in the
19 Merrimack especially "pickled & brought to England"
20 —⁶⁴ some of these be 12, 14 & 18 feet long:"
21 An abundance of Salmon shad & bass
22 "The stately bass, old Neptune's fleeting post,
23 That tides it out & in from sea to coast;"
24 "One of the best fish in the country," taken "sometimes
25 "Some 4 foot long"--left on the sand behind
26 2 or 3000 at a set," the seine. Sometimes used for manure.
27 "Alewives-- -- -- -- --in the latter end of April come
28 up to the fresh rivers to spawn, in such mul-
29 titudes as is almost incredible, pressing up in
30 such shallow waters as will scarce permit them

⁶⁴Possibly cancelled dashes

1 to swim, having likewise such longing desire
2 after the fresh water ponds, that no beatings
3 with poles, or forcive agitations by other de-
4 vices, will cause them to return to the sea,
5 till they have cast their spawn."

6 "The oysters be great ones in form of a
7 shoe-horn, some be a foot long; these breed on
8 certain banks that are bare every spring tide.
9 This fish without the shell is so big, that
10 it must admit of a division before you can
11 well get it into your mouth."

12 For lobsters "their plenty makes them little esteemed & seldom
13 eaten."

14 Speaks of "a great oyster bank" in the middle
15 of back bay just off the true mouth of the Charles--
16 ^{These obstructed the}
17 & of another--in the ~~mystic~~ Mistick. the navigation of both rivers.

18 v. Book of facts.

19 Pm. to Walden & Andromeda Ponds.
20 The river is remarkably high for this season.
21 Meeks the carpenter said that he could not
22 get home to night if he could not find
23 Rhodes with whom he road into town--for the
24 water was more than a foot deep over half
25 the causeway--this was at 8 Pm--

26 But the ice is not thick enough on the meadows
27 so I go to Walden--a skating. Yet to my sur-
28 prise it is thinly frozen over those parts
29 of the river which are commonly open even
30 in the coldest weather--(as at Cheney's)
31 prob. because it being spread over the meadows

1
2 there is not so much current there now.
3 On the 19th Walden was covered with slosh
4 4 or 5 inches deep--but the rain of the 22d
5 turned it all to water--or chiefly--leaving it
6 pretty smooth in the main--but at dif.
7 levels-- Under the higher levels are many
8 handsome white figures one to 2 feet
9 long where water has flowed--now empty
10 & white in form of trees or cladonia lichens
11 {drawing} very handsome. I saw a
12 meadow full of lambkill turned reddish--
13 the other day which looked quite handsome
14 with the sun on it. Those Andromeda
15 ponds are very attractive spots to me
16 They are filled with a dense bed of the
17 small andromeda--a dull red mass
18 --brighter--or translucent red looking toward the sun, greyish looking from it
19 as commonly seen^ ~~about~~ 2 feet or more
20 high--as thick as a moss bed--spring-
21 ing out of a still denser bed of sphag-
22 num beneath-- Above the general level
23 rise in clumps here & there the pani-
24 with its ~~frutt~~ brown clustered fruit
25 cled andromeda ^ & the high blueberry--
26 But I observe that the Andromeda
27 does not quite fill the pond--but
28 there is an open wet place with coarse
29 grass,--swamp loosestrife & some button bush--
30 about a rod wide surrounding the whole.
31 Those little hummocks or paps of

1 sphagnum--out of which the androme-
2 da springs--as bouquets are tied up in
3 the same to keep them fresh--{drawing}
4 are very beautiful-- Now where the frost
5 has touched them they are hoary protuberances
6 perhaps inclining to ridges--now frozen firmly now
7 ^--green beneath & within--general aspect ^ perhaps
8 the green only driven in a little deeper spotted
9 pale withered brownish^--with more or less bright
10 reddish stars--where drier frequently beautiful
11 crimson stars amid the hoary portions--a
12 beautiful soft bed--of a myriad swelling bosoms
13 out of which the andromeda springs. I got
14 the chinks in
15 a load once to shift into^--a well I was ~~building~~
16 to keep the sand out it being covered it died &
17 --^but ^ I believe I only filled the water with moats
18 & worms ever after-- A beautiful--pale
19 brown & hoary--red & crimson--ground
20 of swelling bossoms-- Dr Harris spoke of
21 this andromeda as a rare plant in
22 Cambridge-- There was one pond hole wher⁶⁵
23 he had found it but he believed they had
24 destroyed it now getting out the mud.
25 What can be expected of a town where
26 this is a rare plant? Here is nature's
27 parlor--here you can talk with her
28 if you can speak it--if you have anything to say
29 in the lingua vernacula-- --^her^little
30 back sitting room--her with-drawing--
31 her keeping room.
32 I was surprised to find the ice in the

⁶⁵Possibly "when"

1
2 middle of the last pond a beautiful del-
3 cate rose color--for 2 or 3 rods--deeper
4 in spots-- It reminded me of red snow
5 & may be the same-- I tried to think it the
6 blood of wounded muskrats--but it could
7 not be-- It extended several inches into
8 the ice at least & had been spread by the
9 flowing water--recently--as for vegetable
10 pigments. there were button bushes in & about
11 it. It was this delicate rose tint with inter-
12 nal bluish tinges like mother o'pearl--or
13 the inside of a conch-- It was quite conspicu-
14 ous 15 rods off--& the color--of spring-
15 cranberry juice. This beautiful blushing ice!
16 what are we coming to?
17 Was surprised to see oak balls on a bear
18 scrub oak-- Have them then on black--scarlet--red //
19 & bear-scrub.
20 another in same state has an oak ball on it!
21 Saw a young ap. red oak ^ [it did not
22 taste bitter.] 10 feet high the ends of whose twigs
23 looked at first sight as if they had been twisted
24 off, by some hungry browsing bird, leaving the
25 fibres streaming-- These I found were the strong
26 woody fibres of last years leaf stalk--standing
27 white
28 out ^ in some cases 2 inches in all directions--from
29 the ends of the twigs--in others rolled together
30 like strong twine--& commonly this twine of dif.
31 leaf stalks with the flapping of the leaves twisted
32 together--Sometimes 4 or 5 leaf stalk fibers
33 ~~as~~--with wonderful regularity as if

1 braided--like braided horsetails. On other
2 oaks the leaves still remained with their
3 leaf-stalks thus reduced to fibers & twisted together.
4 It was wonderful how they could have become
5 so wonderfully knotted or braided together--
6 but Nature⁶⁶ had made up in assiduity for
7 want of skill. In one instance 4 leaf stalks
8 reduced to fine white fibres & rolled & twisted into strong
9 twine, had afterwards been closely braided together
10 for 1/2 an inch in length--& in the course of it
11 tied twice round the twig. I think it must be
12 that these leaves--died [perhaps in the ^{great} ^ drought
13 of last year] while ~~still~~ their fibres were still
14 strongly united with their twigs--& so preserving
15 their flexibility without losing their connexion
16 & so the wind flapping the leaves ~~has twisted~~
17 which hang short down {drawing} has twisted them
18 together--and commonly worn out the leaves
19 entirely--without loosening or breaking the
20 Here is self registered the flutterings of a leaf in this twisted, knotted, &
21 braided twine.
22 tough leaf stalk. So fickle & unpredictable, not to say insignificant a motion
23 does yet get permanently recorded in some sort. Not a leaf flutters--summer or
24 winter,
25 Old Wood in his NE's Prospect--says
26 but its variation & dip & intensity are registered in The Book.
27 Englishmanlike--"It is thought there
28
29 can be no better water in the world, yet
30 dare I not prefer it before good beer,
31 as some have done, but any man will
32 chose it before bad beer, whey, or butter-
33 milk. Those that drink it be as

⁶⁶"Nature" written over "nature"

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healthful, fresh, & lusty, as they that drink beer."

Jan 25th 55

Pm. To Andromeda Ponds

This morning was a perfect Hunters

morn--for it snowed about 3/4 of an inch
 Is not good skating a sign of snow?
 last even--covering land and ice^-- In the
 swamps however where there was water ~~once~~ oozed
 out over the ~~old~~ ice, there is no snow but
 frozen slosh today--i.e a rotten roughish
 dull white ice. It is a rare day for
 winter--clear & bright yet warm--

The warmth & stillness in the hollows
 about the Andromeda ponds are charm-
 ing. You dispense with gloves.

I see mice tracks in the fields & meadows
 like this {drawing} 4 together rabbit like 4 or 5 inches
 apart & 1 1/4 broad--are they the same
 with the {drawing} I think so. I see rabbit
 tracks pretty large maybe white ones {drawing}
 2 feet apart-- I suspect that in each
 case they are coming down the page.^

In The partridge tracks the side ~~talons~~ ^{toes}
 are more spread than in crows & I
~~think~~ believe the hind one is not so long
 --both trail the middle toe-- The
 partridge track looks like this {drawing}

I see the tracks ap. of many hunters
 that hastened out this morning.

1 I have come with basket & hatchet
2 to get a specimen of the rose-colored ice.
3 It is covered with snow--I push it away
4 with my hands & feet--At first I
5 detect no rose tint & suspect it may
6 have disappeared faded or bleached
7 out--or it was a dream-- But the
8 surrounding⁶⁷ snow & the little body
9 of the ice I had laid bare--was what
10 hindered-- At length I detect a faint
11 young
12 tinge--I cut down a ^ white oak &
13 sweep bare a larger space-- I then
14 cut out a cake. The redness is
15 all about an inch below the surface--
16 for 1/2 an inch vertically
17 --the little bubbles in the ice there ^ being
18 interruptedly
19 coated ^ within or without with what looks
20 like a minute red dust when seen through
21 a microscope--as if it had dried on--
22 Little balloons with some old red paint almost scaled off their spheres.
23 It has no beauty nor brightness thus
24 seen more than brick dust. And
25 this it is which gave the ice so
26 delicate a tinge--seen through that
27 inch of clear white ice. What is it?
28 Can it be blood?
29 I find an abundance⁶⁸ of the seeds of sweet
30 gale frozen in in windrows on the ice of
31 the R. meadows as I return--which were washed
32 out by the freshet-- I color my fingers

⁶⁷"surrounding" written over "surrounded"

⁶⁸vertical pencil line from here through end of page

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with them. & thus they are planted⁶⁹ there--Some-
 what perhaps in waving lines--as they wash up.
 Returning over the fields--the shallow
 pools made by the rain & thaw--whose
 water has almost entirely settled away--and
 the ice rests on the ground--where they are
 bare of snow--now that the sun is about
 1/4 of an hour high--looking East are quite
 green. For a week or two the days
 have been sensibly longer--& it is quite light
 now when the 5 O'clock train comes in--

Sagard says of the hares (lievres) of the
 Huron Country--"les sapinieres & little woods
 are the places of their retreat." Such is their
 taste now. Says the muskrats ~~paissent~~ "feed
 on l'herbe on land & the white of the joncs at
 the bottom of the lakes & rivers."

A pine cone blossoms out⁷⁰ now fully in about
 3 days, in the house-- They begin to open about
 half way up. They are exceedingly regular &
 handsome--the scales with shallow triangular or
 crescent shaped extremities--the prickle pointing
 downward are most open above--& are so much
 recurved at the base of the cone that they lie close
 together & almost flat there--or at right-
 angles with the stem--like a shield of iron scales
 --making a perfectly regular figure of 13 [in one inst.) curved

⁶⁹vertical pencil line through this and the following lines
⁷⁰vertical pencil line from here through bottom of page

1 rays--thus {drawing} only far more regular
 2 There are just {drawing} end of scale
 3 13 rays in each-- on side of cone.
 4 of the 3 I have!!!
 5 These vary in their roundness I find just⁷¹ 5 such rays--(the no'
 6 or the flatness of the cone-- of the needles in a fascicle) in each Wht.--
 7 So the Wht. P. cones in their length⁷² pine cone I have, & each goes round once.
 8 a Larch cone has five rows⁷³ 4 hemlock cones have 5 each like wht pine--but
 9 little twisted⁷⁴
 10 Jan 26--55 This morning
 11 it snows again--A fine dry snow with
 12 no wind to speak of giving a wintry aspect
 13 to the landscape--
 14 What a Proteus⁷⁵ is our weather-- Let me
 15 try to remember its freaks-- We had remarka-
 16 bly steady sleighing ~~fro~~ on a little snow
 17 some 6 inches deep from the 5th of December
 18 all through the month--& some way into
 19 Jan. It came damp & froze up solid--
 20 Yet there was none in Boston the while.
 21 There was however a little rain near the
 22 end of December--& occasional slight
 23 flurries of snow.
 24 Jan 6th After some comparatively pleasant days--
 25 there was a raw northerly wind & fine drifting or
 26 driving snow in the P.m. as I walked over the Great
 27 Meadows--forming shallow drifts on the ice--but it soon
 28 stopped.⁷⁶
 29 Jan 7th I was surprised when I opened the door in the P.m.
 30 by the warm south wind--& sudden softening
 31 & melting of the snow-- It was a Jan. thaw without
 32 rain--the manure beginning to wash off the ice in the streets. The
 33 winters back was broken & I dreamed of spring &c &c

⁷¹vertical pencil line through this portion of text

⁷²A line dividing text related to drawing from rest of text begins under this line, and extends underneath drawing and underneath "on side of cone."

⁷³"There . . . rows" is written to the left of the drawing

⁷⁴"I find . . . twisted" is written to the right of the drawing, under the dividing line.

⁷⁵"P" written over "p"

⁷⁶This entry begins several with out-dented dates and hanging paragraph entries. May want to format the Jan. 6 and Jan. 7 entries in the same way as the several that follow.

1
2 Jan 8th the same-- The ice in roads washed bare--the
3 brooks full of melted snow-- But it is still
4 clear weather & warm.
5 Jan 9 A cloudy day--wet underfoot--threatening snow--dif.
6 yet
7 to get on to the river^--water many rods wide each side over the ice⁷⁷
8 & blustering
9 Jan 10 Suddenly cold again.^ All waters frozen up--
10 go onto the swamps--keeping ears covered.
11 Jan 11th Make haste to improve the skating in the Pm--though it
12 is beginning to snow-- --& the is soon covered 1/2 inch. Then it stops
13 at night.
14 Jan 12 After a nother slight spitting of snow in the fore noon, it
15 clears up very pleasant & warm in the Pm & I walk by the
16 brooks--looking for fish--hearing the crows caw in the horizon &
17 thinking of spring.
18 Jan 13 Still warm-- In roads both muddy--wet--& slippery
19 where ice--thick & misty air threatening rain.
20 Jan 14 Clear & cold-- All things frozen again. excellent skating
21 on Meadows. Skated to Baker Farm.
22 Jan 15 In the fore noon spit a little snow making shallow drifts
23 on the ice--through which I skated in the Pm to Bedford.
24 stopped snowing.
25 Jan 16 snowed a little again. spoiling the skating.
26 Jan 17 forget
27 Jan 18 Rained hard all day--washed off the little snow left down
28 to the ice-- Staid in all day-- Water over shoes in the
29 mid. of the road-- The gutters turned to mill brooks.
30 Few go out.
31 Jan 19 In the night rain turned to damp snow--which at
32 first made slosh--then for most part prevailed over
33 the water which ran off underneath--Stuck to the houses
34 & trees & made a remarkable winter scene.
35 A driving damp snow with a strong NW wind all
36 day--lodging on the trees within the woods be-

⁷⁷"water . . . ice" possibly added

1 yond all--account-- Walked in woods in midst of it
 2 to see the pines bent down & the white oaks &c & broken--
 3 Snow birds i.e. linarias in yard. Making drifts by walls.
 4 Jan 20 Still higher wind in night (⁷⁸snow over) shaking
 5 the snow from trees--Now almost bare--snow 7 or 8
 6 inches on level in woods--but almost all in drifts under the
 7 vales in fields. The sudden-frozen slosh ponds--
 8 partly run off--like spewed bread. Hardly bear yet.
 9 Not very cold. Go studying drifts. Fine clear weather.
 10 Jan 21st Becomes over cast at noon-- A fine snow spits
 11 then turns to fine--hail then rain glazing a little.
 12 Jan 22d Rained all night. Walking now worse than ever this
 13 year--mid-leg deep in gutters. Lakes in the street--River
 14 risen--a freshet--breaking up ice a foot thick--flows
 15 under dry causeway bridges a torrent--muskrats driven out by hundreds
 16 & shot--dark angry waves where was lately ice and snow--Earth
 17 washed bare--radical leaves appear & russet hills--still
 18 rains a little.
 19 Fair weather
 20 Jan 23 ^Water still rising ove the Redbridge road--though
 21 thin
 22 suddenly fallen in many hollows in fields leaving ^ ice 2 feet
 23 above it around--& by clumps--{drawing}-- Great work done
 24 by brooks last night by brooks-- Have to go round 2 or 3 miles
 25 to find a dry causeway. not strong enough for skating.
 26 Jan 24 Not strong enough to skate on meadows went
 27 to Walden. At dark--snowed 3/4 inch & spoiled pros-
 28 pect of skating.
 29 Jan 25 Clear bright & mild--Water still higher than
 30 before--over the causeways
 31 Jan 26 --A fine snow falling--spoiling all prospect
 32 of skating on this broad ice-- Is not good
 33 skating the surest sign of snow or foul weather?

⁷⁸Open paren possibly cancels a dash

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To Continue the 26th
 Pm to Walden--
 %Something like--but less than that of the 19th%
 A thick driving snow--%^% There is a strong easterly wind--
 & the snow is very damp-- In the deepest hollows
 on the Brister-Hill path it has already lodged
 handsomely-- Suppose you descend into the deepest
 circular one--far beneath the sweep of the
 blustering wind--where the flakes at last drop
 gently to their resting places-- There is a level white
 circular floor--indicating ice beneath--&
 all around the white-pines under an accumu-
 lating snowy burthen are hung with
 drooping white wreathes or fans of snow
 The snow on Pitch pines takes the forms
 of large balls, on⁷ White pines often of ^{great} ^ rolling-
 pins-- Already the trees are bending in all
 directions into the paths & hollows as here--
 The birches here are bowed inward⁷⁹
 to the open circle of the pond hole--their
 tops ap. buried in the old snow {drawing}
 Nothing can be prettier than the snow
 on the leafless shrub oaks--the twigs
 are so small & numerous--little
 snowy arms crossing each other at
 every imaginable angle--like a whirligig.
 It is surprising what a burden of snow
 already rests on little bare twigs hardly
 bigger than a knitting needle--both as
 they stand perpendicularly & horizontally.

⁷⁹"inward" written over "into"

1 The great damp flakes come & soon
2 bridge across the interval even 2 inches
3 over between the forks of such twigs where
4 they are horizontal--one sticking to Another--
5 It rests on such horizontal twigs com-
6 monly in the form of a prism resting on
7 one corner {drawing}^ vertical section where no wind
8 {drawing}^ . And in many places
9 where the wind is felt--the⁸⁰ little
10 walls of snow are built out at an
11 angle with the perpendicular, in the
12 direction whence the snow comes {drawing}
13 (a vertical section--or⁸¹ end) Damp as it is--it
14 like swans down--as if it lay as light as
15 well as thick. As it is with these Shruboaks
16 --so with the largest trees in the stiller parts
17 of the woods--& even the lowest dead limbs of
18 the white pines are not prevented by the upper
19 from bearing their part of the burden.
20 I am afraid I have not des-
21 cribed vividly enough the aspect of
22 that Lodging Snow⁸² of the 19th & today partly
23 I am⁸³ Imagine the⁸⁴ innumerable twigs
24 & boughs of the forest (as you stand
25 in its still midst) crossing each other
26 at every conceivable angle on every side
27 from the ground to 30 feet in height
28 --with each its zigzag wall of

⁸⁰Altered from text

⁸¹"or" poss written over "on"

⁸²"Lodging Snow" written over "lodging snow"

⁸³Possibly "I am" rather than a false start; if so, write AL

⁸⁴false start before word

1
 2 snow 4 or 5 inches high--so innumerable at
 3 different distances one behind another that they
 4 completely close up the view like a loose-
 5 woven downy screen--into which however stooping
 6 & winding you ceaselessly advance-- The win-
 7 triest scene. Which perhaps can only be seen
 8 in perfection while the snow is yet falling
 9 before wind & thaw begin. Else you miss,
 10 you lose, the delicate touch of the Master⁸⁵.
 11 A coarse woof & warp of snowy batting--
 12 --leaving no space for a bird to perch.

13 I see where a partridge has waddled through
 14 the snow still falling--making a con-
 15 tinuous track-- I look in the direction
 16 to which it points--& see the bird just
 17 skimming over the bushes 15 rods off.
 18 The plumes of pitch pines are first filled up
 19 solid--then they begin to make great snowy
 20 casse-têtes--or pestles. In the fields the air
 21 is thick with driving snow--you can only
 22 see a dozen rods into its woof & warp
 23 It fills either this ear or that & your
 24 eyes with hard cutting blinding scales if
 25 you face it. It is forming shelly drifts
 26 behind the walls--& stretches in folds
 27 across the roads-- But in deep withdrawn
 28 hollows in the woods--the flakes at last

⁸⁵ "Master" written over "master"

1 come gently & deviously down--lodging
2 on every twig & leaf--& forming deep
3 & downy--~~but~~ & level beds between
4 & on the ice of the pools. The lowermost
5 twigs support not less snow but more.

6 In many places where you knew
7 there was a thrifty young wood--there
8 appears to be none--for all is bent
9 down & almost completely buried in
10 & you are stepping over them.
11 the snow.^ The P--pines are most round
12 young
13 headed-- --& the ^ White oaks are most leaved
14 at top--& hence suffer most--

15 What changes in the aspect of the
16 earth--one day russet hills--& muddy
17 ice--& yellow & greenish pools in the fields--
18 the next all painted white--the fieds
19 & woods & roofs laid on thick-- The great
20 sloshy pools in the fields freezing as they
21 dried away--look like bread that has
22 spewed in the baking the fungi of a
23 night--an acre in extent--but trust
24 not your feet on it--for the under-
25 side is not done.--there the principle of water
26 still prevails.

27 Methinks that after any great storm
28 in winter whether of snow or rain--the equi-
29 librium of the air is again disturbed & there

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comes a high wind shaking down the snow
& drying up the water.

Jan 27 '55

Yesterdays driving Easterly snow storm
turned to sleet in the evening & then to
rain--& this morning it is clear & pretty
the wind Westerly
cold^--the snow settled to 3 or 4 inches on a level
with a frozen crust & some water beneath in
many places. It seems as if the sky could
not bear to look down on smooth ice--&
so made haste to cover it up.

One is educated to believe--& would rejoice
if the rising generation should find no occa-
sion to doubt that the state & the Church
are on the side of morality--that the
voice of the people is the voice of God.
Harvard College was partly built by a
lottery--my father tells me he bought
a ticket in it--perhaps she thus laid
the foundation of her Divinity school--
Thus she teaches by example. New
England is flooded with the
"Official schemes of the Maryland State
Lotteries" and in this that state is no
less unprincipled than in her slave-holding
Maryland and every fool who buys a
ticket of her is bound straight to the

1 bottomless pit. The state of Maryland
2 is a moral fungus. her offence
3 is rank--it smells to heaven. Knowing
4 that she is doing the devils work--
5 & that her customers are ashamed to
6 be known as such--she advertises--
7 as in the case of private diseases--that
8 "the strictest confidence will be observed."
9 "Consolidated" Deviltry%!!
10 P. m. up meadow to Cliffs
11 & Walden Road.
12 A cold cutting S.'Westerly⁸⁶ wind. The crust
13 bears where the snow is very shally--but
14 lets you through to water in many places
15 on the meadow. The river has not yet fallen
16 much-- The muskrats have added to their
17 houses in some places. So they still use them.
18 Started a hare among shrub oaks--it
19 had been squatting in a slight hollow--
20 rather concealed than sheltered. They al-
21 ways look poverty stricken.
22 Some ice organ-pipes at the Cliffs. They
23 appear to be formed of successive rings
24 about 1/2 inch thick & diameters lessening
25 with more or less regularity sometimes the point split in two.
26 ^to the point--⁸⁷ {drawing}⁸⁸ ^Then the rocks are
27 incased with ice under which water
28 flows--thin sheets of rippling water

⁸⁶"S.'" inserted

⁸⁷Dash above period

⁸⁸Drawing preceded by cancelled drawing; write TN?

1
 2 frozen as it flowed--& with the sun again
 3 ap. thawing beneath & giving room to
 4 a new sheet of water--for under the south
 5 side of the rocks it melts almost every
 6 day.

7 I came upon a fox's track under the
 8 N end of the Cliffs--& followed it. It
 9 was made last night--after the sleet
 10 before it froze. It must have been at midnight or after.
 11 & prob. the rain was over^-- The tracks were
 12 commonly 10 or 12 inches apart--& each
 13 1 3/4⁸⁹ or 2 inches wide--Sometimes there was
 14 a longer interval & 2 feet fell nearer to-
 15 gether, as if in a canter. It had doubled
 16 directly on its track in one place for a
 17 rod or 2--then went up the N end of the
 18 Cliff where it is low--& went along Southward⁹⁰
 19 just on its edge--ascending gradually.
 20 In one place it had made water like
 21 a dog--& I perceived the peculiar rank
 22 fox odor without stooping. It did not
 23 wind round the prominent rocks
 24 but leaped upon them as if to reconnoitre--
 25 Its rout was for the most part a little
 26 below the edge of the Cliff--occasionally
 27 surmounting it. At length after going
 28 perhaps 1/2 a mile--it turned as if to de-
 29 scend a dozen rods beyond the Juniper

⁸⁹"3/4" written over "1/4"
⁹⁰Possibly reformed

1 & suddenly came to end. Looking closely
2 I found the entrance ap. to its hole
3 under a prominent rock which seemed
4 to lie loose on the top of the ledge--
5 & about 2 feet from the nearest track--
6 by stooping it had probably squeezed
7 under this & passed into its den beneath.
8 I could find no track leading from it.

9 Their tracks are larger than you would
10 expect--as large as those of a much heavier
11 dog, I should think. What a
12 life is theirs--venturing forth only
13 at night--for their prey--ranging
14 a great distance--trusting to pick up
15 a sleeping partridge or a hare--
16 & at home again before morning.
17 With what relish they must relate
18 their midnight adventures to one another
19 there in their dens by day--if they have so-
20 I had never associated that rock with a fox's⁹¹ den though perhaps I had sat on it
21 many a time
22 ciety--^ They are the only outlaws--the
23 There are more things in heaven & earth Horatio &c &c
24 only Robinhoods⁹² here now-a days.

25 Do they not stand for Gipseys &
26 all outlaws? Wild dogs, as Indians
27 are wild men.

28 People will tell you of the Cold winter
29 ~~when~~ clear bright days--when for
30 6 weeks the eves did not run once.

⁹¹Possibly altered from "foxes"

⁹²"R" written over "r"

1
2 As I went through the woods toward
3 the RR--the sun setting--there were
4 small i.e. lilac tinted
5 many ^ violet colored ^ clouds scattered
6 along the otherwise clear Western horizon.
7 I often see the mincing tracks of a skunk.
8 I came upon the track of a woodchopper
9 who had gone to his work early this
10 morning across Fair Haven Pond.
11 It suggested his hard work--& little
12 pecuniary gain--but simple life & health
13 & contentment-- As I took the back
14 track on his trail--comparing his
15 & stride
16 foot ^ with mine--I was startled to
17 detect a slight aberration, as it
18 or
19 were sliding in his tread ^ as if he
20 had occasionally stopped & ~~taken~~
21 ~~a fresh~~ & made a fresh impress not
22 exactly coincident with the first.
23 In short I discovered ere long that
24 perchance they were 2 thieves trying to pass for one, thought
25 he had had a companion^--~~who~~
26 I, but the truth was the 2nd
27 ^⁹³to save his strength in this long walk
28 to his work through the crusty snow
29 had stepped with more or less precision
30 in the tracks of his predecessor-- The
31 snow was 3 or 4 inches deep-- I afterwards
32 used the track of a horse in like manner
33 to my advantage--So that my successor
34 might have thought that a sleigh had

⁹³This caret and the caret in line 25 seem to both indicate placement for the same, continuous sentence; have written only one AL

1 %man"
2 gone along drawn by a horse⁹⁴.
3 Jan 28th 55 Sunday
4 Grew warmer toward night & snowed
5 But this soon turned to heavy rain in⁹⁵
6 the night--which washed all the snow off
7 the ice--leaving only bare ground & ice the
8 country over--by next morn.
9 Jan 29th
10 Not cold--Sun comes out at noon.
11 Jan 30
12 Clear & not cold & now fine skating--the
13 river rising again to the height it had
14 // attained the 24th ult which (with this) I
15 think remarkable for this season. It
16 (it had fall only 18 inches since then)
17 is now about 1 foot ~~inch~~ lower than on the 24th^but
18 is rising. It is unusual for the river to be
19 Both these--or this whole rise--is owing to heavy rains on the frozen ground
20 so much swollen in mid winter because it
21 carrying off what snow there was--& now soaking up-- The hills shed it all like
22 is unusual to have so much rain at
23 a roof into the valleys. It is up to the hubs on the causeways
24 this season-- Melvin & others are out
25 & foot travellers have to cross on the river & meadows.
26 after muskrats again & see them with
27 their pouches stuffed out with their round
28 bodies.
29 Minott to day enumerates--the
30 red--gray--black--& what he calls the
31 Sampson fox-- He says "its a sort of yaller
32 fox--but their pelts aint good for
33 much." He never saw⁹⁶ one but the

⁹⁴"horse" crossed out in pencil

⁹⁵"in" written over "&"

⁹⁶"saw" written over "say"

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hunters have told him of them. He never saw
a grey nor a black one. Told how Jake
Lakin lost a dog--a very valuable one--by a
fox leading him onto the ice on the Great Meadows
& drowning him. Said the Raccoon made
a track ~~just~~ very much like a young child's foot.
He had often seen it in the mud of a ditch.

Jan 31st 55 Wednesday--

A clear cool beautiful day--Fine skating--
an unprecedented expanse of ice.

At 10 Am Skated up the river to
explore further than I had been-- The water
within 10 inches of the height at which
it stood Ap. 23d '52, as I noticed at the Stone
Bridge--v Feb. 1st

//

At 8. A. m. the river rising--the thin yellowish
ice of last night--next the shore--is as
usual much heaved up in ridges--as⁹⁷
if beginning to double on itself--and here
& there at 9 o'clock--being cracked thus⁹⁸
in the lowest parts the water begins
to spurt up in some places in a stream
{drawing}
as from an ordinary pump & flow
along these valleys & thus we have
edging of
soon reestablished an ^ shallow yellowish
water
or oil-colored^{edging} all along the
river & meadows--covered with floating snow fleas

⁹⁷"as" written over "&"
⁹⁸Possibly altered from another word

1
2 hemmed in by highlands. I skated about 12
3 or 9 in all¹⁰⁴
4 mile & walked 3/4 of a mile further.
5 I skated past 3 bridges above Sherman's^--& walked to the 4th. The next or 5th would
6 prob be that in mid of Saxonville
7 It was all the way that I skated a chain
8 viz Causeway bridges--Mill village Bridge at Larned Brook--Pelham P. bridge--& that on
9 road from Dudley P. to Southboro & Marlboro
10 of meadows--with the muskrat houses still
11 commonly on
12 rising above the ice--~~over~~ the bank of
13 & marking it like smaller hay cocks amid the large ones still left.
14 the river^ As I skated near the shore
15 under Lee's Cliff I saw what I took to
16 be some scraggs or knotty stubbs of a dead
17 limb lying on the bank beneath a
18 white oak--close by me--Yet while
19 I looked directly at them I could not but
20 admire their close resemblance to partridges.
21 I had come along with a rapid whirr
22 & suddenly halted right against them
23 --only 2 rods distant--and as my eyes
24 watered a little from skating against
25 the wind--I was not convinced that they
26 were birds till I had pulled out my
27 glass & deliberately examined them. They
28 sat & stood 3 of them perfectly still
29 with their heads erect--some darker feathers
30 like ears methinks--increasing their
31 resemblance to scraggs--as where a
32 small limb is broken off {drawing}. I was
33 much surprised at the remarkable
34 stillness they preserved instinctively rely-
35 ing on the resemblance to the ground for

¹⁰⁴line connects this to caret following "Sherman's"

1 their protection--ie--withered grass--dry oak
2 leaves--dead scraggs & broken twigs. I thought
3 at first that it was a dead oak
4 limb with a few stub ends or scraggs
5 sticking up--and for some time after
6 I had noted the resemblance to birds standing
7 only 2 rods off I could not be sure
8 of their character on account of their
9 their necks & every muscle tense with anxiety
10 perfect motionlessness¹⁰⁵ & it was not
11 till I brought my glass to bear on them
12 steadily glaring on me
13 & saw their eyes¹⁰⁶ distinctly^that I was
14 convinced. At length--on some sig-
15 nal which I did not perceive--they went
16 as if shot off
17 off with a whirr ^ over the bushes.

18 It was quite an adventure getting over
19 the bridgeways or causeways--for on
20 every shore there was either water or
21 thin ice which would not bear-- Some-
22 times I managed to get on to the timbers
23 of a bridge--the end of a projecting "tie" (?)
24 Thus over the bridges & the gulf of
25 and off the same way--straddling ^ ~~over~~
26 about them onto thick
27 ~~the~~ open water ^ ~~from~~ the edge of the ^ ice--
28 or else I swung myself onto the
29 cause ways by the willows--or crawled
30 catching at a tree which stood in the water
31 along a pole or rail--^or got in.

32 At the bend above The Pantry there

¹⁰⁵Caret cancelled; line connects this to caret following "distinctly".

¹⁰⁶Caret cancelled; line connects this to caret following "distinctly".

1
2 was sort of canal or crack quite
3 across the river & meadow--~~which~~ excepting
4 As I passed the mouth of Larned Brook--off Wayland ~~to~~ {M.} H. I pulled out my glass
5 & saw that it was 12 1/2 o'clock
6 a slight bridge of ice-- In each town
7 I found one or 2 trappers come forth
8 As a regular thing they turned out after dinner--buttoning up their
9 to shoot muskrats.^-- All along the
10 great coats--
11 river their cabins had been torn to
12 pieces by them--& in one place I
13 men
14 saw 2 ^ sitting over the hole where they
15 had just demolished one--one with
16 a pistol ready pointed to the water
17 where he expected the rat to come up
18 --the other with a gun. In this 12 miles
19 of the river there would be 2 or 3 at least
20 pretty sure to turn out such a day--& take
21 to the ice for muskrats. I saw again
22 an abundance of sweet gale seed on the
23 ice--frozen in--near Pelham's Pond. This seed
24 is thus dispersed regularly on a large scale. It
25 lies as it was washed¹⁰⁷ along the edge of
26 an overflow {drawing} Beside a dilapidated
27 muskrat's house lay the wretched carcass
28 on the ice
29 of its former occupant--^stripped of its
30 black, even without its skin, with veins of red.
31 hide^ Returning I saw a large hawk
32 flapping & sailing low¹⁰⁸ over the meadow. //
33 There was some dark color to its wings.
34 You were often liable to be thrown¹⁰⁹ when
35 skating fast by the shallow puddles on the ice formed
36 in the mid of the day--& not easy to be distinguished. These
37 detained you feet while your unimpeded body fell forward

¹⁰⁷Possibly altered from "washes"

¹⁰⁸"low" written over "over"

¹⁰⁹Possibly altered from another word

1 Feb 1st 55

2 As usual these broad fields of ice
3 could not be left uncovered over the
4 3d day-- It began to spit a little snow
5 at noon--just enough to show on the
6 ice--the thickness of a blanket--
7 though not on the ground--dissipated
8 there both by the warmth & irregularity--

9 A 4 Pm--I find that the river
10 // rose last evening to within 8 1/2 inches
11 of the rise of Ap 23d¹¹⁰ '52--& then began
12 to fall. It has now fallen about 4
13 inches--Accordingly, the river falling all
14 day,-- No water has burst out through the
15 ice next the shore--& it is now one
16 uninterrupted level white blanket of
17 snow quite to the shore on every side--
18 This then is established--that the river falling
19 4 inches during the day--though it has been
20 as warm as yesterday, there has been no
21 overflow along the shore. Ap the thin re-
22 cent ice of the night which connects the
23 main body with the shore bends & breaks
24 especially in the morning
25 with the rising of the mass ^ under the
26 influence of the sun & wind--And the water
27 establishes itself at a new level.

¹¹⁰"23d" written over "24th"

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As I skated up the river so swiftly
yesterday--† now here now there--past
the old kingdoms of my fancy--I was reminded
of Landor's Richard the First--"I sailed
along the realms of my family¹¹¹; on the
right was England, on the left was
Nine Acre Corner--Lincoln--
France; [on the right was Sudbury, on
the left was Wayland;] little else could
I discover than sterile eminences & extensive
shoals. They fled behind me; so pass away
generations; so shift, and sink, and die away
affections."-- -- -- --"I debark in Sicily"
That¹¹² was Tall's Island. "I sail again,
an hour or 2?
& within a day or two I behold, as the sun
That was Nobscot surely¹¹³
is setting, the solitary majesty of Crete,[#] mother of
a religion, it is said, that lived 2000 years.[#] ^Onward & c
^Onward, and many specks bubble up
along the blue AEgean;" These must
have been the muskrat houses in the ~~Great~~
Meadows. "Every one"-- -- -- -- --I have no doubt
being?
"the monument of a greater man than
I am"-- The swelling river was
belching on a high key from ten to eleven--
Quite a musical cracking--running like
a chain lightning of sound athwart my
course--as if the river squeezed thus gave
its morning's milk with music--A certain
congealed milkyiness in the sound, like the

¹¹¹dashes cancelled
¹¹²Altered from "that"
¹¹³Pencil line connects this to caret following "years."

1 soft action of piano keys--A little like
 2 the cry of a pigeon wood pecker--a-week
 3 a-week &c. A congealed gurgling--frog-
 4 like. As I passed the ice forced up
 5 by the water on one side--suddenly settled
 6 on another with a crash--& quite a lake
 7 behind me
 8 was formed above the ice^--& my ~~successive~~¹¹⁴
 9 successor 2 hours after--to his wonder &
 10 alarm saw my tracks disappear in one side
 11 of it & come out on the other-- ~~at~~ my seat
 12 from time to time
 13 ^is the springy horizontal bough of some
 14 fallen tree which is frozen in to the ice--some
 15 & retained some life for a year after in the water
 16 Old maple that has blowed over--^covered with
 17 lying flat I quench
 18 the great shaggy perforate parmelia. my thirst where it
 19 is melted about it--blowing aside the snow fleas
 20 The great arundo in the sudbury meadows
 21 was all level with the ice-- There was a
 22 great bay of ice stretching up the Pantry
 23 I looked up a broad glaring bay of ice at the last place--which seemed to reach
 24 & up Larned Brook^. Some dead maple
 25 to the base of Nobscot & almost to the horizon--
 26 or oak saplings laid side by side made my
 27 bridges--by which I got on to the ice along
 28 It was a problem to get off--& another to get on, dry shod.
 29 the watery shore-- --^ You are commonly re-
 30 paid for a longer excursion than usual &
 31 being out doors all day--by seeing some
 32 yesterday as
 33 rarer bird for the season, as ^~~to-day~~ a great hawk.
 34 Feb ¹¹⁵2nd
 35 Quite Clear--& Colder-- Yet it could not
 36 refrain from snowing 1/2 inch more in the
 37 night--whitening the ground now as well
 38 as the ice.

¹¹⁴cancelled "successive" altered to "successor" and then cancelled; may need TN; in AL now

¹¹⁵crossed out false start before "2nd"

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Brown is again filling his ice house--
which he commenced to do some weeks ago.

I got another skate this P. m. in
spite of the thin coating of snow-- This then
is the 4th day of this rare skating--though
since yesterday noon the slight whitening of
snow has hurt it somewhat--

The river at 4 Pm has fallen some 8 or 10
inches-- In some places there are thin flakes
of ice standing on their edges within an
inch or two of each other--Over more than
1/4 of an acre--eithe ice blown into that
position (--which in this case is not likely--since
there is a great deal too much for that sur-
face) or crystalized so while the water
suddenly ran off below. There are large
tracts of thin white ice, where the water
ran off before it had time to freeze hard
enough to bare.

This last 1/2 inch of snow which fell in the
night is just enough to track animals on
the ice by. All about the Hill & Rock
I see the tracks of rabbits which have
run back & forth close to the shore repeatedly
since the night. In the case of the rabbit
the fore-feet are further apart than the
hind ones.--¹¹⁶the first say 4 or 5 inches to the
outside--the last 2 or 3. They are generally

¹¹⁶dash above period

1 not quite regular but one of the
2 fore feet a little in advance of the other
3 and so with one of the hind feet. There is an
4 interval of about 16 inches bet each
5 Some times they are in a curve or crescent {drawing}--all touching¹¹⁷
6 4 tracks--

7 I saw what must
8 have been either a muskrats or minks track
9 I think, since it came out of the water--
10 the tracks roundish--& toes much rayed
11 ~~about~~ 4 or 5 inches apart in the trail--
12 with only a trifle more bet the fore & hind
13 legs--and the mark of the tail in suc-
14 cessive curves as it struck the ice--thus
15 {drawing}¹¹⁸

16 Anothe track puzzled me
17 as if a hare had been running like
18 a dog {drawing} and touched
19 its tail--if it had any--This in several places.

20 Snowed again 1/2 inch more in the eve-
21 the moon still obscured
22 ning--after which at 10 o'clock ^ I
23 skated on the river & meadows--

24 The water falling, the ice on the meadow
25 occasionally settles with a crack under
26 our weight-- It is pleasant to feel
27 these swells & valleys occasioned
28 by the subsidence of the water--in some
29 cases pretty abrupt--also to hear

¹¹⁷Horizontal line separates this paragraph from next; "I saw" written on same line as "tracks", and "Some . . . touching" interlined above

¹¹⁸Horizontal line separates this paragraph from next; "Another" written on same line as drawing

1
 2 the hollow rumbling sound in such
 3 rolling places on the meadow where
 4 there is an empty chamber beneath--
 5 the water being entirely run out. Our
 6 skates make but little sound
 7 in this coating of snow about an inch
 8 thick--as if we had on woolen
 9 skates--and we can easily see our
 10 tracks in the night-- We seem thus
 11 than ~~by day~~ before by day
 12 to go faster ^ not only because we
 13 do not see (but feel & imagine)
 14 our rapidity--but because of the
 15 impression which the mysterious
 16 muffled sound of our feet makes.
 17 In the mean while we hear the
 18 distant note of a hooting owl--
 19 & the distant¹¹⁹ rumbling of ~~appra~~ ap-
 20 proaching or retreating cars sounds
 21 like a constant waterfall-- Now &
 22 then we skated into some chippy crackling
 23 white ice where a superficial puddle
 24 had run dry before freezing hard--&
 25 got¹²⁰ a tumble

26 Feb 3d

27 This morning it is snowing again--as if
 28 a squall. The snow has thus spit on the
 29 ice 4 times since this last skating began

¹¹⁹Possibly altered from "owl"

¹²⁰Possibly altered from another word

1 on Tuesday the 30th--viz--Thursday noon
2 --Thursday eve--Friday eve--& now Sat. morn--
3 This will deserve to be called the winter
4 of Skating-- The heavens thus spit
5 on the ice as if they had a spite
6 against it-- I even suspect that
7 the account of the matter may be--
8 that when an atmosphere containing
9 more moisture than usual is wafted
10 over this ~~broa~~ chain of broad ice-
11 especially
12 lakes (^the rest of the country being bare
13 of snow) its moisture is suddenly con-
14 densed & frozen--and there is a
15 spitting of snow. This last flurry
16 lasted an hour or more--& then
17 it grew colder & windy.
18 P. m.
19 Skating thro Snow--
20 Skated up the river with T-- n--
21 in spite of the snow--& wind. It had
22 cleared up but the snow was ~~only~~
23 a level strong 3/4 of an inch deep--
24 (seemingly an inch) but for the
25 most part blown into drifts

1
2 3 to 10 feet wide & much deeper
3 (with bare intervals) under a
4 strong N westerly wind. It was
5 a novel experience this skating
6 through snow--sometimes a mile
7 without a bare spot--this blus-
8 tering day. In many places a crack
9 ran across our course¹²¹ where
10 the water had oozed out &
11 the driving snow catching in it had
12 formed a ~~stif~~ thick batter with
13 a stiffish crust in which we were
14 tripped up--& measured our lengths
15 on the ice. The few thin places
16 were concealed & we avoided them
17 by our knowledge of the localities.
18 Though we some times saw the air bubbles of the mid channel through the thin
19 ^Sometimes a thicker drift too threw
20 ice--for the water going down the current is increasing & eating its way
21 us--or a sudden unevenness in the
22 through the ice.
23 concealed ice--but on the whole
24 the snow was but a slight obstruction.
25 We skated with much more facility
26 than I had anticipated, & I would
27 not have missed the experience
28 for a good deal-- The water falling
29 rapidly--has left a part of the ice
30 in shelves attached to the shore
31 & to the alders & other trees & bushes
32 (with a spongey or brittle mass of crystals suspended

¹²¹Possibly altered from "coarse"

1 from its undersides 5 or 6 inches deep--or double that of the ice--looking like
2 15 or 18 inches above the general level.
3 lace work on the side--& showing all kinds of angular geom. figures
4 Sometimes we had to face a head wind
5 when you look down on it turned bottom up--~~(drawing)~~ as if
6 & driving--or blowing snow which concealed
7 the water had sunk away faster than it could freeze solidly--
8 the prospect a few--rods a head--& we
9 I think that in my ice-flakes of the 2nd ult the thin crust
10 made a tedious progress-- We¹²²
11 of the horizontal ice was blown off & had left these exposed.
12 went up the Pantry Meadow above

13 the old Wm Wheeler House--& came
14 down this meadow again with the
15 wind & snow dust--spreading our
16 coat tails--like birds--though
17 somewhat at the risk of our necks
18 if we had struck a foul place. I
19 found that I could sail on a
20 trimming with my skirts
21 tack pretty well^. Sometimes we had
22 which the snow had concealed before
23 to jump suddenly over some obstacle ^ to
24 save our necks-- It was worth the
25 while for one to look back against
26 the sun and wind & see the other
27 60 rods off coming--floating
28 down like a graceful demon
29 in the midst of the broad meadow
30 all covered & lit with the curling
31 between which you saw the ice in dark waving streaks
32 snow-steam ^ like a ~~bra~~ mighty
33 river Orellana
34 ^braided of a myriad steaming
35 currents--Like the demon of
36 the storm driving his flocks &

¹²²Altered from "we"

1
 2 before him
 3 herds^--In the midst of this tide
 4 of curling snow steam--he sweeps
 5 & surges this way & that & comes
 6 on like the spirit of the whirlwind.
 7 At Lees' Cliff we made a fire--
 8 kindling with white pine¹²³ cones, after
 9 & twigs,
 10 oak leaves--^else we had lost it. &
 11 These saved us, for there is a resinous drop at the point of each scale.
 12 there¹²⁴ we forgot that we were out
 13 doors in a blustering winter day--
 14 The drifts will probably harden
 15 by to-morrow & make such skating im-
 16 possible. I was curious to see how
 17 my tracks looked--what figure I cast--
 18 & skated back a little to look at it--
 19 that little way--it was like this somewhat
 20 {drawing}
 21 some what like the shallow snow drifts.¹²⁵
 22 Looking toward the sun & wind you
 23 saw a broad river half a mile or more
 24 in width its whole surface lit & alive
 25 in form
 26 with flowing streams of snow ^ like the
 27 along
 28 stream which curls ~~up from~~ a river's surface
 29 ~~in the snow~~ at sunrise--& in midst
 30 of this moving world sailed down
 31 the skater majestically--as if on the surface
 32 of water while the stream curled as high
 33 as his knees--
 34 Several
 35 ~~Many~~ broad bays open on to this

¹²³"pine" written over "pines"
¹²⁴Possibly altered from another word
¹²⁵Caption for drawing

1 some of them like the Pantry &
2 more
3 Larned Brook 2 or 3 miles deep.
4 You scarcely see a bird such a
5 day as this
6 Flash go your dry leaves like powder--
7 & leave a few bare & smoking twigs--Then
8 you sedulously feed a little flame--until
9 takes hold of the solid wood & What an uncertain & negative
10 the fire ^ establishes itself--^~~How uncertain~~
11 thing
12 ^when it finds ~~its~~ nothing to suit its appe-
13 what a positive &
14 tite after the first flash--^ ~~how in-~~
15 thing
16 expugnable ^ when it begins to devour
17 the solid wood with a relish ~~eating~~ burn-
18 ing with its own wind. You must study
19 as long at last how to put it out, as
20 you did how to kindle it.--Close
21 up under some upright rock--when¹²⁶
22 you scorch the yellow sulphur lichens.
23 Then cast on some creeping juniper
24 or hemlock boughs
25 wreathes^to hear them crackle--realizing
26 scripture.
27 Some little boys 10 years old are as hand-
28 some skaters as I know-- They sweep along
29 with a graceful floating motion leaning
30 now to this side then to that--(like a
31 marsh-hawk beating the bush.)
32 I get my impulse in skating not by striking
33 out much & shoving--& a certain forward im-
34 pluse or snapping of the body like a whip-lash.

¹²⁶poss. "where"

1
2 I still recur in my mind to that
3 skate of the 31st-- I was thus enabled
4 to get a bird's eye view of the river to
5 survey its length & breadth within a few--
6 hours--connect one part on the shore
7 with another in my mind & realize what
8 from end to end
9 was going on upon it--^to know the
10 whole as I ordinarily knew a few miles
11 of it only-- I connected the Chestnut
12 tree house--near the shore in Wayland
13 There is good skating from the mouth to Saxonville--measuring in a straight
14 %Atkinsons?%
15 with the Chimney House in Billerica--
16 line some 22 miles--by the river say 30 now Concord midway.
17 Nutting's
18 Pelham's Pond--with ^ ~~the~~ Pond in Billerica.
19 It is all the way of one character--a
20 meadow river--or dead ~~water~~ stream-- Musket-
21 -icook--the abode of muskrats--pickerel
22 &c--Crossed within these dozen miles
23 30
24 each way--or ~~25~~ in all--by some 20
25 ~~bridges~~ low wooden bridges--sublicii pontes
26 connected with the main land by willowy
27 causeways. Thus the long shallow lakes
28 divided into reaches. These long causeways
29 all under water & ice now only the bridges
30 from time to time
31 peeping out ^ like a dry eyelid-- You must
32 look close to find them in many cases.
33 --mere islands are they to the traveller in the
34 waste of water & ice. Only 2 villages
35 lying near the river--Concord & Wayland
36 & one at each end of this 30 miles.

1 Haycocks commonly stand only in the Sudbury
2 meadow-- You must beware when
3 you cross the deep dark channel--
4 ~~distinguish~~ between the sunken willow rows
5 where the current is seen eating its way thro'
6 distinguishing it from the meadowy sea^-- else
7 you may be in over head before you know
8 used
9 it. I ~~made~~ some bits of wood with
10 a groove in them for crossing the
11 causeways & gravelly places--that I
12 need not scratch my skate-irons.

13 Minott says that the White rabbit does
14 not make a hole--(sits under a bunch of
15 v n p b l
16 dry ferns & the like--^)but that the grey
17 one does-- They and the fox love to come
18 out & lie in the sun.

19 Feb 4th--

20 Clear & Cold--& windy--much colder than
21 for some time

22 Saw this P. m. a very dis-
23 tinct otter track by the Rock--at the junction
24 of the 2 rivers-- The separate foot tracks
25 were quite round more than 2 inches in
26 diameter showing the 5 toes distinctly in the
27 which was
28 snow ^ a ~~little~~ bout 1/2 inch deep. In one
29 place where it had crossed last night
30 to Merricks pasture its trail about 6
31 inches wide & of furrows in the snow

1
 2 was on one side of its foot tracks--thus
 3 {drawing} and there was about 9 inches bet
 4 the fore & hind feet. Close by
 5 the Great Aspen I saw where
 6 it had entered or come out of
 7 the water under a shelf of ice left adhering
 8 to a maple-- There it apparently played
 9 & slid on the level ice making a broad
 10 trail as if a shovel had been shoved along
 11 just 7 8 inches wide without a ^ track
 12 in it for 4 feet or more. And again
 13 the trail ~~appeared~~ ^{was} only 2 inches wide--& bet-
 14 ween the foot tracks--which were side by side
 15 & 22 inches apart {drawing} It
 16 had left much dung on the ice soft yellow
 17 bowel like--like a gum that has been chewed
 18 in consistency. About the edge of the hole
 19 where the snow was all rubbed off was
 20 something white which looked & smelt exactly like
 21 bits of the skin of pouts or eels.
 22 Vance saw one this winter in this town by a brook eating a fish.
 23 The water has now fallen nearly 2¹²⁷ feet
 24 & those ice shelves I noticed yesterday--when
 25 you go into a swamp and all along the
 26 shore amid the alders birches & maples
 27 look just like ample pic-nic tables ready
 28 set 2 feet high--with often a leaf down or ^ a
 29 table cloth hanging. Just like camp tables--

¹²⁷Possibly altered from "&" or another word

1 around the tent poles--now covered with
2 snowy napkins.

3 I notice my old skate tracks like this

4 {drawing}
5 It is better skating today than yesterday--this is the 6th day of some kind of
6 skating.

7 Feb 5th 55
8 %Cold weather--no sleighing--mere whitening.%
9 It was quite cold last evening--& I saw the
10 it sparkled¹²⁸
11 scuttle window reflecting the lamp from a
12 when I went up to bed--^as if¹²⁹ we lived inside of a cave--
13 myriad brilliant points--^but this morning
14 it has moderated considerably & is snowing.
15 Already 1 inch of snow has fallen.

16 NB Ac. to Webster in Welsh A hare is "furze or gorse-cat"
17 v. skate. That is the meaning of the W. name.

18 Also "Chuk, A word used in calling swine. It is the origi-
19 nal name of that animal, which our ancestors brought
20 with them from Persia, where it is still in use. Pers. chuk" &c
21 --"Sans. sugara. Our ancestors while in England adopted
22 the Welsh hwc, hog; but chuck¹³⁰ is retained in our popu-
23 lar name of wood chuck, that is, wood hog."

24 In a journal it is important in a few words
25 to describe the weather or character of the day
26 as it affects our feelings. That which was
27 so important at the time--cannot be
28 unimportant to remember.

29 Day before yesterday the fine snow blowing
30 over the meadow in parrallel streams
31 between which the darker ice was seen

¹²⁸Line connects this to caret following "bed".

¹²⁹"if" inserted

¹³⁰Underlining possibly intended for only one word, either "but" or "chuck"

1
 2 looked just like the steam curling along
 3 In the midst of this mid leg deep at least you surged
 4 along
 5 the surface of a ~~mea~~ river.^ It was surprising
 6 how in the midst of all this stationary
 7 & drifting snow the skate found a
 8 smooth &¹³¹ level surface ~~of~~ over which
 9 it glided so securely--with a muffled
 10 rumble-- The ice for the last week
 11 has reached quite up into the village--
 12 so that you could get onto it just in
 13 the rear of the Bank & set sail on skates
 14 for any part of the Concord River valley.
 15 Found Therien cutting down the
 16 2 largest chestnuts in the woodlot behind
 17 where my house was. On the but of one
 18 about 2 feet in diameter I counted 75
 19 rings. T-- soon after broke his axe in cutting
 20 through a knot in this tree which he
 21 was cutting up for posts. He broke out a
 22 piece 1/2 an inch deep. This he says often
 23 happens--Perhaps there is some frost in his axe.
 24 Several choppers have broken their axes--today.
 25 Feb 6th
 26 The coldest morning this winter--our thermome-
 27 Others we hear at 6 Am stood at 18°-
 28 ter stands at 14°-¹³² at 9 Am.^ There are not
 29 at Gorham N.H. 30°-
 30 loiterers in the street. & the wheels of wood wagons
 31 actually shriek
 32 squeak as they have not for a long time^. Frost
 33 work--keeps its place on the window within 3 feet
 34 %stove all day in my chamber--%
 35 of the snow.¹³³ A 4 Pm the thermometer is at
 36 10°- at 6 it is at 14°-

¹³¹Possibly inserted

¹³²Not clear whether all of the marks following temps. are dashes or minus signs

¹³³"snow" cancelled in pencil

1 I was walking at 5 & found it stinging
 2 cold--It stung the face-- When¹³⁴ I look
 3 out at the chimneys I see that
 4 the cold & hungry air snaps up the
 5 smoke at once-- The smoke is¹³⁵ clear
 6 & light colored & does not get far into
 7 the air before it is dissipated[^] ([?])¹³⁶ The setting
 8 as {at whole} condensed
 9 sun no sooner leaves our west windows
 10 than a solid but beautiful crystalliza-
 11 tion coats them. which perhaps the sun has warmed & dried.
 12 except perhaps a triangularish bare spot at one corner
 13 (I believe the saying is that by the 1st
 14 of February the ~~wood~~ & meal ^ are half
 15 out.) A solid sparkling field in
 16 the midst of each pane--with broad flowing
 17 sheaves surrounding it. It has been
 18 a very mild &¹³⁷ open winter up to this. At
 19 as well as
 20 9 o'clock P. m. thermometer at 16°-
 21 They say it did not rise above 6°- today--
 22 Feb 7th
 23 The Coldest night for a long long time
 24 was last-- Sheets froze stiff about the faces.
 25 Cat mewed to have the door opened--but was at first disinclined to go out.
 26 When she¹³⁸ ~~cat~~ came in at 9--she smelt of
 27 We all took her up & smelled of her it was so fragrant
 28 meadow hay^--had cuddled in some
 29 People dreaded to go to bed.
 30 barn^. The ground cracked in the night
 31 as if a powder mill had blown up &
 32 the timbers of the house also-- My pail
 33 of water was frozen in the morning so
 34

¹³⁴Possibly altered from "I"

¹³⁵"is" written over "&"

¹³⁶Possibly altered from period

¹³⁷Verify that this is cancelled

¹³⁸"she" written over "the"

1
 2 are off. Though¹³⁹ the cold has been moderate
 3 today compared with yesterday--it has got
 4 more into the houses & barns & the farmers
 5 ie yesterday the 6th¹⁴⁰
 6 complain more of it while attending to their
 7 This ^will be remembered as the cold Tuesday. The old folks still refer to
 8 cattle. the cold Friday--when they sat before great fires of wood 4 ft long
 9 with a fence of blankets behind them & water froze on the mantel piece.
 10 Feb 8th¹⁴¹ But they say this is¹⁴² as cold as that
 11 was.

12 Commenced snowing last eve. about 7 o'clock
 13 --a fine dry snow--and this morning it
 14 is about 6 inches deep--& still snows a little.
 15 Continues to snow finely all day--

16 Feb 9th
 17 Snowed harder in the night & blowed
 18 considerably. It is somewhat drifted
 19 this morning. A very fine & dry snow
 20 about a foot deep on a level.

21 It stands on the top of our pump
 22 about 10 inches deep almost a perfect
 23 hemisphere or half of an ellipse {drawing}

24 It snows finely all day--making about //
 25 2ce as much as we have had on the
 26 ground before this winter. Tree sparrows //
 27 2 or 3 only at once come into the
 28 yard--the first I have distinguished this
 29 winter. I notice that the snow drifts
 30 on the windows--as you see the
 31 light through then are stratified--showing
 32 undulating equidistant strata--ap.

¹³⁹"t" and "h" constructed with single stroke

¹⁴⁰Connected to caret following "This"

¹⁴¹Date line should be centered

¹⁴²"is" written over "was"

1 parently as more or less dense--(may be
2 more or less coarse & damp.) Alternately
3 darker & lighter strata. I was sure
4 this storm would bring snow birds
5 into the yard that I went to the window
6 ~~early~~ at 10
7 ^to look for them & there they were. Also
8 a downy woodpecker--(perhaps a hairy)
9 flitted high across the street to an elm
10 in front of the house & commenced ~~cut~~
11 his head going like a hammer
12 assiduously tapping.^ The snow is so light
13 & dry that it rises like spray or foam
14 before the legs of the horses. They
15 dash it before them upward like water.
16 It is a ~~ple~~ handsome sight--a span
17 of horses at a little distance dashing
18 especially coming toward you
19 thro' it--^it falls like ~~sut~~ suds
20 around their legs. {drawing} Who do birds come
21 in to the yards in storms almost alone?
22 Are they driven out of the fields & woods
23 for their subsistence--or is it that all
24 places are wild to them in the storm?
25 It is very dark in cellars the windows being covered with snow--
26 Pm Up river to Hub's
27 swamp & wood.
28 The river & meadow
29 are concealed under a foot of snow--
30 It would be dangerous for a stranger to travel accross the country now
31 I cannot tell when I am on it.^ The
32 snow is so dry that though I go

1
2 through drifts up to my middle--it
3 falls off at once & does not adhere to
4 & damp my clothes at all. All over
5 this swamp I find that the ice upheld
6 by the trees & shrubs--stands some 2
7 feet above the ground--the water having
8 entirely run out beneath, & as I go
9 along the path not seeing any ice
10 in snow a foot deep, it suddenly
11 sinks with a crash for a rod around
12 me--snow and all--and stooping I
13 look ~~under this level~~ through a dry
14 cellar from 1 to 2 feet deep--in some
15 places pretty dark--extending ove the
16 greater part of the swamp--with
17 a perfectly level ceiling composed of ice
18 1 to 2 inches thick surmounted by a foot
19 of snow--& from the under side of
20 the ice there depends from 4 to 6 inches
21 a dense mass of crystals--So that
22 it is a most sparkling grotto.
23 You could have crawled round under
24 the ice & snow all over the swamp
25 --quite dry--& I saw where the rabbits &c
26 had entered there. In another swamp
27 where the trees were larger & further
28 apart--only about 1 half the ice

1 was held up in this manner--in tables
2 from a few feet to a rod in diameter--
3 so that it was very difficult walking--
4 I should think this ice by its strain & fall would injure the young trees & bushes.
5 In the first place--as I was walking
6 many are barked by it.--And so it melts & wastes away tumbling down from time to time
7 along the path--the first I knew
8 with a crash--
9 down went the whole body of the snow
10 for a rod ~~about me~~, & I saw into a
11 dark cavern yawing about me.
12 Those crystals were very handsome--and
13 tinkled when touched, like bits of tin.
14 The snow is so dry that but little lodges on the trees.
15 I saw a similar phenomenon Feb 4th on a smaller
16 scale-- I saw very few tracks¹⁴³ today--
17 It must be very hard for our small wild
18 animals to get along while the snow is
19 so light-- Not only the legs but the whole
20 of some--a ~~sunk~~ skunk E.g. I think,
21 body^sinks in it & leaves its trail-- They
22 must drag themselves bodily through it.
23 Saw F. linarias.
24 Elsewhere we hear the snow has been
25 much deeper than here
26 Feb 10th Pm to Walden--
27 A fine clear day-- There is a glare
28 of light from the fresh unstained
29 surface of the snow so that it pains
30 the eyes to travel toward the sun.
31 I go across Walden. My shadow is
32 very blue--It is especially blue when

¹⁴³Possibly altered from "trails"

1
2 there is a bright sun light on pure
3 white snow-- It suggests that there
4 may be something divine--something
5 celestial in me.
6 wild
7 Silas Hosmer tells me that a ^ deer was
8 killed in Northboro this winter.

9 In many places the edges of ~~ct~~ drifts
10 are sharp & carving almost a complete circle
11 %from within%
12 {drawing}--reflecting a blue color%^%--like blue-tinted
13 shells

14 I hear the faint metallic chirp of a tree spar-
15 row in the yard from time to time--or perchance the
16 mew of a linaria. It is worth the while to let
17 some pig weed grow in your garden if only to at-
18 It would be a pity to have these weeds burned in the fall
19 tract these winter visitors^. Of the ~~larger~~ former
20 commonly
21 I see in the winter but 3 or 4 ^ at a time--of the latter
22 large flocks-- This in & after considerable snow
23 storms.

24 Since this deepe snow the landscape is in some re-
25 spects more wintry than before--the rivers & roads
26 are more concealed than they have been--and billows
27 of snow succeed each other across the fields
28 & roads like an ocean-waste.

29 Feb 11th

30 Pm to I. Dugan's via Tommy Wheeler's--
31 The atmosphere is very blue tinging the
32 distant pine-woods. The dog scared

1 up some partridges out of the soft
2 snow under the apple-trees in the¹⁴⁴ Tommy
3 Wheeler orchard.
4 Smith's thermometer early this morn--at 22°- ours
5 at ~~A~~ 8 Am 10°-
6 Feb 12th
7 All trees covered this morning with a hoar
8 // frost very handsome looking toward the
9 sun--the ghosts of trees. Is not this
10 what was so blue in the atmosphere
11 yesterday p.m?
12 Pm to Walden
13 A very pleasant & warm afternoon--
14 There is a softening of the air & snow--
15 The eaves run fast on the S side of houses--
16 and as usual in this state of the air--
17 the cawing of crows at a distance & the
18 crowing of cocks falls on the ear
19 with a peculiar softness & sweetness;--they
20 come distinct & echoing musically through
21 the pure air. What are those crows
22 about which I see from the RR--
23 causeway in the middle of a field where
24 no grass appears to rise above the snow--
25 ap. feeding? I observe no mouse tracks
26 in the fields & meadows--the snow is
27 so light & deep that they have run wholly

¹⁴⁴"the" altered from "The"

1
2 underneath--& I see in the fields here &
3 there a little hole in the crust where they
4 have come to the surface. In trillium woods
5 I see, as usual, where a squirrel has
6 scratched along from tree to tree. His
7 tracks cease at the foot of a pine
8 up which he has ascended within these
9 few hours--He may be concealed now
10 amid the thickest foliage. It is
11 very pleasant to stand now in a high
12 pine wood--where the sun shines in amid
13 the pines & hemlocks & maples--as in a warm
14 apartment. I see at Warren's Crossing
15 where ~~within~~ las night perhaps some partridges
16 rested in this light dry deep ~~sow~~ snow.
17 They must have been almost completely
18 buried--They have left their traces at the bottom.
19 They are such holes as would be made by
20 crowding their bodies in backwards slanting-
21 wise--while perhaps their heads were left out.
22 The dog scared them out of similar holes yester-
23 day in the open orchard. I watched for
24 a long time 2 chickadee-like birds--only I
25 thought a good deal larger--which kept
26 ascending the pitch-pines spirally from the
27 bottom like the nuthatch. They had the markings
28 & the common faint note of the chickadee

1 yet they looked so large & confined themselves so
2 to the trunk that I cannot but feel still some
3 doubt about them. They had black chins--as well as
4 top of head--tail black above--back slate
5 --sides dirty white or creamy--breast &c white.

6 Set a trap in the woods for wild mice
7 I saw where they had run over the snow
8 making a slight impression thus.
9 {drawing} The tracks some 5 inches apart
10 frequently with a very distinct mark of the tail--
11 These tracks commonly came together soon
12 & made one beaten trail--where 2 or
13 3 had passed--or one several times--
14 As if they had hopped along 2 3 or 4 in company
15 The whole trail would be 5 or 6 inches

16 wide. {drawing}¹⁴⁵
17 %puting one stroke for 4%
18 Under the birches, where
19 the snow is covered with birch seeds &
20 scales, I see the fine tracks undoubted
21 ly of linarias. The track of one of these
22 birds on the light surface looks like a chain
23 or the ova of toads {drawing}--Where a
24 large flock has been feeding
25 the whole surface is scored over by them.

26 Feb 13th
27 10 Am to Walden woods
28 Not cold--sky somewhat overcast.

¹⁴⁵Caption in pencil

1
 2 The tracks of partridges are more remarkable
 3 in this snow than usual--it is so light--
 4 being at the same time a foot deep. I see
 5 where one has waddled along several rods
 6 making a chain-like track about 3 inches
 7 wide or (2 1/2) ~~at~~ and at the end has squatted
 8 in the snow making a perfectly smooth
 9 & regular oval impression like the bowl
 10 of a spoon 5 inches wide--then 6 inches
 11 beyond this are the marks of its wings where
 12 it struck the snow on each side when it took
 13 flight. It must have risen at once
 14 without running. In one place
 15 I see where one after running a
 16 little way--has left 4 impressions of
 17 its wings on the snow on each side
 18 extending 18 or 20 inches {~~len~~} & 12¹⁴⁶ or
 19 %foot tracks not good%
 20 15¹⁴⁷ in width--{drawing}¹⁴⁸ In one case
 21 almost the entire
 22 wing was distinctly impressed--8 primaries
 23 & 5 or 6 secondaries-- In one place
 24 wher alighting the primary quills
 25 5 of them have marked the snow for a foot. {drawing}
 26 I see where¹⁴⁹ many have dived into
 27 the snow ap last night on the side
 28 of a shrub oak hollow. In 4 places they
 29 have passed quite underneath it for
 30 more than a foot--in one place 18 inches

¹⁴⁶"12" written over "10"

¹⁴⁷"15" written over "14"

¹⁴⁸Caption in pencil

¹⁴⁹Possibly altered from "ap" or "up"

1 They appear to have dived or burrowed into it
2 then passed along a foot or more under-
3 neath--& squatted there perhaps with their
4 heads out--& have invariably left much
5 dung at the end of this hole. I scared
6 one from its hole only half a rod in front
7 of me now at 12 11 Am. These holes
8 seen side wise look thus {drawing}
9 It is evidently a hardy bird--and in the
10 above respects too is like the rabbit which
11 squats under a brake or bush in the snow--
12 I see the traces of the latter in hollows in
13 the snow in such places-- --their forms.

14 In the Journal of the Rev. Wm Adams
15 (afterward settled in Dedham) written ap in
16 and about Cambridge mass--[He graduated in 1671 at
17 Cambridge) he says under "Dece 1 [1670] -- --
18 -- -- This day was the first flight of snow this winter
19 it being hardly over shoes." & 1671 Nov "24.
20 The first great snow this winter being almost
21 knee deep." Hist. Coll. 4th Series vol. 1st

22 An English Antiquarian says "May-Flower
23 was a very favorite name with English sea-
24 men, and given by them to vessels from almost
25 every port in England,"-- Ibid p. 85

26 Hurts is an old¹⁵⁰ English word used
27 in heraldry--where according to Bailey it is
28 "certain balls resembling hurtleberries."

¹⁵⁰vertical pencil line from here through bottom of page

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One of these pig weeds in the yard last
the snow birds all winter--& after every
new storm they revisit it. How inexhaustible
their granary!

To resume the subject of partridges--looking
further in an open place or glade amid
the shrub oaks & low pitch pines, I found as
many as ^{20 or 30} ~~40 or 50~~ places where partridges
had lodged in the snow ap. the last night
or the night before. You could see com-
monly where their bodies had first struck the
snow & furrowed it for a foot or 2 ^ then
& 6 inches wide
entered & gone underneath 2 feet & rested
at the further end, where the manure is left.
Is it not likely that they remain quite under-
the snow there & do not put their heads out
till ready to start? In many places they walked
along before they went under the snow-- They
do not go under deep--and the gallery they
make is mostly filled up behind them--leaving
only a thin crust above. Then invariably just
beyond this resting place you could see
the marks made by their wings when they
took their departure-- {drawing}¹⁵¹
These distinct impressions
made by their wings, on¹⁵²
the pure snow, so com-
mon on All hands--

¹⁵¹Part of drawing cancelled
¹⁵²prob written over "so"

1 though the bird that made it is gone
2 & there is no trace beyond--affect me
3 like some mystic oriental symbol--the
4 winged globe or what not--As if made
5 by a spirit. In some places you would
6 would see a furrow & hollow in the
7 snow where there was no track for
8 rods around, as if a large snow ball
9 or a cannon ball had struck it--where
10 apparently the birds had not paused
11 in their flight. It is evidently a regular
12 thing with them thus to lodge in the
13 snow-- Their tracks when perfectly distinct
14 are seen to be almost in one straight
15 line thus--trailing the middle toe--
16 {drawing} About 5 inches apart--
17 In one place I saw where one had evidently
18 trailed the tips of the wings making 2 distinct
19 lines 5 or 6 inches apart, one on each side the
20 foot tracks. Probably made by a male.

21 In the same place were many great tracks
22 of the white rabbit-- The earliest made while
23 the snow was very soft wer very large &
24 shapeless somewhat like the marks made
25 by snow falling from the trees-- More
26 recent ones had settled & broke the slight
27 crust around them--leaving a large inden-
28 tation. The distinct tract was

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like this {drawing} the front tracks which
are the largest being about 2 1/2
inches in diameter & the whole track of the
These impressions so slight (though distinct) it is hard
4 feet often 1 foot long. to realize that so heavy an animal made them.

I see where the squirrels have been eating the P. pine
cones since the last snow.

Feb 14

Another rather warm morning--still more
overcast than yesterday's-- There is also
another leaf or feather frost on the trees
weeds & rails--slight leaves or feathers
1/4 to 1/2 inch long x 1/8 wide standing out around
the slightest core-- I think it¹⁵³ is owing to the
warmer nights. A 9 last evening & at 9
this morning the thermometer stood at 20°+
These ghosts of trees are very handsome &
fairy-like--but would be handsomer still
with the sun on them-- The thickened clubbed
golden
tansy & the golden rods &c--& the ^ willows
of the RR causeway with spiring tops shaped
like one of the frost leaves--& the white telegraph
wire--& the hoary sides of pine woods.

That cold weather of the 6th & 7th was preceded
2 days (the 4 & 5th)]¹⁵⁴
by ^ much colder weather than we had been having-- It moderated
sufficiently to snow again on the eve of the ~~11th~~ 7th--& the
8th & 9th--on the morn of the 11th was down to 22°-

¹⁵³"it" written over "is"
¹⁵⁴Possibly not "]"--could be written over, to avoid the "l" in "colder" below

1 Aunt Louisa says that her cousin
2 Nahum Jones, son¹⁵⁵ to that Nathan Jones
3 whom her Mother & sisters visited with her
4 down east,--carried a cat to the West
5 Indies, sold his vessel there, & though the
6 same vessel did not return, & he came
7 back in another vessel without the cat--
8 to Gouldsboro
9 the cat got home^ some how unaccountably
10 about the same time that he did.

11 Capt. Woodard told her that he carried
12 the same cat 3 times round the world.

13 I said to Therien--You did 'nt
14 live at Smiths last summer--Where did
15 you live?--at Bakers? Yes, said he--
16 Well is that a good place-- O. Yes. Is that
17 a better place than Smiths? O--a change
18 of pasture makes a fatter calf.

19 Feb 15

20 Commenced a fine half snow half rain yesterday
21 P. m. All rain & harder in the night &
22 now quite a thaw--still raining finely--
23 with great dark puddles amid the snow--
24 & the cars detained by wet rails. Does
25 not a thaw succeed that blue atmosphere
26 observed on the 11th? A thaw, as well as warmer
27 nights & hoar frosts?

28 All day a steady warm imprisoning

¹⁵⁵Possibly altered from "some"

1
 2 rain carrying off the snow--not unmusical
 3 on my roof-- It is a rare time for
 4 the student & reader who cannot go
 5 abroad in the P. m. provided he can
 6 keep awake--for we are wont to be drowsy
 7 as cats--in such weather-- Without it is not
 8 walking but wading. It is so long since I
 9 steady-soaking-rushing
 10 have heard it that the^sound of the rain on
 11 the shingles is musical. The fire needs no
 12 replenishing, & we save our fuel. It seems like
 13 a distant fore-runner of spring-- It is because
 14 I am allied to the elements that the sound of
 15 the rain is thus soothing to me. The sound
 16 soaks into my spirit as the water into the earth--
 17 reminding me of the season when snow & ice
 18 will be no more--when the earth will be thawed
 19 and drink up the rain as fast as it falls.

20 Feb 16th

21 Still rains a little this morning. Water
 22 at the mill dam higher than ever since
 23 %or longer%
 24 the new block was built%^%. Ground half
 25 bare--but frozen & icy yet.

26 Pm to Cliff via Spanish Brook--

27 A thick fog--without rain-- Sounds
 28 sweet & musical through this air--
 29 as crows cocks--& striking on the rails
 30 at a distance. In the woods by the

1 cut--in this soft air under the pines
2 draped with mist--my voice & whistling
3 are peculiarly distinct & echoed back to me
4 as if the fog were a ceiling--which made
5 this hollow an apartment.¹ Sounds are
6 not dissipated & lost in the immensity
7 of the heavens above you--but your
8 voice being confined by the fog y is
9 distinct & you hear yourself speak.
10 It is a good lichen day-- Every crust is
11 colored & swollen with fruit--& C-- is
12 constantly using his knife--& filling his pockets
13 with specimens. I have caught a mouse
14 where were tracks like those of Feb. 12
15 at last--^but it is eaten half up--
16 All the flesh is eaten out & part of the skin--one fore foot eaten off--but the
17 entrails left
18 ap. by its fellow?--^ No wonder we do not
19 find their dead bodies in the woods.
20 The rest of the trap is not moved or sprung
21 & there is no track of a large animal or bird in the snow-- It may have been a weasel
22 The sand is flowing fast--in forms
23 of vegetation in the deep cut. The fog
24 is so thick we cannot see the engine
25 till it is almost upon us--& then its
26 own steam hugging the earth--greatly
27 increases the mist. As usual it
28 is still more dense over the ice
29 at the pond.
30 goes on melting {~~den~~} till there is only a little ice snow
31 left on N. of hills in woods on the 10--of Mar
32 & then is whitened again.
33 // The ground is more than half bare--es-
34 pecially in open fields and level evergreen
35 woods-- It is pleasant to see there the

¹"apartment." written over "apartment--"

1
2 bright evergreens of the forest floor--un-
3 dimmed by the snow-- The winter green--the
4 great leaved pyrola--the shin leaf--the rattle-
5 snake plantain & the Lycopodiums--I see where
6 probably rabbits have nibbled off the leaves of
7 It is pleasant to see elsewhere in fields & on banks so many green radical
8 the winter green--^ Are those little scratches
9 leaves only half killed by the winter
10 across pallescent lichens which C. notices
11 made by squirrels. I find in the leavings
12 of the partridges numer ends of twigs--they are
13 white with them--some 1/2 inch long &
14 stout in proportion--perhaps they are apple?
15 twigs-- The bark (& bud if there was any) have
16 been entirely digested leaving the bare white hard
17 wood of the twig-- Some of the ends of apple
18 twigs looked as if they had been bitten off.
19 It is surprising what a quantity of this wood
20 they swallow with their² buds-- What a
21 hardy bird--born amid the dry leaves--
22 of the same color with them--that grown
23 up lodges in the snow--& lives on
24 buds & twigs! Where apple buds are
25 just freshly bitten off they do not seem
26 to have taken so much twig with them--
27 The drooping oak leaves show more
28 ~~read~~ red amid the pines this wet
29 day--agreeably so--& I feel as if I stood
30 a little nearer to the heart of nature.

²Possibly "these" or "the"

1
 2 the Swamp Bridge on Back⁴ road. Muskrats driven
 3 out-- Heard this morn at the new Stone bridge
 4 from the hill that singular spring-like
 5 note of a bird which I heard once before[^] one year
 6
 7 about this time (under F. H. Hill--) The jays
 8 were uttering their unusual notes--& this made
 9 me think of a wood-pecker-- It reminds me
 10 of the pine warbler--vetter vetter vetter vetter
 11 vet--except that it is much louder--& I
 12 should say had the sound of l⁵ rather than t
 13 veller & c perhaps-- Can it be a jay?--or a pig.
 14 woodpecker?-- Is it not the earliest
 15 spring ~~spring~~ ward note of a bird? In the
 16 damp misty air.

17 ~~Was~~ Was waked up last night by
 18 the tolling of a bell about 11 o clock--
 19 as if a child had hold of the rope
 20 ^dressed & went abroad in the wet⁶ to
 21 see if it was a fire-- It seems the town
 22 clock was out of order & the striking part
 23 ran down & struck steadily for 15 minutes.
 24 If it⁷ had not been so near the end of the neck⁸
 25 it might have struck a good part of the
 26 night.

27 Pm
 28 A riparial excursion--over further RR bridge
 29 return by Flints bridge-- At 2 Pm the
 30 water at the Sam Wheeler Bridge is 3 inches //
 31 above stright truss or 2 inches higher than
 32 at 9 Am. The ice is not ~~generally~~ broken

⁴Possibly "back" altered from "Back"
⁵This is the letter "l", not the numeral "1"
⁶Possibly altered from "to"
⁷poss "if" written over "it"
⁸Possibly "week"

1 over the channel of this stream--but
2 is lifted up & also for a good distance
3 over the meadows--but for a broad
4 space ~~of~~ over the meadows on each side⁹
5 the freshet stands over the ice which
6 is flat on the bottom. It rains
7 but a trifle this afternoon but the
8 snow which is left is still melting--
9 The water is just beginning to be over the road
10 beyond this stone bridge-- The road beyond
11 the opposite or Wood's Bridge¹⁰ is already
12 impassable to foot travellers--
13 I see no muskrats in the Assabet from
14 the Tommy Wheeler bank--perhaps they
15 provided themselves holes at the last freshet--
16 It is running over both side of Derby's
17 bridge for a dozen rods (each side)
18 as over¹¹ a dam-- The ice in the middle
19 of this stream is for the most part
20 broken up-- Great cakes of ice
21 are wedged against the RR bridge
22 there & still threaten its existence.
23 They are about 20 feet in diameter
24 & some 20 inches thick of greenish
25 ice--more or less tilted¹² up &
26 if not 2 more
27 commonly another ^ of equal size
28 forced directly underneath the first

⁹Possibly underlined in pencil

¹⁰Altered from "bridge"

¹¹"as over" altered from another word

¹²First "t" crossed in pencil?

1
 2 by the current-- They stretch quite across
 3 the river--& being partly tilted up against
 4 the spiles of the bridge exert a tremen-
 5 dous power upon it-- They form a
 6 dam between & over which the water falls--
 7 so that it is fully ten inches higher
 8 on the upper side of the bridge than on
 9 the lower--2 maples a little above
 10 the bridge--one a large one--have
 11 been leveled & carried off by the ice.
 12 The track repairers have been at work
 13 here all day ~~sup~~ protecting the
 14 bridge-- They have a man on the
 15 ice with a rope round his body--the
 16 other end in their hands--who is cracking
 17 off the corners of the cakes with
 18 a crow bar-- One great cake
 19 as much as a dozen rods long is
 20 slowly whirling round just above the
 21 bridge & from time to time one end
 22 is born against the ice which lies against
 23 the bridge. The workmen say that
 24 they had cleared the stream here before
 25 dinner--& all this has collected since.
 26 (Now 3 Pm). If Derbys bridge should
 27 yield to the ice which lies against it
 28 this--would surely be swept off--
 29 They say that 3 (?) years ago the whole of the E end of the bridge was moved
 30 some 6 inches, rails & all.¹³
 31 Waded through water in the road for 8 or

¹³"some . . . all" written vertically in right margin

1 10 rods, beyond Lorings little bridge--
2 It was a foot deep this morning on
3 the short road that leads to Heywood's
4 house--I had to go 1/4 of a mile up the
5 meadow there & down the college road--
6 Sam Barrett's Bridge is entirely covered
7 a broad bay
8 & has slumped-- They cross ^ in a boat
9 there-- I went over on the string piece
10 of the dam above. It is within 8 or
11 9 inches of the top of the little bridge this
12 side of Flint's Bridge at 5 1/2 Pm. So
13 though it is within 5 1/2 inches of where
14 it was 3 years ago in the spring at the
15 New Stone bridge--it is not so high com-
16 paratively here. The fact is the water is
17 in each case dammed not only by the
18 bridges & causeways--but by the ice
19 ~~which lodges there~~--so that it stands
20 at as many levels as there are cause-
21 ways. It is perhaps about a foot
22 lower at Flint's Bridge now, than ~~it~~
23 ~~was 3 years ago at the same moments that~~
24 ~~it was~~ when it stood where it does
25 now at the new stone Bridge 3 years ago.
26 So that a meter at one point above
27 will not enable you to compare the
28 absolute height or quantity of water

1
 2 at dif. seasons & under dif, circumstances.
 3 Such a meter is the more to be relied
 4 on, in proportion as a river is free from
 5 obstructions--such as ice--causeways--
 6 bridges &c-- Everywhere now in the
 7 a green
 8 fields you see ^ water standing over ice¹⁴
 9 in the hollows. Sometimes it is a very delicate
 10 would this water look green on any white ground? ~~No--I think not for it~~
 11 is corn-yellow on meadows in spring
 12 tint of green. ^The highway surveyor is
 13 on the alert to see what damage
 14 the freshet has done-- As they could
 15 not dig in the frozen ground, they
 16 have upset a cartload of p. pine
 17 boughs into the hole at the swamp
 18 bridge.
 19 Feb 18th
 20 8 Am Water 4 3/4 inches above truss--nearly
 21 It may have risen 1 inch higher during the day--then went down
 22 2 inches higher than yesterday at 2 Pm^-- Surface of
 23 ground & snow slightly frozen--no flowing now--
 24 At 9 Am sun comes out. rather warm--
 25 sunlight peculiarly yellow & spring-suggesting.
 26 Mts in horizon dark blue. the wooded parts--with
 27 snow below & between--
 28 Pm to Grt Mead's & around Beck
 29 stow's. A clear bright day, though
 30 with passing clouds--(the clouds darker
 31 by contrast with the bright sky--) the
 32 first since the evening of the 14th ult--

¹⁴Possibly altered from "Lee"

1 Now for the first time decidedly there
2 // is something spring-suggesting in the air &
3 light--Though not particularly warm
4 the light of the sun (now travelling so
5 much higher)--on the russet fields
6 --the ground being nearly all bare--& on the
7 sand--& the pines, is suddenly yellower.
8 It is the earliest day-breaking of the
9 year-- We now begin to look decidedly
10 forward & put the winter behind us.
11 We begin to form definite plans for the
12 spring & summer
13 approaching ~~season~~ year. I look over
14 a particolored landscape of russet fields
15 & white snow patches--as in former spring
16 days-- Some of the frost has come out
17 & it is very wet & muddy crossing
18 As filthy waking as any in the year-- You have the
19 plowed fields. ^The legions of light
20 experience of wading birds that get their living on the flats when the tide has
21 have poured into the plain in over-
22 gone down & leave their tracks there--but you are cheered by the
23 whelming numbers, & the winter darkness
24 sight of some radical greenness.
25 will not recover the ground it has lost.
26 I listen ever for something spring-like
27 in the notes of birds--some peculiar
28 tinkling notes.
29 Now and through the winter I am attracted
30 by the reddish patches on the landscape where
31 there is a dense growth of young white
32 birches--the bark of the young shoots.
33 Neither the main stream nor
34 meadows are decidedly broken up by

1
 2 the¹⁵ thaw & rise--only there are great open
 3 places in the meadows--where you
 4 observe the ripple of water still in
 5 the mornings--the cold is so much
 6 relaxed--& the ice that belonged
 7 is superimposed in great cakes upon
 8 the still firmly frozen parts. On
 9 the Great Fields I see an acre of
 10 a straw-colored feathery grass in tufts
 11 2 feet high. These too reflect the yellower
 12 light.

13 I see pitch pine cones 2 years old still
 14 closed on felled trees--2 to 6 together ^{recurved} ~~etc~~
 15 in the last case closely crowded & surrounding
 16 the twig in a ring--forming very rich
 17 looking clusters--8 to 10 inches from the
 18 extremity--& within two or 3 inches of
 19 the extremity--may be on or 2 small ones
 20 of the last year-- Low down on twigs
 21 around the trunks of old trees--& sometimes
 22 on the trunk itself you see old grey cones
 23 which have only opened or blossomed at the
 24 apex--covered with lichens. Which have lost
 25 their spines.

27 A man came to our house at noon
 28 and got something to eat--who set out
 29 this morning to go from Waltham to

¹⁵Possibly added in margin

1 Noah Wheeler's in
2 ^Nine Acre Corner-- He got as far as
3 Lees bridge on the edge of Lincoln--
4 or within 3/4 of a mile of Wheelers--& could
5 not get over the river on account of the
6 ^{came}
7 freshet So he ~~was obliged to~~ round through
8 Concord village--he might have
9 come by the RR a little nearer--& I directed
10 him over the RR bridge--the first by which
11 he could cross dry-shod down the stream.
12 & up stream he would have been obliged
13 ^{had}
14 to go to Saxonville-- Thus he ~~would have~~
15 to go 8 miles round--instead of
16 & in the whole about double the usual distance from Waltham.
17 3/4 of a mile direct^--It was probably
18 over the road also at Nut Meadow Brook.
19 The river thus opposes a serious obstacle
20 to travellers--from ~~Nw~~ to S. E. to N. W. for
21 some 20 miles of its course at least--
22 No doubt hundreds have been put to great inconvenience
23 above & below Concord. ^Even travellers
24 by it within a day or 2.
25 in wagons are stopped at many of these
26 causeways. If they were raised 2 feet
27 the trouble would be in great part
28 the danger wholly obviated. There should
29 at least be provided a ferry for foot
30 passengers at each such causeway--at
31 the expense¹⁶ of the town--& the traveller
32 could blow a horn to call the ferry-man
33 Youill¹⁷ see a man carrying a child over a causeway
34 ~~of~~ over-- on his back--
35 After a thaw old {~~ha~~} tracks in the
36 snow--from basso--become alto¹⁸

¹⁶"expense" possibly "Expence"

¹⁷Combined "You" and "will"--may want to emend

¹⁸"basso" and "alto" possibly underlined in pencil

1
2 relieve--the snow which was originally
3 solidified
4 compressed & hardened beneath the feet--
5 also perhaps by the influence of the sun & maybe rain
6 ~~now becoming~~ being the last to melt
7 become protuberant. the highest part
8 & most lasting-- That part of the
9 snow compressed & solidified under the feet
10 remains nearly at the same level--
11 The track becomes a raised almost icy
12 type. How enduring these trails! How
13 nature clings to these types. The track
14 even of small animals like a skunk will
15 outlast a considerable thaw.
16 Why do laborers so commonly turn out
17 their feet more than ~~other~~ the class still
18 called gentlemen--ap. pushing themselves
19 along by the sides of their feet?
20 I think you can tell the track of a clown
21 from that of a gentleman¹⁹. though
22 he should wear ^a ~~the~~ gentleman's boots.
23 %Feb 19%
24 Rufus Hosmer says that in the year
25 1820 (?) there was so smooth & strong
26 an icy crust on a very deep snow--that
27 you could skate everywhere over the
28 fields & for the most part over the
29 fences. Sam Potter's father moving into
30 town--turned off into the fields ~~as slo~~
31 with a 4 (?) horse team as soon as he

¹⁹Possibly altered from "gentlemen"

1 had crossed Woods bridge & went directly
2 across to Dea Hubbard's. When ~~the~~
3 Wood's Bridge was carried off upstream
4 it was landed against Hubbard's land.
5 Showed me where his grandfather Nathan Hosmer who lived in the old house still standing
6 on Conantum was drowned when crossing the river on the ice from town just below the
7 bridge since built.
8 Many will complain of my lectures--
9 that they are transcendental--cant under-
10 stand them--would you have us return
11 to the savage state? &c&c A criticism
12 true enough, it may be, from their
13 point of view. But the fact is, the
14 earnest lecturer can speak only to his
15 like--and the adapting of himself to
16 his audience is a mere compliment
17 which he pays them. If you wish to know²⁰
18 how I think you must endeavor to put
19 yourself in my place-- If you wish me
20 to speak as if I were in your ~~place~~ that
21 is another affair.
22 I think it was about a week ago that
23 I saw some dead honeybees on the snow.
24 The water is about a foot deep on
25 the Jimmy Miles road. E. Conant thinks
26 that the Joe Miles Causeway is rather
27 worse than Hubbard's in respect to water--
28 Rice & some others always say Cassey
29 for Causeway-- Conant was cutting
30 which had blown down
31 up an old Pear tree ^ by his old house

²⁰Possibly altered from "known"

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on Conantum-- This, & others still standing--&
a mulberry tree whose stump remains--were set
anciently with reference to a house which stood in
the little peach orchard near by-- The only way
for Conant to come to town when the water is highest
is by Tarbells--& Woods or the Stone Bridge. about
1 1/2 miles round.

It is true, when there is no snow we cannot
so easily see the birds, nor they the weeds--

Feb 20

I have caught another of those mice
of Feb 16th & secured it entire--a male

Whole length,	6 1/2 inches
Head, from the nose to the ears	1 inch
tail	3 1/8 inches
Longest of the whiskers	1 5/8 "

Hind legs the longest--though only the feet,
about 3/4 of an inch in length, one exposed--without
the fur-- Of the fore legs little more is
exposed than the hands--or perhaps 4 to 5/8
claws concealed in tufts of white hair
of an inch--^ The upper jaw projects about
1/2 inch beyond the lower. ~~whisk~~

The whole upper parts are brown, except the
ears,²¹ from the snout to the tip of the tail--
dark brown on the top of the head &
back & upper side of the tail--reddish
or fawn or fox? colored Tail hairy & obscurely ringed
brown ^ on the sides. ^The whole lower
neat white & under side of tail
parts white, including the ^ feet. ^The
waving
irregular ^ line ~~fo~~ along the sides forming

²¹"ears," written over "ears--"

1 the boundary between the brown & the white
2 from side of the mout to the tip of the tail--above brown beneath white very
3 very sharply defined^-- The brown of the decidedly
4 sides extends down by a triangular point
5 to the last joint ~~of~~ or foot of the forelegs--
6 or you may say the white of the belly extends upward on the sides
7 same or bet. the legs in a broad bay.
8 & to the ^ heels of the hind ones. ^The ears are large--
9 broad & roundish
10 ^5/8 inch long--ash or slate colored--thin &
11 bare except at ~~the~~ base-- The reddish brown &
12 the white are the striking colors. It is
13 in the attitude of hopping-- Its²² thighs ~~of its~~
14 ~~concea~~ drawn up & concealed in the fur & its
15 long hind feet in the same plane with
16 its buttocks--while the short fore feet ap-
17 pear like hands. Fur dark slate, under both brown & white hair
18 The droppings black say 1/6 inch long. cylindrical.
19 Some of the whiskers are dark, some whitish.
20 or downward.
21 It has a rather large head, ap. curving forward.^
22 A very slight & delicate tinge of yellowish beneath bet. the fore legs. v. Mar 12th²³
23 It is undoubtedly the Amicola Emmonsii
24 of de Kay.
25 It is a very pretty & neat little animal for
26 a mouse--with its wholesome reddish brown sides--
27 distinctly bounding in
28 ^its pure white belly--neat white feet--
29 which suggest circumspection & timidity--ready to earth itself on the least sound
30 of danger
31 large slate colored²⁴ ears^--long tail & numerous
32 whiskers-- This was caught in a dry & ele-
33 vated situation, amid shrub oaks. It ap.
34 like the other, came up through a hole in the
35 snow at the foot of a shrub oak--Q. ilicifolia.
36 which belongs to the king of beasts & to the deer
37 This tawny or reddish brown color^--singular
38 that it should extend to this minute beast
39 also. vn. p. but 2 V. Mar. 10th²⁵
40 A strong wind drying the earth which
41 // has been so very wet-- The sand begins

²²Altered; possibly from "the" or "The"

²³"v Mar 12th" LR: added in ink; perhaps "A . . . legs." LR, too; may need to move from AL table to LR table

²⁴stray mark under word

²⁵"V. Mar. 10th" LR: added in ink

1
2 to be dry in spots on the R. R. causeway--
3 The northerly wind blows me along--& when I get
4 to the cut I hear it roaring in the woods
5 all reminding me of March--March. The
6 It is decided March weather & I see from my window the bright blue water here
7 & there between the ice on the meadow.
8 sides of the cut are all bare of snow--& the //
9 sand foliage is dried up.²⁶
10 The quadrupeds which I know that
11 we have in Concord are V. Emmonds p 5²⁷
12 Of Order Carnivora-- Fam. Vespertilionidae /²⁸ have we more of the 3
13 in the State?
14 " Soricidae Have we any?
15 Talpidae Condylura longicaudata
16 star-nosed Mole
17 Have we not another of the 3 moles?
18 Ursidae-- Procyon lotor, The Racoon
19 Canidae Vulpes fulvus
20 Mustela martes Pine Marten
21 Mus-telidae ^ Putorius Vison. The Mink
22 " Vulgaris reddish weasel
23 " Noveboracensis Ermine "
24 Lutra Canadensis Otter
25 Mephitis Americana
26 Rodentia ~~Rodentia~~ Fiber Zibethicus
27 Castoridae
28 Leporidae Lepus Americanus
29 " Virginianus
30 Muscidae Arvicola hirsutus Mead. Mouse
31 in
32 altered to Muridae ^ 59 probably--his Albo-rufescens
33 only a var. ac to Aud. & Bach.
34 " Emmonsii--%mus leucopus%
35 Mus Musculus Com. Mouse
36 Mus rattus? black rat
37 " Decumanus Wharf rat
38 Brown
39 ~~Arctomys monax~~

²⁶"& the . . .up." possibly added

²⁷"V. . . . 5" possibly added

²⁸This is probably a false start

1	Order--	Family	Genus
2			Arctomys Monax Woodchuck
3			Sciurus leucotis little Gray squirrel
4			" Hudsonius
5			" Striatus
6			Pteromys Volucella
7			Have we the Gerbillus Cana-
8			densis-?- Jumping mouse?
9	Ac. to this we have at least 21 & perhaps		
10	26 ²⁹ quadrupeds--5 & possibly 6 families		
11	order		
12	of the ^ Carnivora & 3 families of the order Rodentia		
13	None of ³⁰ the order Ruminantia		
14	Nearly half of our quadrupeds belong to		
15	about ³¹		
16	the Muridae or Rat family--&^1/4 of them		
17	to the Mustelidae or Weasel Family.		
18	Some, though numerous, are rarely seen--		
19	as the wild mice & moles-- Others are		
20	very rare like the otter & raccoon		
21	The striped squirrel is the smallest		
22	quadruped that we commonly notice in		
23	our walks in the woods & we do not		
24	comm realize--especially in summer--		
25	when their tracks are not visible--that		
26	the aisles of the wood are threaded by		
27	countless wild mice--and no more		
28	that the meadows are swarming in many		
29	places with meadow mice & moles.		
30	The cat brings in a mole from time		
31	to time & we see where they have heaved		

²⁹Possibly pencilled "6" written over ink "5"

³⁰"of" written over "or"

³¹"about" and "^" cancelled in pencil

1
2 up the soil in the meadow-- We see
3 the tracks of mice on the snow in the
4 woods--or once in a year one glances
5 by like a flash through the grass or
6 ice at our feet--& that is for the
7 most part all that we see of them.
8 all
9 Though ^ the muskrat cabins will
10 be covered by an early rise of the river in the
11 fall--you will yet see the greater part of
12 them above the ice in midwinter however
13 high the water may be.
14 I frequently detect the track of a foreigner
15 by the print of the nails in his shoes--both
16 in snow & earth--of an india rubber--by its being
17 less sharply edged & most surely often by the
18 fine diamond roughening of the sole. How much
19 we infer from the dandy's narrow heel
20 tap--while we pity his unsteady tread--
21 & from the lady's narrow slipper--suggesting
22 corns not to say consumption-- The track
23 of the farmers cowhides--whose carpet
24 tearing tacks in the heel--frequently rake
25 the ground several inches before his foot
26 finds a resting place--suggests weight
27 & impetus.
28 Feb 21st a male
29 Another arvicola Emmonsii^--whole length
30 6 inches--tail 3 inches-- This is very little reddish

1 on the sides--but general aspect above dark
2 brown--though not iron-grey yet reminding me
3 Yet not the less like the hue of beasts in a menagerie
4 of that--^ This may be a last years Mouse--
5 Aud. & Bach. say that when³² "it sheds its hair late in spring"--"it assumes a bluish
6 gray tint, a little lighter than that of the common mouse."
7 P. m. To F-- H. Hill via ~~Cliff~~ Cut--
8 A clear air, with a Northwesterly March-
9 like wind--as yesterday-- What is the
10 peculiarity in the air--that both the
11 invalide in the chamber & the traveller
12 on the highway--say ~~it is~~ these are perfect
13 The wind is rapidly drying up earth & elevated sands already beg. to look whitish
14 March days^. How much light there is
15 in the sky & on the surface of the russet
16 earth--! It is reflected in a flood
17 from all cleansed surfaces--which
18 rain & snow have washed--from the
19 rail-road rails & the mica in the rocks--
20 & The silvery latebrae³³ of insects there
21 ^& I never saw the white houses of the
22 Now look for an early crop of arrowheads--for they will shine
23 village more brightly white.^ When I
24 have entered the wooded hollow on the
25 East of the Deep Cut it is novel & pleasant
26 // to hear the sound of the dry leaves & twigs
27 which have so long been damp & silent
28 ^crackling again under my feet.--
29 more warm & lighter than ever
30 though there is still considerable snow
31 along wall sides &c
32 about^--& to see the holes & galleries recently
33 made by the mice (?) in the ~~now~~ fine withered
34 the³⁴ upper aralia hollow there
35 grass of such places--^I see the peculiar
36 softened blue sky of spring over the tops
37 of the pines--& when I am sheltered from
38 the wind I feel the warmer sun

³²Possibly "where"

³³"latebricole" v. OED

³⁴Possibly "some"; if so, change key words in AL

1
2 of the season reflected from the withered
3 this
4 grass & twigs on the side of ~~an~~ elevated
5 hollow-- A warmth begins³⁵ to be reflected
6 from the partially dried ground here & there in
7 in sheltered places
8 the sun ^ very cheering to invalides who have
9 who think they may weather it till summer now
10 weak lungs-- ^Nature is more genial to them
11 When the leaves on the forest floor
12 are dried & begin to rustle under such
13 a ~~wind~~ sun & wind as these--the news
14 is told to how many myriads of grubs
15 that under-lie them! When I perceive
16 this dryness under my feet I feel as if
17 I had got a new sense, or rather I realize
18 what was incredible to me before--that
19 there is a new life in Nature beginning
20 to awake--that her halls are being swept
21 It is whispered through all the aisles of the forest that another Spring is
22 approaching--
23 & prepared for a new occupant--^ We now ~~notice~~
24 the wood mouse listens at the mouth of his burrow--& the chickadee passes the news
25 along
26 ~~th~~ notice the snow on the mts because on
27 the remote rim of the horizon its whiteness
28 the russet & darker hues of
29 contrasts with ^ our bare fields. I looked
30 at the Peterboro mts with my glass from
31 F. H. Hill. I think that there can be no
32 in the edge of the horizon
33 more arctic scene than these mts ^ completely
34 with the sun shining on them
35 crusted over with snow ^ seen through a telescope
36 over bare russet fields & dark forests--
37 with³⁶ perhaps a house on some remote
38 bare³⁷
39 bere ridge, seen against them.

³⁵Preceded by interlined cancelled word--may be false start

³⁶Possibly altered from "hill"

³⁷T was correcting his spelling

1 A silver edging or ear like handle to this bassin of the world--
2 They look like great loaves incrusted
3 with pure white sugar--and I think
4 that this must have been the origin of
5 the name sugar loaf sometimes given
6 to mts--& not on account of their form.
7 We look thus from russet fields into
8 a landscape still sleeping under the
9 We have already forgotten snow & think only of frosted cake
10 mantle of winter.^ The snow on the
11 mts has, in this case, a singular smooth
12 & crusty appearance--& by contrast
13 you see even single evergreens rising
14 here & there above it--and where a
15 promontory casts a shadow along the
16 mts' side. I saw what looked like
17 of misty bluish water
18 a large ~~bluish~~ lake ^ on the side of
19 the further Peterboro mt--its edges
20 or shore very distinctly defined-- This I
21 concluded was the shadow of another
22 part of the mt. & it suggested that
23 in like manner what on the surface of
24 the moon is taken for water--may be
25 Could not distinguish Monadnock till the sun shone
26 shadows. on it.
27 I saw a train go by which had
28 in front, dirt
29 ~~latched on~~ a dozen ^ cars somewhere
30 up country--laden ap. with some kind
31 or clay?
32 of earth--& these with their loads were
33 thickly & evenly crusted with unspotted
34 a part of that sugary crust I had viewed with my glass
35 snow--^which contrasted singularly with

1
 2 which it had hitched on their side
 3 the bare tops of the other cars^--& the 20
 4 at least
 5 miles ^ of bare ground over which they had
 6 It affected me as when a traveller comes into the house
 7 rolled. with snow on his coat--when I did not know it was snowing.

8 How plain wholesome & earthy are the colors
 9 of quadrupeds generally--! The commonest
 10 I should say is the tawny or various shades of
 11 brown--answering to the russet which is the prevail-
 12 ing color of the earth's surface--perhaps--& to the
 13 yellow of the sands beneath. The darker brown
 14 mingled with this answers to the darker colored
 15 soil of the surface. The white of the Polar
 16 bear--ermine weasel &c answer to the snow--
 17 -- The spots of the pards perchance to the earth
 18 spotted with flowers or tinted leaves of autumn.
 19 The black perhaps to night--& muddy bottoms
 20 & dark waters-- There are few or no bluish animals.

21 Can it be true, as is said, that geese
 22 prob. yesterday
 23 Boston
 24 have gone over ~~Massachusetts~~? It is in the newspapers
 25 Henry Hosmer tells me (Mar. 17th) that he saw several flocks about this time!³⁸
 26 Feb 22

27 Pm to J. Farmer's
 28 Remarkably warm & pleasant weather--
 29 perfect spring. I even listen for the 1st blue bird--
 30 %also the 24th which is very cold%
 31 I see a seething of in the air %^% over clean
 32 russett fields. The westerly wind is rather
 33 raw--but in sheltered places it is deliciously
 34 warm-- The water has so far gone down
 35 that I get over the Hunt Bridge cause-
 36 way--by going half a dozen rods on the wall

³⁸"Henry . . . time!" LR in ink

1 in one place. This water must have moved
2 2 or 300 cartloads of sand to the side
3 of the road-- This damage would be avoided
4 by raising the road.

5 // J. Farmer showed me an ermine weasel
6 he caught in a trap 3 or 4 weeks ago. They are
7 not very
8 ^uncommon about his barns. All white but
9 the tip of the tail--2 conspicuous canine
10 teeth in each jaw-- In summer they are dis-
11 tinguished from the red weasel, which is a little
12 smaller, by the length of their tails particularly
13 --6 or more inches, while the red one's is not 2 inches
14 long. He says their track is like that
15 of the mink--{drawing} as
16 if they had only 2 legs--they go on the
17 jump--sometimes make a 3d mark--
18 He saw one in the summer (which he called the
19 red weasel--but as he thought the red 2ce as
20 big as the white, it may have been a white one)
21 catch a striped squirrel thus. He was at
22 work near the wall near his house when
23 he saw a striped squirrel come out of the
24 wall & jump along by the side of a
25 large stone-- When he had got 2 or 3
26 feet along it as it were in the air, the
27 weasel appeared ~~in pursuit~~ behind him--
28 & before he had got 4 feet had him by
29 the throat. Said a man told him
30 that he saw a weasel come running

1 the wall nor its body-- This he is sure
2 of--& declares that he is mistaken
3 who affirms the contrary, though it
4 were Audubon himself. Wilson says he
5 "begins to strike with his stiffened wings" while
6 standing on a log--but does not say what
7 he strikes--though one would infer it was either
8 the log or his body. Peabody says he beats
9 his body with his wings.

10 The sun goes down tonight under clouds--
11 a round red orb--& I am surprised to
12 see that its light falling on my book
13 & the wall--is a beautiful purple--like
14 the poke-stem--or perhaps some kinds of wine.⁴¹

15 You see fresh upright green radical leaves
16 of some plants--the dock--prob water d. for one
17 in and about water--now the snow is gone there--
18 as if they had grown all winter.

19 P. pine cones must be taken from
20 the tree at the right season else they will
21 not open or blossom in a chamber-- I have one
22 which was gnawed off by squirrels ap. of full
23 size--but which does not open. Why should
24 they thus open in the chamber or elsewhere. I sup-
25 pose that under the influence of heat or dryness
26 the upper side of each scale expands while
27 the lower contracts--or perhaps only the one expands
28 or the other contracts. I notice that the upper side
29 is a lighter almost cinnamon color--the lower a
30 dark (pitchy (?)) red.

⁴¹"or . . . wine." possibly added

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Feb 23d

Clear--but a very cold north wind.

I see great cakes of ice a rod or more
 2 1 foot thick
 in length ^ lying high & dry on the bare
 ground in the low fields some 10 feet or
 more beyond the edge of the thinner ice, which
 were washed up by the last rise (the 18th)
 V the 26th
 which was some 4 inches higher than the former one^

Some of these great cakes when the water
 going down has left them on a small mound--
 have bent as they settled & conformed to the surface.

Saw at Walden this P-- m. that
 that grayish ice which had formed over the
 large square where ice had been taken out
 for Brown's ice-house--had a decided pink
 or rosaceous tinge. I see no cracks in the
 ground this year yet.

Mr Loring says that he & his son Geo. fired at^{white}swans
 with ball
 in Texas on the water--& though G. shot 2 ^ ~~the~~ &
 killed them--the others in each case gathered about
 them & crowded them off out of their reach.

Feb 24

Clear but very cold & windy for the season--
 Northerly wind--smokes blown off Southerly-- Ground
 frozen harder still-- -- But prob. now & hereafter--
 what ground freezes at night will in great part
 melt by mid. of day-- However it is so cold
 this p. m. That there is no melting of the ground

1
 2 between the great cakes of the ice which
 3 has been broken up-- The whole of the
 4 broad meadows is a rough irregular
 5 checker-board of great cakes a rod square
 6 or more--Arctic enough to look at.

7 The willow-row does not begin to
 8 look bright yet-- The up 2 or 3 feet //
 9 are more red as usual at a distance--
 10 the lower parts a rather dull green. Inspecting
 11 a branch I find that the bark is shrunk
 12 & wrinkled--& of course it will not peel--
 13 Probably when it shines--it will be tense &
 14 smooth--all its pores filled--

15 Staples said the other day that he
 16 Philips
 17 heard ~~Staples~~ speak at the State House--
 18 By thunder he never heard a man that
 19 could speak like him--his words
 20 came so easy--it was just like picking
 21 up chips.

22 Minott says that Messer tells him he saw
 23 %v. Mar. 4th & 7th%
 24 a striped squirrel! Yesterday. %^%His cat //
 25 caught a mole lately--not a starnosed one
 26 but one of those that heave up the meadow
 27 She sometimes catches a little dark colored
 28 mouse with a sharp nose.

29 Tells of a Fisk of Waltham--who some
 30 30 years ago could go out with a
 31 club only--& kill as many partridges

1 as he could conveniently bring home.
2 I suppose he knew where to find them buried
3 in the snow-- Both Minott & Farmer--think
4 they sometimes remained several days in the
5 snow--if the weather is bad for them--
6 Minott has seen twigs, he says of apple, in
7 their crops 3/4 of an inch long. Says he
8 has seen them drum many times standing
9 on a log or a wall. That they strike the
10 log or stone with their wings. He has fre-
11 quently caught them in a steel trap without
12 bait--covered with leaves & set in such--
13 also
14 places. Says that Quails ^ eat apple buds.
15 I notice that in the tracks hen's toes are
16 longer--& more slender than partridges--&
17 more or less turned or curved one side.
18 the
19 {drawing} The brightening of ^ willow--crop
20 osiers--that is a season in the spring--
21 showing that the dormant sap is awakened.
22 I now remember a few osiers which I have
23 seen early in past springs thus brilliantly
24 or
25 green ~~and~~⁴⁴ red/or yellow/ and it is as if all
26 the landscape & all nature shone. Though
27 the twigs were few which I saw I remember
28 it as a prominent phenomenon affecting
29 the face of nature--a gladdening of her
30 face. You will often fancy that they
31 look brighter--before the spring has come--& when
32 there has been no change in them.
33 Thermometer at 10°+ at 10 Pm.

⁴⁴3 lines crossing out strikethrough--don't know what it represents; maybe to cancel the cancellation?

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Feb. 25th

Clear cold & windy-- Thermometer at 7°+
at 7 1/2 Am. Air filled with dust blowing
over the fields. Feel the cold about as
much as when it was below 0 a month ago.

//

Pretty good skating--

Feb 26

Still clear & cold--& windy-- No thawing
of the ground during the day-- This & the
last 2 or 3 days have been very blustering
& unpleasant--though clear--

Pm to Clam Shell Hill--across river--
depot field
I see some cracks in a plowed field^--corn-
field--may be recent ones--I think since
this last cold snap--else I had noticed them
before. Those great cakes of ice which
the last freshet floated up on to uplands--
now lie still further from the edge of
the recent ice-- You are surprised to see them
lying with perpendicular edges a foot thick
bare grassy
--on ^ upland where there is no other sign
of water--some times wholly isolated by bare
grass there In the last freshet--the
S branch was only broken up on the
meadows--for a few rods in width next
the shores--where the ice did not rise
with the wate, but ap being frozen to
th dry bottom--was covered by the water,--
there & ap. in shallow places here

1 there far from the shore--the ground
2 ice was at length broken & rose up in
3 cakes larger or smaller--the smaller
4 of which were often floated up higher
5 on to the shore by a rod or so than the
6 ice had originally reached-- Then the
7 water going down--when the weather became
8 colder & froze--the new ice only reached
9 part way up these cakes which lay high
10 & dry. It is therefore pretty good skating
11 on the river itself & on the greater part
12 of the meadows next the river--but it
13 is interrupted by great cakes of ice rising
14 above the general level--near the shore--
15 of those
16 Saw several ^ rather small reddish brown
17 // daw bugs on the ice of the meadow--some
18 frozen in-- Were they washed out of their winter
19 quarters by the freshet?⁴⁵ or can it be that
20 they came forth of their own accord on the
21 22nd--? I cannot revive them by a fire.
22 // C. says says he saw a lark today close
23 to him--& some other ~~spring~~ dark-colored spring
24 bird. Directly off Clam-Shell Hill--
25 within 4 rods of it--where the water is
26 3 or 4 feet deep--I see where the muskquash
27 dived & brought up clams before the last
28 freezing-- Their open shells are strewn along
29 close to the edge of the ice & close together
30 for about 3 rods in one place--
31 & the bottom under this edge of ~~the~~

⁴⁵Possibly inserted over dash

1
2 older ice--as seen through the new black ice
3 sank
4 is perfectly white with those which ~~fell to~~
5 They may have been blown in--or the ice melted.
6 ~~the bottom~~--^ The nacre of these freshly
7 opened shells is very fair--azure--
8 a delicate salmon
9 or else ^ pink? or rosaceous--or violet--
10 I find one not open but frozen--and
11 several have one valve quite broken in two
12 in the rat's effort to wrench them open--
13 leaving the frozen fish half exposed. All
14 the rest show the marks of their teeth
15 i.e. sometimes at one end sometimes at another--
16 at one end or the other.^ You can see
17 distinctly also the marks of their teeth where
18 with a scraping cut
19 they have scraped off ^ the tough muscles
20 also sometimes all along the nacre next the edge
21 which fasten the fish to its shell.^ One shell
22 has ap. a little cadis case of iron-colored
23 sand on it. These shells look un-
24 commonly large thus exposed--at a distance
25 like leaves-- They lie thickly around⁴⁶ the
26 thinner
27 edge of each small circle of ^ black ice
28 in the midst of the white--showing
29 where was open water a day or 2 ago.
30 At the beginning & end of winter when the river is partly open--the ice serves
31 them instead of other stool.
32 ^Some are reddish-brown in thick & hard
33 ~~prot~~ layers like iron ore outside--some
34 have roundish copper-colored spots on
35 the nacre within-- This shows that this
36 is still a good place for clams as it was
37 in Indian days.

⁴⁶"around" altered from "aroung"

1 examined with glass some fox-dung? from
2 a tussock of grass amid the ice on the meadow
3 It appeared to be composed--⁴⁷1/3 of
4 clay--& the rest a slate-colored fur &
5 coarser white-hairs black tipped--too coarse
6 for the Deer-Mouse--was it that of
7 the rabbit? This mingled with small bones--
8 A mass as long as one's finger.

9 Feb 27th

10 Another cold clear day--but the
11 weather gradually moderating--

12 Feb 28th

13 Still cold & clear-- Ever since the
14 23d inclusive a succession of clear
15 but very cold days--in which for
16 the most part it has not melted
17 perceptibly during the day-- My ink
18 has frozen & plants &c have frozen in
19 the house--though the thermometer has
20 not indicated nearly so great a cold
21 as before-- Since the 25th it has
22 been very slowly moderating--

23 // The skating began again the 24th
24 after the great freshet had gone⁴⁸
25 down some 2 feet or more--but
26 that part of the old ice which
27 was broken up by the freshet--&

⁴⁷Dash probably cancels false start

⁴⁸Probably can construe as extra stroke in "n" rather than an "m"

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floated from its place, either on to the
upland or meadow or onto the ~~old~~
firm ice--made it remarkably
broken & devious--not to be used by night
-- The deep bays & sides of the meadows
have presented a very remarkable ap-
pearance--a stretching pack of great
cakes of ice ^{often} ~~sometimes~~ 2 or more upon
each other & partly tilted up--a foot
thick & 1 to 2 or more rods broad--
The westering sun reflected from their
edges makes them shine finely--

In short our meadows have presented
& still present--a very wild and arctic
scene--far on every side over what is
usually dry land are scattered these
great cakes of ice--The water having
now gone down about 5 feet on the
S branch.

Pm to further RR Bridge
& Ministerial swamp--

I see that same kind of icicle terracing
{drawing} about the piers of Wood's Bridge
& others that I saw I think last
spring--but not now quite so perfect--as
if where the water had stood at suc-
cessive levels. %The lower edge now a foot
or 2 above water--%

//

1 Examined where the White maple & the
2 apple tree where tipped over by the
3 ice the other day at the RR Bridge
4 It struck them 7 or 8 feet from the ground
5 --that being the height of the water--rubbed
6 off the barke & then bent flat &
7 broke them-- They were ~~nearly~~ about 10
8 inches in diameter--the maple partly dead before⁴⁹
9 I see where many trees have been
10 wounded by the ice in former years.
11 They have a hard time of it--When a
12 a cake half a dozen rods in diameter
13 & nearly 2 feet thick is floated &
14 blown against them.

15 Just S of Darbys Bridge lie many
16 great cakes some one upon another
17 which were stopped by the bridge & causeway
18 ^& a great many have a crust of
19 // the meadow of equal thickness--
20 --6 inch to 1 foot--frozen to their under
21 surfaces-- Some of these are a rod in
22 diameter--& when the ice melts the
23 meadow where they are landed will
24 present a singular appearance--
25 I see many also freshly deposited on
26 the Elfin burial ground--showing
27 how that was formed. The greater
28 part of those hummocks there

⁴⁹Possibly added in margin

1
 2 are probably if not certainly carried by the
 3 ice--though I now see a few small but
 4 thick pieces of meady 4 or 5 feet broad
 5 without any ice--or appearance of its having
 6 been attached to them-- This is a powerful
 7 agent at work. Many great cakes
 8 have lodged on a ridge of the meadow
 9 west of the river here--& suggest how such
 10 a ridge may be growing from year to year--

11 This North⁵⁰ river is only partially open. //
 12 I see where a bright gleam from a cake
 13 of ice on the shore is reflected in the stream
 14 with remarkable brightness--in a pointed
 15 flamelike manner {drawing} Look either side--
 16 you see it. Standing here--still above
 17 the elfin burial ground--the outlines
 18 of Haywards the millers houses in the distance
 19 against the pine & oak woods come
 20 dimly out--& by their color are in very
 21 pleasing harmony with this ~~how~~ wood⁵¹--
 22 I think it is a dull red house against
 23 the usual mixture of red oak leaves &
 24 dark pines-- There is such a harmony
 25 as between the gray limbs of an over shadowing
 26 elm & the lichen clad roof--

27 We crossed the river at Nut meadow
 28 Brook-- The ice was nearly worn through

⁵⁰Possibly altered from "north"

⁵¹Something is written above in pencil, possibly initials "JM{ }"

1 all along there with wave-like regularity
2 {drawing}⁵² in oblong (round end) or thick crescent
3 or kidney-shaped holes--as if
4 worn by the summits of waves--
5 like a riddle to sift a man
6 through-- These holes are hard to
7 detect in some lights except by shaking
8 the water-- I saw some ~~gre~~ cakes
9 of ice 10 feet across & 1 foot thick--
10 lodged with one end on the top of a
11 fence post & some 7 or 8 feet in the
12 air--the other on the bottom.

13 There is a fine pack of large cakes
14 away in the bay behind Hubbards Grove.
15 I notice looking at their edges that
16 the white or rotted part extends down-
17 ward in points or triangles alternating
18 with the round greenish parts thus
19 {drawing} Most however are
20 a thin white or maybe
21 snow ice with all beneath solid & green still.

22 Found a hang birds nest fallen from
23 the ivy maple--composed wholly of ~~raveling~~
24 ~~or probably~~ that thread they wipe the locomotive
25 "cotton waste"
26 ^with^--& one real thread all as it were
27 woven into a perfect bag.

28 I have a piece of a limb alder or

⁵²Pencil drawing of arrow above drawing

1
 2 maple? say 5/8 inch in diameter which has been
 3 cut off by a worm boring spirally--but in one
 4 horizontal plane--3 times round {drawing}⁵³
 5 I observed how a new ravine? is formed
 6 in a sand hill-- A new one was formed in
 7 the last thaw at Clam Shell Hill thus.--
 8 Much melted snow & rain being collected on the
 9 top of the hill--some ^{ap.} ^ found its way through the
 10 ground frozen a foot thick a few feet from the edge
 11 of the bank--& began with a small rill washing
 12 down the slope the unfrozen sand beneath--as
 13 the water continued to flow the sand on each
 14 side continued to slide into it & be carried off leaving
 15 the frozen crust above quite firm making a
 16 bridge 5 or 6 feet wide over this ^{cavern} ~~gulf~~-- Now since
 17 the thaw this bridge, I see, has melted & fallen
 18 in leaving a ravine some 10 feet wide & much
 19 longer--which now may go on increasing from
 20 & thus the sand is
 21 year to year without limit. ravished away.
 22 I was there just after it began
 23 Aud. & Bach. think a ravine may sometimes have been
 24 produced by the gallery of a shrew-mole.⁵⁴
 25 March 1st 1855
 26
 27 10 A. m. to Derby's Bridge & ret by Sam Barretts--
 28 to see ice cakes & meadow crust.
 29 The last day for skating
 30 It is a very pleasant & warm day the finest
 31 yet--with considerable coolness in the air however^--
 32 winter still
 33 The air is beautifully clear--& though I
 34 love to trace at a distance the roofs & outlines
 35 of sober colored farmhouses amid the woods
 36

//

⁵³Preceded by cancelled drawing

⁵⁴"Aud. [. . .] mole." written vertically in left margin.

1 We go listening for blue birds but only
2 hear crows--& chickadees. A fine seething air
3 over the fair russet fields. The dusty banks
4 of snow by the RR--reflect a wonderfully
5 dazzling white from their pure crannies--being
6 melted into an uneven sharp--wavy surface. This
7 more dazzling white must be due to the
8 higher sun. I see some thick cakes of
9 ice where an ice-car has broken up--
10 4 inch in diam.
11 In one I detect a large--bubble^--about
12 a foot beneath the upper surface & 6 inches
13 from the lower--{drawing}⁵⁵ In confirmation
14 {drawing} of my theory the grain
15 of the ice--as indicated by the
16 linear bubbles within it, was
17 converging beneath this bubble
18 as the rays of light under a burning glass
19 and what was the undersurface at that time
20 was melted in a concave manner to within 1 1/2
21 inches of the bubble--as appeared by the curvature
22 in the horizontal grain of the more recently
23 formed ice beneath. I omit to draw the
24 other horizontal grain. The situation of
25 this bubble also suggests that ice
26 perhaps increases more above than
27 below the plane of its first freezing in
28 the course of a winter--by the addition

⁵⁵Drawing appears to be cancelled; T has written over part of it; no AL written

1
 2 of surface water & snow ice--
 3 Examined again the ice & meadow crust
 4 deposited just S of Derby's Bridge-- The river
 5 is almost down to summer level there now being
 6 only 3 to 4 feet deep at that bridge-- It has
 7 fallen about 8 feet since Feb. 17. The
 8 ice is piled up there 3 or 4 cakes deep
 9 & no water beneath--and most of the
 10 cakes which are about, 1 foot thick, have
 11 a crust of meadow of equal thickness (ie from
 12 6 inches to 1 foot) attached beneath. I saw
 13 in one place 3 cakes of ice each with a
 14 crust of meadow frozen to it beneath--lying
 15 one directly upon another--and all upon
 16 the original ice there--~~and the~~ alternately
 17 ice & meadow--& the middle crust of
 18 meadow--measured 28 x 22 feet
 19 {drawing} In this case the earth
 20 was about 6 inches thick
 21 3 to 4 feet high in all above original ice
 22 only for the most part^-- This lay on a gentle
 23 ridge or swell {drawing} between the
 24 main Derby⁵⁶ Bridge & the little one beyond--
 25 & it suggested that that swell might have
 26 been thus formed or increased. As we
 27 A
 28 went down the bank through ^ Hosmer's
 29 land we saw great cakes & even fields
 30 of ice lying up high & dry where you

⁵⁶Possibly altered from "&"

1 would not suspect otherwise that water had
2 been. Some have much of the withered
3 pickerel weed, stem & leaves, in it--
4 causing it to melt & break up soon in the
5 sun. I saw one cake of ice 6 inches thick
6 & more than 6 feet in diameter--with a
7 cake of meadow of exactly equal dimensions
8 attached to its underside--exactly & evenly
9 ballanced on the top of ~~a water~~⁵⁷ wall in
10 a pasture 40 rods from the river, &
11 where you would not have thought
12 the water ever came. We saw 3 white
13 maples about 9 inches in diameter which
14 had been torn up roots & sod together
15 & in some cases carried a long distance.
16 One quite round, of equal size, had
17 been bent flat & broken by the ice
18 striking them some 6 or 7 feet from
19 the ground. Saw some very large
20 pieces of meadow lifted up or carried
21 off at mout of G. M. Barretts Bay--
22 // One measured 74 x 27 feet--topped
23 with ice almost always--& the old ice
24 still beneath. In some cases the black-
25 peaty soil thus floated was more than
26 1 1/2 feet thick--& some of this last
27 was carried 1/4 of a mile without trace

⁵⁷Its possible T didn't intend to cancel the "a"; vertical cancellation lines in addition to horizontal suggest he meant to begin cancellation at "w"; AL written to include "a" in cancellation

1
2 but prob. it was first lifted by ice.
3 of ice to buoy it--^ The edge of these meadow
4 crusts is singularly abrupt, as if cut with
5 Saw one piece, more than a rod long & 2 feet thick of black peaty soil brought from I
6 know not where
7 a turf ~~cutter~~ knife-- Of course a great
8 surface is now covered with ice on each side
9 of the river under which there is no water--& we go
10 constantly getting in with impunity. The spring sun
11 shining on the sloping {drawing} icy shores
12 makes numerous dazzling ice-blinks--still brighter
13 & prolonged with rectilinear sides in the reflection.
14 I am surprised to find the N. river more
15 frozen than the S, and we can cross it in
16 many places.
17 I think the meadow is lifted in this wise.
18 1st you have a considerable freshet in mid-
19 winter succeeded by severe cold before the water
20 has run off much--(Then as the water goes down
21 or rather all the water freezes where it is shallow
22 the ice for a certain width on each side
23 & the grass is frozen into it. V Mar. 11th⁵⁸
24 the ~~mead~~ river meadows rests on the ground
25 which freezes to it.) Then comes another freshet
26 which rises a little higher than the former
27 gently
28 This ^ lifts up the river ice, & that meadow ice
29 on each side of it which still has water
30 under it, without breaking them, but
31 over flows the ice which is frozen to the
32 bottom. Then after some days of thaw
33 & wind the latter ice is broken up & rises
34 in cakes larger or smaller--with or

⁵⁸"or rather . . . Mar. 11th" poss LR in ink

1 without the meadow crust beneath it
2 and is floated off before the wind &
3 current till it grounds somewhere--
4 ~~--frequently on a~~ or melts & so sinks--
5 frequently 3 cakes one upon another--
6 on some swell in the meadow--or
7 the edge of the upland. The ice is thus
8 with us a wonderful agent in changing
9 the aspect of the surface--of the river valley--
10 I think that there has been more meadow
11 than usual moved this year--because we had
12 so great a freshet in mid winter succeeded by severe
13 cold--& that by another still greater freshet
14 before the cold weather was past.

15 // Saw a butcher bird--as usual on top of
16 a tree--& distinguished from a jay by black wings
17 & tail & streak side of head.

18 I did well to walk in the forenoon
19 --the fresh & inspiring half of this bright day
20 at mid-afternoon
21 --for now ^ its brightness is dulled & a fine
22 white stratus is spread over the sky.

23 Is not "the "starry puff (lycoperdon stellatum)"
24 of the Journal of a Naturalist, which "remains
25 driving about the pastures⁵⁹, little altered until
26 spring"--my 5-fingered fungus?

27 The same tells of goldfinches--fringilla
28 carduelis [Bewick calls it the "thistle-finch"]

⁵⁹"p" has extra stroke

1
 2 "scattering all over the turf the down of the thistle,
 3 as they pick out the seed for their food." It is
 4 singular that in this particular it should resemble
 5 our goldfinch, a dif bird.

6 March 2nd

7 Another still warm beautiful day like
 8 yesterday. 9 Am to Great Meadows
 9 to see the ice--

10 Saw yesterday one of those small slender winged
 11 insects on the ice. A. Wright says that //
 12 about 40 years ago an acre of meadow

13 was carried off at one time by the ice
 14 D. Clarke. tells me he saw a piece of meadow, on his part of the Grt Meadows,
 15 on the Colburn place. I observe that
 16 5 or 6 rods square which had been taken up in one piece & set down
 17 where there is ploughed ground much of
 18 again a little distance off.
 19 it has been washed over the neighboring
 20 grass ground to a great distance--
 21 discoloring it.

22 The Great meadows, as all the rest,
 23 are one great field of ice a foot
 24 thick to their utmost verge--far up
 25 sloping upward there
 26 the hill sides & into the swamps^--~~resting~~
 27 without water under it resting almost
 28 every where on the ground--a great undu-
 29 lating field of ice--rolling prairie-like
 30 --the earth wearing this dry icy shield
 31 or armor--which shines in the sun.
 32 perhaps & in
 33 Over brooks & ditches ^ &⁶⁰ in many other

⁶⁰Smudged; possibly cancelled

1 in some places
2 places the ice a foot thick ^ is shoved (?)
3 or puffed
4 ^up in the form of a pent roof

5 in some places 3 feet high & stretching
6 20 or 30 rods. There is certainly
7 more ice than can lie flat there as if
8 the adjacent ices had been moved toward each
9 other-- Yet this general motion is not likely--
10 & it is more probably the result of the
11 expansion⁶¹ of the ice under the sun--& of
12 ?
13 the warmth of the water ^ there. In many
14 places the ice is dark & transparent &
15 you see plainly the bottom on which it
16 lies-- The various figures in the partially
17 white
18 rotted ice are very interesting--^bubbles
19 which look like coins of varies sizes over
20 lapping each other--{drawing} Parrallel waving
21 lines, with sometimes very slight intervals,
22 on the underide of sloping white ice--
23 marking the successive levels at
24 which the water has stood
25 {drawing} Also countless
26 white cleavages
27 perpendicular or inclined--straight
28 & zigzag meeting and crossing each
29 other at all possible angles &
30 making all kinds of geometrical figures
31 --checkering the whole surface--

⁶¹Underlining possibly pencil

1
 2 like white frills or ruffles in the ice.
 3 (At length the ice melts on the edge of
 4 these cleavages into little gutters which catch
 5 the snow--) There is the greatest
 6 noise from the ice cracking about
 7 10 Am--yesterday & to-day.

8 Where the last years shoots or tops of the
 9 young white maples, at the S. Purshiana shore,
 10 are brought together as I walk into
 11 a mass 1/4 of a mile off--with the
 12 sun on them--they⁶² present a fine
 13 dull scarlet streak-- Young twigs
 14 are thus more fluid than the old wood
 15 as if from their nearness to the flower--
 16 --or like the complexion of children.
 17 You see thus a fine dash of red or scarlet
 18 against the distant hills--which near
 19 at hand or in their midst is wholly unob-
 20 servable. I go listening but in vain--
 21 for the warble of a blue-bird from the
 22 old orchard across the river-- I love to
 23 look now at the fine grained russet hill
 24 sides in the sun--ready to relieve & contrast
 25 with the azure of the blue-birds.

26 I made a burning glass of ice--which pro-
 27 duced a slight sensation of warmth on the back
 28 of my hand--but was⁶³ so untrue that it did

⁶²Possibly altered from "the"

⁶³"was" written over "wa"

1 not concentrate the rays to a sufficiently small
2 focus.

3 Returning over Great Fields--found half
4 a dozen arrowheads--one with 3 scallops
5 in the base {drawing}⁶⁴

6 If we have a consider
7 able freshet before
8 the ice melts much--
9 ap. much meadow crust will be moved
10 on the S branch. There is about 6⁶⁵ inches
11 of frost in the swamps^ There was something truly March-like in it--
12 like a prolonged blast or whistling of the wind
13 // Heard 2 ~~large~~ hawks scream-- through a crevice in the sky--which like
14 a cracked blue saucer overlaps the
15 Sat. Mar. 3d woods. Such are the first rude
16 notes which prelude the Summer's quire--
17 Pm To Conantum learned of the whistling March-wind.
18
19 This after noon it is somewhat overcast

20 // for the first time since Feb 18th inclusive
21 // I see a dirty-white miller fluttering about
22 over the winter rye patch next to Hubbard's
23 Grove. A few rods from the broad P. pine
24 beyond I find a cone which was probably
25 dropt by a squirrel in the fall--for I
26 see the marks of its teeth where it was
27 cut off--and it has probably been
28 buried by the snow till now--for it has
29 ap-- just opened & I shake its seeds out.
30 Not only is this cone resting upright on
31 the ground fully blossomed a very beau-
32 tiful object--but the winged seeds

⁶⁴Cancelled drawing either precedes or follows drawing; its difficult to tell in which order he drew, wrote, cancelled, and drew again; in AL as "followed by"

⁶⁵Followed by cancelled false start

1
 2 which half fill my hand--small triangular
 3 black seeds with thin & delicate flesh-
 4 colored wings--~~more~~ or remind me of
 5 fishes alewives perchance, their tails more
 6 or less curved. {drawing} I do not show the
 7 curve of the tail-- I see in another
 8 place under a ^ppine--many cores of cones
 9
 10 which the squirrels have completely stripped
 11 excepting the (about) 3 at the extremity which cover no seeds
 12 of their scales^{^66}--cutting them off regularly [^] at
 13 the seeds or close to the core--Leaving⁶⁷ it
 14 in this form {drawing} or more
 15 regular These you find
 16 From some partially stript left on & about
 17 I see that they begin at the stumps--where they
 18 base--⁶⁸ have sat--& under
 19 the pines.
 20 Most fallen P. P. cones show the marks of S. teeth--showing they were cut off.
 21 Day before yesterday--There was good
 22 skating & it was a beautiful warm day //
 23 for it. Yesterday--the ice⁶⁹ began to be per-
 24 ceptibly softened-- To day it is too soft
 25 for skating.
 26 I might have said on the 2d that
 27 though it is warm there is no tro^uble about
 28 getting on to the river--for the water having
 29 fallen about 6 feet on the S branch
 30 the ice about a foot thick slopes up-
 31 ward in many places half a dozen
 32 rods or more on to the upland like
 33 the side of an earthen milk pan

⁶⁶Cancelled caret not in AL table
⁶⁷Possibly altered from "leaving", or vice versa
⁶⁸"From some . . . base." written to left of drawing; "These . . . pines." written to right of drawing; "Most . . . off." written below drawing. None of this info. appears in AL table--possibly "Most . . . off." is added
⁶⁹Possibly inserted

1 and you do not know when you have passed
2 the water line. {drawing}
3 ~~I think~~ Also I noticed yesterday that
4 the ice, along the river edge at the
5 Grt-- Meadows, still clinging to the
6 alders & maples 3 or 4 feet from
7 the ground was remarkably transparent
8 like purest crystal
9 & solid or without bubbles^--not rotted--probably
10 because the rays of the sun passed through
11 it & there was no surface beneath to
12 reflect them back again--& so rot
13 the ice--of this I made my burning
14 glass
15 // I think it was yesterday morning that
16 I first noticed a frost on the bare
17 russet grass-- This too is an early
18 spring phenomenon-- I am surprised to
19 see that-- The radical Johnswort
20 leaves which have been green all
21 winter & now wilted & blackened by it
22 & where a wood was cut off this
23 winter on a hill side all the rattlesnake
24 plantain his suffered in
25 like manner.
26 Again I observe the river breaking up
27 (from the bank) The thin & rotted ice
28 saturated with water is riddled with
29 oblong open places--whose prevailing

1
 2 form is {drawing}⁷⁰ Curving commonly
 3 upstream--though not always--i.e.
 4 Southerly here-- Has this anything to do with
 5 the direction of the prevailing winds of winter?
 6 --which makes the waves bend ~~at~~ southerly.
 7 Since the cold of a week ago--(they⁷¹
 8 may be of older date) I see many cracks
 9 in the earth--especially in ploughed fields
 10 which are cracked up into vast cakes in
 11 some places--ap. on the same principle //
 12 that ice is-- Pine channel fairly open.⁷²

13 Sunday March 4th 1855

14 Pm to Bee tree Hill over F. H. Pond.
 15 For some time, or since the ground has
 16 been bare, I have noticed the spider holes
 17 in the ploughed land. We go over the
 18 Cliffs. Though a cold & strong wind
 19 it is very warm in the sun--& we can
 20 sit in the sun where sheltered on these
 21 rocks with impunity. It is a genial
 22 warmth-- The rustle of the dry leaves on
 23 the earth & in the crannies of the
 24 rocks--& gathered in deep windrows
 25 just under their edge--midleg deep--
 26 remind me of fires in the woods--they
 27 are almost ready to burn. I see a
 28 fly on the rock //

⁷⁰arrow drawn above drawing
⁷¹Possibly altered from "it"
⁷²"Pine . . . open" circled and marked for insertion following date line (to have its own line)

1 The ice is so much rotted & softened
2 by the sun that it looks white like
3 snow now as I look down on the
4 meadows. There is considerable
5 // snow on the N side of hills in the
6 woods-- At the Bee-Hill side--a striped
7 // squirrel, which quickly dives into his hole at
8 %v Mar. 4 7th%
9 our approach--^ May not this season
10 of Spring-like weather bet the 1st decidedly
11 spring like day & the 1st blue-bird--already
12 14 days long--be called the striped-squirrel
13 spring? In which we go listening for the
14 blue-bird but hear him not.

15 Returning by the Andromeda Ponds
16 I am surprised to see the red-ice visible
17 still half a dozen rods off-- It is melted
18 down to the red bubbles & I can tinge
19 my finger with it there by rubbing it
20 on the rotted ice.

21 Mar. 5th '55

22 Pm to Beck Stows--

23 A strong--but warm S Westerly (?) wind.
24 which has produced a remarkable
25 // haze-- As I go along by sleepy hollow--
26 this strong warm wind--rustling the
27 leaves on the hill sides--this blue haze
28 --& the russet earth seen through

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it--remind me that a new season has
 come-- There was the--less thick--more remotely
blue, haze of the 11th Feb-- succeeded by a
 thaw beginning on the 14th-- Will not rain follow
 this much thicker haze?

Mar. 6th

To 2d Div. Brook--

Still stronger wind--shaking the house--
 & rather cold. This the 3d day of wind.

Our woods are now so reduced that
 the chopping of this winter--has been a cutting
 to the quick--at least we walkers feel it
 as such-- There is hardly a woodlot of
 any consequence left--but the chopper's
 axe has been heard in it this season--

They have even infringed fatally on White //
 Pond--On the South of F. H. Pond-- //
 shaved off the top-knot of The Cliffs--The //
 Colburn Farm--Beck stows--&c &c-- //

Observed a mouse or moles nest in //
 the 2nd Div. meadow--where it had been made
 under the snow--a nice warm globular
 nest some 5 inches in diameter--amid
 the sphagnum & cranberry vines &c--made
 of dried grass & lined with a still finer grass.
 The hole was on one side & the bottom was
 near 2 inches thick. There were many

1 small paths or galleries in the meadow leading
2 to this from the brook some rod or more distant.
3 // The small gyrinus is circling in the
4 brook. I see where much fur
5 of a rabbit which prob. a fox was carrying
6 has caught on a moss-rose twig as he
7 leaped a ditch. It is much worse
8 walking than it has been for 10 days
9 the continued warmth of the sun melting
10 the ice & snow by walls &c--& reaching the
11 unexpectedly after the surface had been dry.
12 deeper frost--^ Pastures which look dry
13 prove soft & full of water.
14 There is a peculiar redness in the western--
15 sky just after sunset-- There are many
16 great dark-slate-colored clouds
17 floating there--seen against more distant
18 & thin wispy bright vermillion (?) al-
19 %in many places%
20 most blood-red ones-- This often⁷³ appears
21 as the lining of the former--
22 // It rained last evening--but not much
23 This the 1st rain or storm since Feb 18th
24 inclusive. i.e 15 days.
25 The weather began to be decidedly spring-like--
26 air full of light &c the 18th-- The 20th was
27 perfect march-- The 21st & 22nd were remarkably
28 fair & ~~clea~~ warm-- 23d to 28 inclusive
29 remarkably clear & cold-- Mar 1st & 2nd
30 remarkably clear & serene & pleasant

⁷³Cancelled in pencil

1 above--green next the earth. There were
2 ap-- many of their holes in the earth about
3 the stump-- They must have fed very ex-
4 tensively on this moss the past winter^{v Mar 14⁷⁶}
5 ^--
6 // It is now difficult getting on & off Walden.
7 At Bristers spring there are beautiful
8 ap.
9 // dense green beds of moss which ^ has just
10 risen above the surface of the water--tender
11 & compact. I see many tadpoles
12 // of medium or full size in deep warm
13 ditches in Hubbards meadow-- They may--
14 probably be seen as soon as the ditches are
15 open, thus earlier than frogs-- At his
16 bridge over the brook it must have been
17 // a trout I saw glance, rather dark
18 as big as my finger.
19 3 or 4
20 // To day, as ~~also~~ several days ago, I
21 saw a clear drop of maple sap on
22 a broken red maple twig which tasted
23 very sweet.
24 The pyrola secunda is a perfect evergreen
25 It has lost none of its color or freshness--with
26 its thin ovate finely serrate leaves--revealed now
27 the snow is gone. It is more or less branched.
28 Picked up a very handsome wht-Pine
29 cone some 6 1/2 inches long x 2 3/8 near base
30 & 2 near apex. perfectly blossomed⁷⁷

⁷⁶"V Mar 14" LR in ink

⁷⁷Blotched.

1
 2 {drawing} It is a very rich
 3 & wholesome brown color--
 4 of various shades as
 5 you turn it in your
 6 hand--a light
 7 ashy or grey brown,
 8 somewhat like unpainted
 9 wood, as you look
 10 or as if the lighter brown was covered with a grey lichen
 11 down on it^, seeing
 12 only those parts of
 13 the scales always ex-
 14 posed--with a few
 15 darker streaks or
 16 {drawing}⁷⁸
 17 marks ^ & a drop of
 18 pitch at the point of each
 19 scale--
 20 Within the scales are
 21 a dark brown ~~ben~~ above
 22 (ie as it hangs) & a light
 23 brown beneath--very distinctly
 24 being maked beneath by
 25 the same darker brown--down
 26 the center & near the apex somewhat anchor
 27 wise--{drawing}

⁷⁸Possibly cancelled word in parens

1 We were walking along the Sunny hill-
2 side on the S of Fair. H. P. (on The 4th ult--)
3 which the choppers have just laid bare.
4 when ~~we~~ ~~he~~ in a sheltered & warmer
5 place--we heard a rustling amid the
6 dry leaves on the hill side & saw a
7 striped squirrel--eyeing us from its resting
8 place on the bare-ground-- It sat still
9 till we were within a rod--then suddenly
10 dived into its hole which was at its feet
11 & disappeared. The first pleasant days
12 of spring come out like a squirrel &
13 go in again.

14 Mar. 8th 1855

15 P. m To Old Carlisle Road
16 Another fair day with easterly wind--
17 This morning I got my boat out
18 of the cellar & turned it up in the yard
19 to let the seams open before I caulk it.
20 The blue ~~channel of the~~ river now
21 almost completely open (--i.e. excepting
22 a little ice in the recesses of the shore
23 & a good deal over the meadows)
24 admonishes me to be swift.
25 I see where many young trees &
26 bushes have been broken down by
27 the ice after the last freshet-- Many of

1
 2 Loring's young maples--e.g. The cornel
 3 & other bushes along the walls are broken
 4 like young trees by snow-drifts--the ice sinking
 5 or dragging
 6 with them in its embrace--weighing ^ them
 7 down. In many places where the
 8 water rose so high--as to reach the
 9 ends of the lower branches of white maples
 10 & then were afterward frozen in--the
 11 ice sinking with the ebb--~~str~~ breaks off
 12 V Mar 14th⁷⁹
 13 or strips down the branch-- There ap-
 14 pears to be a motion to the ice (even on
 15 meadows away from the current) and
 16 at Walden shore) somewhat like that
 17 of a glacier--by which it tips over the trees
 18 &c standing in it without breaking up--
 19 The result, one would say, of its swelling
 20 under the influence of the sun.

21 Was surprised to see a cluster of those
 22 (?)⁸⁰
 23 large sedum⁸¹ (?) or leek buds on a rock in
 24 Clarke's (?) Meadow bet. the oak & my house
 25 that was.

26 Daniel Clarke tells me that on his part of
 27 the great Meadows there is a hole just about
 28 the breadth & depth of a man commonly full
 29 of water-- He does not know what made it.

30 I crossed through the Swamp S of Boulder
 31 Field toward the old dam. Stopping in
 32 a sunny & sheltered place on a hillock

⁷⁹"V Mar 14th" LR in ink

⁸⁰Cancelled in pencil

⁸¹Cancelled in pencil

1
 2 --p. grandidentata--white ~~oak~~ and other
 3 oaks (taking off considerable twigs at 4 or
 4 5 cuts) amelanchier, & sallow. but
 5 they seem to prefer the smooth sumach
 6 to any of these. With this variety of
 7 cheap diet they are not likely to
 8 starve. I get a few drops of the sweet
 9 red maple juice which has ~~rabbit~~ run
 10 down the main stem where a ~~squirrel~~
 11 rabbit has nibbled off close a twig--

12 The rabbit indeed lives; but the sumach
 13 may be killed.

14 The heart-wood of the poison dogwood--when
 15 I break it down with my hand--has a singular
 16 rotten
 17 decayed-yellow look & a spirituous or
 18 apothecary odor

19 As on the 4th ult I clambered over
 20 those great wht pine masts which
 21 lay in all directions one upon another
 22 on the hill-side S of F. Haven--where
 23 the woods have been laid waste--I was
 24 struck, in favorable lights, with the jewel-
 25 like brilliancy of the sawed ends thickly
 26 bedewed with crystal drops of turpentine.
 27 --thickly as a shield--As if the Dryads?
 28 Oreads--?⁸² Pine-wood nymphs had seasonably
 29 wept there the fall of the tree--

⁸²"?" inserted over dash; in AL table

1 The perfect sincerity of these terebinthine
2 each one reflecting the world
3 drops--^colorless as light--or like drops
4 of dew heaven-distilled & trembling to
5 their fall--is incredible when you
6 remember how firm their consistency--
7 And is this that pitch which you cannot
8 touch without being defiled?

9 Looking from the Cliffs, the sun
10 being as before invisible, I saw far
11 more light in the reflected sky in
12 the neighborhood of the sun than I
13 could see in the heavens from my po-
14 sition--and it occurred to me that
15 the reason was that there was reflected
16 to me from the river, the view I should have
17 got if I had stood there on the water
18 in a more favorable position.

19 {drawing} I see that the mud in the road
20 has crystalized as it dried--(for it is
21 not nearly cold enough to freeze) like
22 the first crystals that shoot & set on
23 water when freezing.

24 I see the minute seeds of the⁸³ Andromeda Calyculata
25 scattered over the melting ice of the
26 And. Ponds.

27 // C. says he saw yesterday the slate-col-- hawk
28 with a white bar across tail meadow hawk--i.e.
29 frog-hawk-- Prob. finds moles & mice--⁸⁴

30 An over cast & dark night.

⁸³vertical pencil lines through this and the following line

⁸⁴"Prob. . . mice." probably added; not in AL table

Mar. 10th '55

Snowed in the night--a mere whitening. //

In the morning somewhat overcast still--
cold & quite windy. The first clear-snow to
whiten the ground since Feb-- 9th

I am not aware of growth in any plant
yet unless it be--the further peeping out of //

willow-catkins. They have crept out further from under their scales
& looking closely into them I detect a little redness along the twigs
even now--

You are always surprised by the sight of the

first spring bird or insect--they seem pre-
mature & there is no such evidence of spring
as themselves--so that they literally fetch the
year about-- It is thus when ~~looking along~~

I hear the first robin or bluebird--or looking
along the brooks see the first water bugs out

circling-- But you think--they have come &

Nature cannot recede. Thus when on the 6th

when I saw the gyrinus at 2d Div. Brook--I saw no pe-

culiarity in the water or the air to remind me of them

--but today they are here & yesterday they were not.

I go looking deeper for tortoises--when suddenly

my eye rests on these black circling apple-

seeds in some smoothe bay.

red

The ^ squirrel should be drawn with a pine cone

Those reddening leaves~~of the~~--as the checkerberry--

lambkill &c &c which at the beg. of winter were greenish

are now a deeper red--when the snow goes off.

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"Mus Sylvaticus, Forster, Phil-- Trans. Vol 62, p 380
Field-Rat, Penn., Hist. Quad., Vol II., p 185.
" Arctic Zool., Vol I, p 131.
Musculus Leucopus, Rafinesque, Amer. Month. Review
Oct. 1818, p. 444.
Mus Leucopus, Desmar. Mamm., esp. 493
Mus Sylvaticus, Harlan, Fauna, p. 151.
Mus Agrarius, Godm., Nat. Hist., Voll II p 88.
Mus Leucopus, Richardson, F.B.A., p 142
Arvicola Nuttallii, Harlan, variety.
Arvicola Emmonsii, Emm., Mass. Report, p. 61
Mus Leucopus, Dekay, Nat Hist. N.Y., pl. 1, p 82"

"American white-footed mouse"

By fur he does not mean the short inner hair only.
Says they are larger in Carolina than in the E.
States--but he does not describe any larger
than mine. "Next to the common mouse,
this is the most abundant and widely
diffused species of mouse in North America.
We have received it from every state in
the Union, and from Labrador, Hudson's Bay,
& the Columbia River." Has found
it "taking up its abode in a deserted squir-
rel's nest, 30 feet from the earth."

"They have been known to take possession of de-
serted birds' nests--such as those of the cat-
bird, red-winged starling, song thrush, or
red-eyed eyed fly-catcher." "We have
also occasionally found their nests

1 on bushes, from 5 to 15 feet from the ground.
2 They are in these cases constructed with nearly
3 as much art and ingenuity as the nests
4 of the Baltimore Oriole"--of some he has says
5 "They are 7 inches in length & 4 in breadth, the
6 circumference measuring 13 inches; they are
7 of an oval shape and are outwardly
8 composed of dried moss and a few slips of
9 the inner bark of some wild grape-vine;
10 other nests are more rounded, and are com-
11 posed of dried leaves & moss." Thinks
12 2 pairs live in some very large ones--"The
13 entrance in all the nests is from below, and
14 about the size of the animal."

15 Female sometimes escapes with her young ad-
16 hering to her teats.⁸⁵ "nocturnal in its habits."
17 Only sound he has heard from them "a low
18 squeak" Not so carnivorous as "most of
19 its kindred species". Troubles trappers
20 by getting their bait⁸⁵. Lays⁸⁶ up "stores
21 of grain & grass seeds" acorns &c--
22 In the north wheat--in the south rice.
23 eats out the heart of Ind. corn kernels

24 Thinks it produces 2 litters in a season in the
25 north--& 3 in the south. Foxes owls &c
26 destroy it. Thinks the ermine weasel its most
27 formidable foe. Thinks it sometimes occupies
28 a chip-squirrel's hole.

29 Thinks that neither this nor the mole does
30 much injury to garden or farm but rather
31 "the little pine-mouse (Arvicola Pinetorum,

⁸⁵Preceded by cancelled misspelled "bait"--no AL needed

⁸⁶Possibly "Lays", and altered from "lays"

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Le Conte), or perhaps Wilson's Meadow-mouse, (Aricola
Pennsylvanica, Ord. A. hirsutus, Emmons, & Dekay)."
Yet northern farmers complain that the Deer-mouse
gnaws young fruit trees &c may be so.

Avoids houses--at least those where there are
wharf-rats & cats--

Observed this Pm. some celandine by Dea
Brown's fence--ap. grown about an inch. V. if
it is really springing

//

Mar 11th

P. m. to Annursnack--

Clear & rather pleasant--the ground again
bare--wind northerly. I am surprised to see
how rapidly that ice that covered the meadows
on the 1st of March--has disappeared under
the influence of the sun alone-- The greater part
of what then lay on the meadows a foot thick
has melted. 2/3 at least

On Abel Hosmers pasture just SE of
the Stone Bridge--I see where the ~~crust~~
sod was lifted up over a great space
in the flood of the 17th of Feb. There
is one bare place there, showing only the
fine & now white roots of grass--7 rods
long by 2 or 3-- There are other smaller
ones about it. The sod carried off is from
4 to 6 inches thick commonly. Pieces
of this crust from 1/4 to 1/3 the size

1 mentioned are resting within 10 or 20 rods.
2 one has sunk against the causeway bridge
3 being too wide to go through-- I see one
4 piece of crust 12 feet x 6 turned completely
5 topsy-turvy with its ice beneath it. This has
6 prevented the ice from melting--& on examining
7 it I find that the ice did not settle
8 down onto the grass after the water went
9 NB.
10 down & then froze to it--for the
11 blades of grass penetrate 1 inch into the
12 ice, showing that the water being
13 shallow--the whole froze & the grass
14 was frozen in & thus--when the water
15 rose again was lifted up. The bared
16 places I have noticed as yet were not
17 in the low ground--but where the water
18 was comparatively shallow--commonly at
19 a distance from the river-- %v 3 ps forward%
20 n. p.
21 // A blue-bird day before yesterday in Stow.^
22 Saw a caked of recent ice very handsome-
23 ly marked as it decayed--with darker
24 marks for the original crystals centered
25 with ~~whi~~ the original white-- It would
26 be a rare pattern for a carpet--because
27 it contains a variety of figures--agreeable
28 to the eye without regularity.
29 or ephemerae
30 Many of those dirty-white millers ^ in the
31 air.
32 As I sit at the base of Anursnack
33 the earth appears almost completely

1 some distance down stream--& fly by on high
2 reconnoitering me--& I first see them on wing--
3 Then settle a quarter of a mile above by a
4 long slanting flight at last op. the swimming
5 elm below Flints-- I come on up the bank
6 with the sun in my face--start them again--
7 Again they fly down stream by me on high--
8 turn and come round back by me again
9 with outstretched heads--& go up to the
10 battle ground before they alight. Thus
11 the river is no sooner fairly open--than they
12 are back again--before I have got my
13 & long before the river has worne through F. H. P.
14 boat launched.^ I think I heard a quack or 2

15 Aud. & Bach. say that Forster & Harlan
16 refer the Mus Leucopus "to mus sylvaticus of Europe."
17 ~~but~~ wongly--for they differ in many respects "they
18 may always be distinguished from each other at
19 a glance by the following mark: in more
20 than 20 specimens we examined of Mus Sylvati-
21 cus [in Europe] we have always found a yellowish
22 line edged with dark-brown on the breast. In
23 many hundred specimens of Mus leucopus we
24 have without a single exception found this yellow
25 line entirely wanting, all of them being pure
26 white on the breast, as well as on the whole
27 under surface. We have no hesitation in pronouncing
28 the species distinct." Now I find that
29 I had described my specimen of Feb 20th--
30 before I had read Aud. & Bach. or heard of the Mus
31 sylvaticus--~~I though Emmons does not~~⁹¹
32 as having "a very slight & delicate tinge of yellowish
33 beneath between the forelegs--" though Emmons
34 does not mention this color.

35 The other differences they mention certainly are
36 not of much importance--& prob. equally great ones

⁹¹"I though" cancelled before starting "Emmons...". "I" poss. "&"

1
2 are to be found bet. dif. specimens of Mus leucopus.

3 Mar 13 '55
4 Northern lights last night--rain-bow in East this morn
5 Almost all the meadow crust now (&

%//%

6 for a week past) lies on a cake of ice
7 where it lodged--and which being prevented
8 from melting any further than its edge
9 is of the same size with it. The crust is
10 frozen onto this--and the ice which
11 first froze to it & raised it having
12 melted some time ago,--most would
13 not know how to account for its po-
14 sition.

15 6 1/2 Am to Hill. Still⁹²--but with
16 some wrack here & there-- The river is
17 low--very low for the season-- It has been
18 falling ever since the freshet of Feb 18th.

19 Now about sunrise it is nearly filled
20 with the thin half-cemented ice-crystals //
21 of the night--which the warmer temperature
22 of day ap. has ~~set in~~ loosened. They
23 grate against the bushes--& wheel round
24 in great fields with a slight crash & piling
25 up. I hear the rapid tapping of the woodpecker from //
26 over the water
27 Pm To Hub's Close

28 For a week the more stagnant brooks
29 & ditches have been green with conferva--a //
30 kind of green veil that conceals their bottom

⁹²Possibly altered from "Th"

1 & invests the bubbles on the surface.

2 I am surprised to see, not only many
3 pollywogs through the thin ice of the warm
4 ditches--but in still warmer stagnant
5 unfrozen holes in this meadow half a
6 // dozen small frogs--prob. R. Palustris. ?
7 % {Is it not the croaker} %
8 Green spires of grass stand perfectly upright
9 in these pools--rising above water.

10 Coming thro the stubble of Stow's rye-field
11 in front of the Breed-House--I meet
12 with 4 mice nests in going half a dozen
13 lie flat on the ground amid the stubble
14 rods. They ^ are flattened spheres--the horizontal
15 diameter about 5 inches, the perpendicular
16 finer
17 considerably less--composed of grass or ^ stubble
18 & on taking them up you do not at once
19 detect the entrance with your eye, but rather
20 feel it with your finger--on the side--
21 ~~They are~~ lined ~~within~~ with the finest of the
22 grass. These were undoubtedly--probably--
23 made when the snow was on the ground
24 for their winter residence--while they gleaned
25 the rye-field--& when the snow went off
26 they scampered to the woods. I think they
27 were made by the Mus leucopus--i.e. Arvicola
28 Similar to that of Mar. 6th in meadow--except that was
29 Emmonsii. thicker against wet.

30 I look int many woodchuck's ~~& perhaps~~
31 holes but as yet they are choked with leaves
32 & there is no sign of their having come abroad.

33 At eve the raw overcast day concludes.

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with ~~h~~ snow & hail {—}-- 2 pickerel
 caught in Flints Pond today
 ^weighed on the Mill-dam to-night 7 3/4+
 or nearly 8 lbs.

Mar 14th '55

3 inches of snow in the morn & it
 snows a little more during the day with
 occasional gleams of sunshine. Winter back
 again in prospect--& I see a few sparrows
 prob. tree spars in the yard.

//
 //

Pm. to Andromeda ponds

At one of the holes under the stump of Mar
 7th caught a Mus leucopus--Deer-mouse-- So
 this⁹³ was the kind undoubtedly that fed on the
 moss--& that colored their droppings. It is in
 very good condition--extreme length 6 1/2 tail 3 inches
 & cheeks
 It is a less reddish brown on the sides ^ than
 my whole skin & a darker brown above mixed
 with a little reddish--no yellow tinge on breast.
 Some whiskers usual are white, others black.
 & I count the "6 tubercles on ~~the~~ each palm."
 There are no tracks about the stump, for
 they are not abroad by day i.e since the last
 of this snow--but probably there will be
 tracks tomorrow morn. Thus it is generally
 If--it ceases snowing in the morning you
 see few if any tracks in your walk--but the
 next morning many.

It is the first & last snows--especially the last,
 which blind us most--when the sun is

⁹³Possibly altered from another word; "his"?

1 most powerful & our eyes are unused to them.

2 I observe the tracks of sparrows leading
3 amid the other weeds
4 to every little sprig of blue curls[^], which, its seemingly
5 empty pitchers, rises above the snow-- There
6 seems however to be a little seed left in them.
7 enough
8 This then is ~~the~~ reason [^] why these withered
9 stems still stand--that they may raise these
10 granaries above the snow for the use
11 of the snow birds.
12 of Feb
13 That ice [^] has destroyed almost the whole
14 of Charles Hubbards young red maple swamp
15 in front of the Hollowell place-- Full an
16 as well as
17 acre of thrifty young maples--[^]alders--& birches
18 4 to 7⁹⁴ feet high
19 [^]is completely destroyed--being pulled & broken
20 broken near the ground
21 down [^] as the ~~water~~ ice sank after the
22 water went down-- It is all flat &
23 looks at a little distance as if one had
24 & done his work faithfully
25 gone through with bush-whack--[^] They
26 from 1/2 an inch to 1 inch thick--broken this
27 wise {drawing} He has ap. concluded to
28 clear it. Only the taller birches &c are
29 %to be%
30 left. %Perhaps best described in 1st voyage on river V. Mar 19th or 20%
31 I thought as I approached
32 seeing some clumps still standing--all
33 the rest flat on the ground--that
34 without a doubt some one had been
35 clearing the swamp--Though I stood
36 within a rod of it. Just as a snow-
37 drift breaks down young fruit trees.
38 R Rice tells me that a great many young white pines in a swamp of his in
39 Sudbury have been barked the bark rubbed down several inches completely bare by the
40 ice. Then the river from time to time asserts its authority over its
41 swamps to a great distance.

42 The willows alders &c all along the river where the
43 water was deeper are commonly broken higher up
44 3 or 4 feet from the ground. This Mar 19th v. Mar 20⁹⁵

⁹⁴lines written vertically in margin are marked for insertion following this interlineation

⁹⁵"The . . . 20" written vertically in margin; unclear whether the entire addition is an LR, or if only "This . . . 20" is the LR; "The . . . ground." in AL table

Mar 15

Jacob farmer gave me today the foot
of an otter, also of a fisher--(to put
with my pine marten's foot) He cut them
off of recent furs in Boston. He sells
about 100 mink skins in a year--
Thinks not more than 30 or 40 are
caught in Concord in a year. He says--(I think)
a mink's skin is worth 2 dollars!?. They are sent
to Europe to be worn there--not for hats.
Foul weather all day--at first a fine snow
& finally rain-- Now at 9 Pm a clear sky. //
& so the storm which beg. eve of 13th ends--
As for the first half of this month
it began very pleasant & warm--(the latter
part 3d of Feb had been very clear & pleasant--
but colder--) the ~~ice rotting~~ river opening
& ice beginning to soften. then on the 4th it
Northerly, East--or SW
became windy^--sometimes very cold & raw--
occasionally rocking the house--the 9th
a little warmer storm threatening--the 10th
ground whitened with snow--& so it goes on
more or less raw till the snow of the 14th
Mr Rice tells me that when he was getting
mud out of the little swamp at the foot
of Bristers Hill last⁹⁶ he heard
a squeaking & found that he was digging
near the nest of what he called a "field mouse"--

⁹⁶T left space in MS & never went back to fill it in

1 by his description prob-- the meadow mouse--
2 It was made of grass &c--& while he stood over
3 it--the mother not regarding him came &
4 carried off the young one by one in her mouth
5 --being gone some time in each case before she
6 returned--& finally she took the nest itself.

7 He saw a blue-bird about a week
8 ago in Sudbury--& surprised to observe
9 that it had a worm in its mouth, but
10 I am not--for the ice & snow have
11 been sprinkled with caterpillars of several
12 kinds all the past winter.

13 Mar 16th 55

14 Cloudy in the forenoon--sun comes out
15 & it is rather pleasant in the P.m.

16 Pm. to 1⁹⁷ Conantum End.

17 At the woodchuck's hole just beyond
18 the Cockspur thorn-- I see several diverging
19 & converging trails of undoubtedly a wood-
20 or several
21 chuck^--which must have come out at least
22 as early as the 13th The track is about
23 1 3/4 inches wide by 2 long--the 5 toes very
24 distinct & much spread--& including the
25 scrape of the snow before the foot⁹⁸ came to its
26 bearing--is somewhat hand-like. It is
27 simple & alternate thus {drawing} com-
28 monly--but sometimes much like
29 a rabbits--& again like a mink's somewhat

⁹⁷Probably a false start and not "1"

⁹⁸"the foot" altered from other words

1
2 thus {drawing} They had come out
3 directly
4 & run about ^ from hole to hole
5 6 in all within a dozen rods or more
6 This appeared to have been all their travelling
7 --as if they had run round a visiting & waked
8 each other up the first thing-- At first
9 they soiled the snow with their sandy feet.
10 At one place they had been clearing⁹⁹ out today
11 the throats of 2 holes within a rod of each
12 other--scattering the mud like sand made¹⁰⁰
13 wet by the melting snow over the pure
14 snow around--& I saw where between these
15 holes they had sat on a horizontal limb of
16 (which it had tried its teeth on) also on a rock
17 a shrub oak ^ about a foot from the ground^
18 plainly to warm & dry themselves in the sun--
19 I also saw where another had sunned itself on a stand at the foot
20 having muddied it all over--^ They could not
21 of a small pitch pine & tried its teeth on a dead limb of the pine.--
22 go in or out of these burrows without
23 being completely covered with sandy mud.
24 The path over the snow between these holes
25 was quite covered with it.
26 The impression {drawing} of the foot a little like
27 this--but not so much spread.
28 They have but 4 toes on
29 the fore feet with rudiment¹⁰¹ His first journey then
30 of a thumb.
31 appears to be to some neighboring
32 hole which he remembers a dozen
33 or fifteen rods off & perchance
34 he goes as straight or unerringly to it as
35 if he had not been asleep all winter--

⁹⁹"clearing" written over "cearing"

¹⁰⁰Altered from "melti"--doesn't belong in AL table

¹⁰¹"They . . .thumb." interlined to the left of drawing

1 Apparently after a little gossiping there
2 his first work is to clear out the
3 entrance to his burrow--ejecting the
4 leaves & sand which have there collected.
5 None have travelled beyond these holes--except
6 that one track leads into the swamp--

7 But here are the tracks of foxes bound
8 on longer journies-- They are generally
9 10 or 12 inches apart x 3 to 5 but
10 {drawing} are irregular
11 now 2 at the
12 usual distance--then 2 close together or 3 or
13 4 inches apart only-- The foot is very shapely
14 {drawing} much like a dogs

15 // The dirty colored aspen down there
16 nearly
17 projects 1/8 of an inch, or ^ as much as the
18 early willow's

19 As I stand here some 60 rods from the river
20 open
21 at about 3 1/2 Pm--looking at the ^ river
22 toward which my shadow points at right angle
23 with its current--that part which my shadow
24 extended would strike is a pale dull slate
25 color--but that part a dozen rods
26 Southerly from this is--a distinct blue which
27 goes on increasing in depth Southerly--till
28 looking at an angle of 45° from the first
29 line it is of a glorious deep indigo
30 blue-- For some reason I must look much
31 further north to see it blue.

1
 2 River not yet worne through Fair H. Pond
 3 You are pretty sure to see the tracks of
 4 squirrels red ones--about the base of walnuts
 5 which they have ascended--& where they have probed
 6 the snow for a nut.

7 I think that a great many birds-nests are
 8 broken up in summer by weasels minks &
 9 skunks.

10 Returning scared up 2 large ducks just above
 11 the bridge One very large white beneath breast
 12 & neck--black head & wings & aft-- The other
 13 much smaller & dark. Ap. male & female. They lit
 14 more than 100 miles south of the bridge & I
 15 viewed them with glass The larger--sailed about
 16 on the watch while the smaller dark one
 17 %V Ap. 1st%
 18 dived repeatedly.%^% I think there are but
 19 3 ducks ever seen here anything like

20 these the--Golden Eye or Whistler--the Goosander
 21 %Is it not female goosander?%
 22 or Shel Drake--& the Red breasted Merganser¹⁰²--

23 This male I suspect was too large for the 1st
 24 & from its size--& its great superiority in size
 25 to its companion--I think it the Goosander or shel-
 26 drake. It did not scoot over the water
 27 as I think the red-breasted Merganser%??% does--

//

28 Sat. Mar 17th

29 H. Hosmer says he has seen black-ducks
 30 Edmund Hosmer's meadow--i.e the Hunt House¹⁰³ meadow--
 31 is covered with great pieces of meadow--the
 32 largest thick & dense cranberry meadow--
 33 It is piled 3 or 4 feet high for several rods.

//

¹⁰²"Red breasted Merganser" cancelled in pencil
¹⁰³Preceded by false start.

1 Higher up on the North branch I see
2 where the trees, especially the swamp white
3 oaks--have been chafed smooth & white by the
4 ice (at that time) from the ground to
5 ~~6~~fe 3 or 4 feet (6 in some cases) as if scraped
6 with a hoe--& the bushes all along the
7 shore--willows, alders &c &c blueberry
8 swamps in some places--have been more or
9 // less broken down-- I hear the lesser redpolls
10 %the last%
11 yet%^%-- See now along the edge of
12 the river the ice being gone & many
13 // fresh heaps of clam shells which were opened
14 by the musquash when the water was higher--
15 about some tree where the ground rises--
16 And very many places you see where
17 they formed new burrows into the bank--
18 the sand being pushed out into the stream
19 about the entrance which is still below
20 water--& you feel the ground under-
21 mined as you walk.
22 blossom
23 ? White maple ^ buds look as if bursting--show a
24 rusty fusty space perhaps a 16th of an inch in width
25 over & above the regular 6 scales.
26 I see scraps of the evergreen ranunculus
27 along the river side--
28 Mar 18
29 more or less
30 Fair in the forenoon but ^ cloudy & windy
31 in the p. m.

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P. m. Round by Hollowell Place via Clam Shell.
 I see with my glass as I go over the RR bridge
 --sweeping the river--a great gull standing
 far away on the top of a muskrat cabin
 which rises just above the water op. the Hub.
 bath. When I get round within 60 rods of
 him 10 minutes later--he still stands on the same
 spot--constantly turning his head ^{to} ~~on~~ every side
 looking out for--foes-- Like a wooden
 image of a bird he stands there--heavy to look
 at--head, breast, beneath, & rump pure
 white--Slate colored wings tipped with black
 & extending beyond the tail--The herring gull
 I can see clear down to its webbed feet--
 But now I advance & he rises--easily--goes
 east
 off north ^ ward--over the river with a leisurely
 flight. At Clam Shell Hill I sweep the
 river again & see standing mid leg deep on
 the meadow where the water is very shallow--with
 deeper around--another of these wooden
 images--which is harder to scare. I do not
 fairly distinguished black tips to its wings
 It is 10 or 15 minutes before I get him to
 rise--& then he goes off in the same leisurely
 manner stroking the air with his wings--&
 now making a great circle back on its
 course--so you cannot tell which way
 it is bound-- By standing so long motionless

? //

1 in these places they may perchance ac-
2 complish 2 objects--i.e. catch passing
3 fish (suckers?) like a heron--& escape
4 the attention of man. Its utmost motion
5 was to plume itself once & turn its head about.
6 If it did not move its head it would look like
7 a decoy. Our river is quite low for the
8 season--& yet it is here without freshet or
9 easterly storm-- It seems to take this course
10 on its migrations without regard to the
11 state of the waters.

12 Meanwhile a small dark colored duck--
13 // all neck & wings--~~rot~~ a winged rolling
14 pin went over--perhaps a teal.

15 // For the last 2 or 3 days very wet & muddy
16 walking--owing to the melting of the snow;
17 also
18 which ^ has slightly swollen the small streams.

19 Some vigorous osiers about the trunk
20 of some golden willows on the Hub. bridge
21 Causeway--have all winter been a much brighter
22 yellow than the rest of the trees. They cannot
23 well be more brilliant anytime.

24 Notwithstanding the water on the surface it
25 is easier crossing meadows & swamps than
26 it will be a month hence--on account of
27 the frost in the ground.

28 Mar 19th 55

29 A fine clear & warm day for

1
 2 the season-- Launched my boat //
 3 Pm--paddled to F-- H. P.
 4 Very pleasant & warm when the wind
 5 lulls & the water is perfectly smooth. I make
 6 the¹⁰⁴ voyage without gloves. The snow of
 7 Mar 14 is about gone & the landscape //
 8 is once more russet. The thick ice of the
 9 meadows lies rotting on each side of
 10 the stream white & almost soft as snow--
 11 In many places it extends still over the
 12 shallower parts of the river. As I paddle
 13 side of the
 14 or pole up the ^ stream the muddy bottom
 15 looks dead & dark--and no greenness
 16 is observed but on a close scrutiny--
 17 The unsightly dead leaf stalks of
 18 the pontederia & ~~the stems of pol~~ cover
 19 it in irregular whorls covered with
 20 filth--the black stems of the polygo-
 21 numbs here & there still rise above the
 22 surface-- But on a closer scrutiny
 23 you detect here & there bits of the
 24 evergreen ranunculus--commonly float-
 25 ing--the cress--some reddish pads
 26 nuphar expanded close to the bottom
 27 & a few points of its closely rolled unexpand-
 28 ed leaves--also some radical greenness
 29 in the pontederia--and what is that
 30 fresh green oblong perhaps spatulate

¹⁰⁴Followed by cancelled false start

1 1 1/2 inches long
2 // leaf ^ making little rosettes on a running
3 root--in one place just this side the ash
4 %It is Forget me not%
5 above the RR? There is this radical
6 greenness to correspond with that on the
7 land. The muskrat house are for
8 the most part flatted down even below
9 the present level of the water (at least
10 5 feet+ below the truss) prob. by the water
11 & ice a month ago-- I see but 3 or 4
12 well repaired--One new one at least, however,
13 on a piece of meadow lately lodged.
14 It is to be inferred that they have not the
15 same need of them as in the fall. Already
16 Farrar is out with his boat--looking
17 for spring cranberries--& here comes ~~the~~
18 slowly paddling the dark faced trapper Mel-
19 {%see him out here the 1st boating day next year also%}
20 vin with his dog & gun.%^% I see a poor
21 drowned gray rabbit floating--back
22 up as in life, but 3/4 submerged. ~~It~~
23 ~~may have be died & been washed~~ I see
24 a hawk circling over a small maple
25 grove through this calm air--ready to
26 pounce on the first migrating sparrow that
27 may have arrived. As I paddle or push
28 along by the edge of the thick ice
29 which lines the shore--sometimes pushing
30 against it--I observe that it

1
2 is curiously worne by the water into this
3 form {drawing} the dotted line being the
4 water's edge. The
5 water has eaten into the edge of the ice,
6 (which may be 1 1/2 inches beneath the top)
7 just where its surface meets it, ^ 4 or 5 inches
8 or more--leaving a sharp projecting eave
9 above--while the lower part 5 or 6 inches
10 thick--being preserved hard by the water ~~pro-~~
11 ~~jects~~ slopes off to a very sharp edge from
12 one to even 4 feet from the upper. The undu-
13 lations made by my boat and paddle--striking
14 under this eave--make a constant sound
15 as I pass. I am surprised to find that
16 the river has not yet worne through F-- H. Pond //
17 Getting up a weed with the paddle close to the
18 shore under water--where 5 or 6 inches deep--
19 I found a fish-worm in the mud. Here //
20 & there floating or on the edge of the
21 ice I see small pieces of Nuphar root
22 with a few rolled pointed leaf buds. prob
23 gnawed off by the muskrats. The greater
24 part of the Wood meadow this side Clam
25 shell has been lifted up & rotted again--
26 & it now sounds hollow & sinks under
27 my steps.
28 The wind has got round more to the east
29 now at 5 pm & is raw & disagreeable
30 & produces a bluish haze or mist at once //

1 // in the air. It is early for such a phenom-
2 smelled muskrats in 2 places & saw 2
3 Saw by their white droppings on the bottom where ducks had fed.
4 enon. I hear at last the--tchuck
5 // tchuck of a blackbird & looking up
6 see him flying high over the river--
7 S Westerly--the wrong way--in great haste
8 to reach somewhere--& when I reach my
9 // landing¹⁰⁵ I hear my first blue-bird, some
10 where about cheney's trees by the river--I hear
11 him out of the blue deeps, but do not yet
12 see his blue body-- He comes with a warble.
13 Now first generally heard in the village.
14 %Not a duck do I see-- It is perhaps too bright & serene a day for them%
15 Mar 20
16 A flurry of snow--at 7 Am. I go to turn
17 // my boat up-- 4 or 5 song sparrows are
18 flitting along amid the willows by the water
19 side. Prob. they came yesterday with the
20 blue birds. From distant trees & bushes I hear
21 tinkling
22 a faint ^ te te te te té--& at last a full
23 strain whose rhythm is whit whit whit,
24 deliberately sung or measuredly
25 ter tche, tchear tche,^ while the falling
26 snow is beginning to whiten the ground.
27 Not discouraged by such a reception. The blue-
28 bird too is in the air & I detect its blue back
29 for a moment upon a picket.
30 It is remarkable by what a gradation of
31 days which we call pleasant & warm--
32 beginning in the last of February--we

¹⁰⁵"landing" written over "landainq"

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come at last to real summer warmth. At first a sunny calm serene winter day is pronounced spring--or reminds us of it--and even the first pleasant spring day perhaps we walk with our great coat buttoned up & gloves on.

Trying the other day to imitate the honking of geese--I found myself flapping my sides with my elbows, as with wings--& uttering something like the syllables mow-ack with a nasal twang & twist in my head--and I produced their note so perfectly in the opinion of the hearers that I thought I might possibly draw a flock down.

Pm. Up Assabet

It soon cleared off in the morning & prove a fair but windy day. The ice either freezes to the alders & c 1/2 to 2/3 up them & settling I see a ~~black~~ willow breaks them lower down--settling upon them--or else freezes to drooping 6 inches in diameter which was broken down by limbs, & so pulls them down. the ice & some birches up the Assabet, which had previously been bent ^{ove the stream} ^ were broken off 10 feet from the ground-- I notice this havoc along the stream on making my first voyages on it. As I look into the low woods or swamp on each side I see the trees especially rough barked ones--like the black willow ^swamp wht¹⁰⁶ oak & elm chafed white to sometimes the bark worne off the height of 3 or 4 feet^--& the maples also birches & c being ^ divested of their lichens

¹⁰⁶Possibly not underlined

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hedge & there plume themselves with puffed
up feathers.

Mar 21st

6 1/2 Am to swamp B. Brook

Clear, but,¹⁰⁷ A very cold westerly wind this morning--ground¹⁰⁸
frozen very hard--yet the song sparrows are heard

from the willow & alder rows-- Hear a lark far off in
the meadow.

//

Pm. to Bare Hill by RR--

Early willow & aspen catkins a very conspicuous

//

now-- The silvery down of the former has in
some places cropt forth from beneath its scales

1/3 of an inch at least-- This increased silveriness
was obvious I think about the first of

March perhaps earlier-- It appears to
be a very gradual expansion which begins

in the warm days of winter. It would be
well to observe them once a fortnight

through the winter. It is the first decided
growth I have noticed--& is prob. a month old.

//

The song-sparrow is now seen dodging
behind the wall with a quirk of its tail--or
flitting along the alders or other bushes
by the side of the road--especially in low
ground.--& its pleasant strain is heard at in-
tervals in spite of the cold & blustering wind.

It is the most steady & resolute singer as
yet--its strain being heard at intervals throughout
the day--more than any as yet peopling the
hedge-rows.

¹⁰⁷Cancelled comma.

¹⁰⁸Because "Clear, but" was added, start new paragraph with this line

1
2 when my feet made any unusual or louder
3 noise going through leaves or bushes-- I could
4 as they appeared
5 count its claws ^ through the handcherchief--&
6 once it got its head out a hole. It even bit
7 through the handcherchief.
8 as I remember chestnut ash or cream
9 Color ^ above a ^ ~~grey~~ inclining to fawn ^ color?
10 slightly browned--beneath white--the under
11 edge of its wings (?) tinged yellow--the upper
12 Aud. & Bach do not speak of any such stripe!
13 dark perhaps black--making a dark stripe^--
14 It was a very cunning little animal--remind-
15 ing me of a mouse in the room-- Its very large
16 & prominent black eyes gave it an inter-
17 esting innocent look. Its very neat flat fawn-
18 colored distichous tail--was a great ornament--
19 Its "sails" were not very obvious when it was at
20 rest--merely giving it a flat appearance
21 beneath-- It would leap off & upward
22 into the air 2 or 3 feet from a table &
23 ~~fall~~ spreading its "sails" & fall to the
24 floor in vain--perhaps strike the side of
25 the room in its upward spring--&--endeavor
26 to cling to it-- It would run up the window
27 by the sash--but evidently found the furniture
28 & walls & floor to hard & smooth for it
29 & after some falls became quiet. In a
30 few moments it allowed me to stroke it
31 though far from confident.
32 I put it in a barrel & covered it for the

1 night-- It was quite busy all the
2 evening gnawing out--clinging for this
3 purpose & gnawing at the upper edge
4 of a round oak barrel--& then dropping
5 to rest from time to time--& had defaced
6 the barrel considerably by morning--&
7 would probably have escaped if I had not
8 placed a piece of iron against the
9 gnawed part-- I had left in the barrel
10 some bread--apple--shagbarks & cheese.
11 It ate some of the apple & one shagbark--
12 cutting it quite in two transversely.
13 squatted somewhat curled up
14 In the morning it was quiet & ~~lay~~ amid the
15 directly
16 straw with its tail passing under it & the
17 end curved over its head--very perttily--as if
18 to shield it from the light & keep it warm.
19 I always found it in this position by day when
20 I raised the lid

21 Mar 23d

22 Pm To F. H. P.ond¹¹¹

23 Carried my flying squirrel back to the
24 woods in my handkerchief. I placed it
25 about 3 1/2 Pm--on the very stump I
26 had taken it from. It immediately ran
27 about a rod over the leaves & up a
28 slender maple sapling about 10 feet,
29 then after a moment's pause spran off

¹¹¹"P.ond" possibly "Pond" altered from "P."

1
 2 & skimmed downward toward a large maple
 3 9 feet distant
 4 ^whose trunk it struck 3 or 4 feet from
 5 the ground-- This it rapidly ascended,
 6 on the opposite side from me, nearly 30
 7 feet & there clang¹¹² to the main stem with
 8 its head downward eyeing me. After 2 or 3 min-
 9 utes pause--I saw that it was preparing for
 10 another spring--by raising its head & looking
 11 off--& away it went in admirable style
 12 more like a bird than any quadruped
 13 I had dreamed of--& far surpassing the
 14 impression I had received from naturalists', %v. n. p.%
 15 accounts-- I marked the spot it started
 16 from & the place where it struck & measured
 17 the height & distance carefully-- It sprang
 18 off from the maple at the height of 28 1/2
 19 feet (~~from the ground~~)¹¹³ & struck the
 20 ground at the foot of a tree 50 1/2 feet dis-
 21 tant, measured horizontally. Its flight
 22 was not a regular descent--it varied
 23 from a directly line both horizontally
 24 & vertically-- Indeed it skimmed much
 25 like a hawk & Part¹¹⁴ of its flight was
 26 nearly horizontal--& it diverged from
 27 a sight line 8 or 10 feet to the right--
 28 making a curve in that direction. There
 29 were 6 trees from 6 inches to a foot
 30 one a hemlock
 31 in diameter ^ in a direct line between
 32

¹¹²Possibly "clung"
¹¹³Parens probably added as part of the cancellation; in AL table now, but probably can remove them
¹¹⁴"Part" altered from "part"

1 the two termini, & there it skimmed partly
2 round--& passed through their thinner limbs
3 as I could perceive
4 did not ^ touch a twig--& skimmed its way
5 like a hawk between & around the trees.
6 Though it was a windy day--this was on
7 a steep hill side away from the wind & covered
8 with wood--so it was not aided by that.
9 As the ground rose about 2 feet--~~its~~¹¹⁵
10 ~~progress~~ the distance was to the absolute height
11 as 50 1/2 to 26 1/2--or it¹¹⁶ advanced about
12 2 feet for every 1 foot of descent. After its
13 vain attempts in the house, I was not
14 prepared for this exhibition-- It did not
15 fall heavily as in the house, but struck
16 the ground gently enough--& I cannot
17 believe that the mere extension of the
18 skin enabled it to skim so far-- It
19 must be still further aided by its
20 organization-- Perhaps it fills itself with
21 air first. Perhaps I had a fairer
22 view than common of its flight now at
23 Aud. & bach. say he saw it skim "about 50 yards" curving upwards
24 NB 3 1/2 Pm. at the end & alighting on the trunk of a tree.. This in a meadow
25 in which were scattered oaks & beeches. This near Philadelphia.
26 Kicking over the hemlock stump--which
27 Wesson says he has seen them fly 5 or 6 rods.
28 was a mere shell with holes below--& a poor
29 refuge--I was surprised to find a little nest
30 at the bottom open above just like a bird's
31 nest--a mere ~~bird~~--bed. It was composed
32 of ~~des~~ leaves ~~a few~~ shreds of bark &

¹¹⁵ "its" poss written over "at"

¹¹⁶written over text

1
 2 dead pine needles. As I remember it was not
 3 more than 1 1/2 inches broad when at rest--
 4 but when skimming through the air--I should
 5 say it was 4 inches broad. This is the impression I
 6 now have. Capt. J.¹¹⁷ Smith says it is said to
 7 fly 30 or 40 yards. Aud. & Bach. quote one Gideon
 8 B. Smith M. D. of Baltimore who has had much to
 9 do with these squirrels--& speaks of their curving
 10 upward at the end of their flight to alight
 11 on a tree trunk--of their "flying" into his windows.
 12 In order to perform all these flights--to strike
 13 a tree at such a distance &c &c it is evi-
 14 dent it is evident it must be able to steer--
 15 I should say that mine steered as a
 16 hawk--that moves without flapping its
 17 wings--never being able however to get a new
 18 impetus--after the first spring.

19 C. saw geese tonight

//

20 Mar 24th 55

21 I think that the celandine started as early
 22 as the 10th of March--& has since been nibbled
 23 off by hens &c for it shows more green--but not longer--

//

24 Pm up Assabet--by boat

25 A cold & blustering P. m. after a flurry
 26 of snow which has not fairly whitened the ground.

27 I see a painted tortoise at the bottom
 28 moving slowly over the meadow. They do not

//

¹¹⁷Possibly "I."

1 yet put their heads out--but merely begin
2 to venture forth into their calmer element.
3 It is almost as stationary--as inert as the
4 pads as yet-- Passing up the Assabet by
5 the hemlocks where there has been a slide--
6 & some rocks have slid down into the river--I
7 think I see how rocks come to be found in
8 the midst of rivers. Rivers are continually
9 changing their channels--eating into one
10 bank & adding their sediment to the other--
11 So that frequently where there is a great bend
12 you see a high & steep bank or hill on one
13 side--which the river washes--& ~~on the~~ a
14 broad meadow on the other-- As the river
15 eats into the hill--especially in freshets--it un-
16 dermines the rocks--large & small--& they
17 slide down alone or with the sand & soil ~~into~~
18 to the waters edge-- The river continues to eat into
19 the hill, carrying away all the lighter
20 parts the sand & soil, to add to its meadows
21 or islands somewhere--but leaves the
22 rocks where they rested--& thus in course of
23 time they occupy the middle of the stream--
24 & later still the mid of the meadow perchance
25 though it may be buried under the mud.
26 But this does not explain how so many
27 rocks lying in streams have been split
28 in the direction of the current--

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Again rivers appear to have travelled back
and worn into the meadows of their creating
& then they become more meandering than
ever-- Thus in the course of ages the rivers
wriggle in their beds--till it feels comfortable
under them-- Time is cheap & rather insig-
nificant-- It matters not whether it is a
river which changers from side to side in
a geological period¹¹⁸--or an eel that wiggles
past in an instant.

The scales of alders which have been broken
by the ice & are lying in the water--are //
& the catkins ~~& they~~ are much lengthened & enlarged
now visibly loosend--^as you look endwise at
the catkins¹¹⁹ The White maple buds too //
show some further expansion methinks?

The last 4 days--including this¹²⁰-- //
have been very cold & blustering-- The ice
on the ponds--which was rapidly rotting has
somewhat hardened again--so that you make
no impression on it as you walk-- I crossed
F. H. P yesterday & could have crossed the chan-
nel there again. The wind has been for
the most part N Westerly--but yesterday was
strong southwesterly yet cold. The N-- W. comes
from a snow clad country still--& cannot
but be chilling. We have had several
flurries of snow--when we hoped it would snow
in earnest & the weather be warmer for it.

¹¹⁸ letters "l" and "p" run together into one letter, one word
¹¹⁹ T drew a line to connect the caret and the interlineation at line 14 to
reposition the material: originally it was careted to follow "loosend--"; T
cancelled that caret
¹²⁰Possibly altered from "the"

1 It is too cold to think of those signs of
2 spring--which I find recorded under this
3 ? date last year. The earliest signs of
4 spring in vegetation noticed thus far--are
5 the maple sap--the willow catkins (& poplars (?)
6 ~~ap.~~ grass on S. banks & perhaps cowslip in sheltered places
7 not examined early) the celandine (?)^--Alder
8 catkins loosened--& also wht maple buds loosened (?)
9 // I am not sure that the osiers are decidedly
10 brighter yet.

11 Mar. 25th '55
12 P. m. to Ministerial Lot--
13 Still cold & blustering-- The ditches where
14 I have seen salamanders last year before this
15 ? are still frozen up. Was it not a sucker¹²¹
16 I saw dart along the brook beyond Jennie's?
17 I see where the squirrels¹²² have fed extensively
18 on the acorns now exposed in the melting
19 of the snow-- The ground is strewn with the
20 freshly torn shells & nibbled meat in some
21 places.

22 Mar. 26th '55
23 6 Am Still cold & blustering--wind SW. but clear--
24 I see a muskrat house just erected--2 feet or
25 more above the water & sharp--and at the
26 Hub. bath--a mink comes tetering along the
27 ice by the side of the river-- I am between him
28 & the sun & he does not notice me-- He runs
29 daintily¹²³ lifting his feet with a jerk as if his
30 toes were sore. They seem to go a-hunting

¹²¹Followed by cancelled false start.

¹²²vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "freshly torn..."

¹²³Possibly altered from "to"

1
 2 at night--along the edge of the river
 3 --perhaps I notice them more at this¹²⁴
 4 season when the shallow water freezes
 5 at night & there is no vegetation along
 6 the shore to conceal them.

7 The lark sings perched on the top of an
 8 apple-tree Seel-yah Seel-yah--&
 9 then pehaps Seel-yah-see-e & several
 10 other strains--quite sweet & plaintive--contrasting
 11 with the cheerless season & the bleak-meadows--
 12 Further off I hear one like ah-tick-seel-yah
 13 Pm Sail down to the Grt Meadows--

14 A strong wind with snow driving from the west--
 15 & thickening the air. The farmers pause to
 16 see me scud before it. At last I
 17 land & walk further down on the meadow
 18 bank. I scare up several flocks of ducks--
 19 There is but little water on the meadow
 20 & that far down & partly frozen--but a
 21 great many acres of the meadow
 22 lifted &
 23 crust have there been ^ broken up by the
 24 ice--& now make hundreds of slanting
 25 isles amid the shallow water--looking
 26 like waves of earth--& amid these the
 27 ducks are sailing & feeding. The nearest
 28 prob. sheldrakes--
 29 are 2 ap mid. sized with black heads--
 30 ~~& ap~~ white breast & wings & ap. all above but
 31 the tail or tips of wings which are black.

32 A third with them is ap. all dark.

//

¹²⁴Possibly altered from "the"

1 I do not know what to call them. You are
2 much more sure to see ducks in a stormy
3 afternoon like this--than in a bright
4 & pleasant one-- Returning I see
5 near the Island 2 ducks which have
6 the marks (on%e% of them) of the wood duck
7 (--i.e one or 2 longitudinal white stripes down
8 the head & neck)--but when they go over
9 I hear distinctly & for a long time the whistling
10 fine & sharp golden eyes or¹²⁵ Were they the
11 // of their wings--^ Are they ^ Whistlers?¹²⁶ harlequin Ducks¹²⁷
12 %prob male & female wood duck%
13 ~~For¹²⁸ a w~~ For several weeks or since
14 the ice has melted--I notice the paths made
15 by the muskrats when the water was high in
16 the winter leading from the river up the
17 bank to a ~~nest~~ bed of grass above or below
18 the surface-- When it runs under the surface
19 I frequently slump into it--& can trace it to the
20 bed by the hollow sound when I stamp on the
21 frozen ground. They have disfigured the banks
22 very much in some places only the past winter.
23 Clams have been carried into these galleries a
24 rod or more under the earth. The galleries
25 kept on the surface¹²⁹ & terminated perhaps
26 at some stump where the earth was a little
27 raised--When the ice still remained thick
28 over them after the water had gone down.
29 I was surprised to find fish worms only
30 // four inches beneath the surface in the

¹²⁵"golden eyes or" cancelled in pencil
¹²⁶"are they whistlers?" cancelled in pencil
¹²⁷"Were . . . Ducks" cancelled in pencil
¹²⁸Written over another word
¹²⁹Possibly altered from "surfaces"

1
 2 meadow close against the frozen portion of the
 3 A few may be also be found on the bottoms of brooks
 4 & ditches in the water--where they are prob. food for the earliest fishes
 5 crust.^ Is that little flat moss like--or
 6 Jungermannia¹³⁰-like plant on Cheney's shore the //
 7 Selaginella apus? It reminds me of the
 8 finest lace work.
 9 Mar 27th 6 1/2 Am to Island.
 10 The ducks sleep these nights in the shallowest
 11 water which does not freeze--& there may be
 12 found early in the morning-- I think that they
 13 prefer that part of the shore which is permanently
 14 covered.
 15 Snow last evening--about 1 inch deep--&
 16 now it fair & somewhat warmer-- Again
 17 I see the tracks of rabbits squirrels &c-- It
 18 would be a good time this forenoon to ex-
 19 amine the tracks of woodchucks & see what they
 20 are about.
 21 P. m. to Hub's Close & down brook.
 22 Measured a black oak just sawed down--
 23 23 inches in diameter on the ground--& 54
 24 rings. It had grown twice as much on the
 25 east side as on the west. The fringilla //
 26 Linaria still here. Saw a wood tortoise in //
 27 the brook. Am surprised to see the
 28 cowslip so forward showing so much green in //
 29 E. Hub's swamp in the brook--where it is sheltered from
 30 the wind. The already expanded leaves rise above the
 31 %yas%
 32 water-- If this is a spring growth--%^it is the most

¹³⁰Looks like T spelled it "Jungermnnia"--can construe the "a"?

1 forward herb I have seen--~~not excepting the~~
2 as forward as the celandine.

3 // Saw my frog-hawk--(C. saw it about a week ago)
4 Prob. F fuscus or sharp-shinned though not well des-
5 cribed by Wilson. Slate-colored--beating the bush--blak tips
6 to wings & white rump. %No it is the hen-harrier {note}%

7 Mar 28--

8 Pm to Cliffs along river--

9 It is colder than yesterday--wind strong from
10 N. W. The mts are still covered with snow They
11 have not once been bare. I go looking for
12 meadow mice nests--but the ground is frozen
13 so hard, except in the meadow below the banks--
14 that I cannot come at them. That portion
15 of the meadow next the upland--which is now
16 thawed has already many earth worms in
17 I can dig a quantity of them--I suspect more than in Summer--
18 it.^ Moles might already get their living there.

19 // A yel. spot tortoise in a still ditch--which has
20 a little ice also. It at first glance reminds
21 me of a bright freckled leaf--skunk cab-
22 scape perhaps-- They are generally quite still
23 at this season--or only slowly put their heads
24 // out (of their shells)-- I see where a skunk
25 ap. has been probing the sod--though it is thawed
26 but a few inches, & all around this spot frozen
27 hard still-- I dig up there a frozen & dead white
28 grub--the large potato grub-- This I think he
29 was after. The skunks nose has made small
30 or cane
31 round holes such as a ~~small stick~~ ^ would
32 make. The river has not yet quite worne
33 // its way through F-- H. Pond--but prob.
34 will tomorrow.

1
 2 I run about these cold & blustering days
 3 on the whole prhaps the worst to bear in
 4 the year--(partly because they disappoint expectation)
 5 looking almost in vain for some animal or
 6 vegetable life stirring-- The warmest springs
 7 hardly allow me the glimpse of a frog's heel as he
 8 settles himself in the mud--& I think I am lucky
 9 if I see one winter%-defying hawk or a hardy
 10 duck or two at a distance on the water. As¹³¹
 11 have
 12 for the singing of birds--the few that ~~of~~ come
 13 to us--It is too cold for them to sing & for me
 14 to hear-- The blue bird's warble--comes feeble
 15 & frozen to my ear-- We still walk on frozen
 16 ground--though in the garden I can thrust
 17 a spade in about 6 inches. //

18 Over a great many acres the meadows have
 19 great
 20 been cut up into ^ squares & other figures by the
 21 ice of February--as if ready to be removed--sometimes
 22 separated by narrow & deep channels like muskrat
 23 paths--but oftener the edges have been raised
 24 ap.
 25 & ^ stretched--and settling have not fallen into
 26 their places exactly but lodged on their neighbors.

27 Even yet you see cakes of ice surmounted by
 28 a shell of mead-- crust--which has preserved it--
 29 while all around is bare meadow.

30 Mar 29th

31 Pm. to Flints P.

32 Flints P. is entirely open //

¹³¹Possibly altered from "For"--in AL table

1 may have been a day or 2-- There was only a
2 slight opening about the boathouse on the 21st
3 & the weather has been very cold ever since.

4 Walden is more than 1/2 open--Goose pond only
5 a little about the shores--& F. H Pond--only just
6 open over the channel of the river-- There is washed¹³²
7 up on the shore of Flint's some pretty little whorls
8 of the radical leaves of the L. Dortmanna--with
9 its white root fibres¹³³--

10 As I stand on Heywood's Peak looking over
11 more than
12 Walden--^half its surface already sparkling
13 blue water--I inhale with pleasure the
14 cold but wholesome air--like a draught
15 of cold water--contrasting it in my memory
16 with the wind of summer--which I do
17 not thus eagerly swallow. This which
18 is a chilling wind to my fellow is decidedly
19 refreshing to me & I swallow it with eager-
20 ness--as a panacaea-- I feel an impulse
21 also already to jump into the half melted
22 pond. This cold wind is refreshing to my palate
23 as the warm air of summer is not me-
24 thinks-- I love to stand there & be blown
25 on as much as a horse in July. A field of
26 ice nearly half as big as the pond--has
27 drifted against the eastern shore & crumbled
28 up against it forming a shining white wall--
29 of its fragments

30 Mar 30 6 1/2 Am to Island

31 It is a little warmer than of late though
32 still the shallows are skimmed over--
33 // The pickerel begin to dart from

¹³²Possibly altered from "in"

¹³³Possibly altered from "buds" or another word

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the shallowest parts not frozen-- I hear many
phe-be--notes from the chicadees as if they¹³⁴
appreciated this slightly warmer & sunny morning.

A fine day--as I look through the window
I actually see a warmer atmosphere with its
fine shimmer againstst the russet hills &
the dry leaves--though the warmth has
not got into the house & it is no more
bright nor less windy than yesterday--
or many days past-- I find that
the difference to the eye is a slight haze
though it is but very little warmer than
yesterday.

Today & yesterday have been bright windy days--
W wind
^cool--yet, compared with the previous colder
gratefully
ones--pleasantly ^ cool to me on my cheek.

There is a very percipible greenness on our S bank now //
but I cannot detect the slightest greenness //
on the S side of Lee's Hill as I sail by it-- It
is a perfectly dead russet.

The river is but about a foot above the //
lowest summer level

I have seen a few F. Hiemalis about the house
in the morning the last few days. You see ~~also~~
a few black-birds--robins--blue-birds
tree sparrows--Larks &c but the song-sparrow chiefly
is heard these days.

¹³⁴Possibly altered from "the"

1 He must have a great deal of life in him
2 to draw upon--who can pick up a subsistence
3 in November & march-- Man comes out
4 of his winter quarters this month as lean
5 as a woodchuck. Not till ~~the~~ late--
6 could the skunk find a place where the
7 ground was thawed on the surface--

8 Except for science--do not travel in
9 such a climate as this--in November & March.
10 I tried if a fish would take the bait
11 // today--but in vain I did not get a
12 nibble--where are they ~~br~~? I read that
13 a great many bass were taken in the Merri-
14 mack last week. Do not the suckers move
15 at the same time?

16 Mar 31st

17 I see through the window that it is a
18 // very fine day--the first really warm one.
19 I did not know the whole till I came
20 out at 3 pm
21 & walked to the Cliffs--
22 The slight haze of yesterday has become
23 // very thick--with a SW wind--concealing
24 the mts. I can see it in the air within
25 2 or 3 rods as I look against the
26 bushes-- The fuzzy gnats are in the air
27 & blue birds whose warble is thawed
28 out-- I am uncomfortably warm

1
 2 gradually unbutton both my coats, &
 3 wish that I had left the outside one
 4 at home. I go listening for the croak
 5 of the 1st frog--or peep of a hylodes-- It is suddenly
 6 warm--and this amelioration of the weather
 7 is incomparably the most important
 8 fact in this vicinity. It is incredible
 9 what a revolution in our feelings & in
 10 the aspect of nature--this warmer air
 11 alone has produced-- Yesterday the earth
 12 was simple to barrenness & dead--bound
 13 out-- Out o doors there was nothing but
 14 the wind & the withered grass & the cold
 15 though sparkling blue water--& you were
 16 driven in upon yourself-- Now you would
 17 think that there was a suddene awakening
 18 in the very crust of the earth--as if flowers
 19 were expanding & leaves putting forth--
 20 but not so-- I listen in vain to hear
 21 a frog or a new bird as yet;--only a the frozen
 22 ground is melting a little deeper & the water
 23 is trickling down the hills in some places.¹³⁵

24 No--the change is mainly in us-- We
 25 feel as if we had obtained a new lease
 26 of life Some juniper (repens) berries //
 27 are blue now-- Looking from the Cliffs
 28 I see that Walden is open today first. & F. H. P //
 29 will open by day after tomorrow no--v Ap. 4th

¹³⁵Period probably stray mark.

1 Ap 1st

2 The month comes in true to its reputation.

3 We wake--though late--to hear the sound
4 & rather warm
5 // of a strong steady ^ rain on the roof--&
6 see the puddles shining in the road.

7 It lasts till the middle of the day & then
8 is succeeded by a cold NW wind.

9 This pattering rain & sabbath morning
10 combined make us all sluggards.

11 When I look out the window I see
12 that the grass on the bank on the S side
13 of the house is already much greener than
14 it was yesterday-- As it cannot have grown
15 so suddenly--how shall I account for it?

16 I suspect that the reason is that the
17 few green blades are not merely washed
18 bright by the rain--but erect themselves
19 to imbibe its influence ~~while the~~ and so
20 are more prominent while the withered
21 blades are beaten down & flattened by it.
22 more fatal
23 It is remarkable how much ~~severer~~
24 to all superficial vegetation or greenness
25 is a morning frost in march--
26 than a covering of snow or ice.

27 In hollows where the ice is still
28 melting I see the grass considerably
29 green about its edges--though
30 further off it shows no sign of life.

31 Pm to Conantum bend.¹³⁶

32 This rain will help take the frost

¹³⁶"E end. "

1
 2 out of the ground. At the 1st Conant. Cliff
 3 I am surprised to see how much the
 4 Columbine leaves have grown in a sheltered
 5 Cleft--also the cinque-foil¹³⁷--dandelion?--
 6 yarrow?--sorrel--saxifrage &c &c They
 7 seem to improve the least warmer ray
 8 to advance themselves--& they hold all they
 9 get. One of the earliest-looking
 10 plants in water is the golden saxifrage.

11 The last half of last month was
 12 cold & windy--excepting the 19th--wind NW
 13 --W & SW-- It at last ceased to be chilling
 14 the 29 & ~~th~~ 30--which were fine clear cool
 15 but windy day-- On the 30th a slight haze-- --
 16 then the 31st was suddenly warm with
 17 a thick haze--thawing man & earth--& this
 18 succeeded by today's rain.

19 See resting on the edge of the ice in F. H. Pond
 20 a white duck--with black head & a dark one--
 21 they take to the water when I appear on the hill
 22 1/4 of a mile off & soon fly down the
 23 river rather low over the water. Were they
 24 not the same with those of the 16th ult?

25 Ap. 2nd

26 Not only the grass but the pines also were
 27 greener yesterday for being wet. To day the
 28 grass being dry the green blades are less

¹³⁷vertical pencil line through line

1 conspicuous than yesterday-- It would seem
2 then that this color is more vivid when
3 wet--& perhaps all green plants like
4 lichens are to some extent greener in moist
5 weather.¹³⁸ Green is essentially vivid--or the color of life
6 & it is therefore most brillaint when a plant
7 is moist or most alive. A plant is said
8 to be green in opposition to being withered & dead.
9 the word, ac. to Webster, is from the
10 Saxon grene to grow & hence¹³⁹ is the color
11 of herbage when growing.

12 // High winds all night rocking the
13 house--opening doors &c--today also. It
14 // is wintry cold also--& ice has formed nearly
15 an inch thick in my boat.

16 Pm Down the river bank--
17 The wind is still very strong and cold
18 from the NW--filling the air with dust--
19 which has slightly risen
20 and blowing the water ^ over the rocks
21 & bushes along the shore--where it
22 // freezes in the shape of bulls' horns
23 about the osiers--making coarse
24 rakes with its dependant icicles when
25 the osiers are horizontal--also
26 turtle-shells over the rocks-- It is just
27 such a wind & freezing as that of
28 March
29 last ~~April~~ (18th I think) & if the mead
30 ow was flooded there would prob be as

¹³⁸Followed by downward facing caret indicating insertion of paragraph "Green .
. . growing."

¹³⁹Followed by cancelled false start

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much ice as then on the bushes-- There
may be wind ~~Ap 3d~~ enough for this phenom-
enon, in the winter, but then there is no open
water to be blown--

Ap 3d

It is somewhat warmer but still windy--
--& P-- m. I go to sail--down to the Island & up
to Hubbards Causeway. Most would call it
cold today-- I paddle without gloves-- It is
a coolness--like that of Mar. 29th & 30th--
pleasant to breathe--& perhaps like that
presaging decidedly warm weather-- It is
an amelioration--as nature does nothing suddenly.
The shores are lined with frozen spray-
like foam with an abrupt edge--a foot
high often in the water side-- Occasionally
where there twigs--there is a nest of those
short¹⁴⁰ thick bull's horn icicles--pointing
in every direction. I see many hens
feeding close to the rivers edge--like
the crows--(& robins & black-birds later) & I
have no doubt they are attracted¹⁴¹ by a like
cause-- The ground being first thawed there
not only worms but other insect & vege-
table life is accessible there ~~bef~~ sooner than
elsewhere. See several pairs of ducks--
mostly black.

¹⁴⁰Possibly altered from "shoot"
¹⁴¹"t" cross for "tt" is in pencil

1
 2 its body certainly as big as a robin-- It is
 3 a question of size bet the 2 kinds-- The
 4 near the end of
 5 rows of white spots ~~on~~ ^ the wings of the downy
 6 remind me of the lacings on the skirts
 7 of a soldier's coat. Talked with
 8 Daniel Garfield near the old house on Conant-
 9 um--he was going to see if his boat was
 10 in order for fishing. Said he had been
 11 a fishing² as early as this & caught perch
 12 often
 13 &c with a worm-- He had ^ caught shiners
 14 in Fair Haven P through the ice in
 15 March--& once a trout in deep water
 16 which weighed 2 pounds
 17 off Bakers Steep hill--^his lines having
 18 been left in over night. He had also
 19 often caught the little perch in White
 20 pond in mid-winter for bait. Sees trout
 21 & sucker running up brooks at this
 22 season and earlier--& thinks they go out
 23 of them in the fall, but not out of the
 24 river. Does not know where they go to.

25 I am surprised to the pond i.e F. H. P.
 26 yet yet fully³ open--there is large
 27 mass of ice in the Eastern bay--which
 28 The rain of the 5th P. m. must have
 29 will hardly melt to-morrow-- finished it

//

30 It is a fine air--but more than
 31 tempered by the snow in the north-west--
 32 All the earth is bright. the very
 33 pines glisten--& the water is a bright blue

²Period probably ink drop
³Possibly altered from "full of"

1 A gull is circling round F H Pond seen
2 white against the woods & hill sides--
3 looking as if it would dive for a fish every moment--
4 & occasionally resting on the ice-- The
5 water above Lees bridge is all alive
6 with ducks-- There are many flocks
7 of 8 or 10 together--their black heads &
8 white breasts seen above the water
9 // --more of them than I have seen before this sea-
10 son--& a gull with its whole body above the
11 water--perhaps standing where it was shallow--
12 Not only are the evergreens brighter--
13 but the pools--as that upland one
14 behind Lees--the ice as well as snow--
15 about their edges being now completely
16 melted--have a peculiarly warm--~~watery~~
17 & bright April look--as if ready to
18 be inhabited by frogs
19 I can now put a spad into the garden
20 // anywhere-- The rain of Ap 1st & the warmth
21 of today have taken out the frost there-
22 by I cannot put a spade into banks
23 by⁴ the meadow where there is the
24 least slope to the north
25 Returning--from Mt Misery the pond
26 & river reach presented a fine warm
27 view-- The slight haze which on a
28 warmer day at this season softens

⁴Possibly altered from "on" or "to"

1
 2 the rough surfaces which the winter has
 3 left--& fills the copses seemingly with
 4 life--(makes them appear to teem with life)--
 5 mad the landscape remarkably fair.
 6 It would not be called a warm--
 7 but a pleasant day--but the water
 8 has crept partly over the meadows--and
 9 the broad border of button bushes &c &c off
 10 Wheelers Cranberry Meadow⁵--low & nearly flat
 11 though sloping regularly from an abrupt curving
 12 edge on the river side several rods into
 13 the meadow till it is submerged--this
 14 is isolated--but at this distance & through
 15 this air it is remarkably soft & elysian.
 16 There is a remarkable variety in the
 17 from this summit
 18 view at present^-- The sun feels as warm
 19 is in June on my ear--half a mile
 20 high
 21 off in front--is this elysian water ^ over
 22 which 2 wild ducks are winging their
 23 rapid flight eastward through the ~~clear~~
 24 bright air--on each side & beyond⁶ the
 25 earth is clad with a warm russet--
 26 more pleasing perhaps than green-- --
 27 & far beyond all in the N-- W. horizen
 28 my eye rests on a range of snow-covered
 29 mountains--glistening in the sun.

⁵Possibly altered from "low"

⁶Possibly altered from "&c"

1 Ap 5th Fast day.
2 9. Am. to Sudbury line by boat--
3 A still & rather warm morning--with
4 a very thick haze concealing the sun
5 & threatening to turn to rain
6 It is a smooth april morning water--
7 & many sportsmen are out in their boats.
8 I see a pleasure-boat--on the smooth
9 surface away by the Rock--resting
10 lightly as a feather in the air--
11 // Scare up a snipe close to the water's edges
12 & soon after a hen hawk from the
13 Clam shell oaks-- The last looks larger
14 on his perch than flying. The snipe too
15 then--like crows--robins--black-birds
16 & hens--is found near the water side--
17 where is the first spring (E.g. alders & wht--
18 maples--&c &c) and there too especially are
19 heard the song and tree sparrows. & pewees--
20 & even the hen-hawks at this season haunts
21 there for his prey. Inland the groves
22 are almost completely silent as yet.
23 The Concert of song & tree spars at willow
24 row is now very full--& their dif notes are
25 completely mingled. See a single white-
26 // bellied swallow dashing over the river
27 He too is attracted here by the early
28 insects that begin to to be seen over

1
2 It is a sober moist day with a circle round the sun--which I can
3 the water. It being Fast day--we on the water
4 only see in the reflection in the water--
5 hear the loud & musical sound of bells ring-
6 ing for church in the surrounding towns.
7 The river appears to have risen still last night
8 & many spring-cranberries are washed together at last
9 owing to the rain of the 1st ^ & now many
10 new seeds ap. of sedges are loosened & washed up--
11 Now that for the most part it is melted quite
12 to its edge--& there is no ice there--the water
13 has a warmer april look close under my eye.
14 Now is the first time this year to get spring cranberries //
15 There is a strong muskrat scent from
16 many a shore. See a muskrat floating
17 In many places now the river wreck is chiefly composed of Juncus militaris--was it so //
18 in fall?
19 which may have been drowned when the
20 river was so high in mid winter--for this is
21 the 2nd I have seen--with the rabbit
22 a yel-- spot //
23 I saw yesterday ^ & see today--a painted tor-
24 toise already out on the bank or a tuft
25 of grass-- The muskrat hunter sits patiently
26 with cocked gun waiting for a muskrat
27 to put out his head amid the button
28 bushes--he gets half a dozen--in such
29 a cruise. Bushed our boat with hemlock
30 to get near some ducks--but another boat
31 above also bushed scared them. Heard
32 from one half flooded meadow that
33 low general hard stuttering tut tut tut //
34 of frogs (?) The awakening of the meadow.
35 Hear the cry of the Peacock again.

1
2 on the water, as I had found muskrats &
3 a hare--& now I see something bright & reflect-
4 ing the light from the edge of the alders ~~4 or~~
5 5 or 6 rods off-- Can it be a duck?-- I can hardly
6 believe my eyes-- I am near enough to see its
7 green head & neck-- I am delighted to find a
8 perfect specimen of the Mergus Merganser
9 or Goosander--undoubtedly shot yesterday by
10 the Fast Day sportsmen--& I take a small flattend
11 shot from its wing--flattend against the wing bone
12 ap-- The wing is broken & it is shot through the
13 head-- It is a perfectly fresh and very beautiful
14 bird--& as I raise it, I get sight of its
15 long slender vermilion bill (color of red sealing
16 wax) & its clean bright orange legs & feet--
17 & then of its perfectly smooth & spotlessly pure
18 white breast & belly tinged with a faint
19 salmon--(or say⁸ tinged with a delicate buff
20 The chief wound was in a wing which was broken. I afterward took 3 small shot
21 inclining to salmon--) This ac to Wilson⁹ is one
22 from it which was¹⁰ flattened against the bill's base¹¹ & perhaps? the quills shafts-
23 -
24 of the mergansers or Fisher Ducks of which
25 there are 9 or 10 species & we have four--in Am.
26 It is the largest of these 4--feeds almost entirely
27 on fin & shell fish--called Water Pheasant
28 Sheldrake--Fisherman Diver--Dun Diver--
29 sparling Fowl--Harle &c as well as Goosander--
30 Go in April return in Nov. Jardine has
31 found seven trout in one female.
32 Nuttall says they breed in the Russian Empire

⁸Cancelled in pencil

⁹Possibly written over text

¹⁰Possibly "were"

¹¹"bill's base" possibly altered from other words

1 & are seen in Mississippi & Missouri in winter. He
2 found a young brood in Pennsylvania.

3 Yarrell--says they are called also Saw-bill &
4 Jack-saw--are sometimes sold in London market.

5 Nest ac. to Selby on ground--ac to others in a hollow
6 tree also-- Found on the Continent of Europe--
7 northern Asia--& even in Japan (?) Some breed in
8 the Orkneys & therabouts. %V n. p.%
9 ^{7/8}
10 My bird is 25 ^ inches long--& 35 in alar extent
11 from point of wing to end of primaries 11 inches.
12 ¹²
13 It is a great diver--& does not mind the
14 cold. It ~~seems~~ appears admirably fitted
15 for diving & swimming. Its body is flat--
16 flat
17 & its tail short ^ compact & wedge shaped
18 --its eyes peer out a slight slit or semi-
19 circle in the skin of the head--& its legs
20 & the toes shut up compactly
21 are flat & thin in one direction¹³ ^ so as to
22 create the least friction when drawing them
23 forward--but their broad webs spread
24 them 3 1/2 inches when they take a stroke.

25 The web is extended 3/8 of an inch beyond
26 %V the 9th of April%
27 the inner toe of each foot.%^^ There are
28 black
29 very conspicuous ^ teeth-like serrations along
30 the edges of its bill & the also is roughened--
31 so that it may hold its prey securely.

32 The breast appeared quite ~~gr~~ dry when
33 I raised it from the water.

34 The head & neck are as Wilson¹⁴ says black
35 glossed with green--but the lower part
36 of the neck pure white--& these colors
37 bound on each other so abruptly that
38 one appears to be sewed on to the other.

39 It is a perfect wedge from the mid-

¹²Horizontal line in MS

¹³Possibly altered from another word

¹⁴Possibly altered from "wilson"

1
2 dle of its body to the end of its tail--& it is only 3 1/4
3 inches deep from back to breast at the thickest
4 part--while the greatest breadth horizontally
5 (at the root of the legs) is 5 1/2 inches. In these respects
6 it reminds me of an otter which however I have never seen.
7 I suspect that I have seen near a hundred of
8 these birds this spring. but I never got so near one
9 before In Yarrell's plate the depth of
10 the male goosander is to its length (i.e. from
11 tip of tail to most forward part of breast) as
12 37 to 103 or the depth is more than 1/3
13 This length in Yarrell's bird--calling the
14 distance from the point of the wing to the end of the
15 primaries 11 inches--is about 14 1/2 inches
16 of which my 3 1/4 is not 1/4.
17 In Nuttall's ^{plate} ^ the proportion is 32 to 91 also
18 more than 1/3. I think they have not represented
19 the bird flat enough.
20 Yarrell says it is the largest of the British
21 Mergansers--is a winter visitor--though a few
22 breed in the north of Britain; are rare in the
23 southern counties-- But, ac to Yarrell, a Mr Low
24 in his Nat. Hist of Orkney, says they breed there--& after
25 breeding the sexes separate--& Y. quotes Selby as saying
26 that their nest is near the edge of the water--of
27 grass, roots, &c lined with down--sometimes
28 among stones--in long grass--under bushes--
29 or in a stump or hollow tree. Y continues
30 egg "a uniform buff white" 2 1/2 inches

1 long-- Sometimes carry their young on their
2 backs in the water. It is common in Sweden & ac
3 to the traveller Acerbi--in Lapland they give it
4 a hollow tree to build in & then steal its eggs--
5 The mother he adds carries her young to the
6 water in her bill. Y says it is well known
7 in Russia--& is found in Germany, Holland,
8 France, Switzerland, Provence, & Italy Has
9 been seen near the Caucasus (& is found in Japan
10 ac to one authority) Also in N Am. Hudson's
11 Bay Greenland--& Iceland.

12 Ap 7th

13 In my walk in the P. m. of today I saw from Conantum
14 say 50 rods distant--2 sheldrakes male
15 prob
16 & ^ female sailing on A Wheeler's Cranberry Meadow--
17 white of the
18 I saw only the ^ male at first but my glass
19 revealed the male. The male is easily seen
20 a great distance on the water--being a large
21 white mark-- But they will let you come
22 only within some 60 rods ordinarily. I observed
23 that they were uneasy at sight of¹⁵ me & began
24 to sail away in different directions. I could
25 plainly see the vermilion bill of the male
26 (but he appeared all white above)
27 & his orange legs when he flew^--& the red-
28 or sorrel
29 dish brown ^ of the neck of the female & when
30 she lifted herself in the water (as it were
31 preparatory to flight) her white breast & belly

¹⁵Possibly altered from "on"

1
 2 -- She had a greyish look on the sides. Soon
 3 they approached each other again--& seemed
 4 at first low down stream
 5 to be conferring--& then they rose & went off^
 6 up stream
 7 soon ^ a hundred feet over¹⁶ the pond the female
 8 leading--the male following close behind--the
 9 black at the end of his curved wings very
 10 conspicuous. I suspect that about all
 11 the conspicuous white ducks I see are goosanders.

12 I skinned my duck yesterday & stuffed
 13 it today-- It is wonderful that a man having
 14 undertaken such an enterprise ever persevered
 15 in it to the end--& equally wonderful that
 16 he succeeded-- To skin a bird--drawing back-
 17 ward wrong side out over the legs & wings
 18 down to the base of the mandibles--! Who
 19 would expect to see a smooth feather again?
 20 This skin was very tender on the breast. I should
 21 have done better had I stuffed it at once
 22 or turned it back before the skin became stiff--
 23 Look out not to cut the ~~eye~~ ear & eye-lid--

24 But what a pot bellied thing is a stuffed
 25 bird compared even with the fresh dead
 26 one I found! It looks no longer like an
 27 otter--like a swift diver but a mere wad-
 28 dling duck. How perfectly the vent of a bird
 29 is covered--! There is no mark externally.

¹⁶Possibly altered from "to"

1
2 of march--is now warm looking water--with
3 the slime covered callitriche standing a foot
4 the lake grass
5 high in it--& alread a narrow grass ^ has sprung
6 bent
7 up & lies ^ 9 or 10 inches flat on the water. //

8 This is very early--as well as sudden-- In 10 days
9 there has been this change-- How much had that
10 grass grown under the ice-- I see many small skaters?²¹ //
11 as long as my finger
12 in it. Saw a trout ^ in the ditch dug from Brister's
13 spring which having no hole over hanging bank ~~at~~
14 where it could hide--plunged into the mud like
15 a frog--& was concealed. The female flowers of
16 the hazel are just beginning to peep out. //

17 At Lees Cliff I find the radical
18 leaves of the early saxifrage--columbine--
19 &c ~~is it not~~ the tower mustard?²²--&c much eaten
20 ap. by prtridges & perhaps rabbits-- ~~Below~~ They
21 must have their greens in the spring & earlier
22 obviously
23 than me-- Below the rocks the most ^ forward //
24 columbine
25 radical leaves are the ^ tower-mustard (~~if that~~
26 ~~is it~~ (lanceolate & petioled & remotely toothed)
27 bulbosa
28 Early crowfoot²² {&} The buttercup ^ is a peculiarly sappy dark pickle green--decided
29 spring & none of your sapless evergreens²³
30 & Catnep--& mullein^-- The little thyme
31 which is evergreen
32 leaved arenaria I believe it is^--& some other minute
33 leaves also already green the ground. The saxifrage
34 on the rocks will ap open in 2 days it²⁴ shows
35 some white. The grass is now ~~decide~~ conspicuously
36 green about open springs.²⁵ in dense tufts.
37 The frozen sod partly thawed in low grounds

²¹"?" possibly inserted

²²Written vertically in left margin, with a connecting line drawn to this sentence.

²³"& none . . . evergreens" written vertically in right margin

²⁴Possibly altered from "is"

²⁵poss "springs"

1 sinks under me as I walk.
2 Ap 8 6 Am up Assabet--
3 A fine clear morning. The ground white
4 with frost--& all the meadows also & a
5 low mist curling over the smooth water
6 now in the sun light which gives the
7 silver
8 water a ^ plated look. The frost covers the
9 willows & alders & other trees on the sides
10 of the river 15 or 20 feet high-- Quite
11 a wintry sight. At first I can hardly dis-
12 tinguish Wht maple stamens from the frost
13 spiculae-- I find some anthers effete & dark
14 there are many in this condition
15 & others still mealy with pollen--^ The Crimson
16 {fern} stigmas also peeping forth. It evidently began
17 // to shed pollen yesterday. XXX I find als at length
18 ~~xxx~~
19 // a single catkin of the alnus incana--with
20 a few stamens near the peduncle discolored & shedding
21 a little dust when shaken so this must have
22 begun yesterday XXXX--I think--but it is not so forward
23 as the maple-- Though I have looked widely I
24 have not found the alder out before.
25 // I see some long cob-web lines covered with
26 frost hanging ~~like~~ from tree to tree 6 feet
27 in one case, like the ropes which extend
28 from mast to mast of a vessel. Hear & see
29 // a pigeon woodpecke something like week up
30 // week up. The robins now sing in
31 full ~~chorus~~ blast
32 Very thin dark ice crystals over shallowest water--showing the
33 flat pyramids.

1
 2 Saw 6 muskrats bodies just skinned on the
 3 bank--2 large yellowish ^{fatty} ^ looking masses of I suppose
 4 musk on each side the lower part of the abdomen--
 5 Every part of the animal now emits a very
 6 strong scent of musk. A foot which I brought
 7 home (together with a head) scented me all over.
 8 The forefeet are small & white on the
 9 palm--while the hind ones are black. All
 10 the skin being stripped off except on the nose
 11 & feet--the forefeet look²⁸ like hand clothed
 12 in gauntlets of fur.

14 This evening about 9 Pm I hear geese go over-- //
 15 now there in the S--now SE--now E--now NE
 16 low over the village--but not seen-- The
 17 first I have heard.

18 Ap 9th

19 5 1/4 Am to red bridge just before sun-rise
 20 fine clear morning--but still cold enough //
 21 for gloves.--a slight frost--and mist as
 22 yesterday curling over the smooth water-- I
 23 see half a dozen crows on an elm within
 24 a dozen rods of the muskrats bodies as if
 25 eyeing them. I see thus often crows very early
 26 near the houses
 27 in the morning ^ which soon after sunrise take
 28 their way across the river to the woods again--
 29 It is a regular thing with them.

30 Hear the hoarse rasping chuck or chatter of
 31 crow black birds & distinguish their long broad //
 32 tails

²⁸"look" written over "took"

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Did I hear part of the note of a golden crowned? wren this
morning? It was undoubtedly a robin--the last
part of his strain.

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//

Some 20²⁹ minutes after sundown I hear
the first booming of a snipe.

The forenoon was cloudy & in the afternoon
it rained--but the sun set clear lighting
up the west with a yellow light.--which
in which the frame of a new building is distinctly seen
while drops
there was no green grass to reflect--^
hang on every twig--
& producing the first rain bow I have seen

//
//

or heard of except one long ago in
the morning. With April showers methinks
come rain-bows. Why are they so rare in
the winter? Is the fact that the clouds
are then of snow commonly--in stead of rain
sufficient to account for it?

At sunset after the rain--the robins & song-
spars--~~& blackbirds &c~~ fill the air along the
river with their song.

MacGillivray says that Divers, Mergansers
and Cormorants--actually fly under water
using their wings fully expanded.-- He had
seen them pursuing sand eels along the
shores of the Hebrides. Had seen the water-
owzel fly in like manner--

Several flocks of geese went over this morning
also. Now then the main body are moving.
Now first are they generally seen & heard

²⁹Possibly altered from "10"

1 Ap 10th
2 Another fine clear morning--with, as
3 usual a little frost.
4 more than 100 rods dist
5 6 Am to river-- I see afar ^ sailing on
6 Hubbard's meadow--on the smooth water
7 in the morning sun, conspicuous, 2 male
8 // shell drakes & ap 1 female-- They glide
9 along a rod or 2 apart--in shallow
10 water--alternately passing one another,--
11 & from time to time plunging their heads in
12 the water, but the female (whom only
13 the glass reveals) almost alone diving--
14 I think I saw one male drive the other
15 back-- One male with the female, kept nearly together a
16 rod or 2 ahead of the other
17 Therien says James Baker sold his woodlot
18 S of F. H., Pond--about 25 acres chiefly
19 white pine for 120 dollars an acre--& that
20 there was one hemlock whose top & branches
21 alone yielded 2 1/2 cords. v next page
22 The buds of the earliest³⁰ gooseberry in garden
23 // now first beg to show a little green on a close in-
24 spection.
25 P. m. To F. H. P by boat--
26 A strong S Wind & overcast. There is the
27 // slightest perceptible³¹ green on the hill now--
28 --No doubt in a rain it would be pretty obvious--
29 // Saw a tolerably fresh sucker floating--
30 2 days
31 have seen 2 halves ^ before which looked
32 very ancient--as if³² they had died in the winter--
33 There are 3 or 4 small scollops in the Dorsal fin.

³⁰vertical pencil line thorough this and the next lines, also horizontal pencil under line

³¹pencil line through line

³²Possibly altered from "in"

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Another dead muskrat--equally old--with the
2 others I have seen this spring--as if they had died
at the time of the great freshet in Feb.
At Lee's the early sedge--one only--^{XXX}. The
saxifrage there tomorrow XXX-- One³³ flower is partly
expanded.

//
//

I measured the hemlock mentioned on the
last page-- The diameter³⁴ ~~of~~ the trunk ~~at~~
~~the but where it was--~~a³⁵ foot from the
ground was 9 10/12 feet--at 10 feet
from the ground 8 10/12 at the small
end where it was cut off--1 1/2 feet-- Length
40 feet. Its diameter diminished very--
regularly the first 25 feet.

As for the early sedge--who would think
of looking for a flower of any kind in those
dry tufts whose withered blades almost en-
tirely conceal the springing green ones-- I patiently
examined one tuft after another higher & higher
up the rocky hill--till at last I found
one little ^ spike ~~of yellow~~ low in the grass--which
shed its pollen on my finger. As for the
saxifrage--when I had given it up for
today--having after a long search in the
warmest clefts & recesses found only
3 or 4 buds which showed some white--
I at length on a still warmer shelf
found one flower³⁶ partly expanded--& its

³³"One" written over "It is"
³⁴"diameter" cancelled in pencil
³⁵"a" altered from another word
³⁶Possibly altered from "flowly"

1 ~~comp~~ common peduncle had shot up an inch.
2 few
3 These ^ earliest flowers in these situations have
4 the same sort of interest with the arctic flora--
5 for they are remote & unobserved & often surrounded
6 with snow--& most have not begun to think of
7 flowers yet.

8 Early on the morning of the 8th I paddled up
9 the Assabet looking for the first flowers
10 of the white maple & alder-- I held on to the
11 low curving twigs of the maple where the
12 stream ran swiftly--the round clusters of
13 its bursting flower buds spotting the sky above
14 me--& on a close inspection found a few
15 which (as I have said) must have blossomed
16 the day before-- I also paddled slowly along
17 the river side looking closely at the alder
18 catkins & shaking the most loose--till at
19 length I came to a bush which had been
20 weighed down by the ice & whose stem curved
21 downward passing through the the water--
22 & on this was one looser & more yellowish
23 catkin--which (as I have said) on a close
24 examination showed some effete anthers near
25 the peduncle.

26 The morning of the 6th when I found the skunk-
27 cabbage out--It was so cold I suffered from
28 numbed fingers having left my gloves behind--
29 // Since April came in, however, you have needed
30 gloves only in the morning.

1
 2 bare
 3 Under some high ^ bank sloping to the
 4 south on the edge of a meadow--where many
 5 springs issuing from the bank--melt the snow
 6 early--there you find the first skunk cabbage
 7 in bloom--

8 I see much yellow ~~little~~ lily root afloat--which the
 9 musk-rats have dug up & nibbled.

10 Ap 11th

11 Rained in the night--awake to see the
 12 ground white with snow & it is still snowing //
 13 the ~~slight~~ sleet driving from the north at an
 14 angle of certainly not more than 30 or 35 degrees
 15 with the horizon as I judge by its course across³⁷
 16 the window panes-- By mid Pm the
 17 rain has so far prevailed that the ground
 18 is bare-- As usual this--brings the tree-sparrows
 19 & F hiemalis into the yard--again.

20 Ap 12

21 Still falls a little snow & rain this morning
 22 though the ground is not whitened-- I hear a
 23 purple-finch nevertheless on an elm--steadily //
 24 warbling--& uttering a sharp chip from time
 25 to time.

26 Pm to Cliffs & Hub's Close--

27 Fair with drifting clouds but cold & windy.
 28 At the Spring brook I see some skink cabbage
 29 leaves already 4 or 5 inches high & partly unrolled.
 30 From the Cliff Hill--the mts are again thickly

³⁷Possibly altered from another word

1 clad with snow--& the wind being NW its
2 coldness is accounted for-- I hear it fell
3 14 or 15 inches deep in Vermont. As I sit
4 in a sheltered place on the Cliffs I look over
5 the pond with my glass--but see no living thing.
6 Lee's meadow just inside the button bushes on the west of the pond, about a
7 mile distant
8 Soon after I saw a boat on ~~the pond~~[^]--& raising
9 my glass I saw one man paddling in the stern &
10 another in white pantaloons standing up in the bow--
11 ready to shoot-- Presently I saw the last raise his gun
12 take aim & fire into the bushes--though I heard
13 from
14 no sound ^ over the dashing waves, but merely saw
15 as in a picture
16 the smoke--[^] ~~He then pointed~~ There was a strong
17 wind from the NW, while I was looking SW--
18 the gunner
19 ~~He~~ then pointed out the course while his
20 companion paddled & ~~I saw him distinctly strike~~ I dis-
21 & struck the game ~~with~~ in the water with a paddle & ~~then~~
22 ~~lift~~ tinctly saw him lift up a muskrat by the
23 tail. In a few moments very nearly the
24 same actions were repeated--though this time I did
25 not see the rat raised.
26 Then turning my glass down the stream--
27
28 I saw on the Miles' meadow shore about
29 half a mile distant--a man whom I
30 knew ~~empty casting fat~~ emptying his boat
31 of fat pine roots--which he had got
32 for spearing--while his dog was digging
33 at a woodchuck's hole--close by.
34 For a week past I have frequently seen

1
 2 the tracks of woodchucks in the sand.
 3 Golden Saxifrage out at Hub's Close--one //
 4 at least effete-- It may have been the 10th XX?
 5 The grass has within³⁸ 10 days shot up very perceptibly
 6 shallow
 7 in ^ water & about springs-- In the last place it forms
 8 dense moss like tufts in some cases--also some warm
 9 & some hollows where the ice has recently melted
 10 southward banks are considerably greened^--but generally
 11 there is no obvious greening³⁹ as yet-- It is at most //
 12 a mere radical greenness which you must seek
 13 to find. 1 Cowslip will ap. open in 2 days at Hubs Close-- //
 14 not ~~on~~ 16th but ap touched by frost--but prob some by 16th at 2nd Div. V 18th⁴⁰
 15 Ap. 13th
 16 Pm--to 2nd Division Cowslips.
 17 A fair day--but a cool wind still from
 18 the snow covered country in the NW.
 19 It is however pleasant to sit in the sun
 20 in sheltered places-- The small croaking
 21 frogs are now generally heard in all //
 22 or pools
 23 those stagnant ponds ^ in woods floored
 24 with leaves--which are mainly dried up in the
 25 summer-- At first perhaps you hear but
 26 one or 2 dry croaks--but if you sit patiently
 27 you may hear quite a concert of them
 28 at last--er-wah er-wah er-wah--
 29 with a nasal twang & twist--and⁴¹
 30 see them dimpling ~~or rather~~ the surface
 31 here & there by their movements-- But

³⁸Possibly altered from "in"

³⁹vertical pencil line through line

⁴⁰"not . . . 18th" looks like later revision in ink

⁴¹Possibly altered from "more" or another word

1 if you approach the pondside they suddenly
2 cease ~~& dive to the bottom.~~ We hear
3 them at J. P. Brown's Pond which is edged
4 with ice still on the north. The water
5 must be smooth--& the weather pretty warm--
6 There is still some icy snow under
7 // the north sides of woods in hollows--
8 I see the feathers ap. of a fox-col. sparrow
9 completely covering a stump--where some creature
10 has devoured it. At a great ant-
11 // hill--the common half red half black ants
12 are stirring--ap clearing out rubbish from
13 Great quantities of odoriferous sweet-gale seed are collected with the scum at
14 the outlet of Nut meadow--for they float.
15 their nest. The⁴² alnus incana blossoms
16 begin generally to show. The Serrulata will
17 // undoubtedly blossom tomorrow in some places XXXX⁴³
18 or probably not till 15th XXX? Did I not take the incana for this in '54?
19 The pine on the Marlboro road which I saw
20 from my window--has been sawed down the
21 past window-- I try to count its circles--count
22 61 from centre to sap--but there the pitch
23 conceals the rest--completely. I guessed there
24 were 15 more at least-- The tree was
25 probably quite 80 yrs old. It was about
26 2 1/4 feet in diameter.
27 // The common hazel just out XXX It is
28 perhaps the prettiest flower of the shrubs
29 that have opened. A little bunch of (in this case)
30 half a dozen catkins 1 3/4 inches long

⁴²"The" written over "A"

⁴³Possibly added

1
 2 trembling in the wind & ~~full of~~ shedding⁴⁴
 3 golden pollen on the hand--&--close by
 4 as many minute, but clear crystalline crimson
 5 stars at the end of a bare & seemingly dead
 6 twig. For 2 or 3 days in my walks I had
 7 given the hazel catkins a fillip with my finger⁴⁵
 8 under their chins to see if they were in bloom--but
 9 in vain--but here on the warm south side
 10 of a wood--I find one ^{bunch} ~~cluster~~ fully out--& completely
 11 relaxed. They know when to trust themselves to the
 12 weather.-- At the same time I hear through
 13 the wood the sharp peep of the first hylodes I //
 14 have chanced to hear. Many cowslip buds
 15 show a little yellow--but they will not open there
 16 for 2 or 3 days The road is paved with solid
 17 ice there. ~~See a sp~~
 18
 19 Returning by the steep side-hill just south of
 20 Holden's woodlot--& some dozen or 14 rds west
 21 of the open land--I saw, amid the rattlesnake
 22 plantain leaves--(what I suspect to be the
 23 Polygala paucifolia) some very beautiful
 24 of a dull green (green turned dark)
 25 oval leaves^--(growing & looking like checkerberry
 26 but more flaccid)
 27 leaves ^ above--but beneath, & a great many
 28 showed the underside--a clear & brilliant //
 29 purple (or lake?--3) It⁴⁶ is ~~about~~ 3 or 4 inches
 30 high with the oval & revolute leaves at
 31 top & a few remote ^{small} ^ bract-like leaves on the
 32 (3 sided) stem-- This pyrola is sometimes called
 33 Flowering Wintergreen--& indeed--it is not

⁴⁴Possibly altered from another word

⁴⁵Possibly altered from "find"

⁴⁶Preceded by false start or cancelled drawing

1 only an evergreen--but somewhat pyrola
2 without marks on throat or breasts
3 like to the eye. See a sparrow ^ running
4 peculiarly in the dry grass in the open
5 field beyond--& hear--its song--& then
6 // see its white feathers in tail--the Baywing
7 A small willow by the roadside beyond
8 // Wm Wheelers tomorrow XXX
9 Ap 14th
10 6 Am to Island-- An overcast--& moist
11 No sun all day
12 day--but truly April--^like such as began
13 methinks on Fast day--or the 5th-- You can-
14 not foretell how it will turn out. The
15 // river has been steadily rising since the ~~last~~ 1st of April
16 though you would not think there had been rain
17 enough to cause it-- It now covers the meadows
18 It is perhaps because the warm rain has been melting the frost in the ground--this
19 pretty respectably.^I see half a dozen crow
20 may be the great cause of the regular spring rise.
21 black birds uttering their coarse rasping
22 char char--~~light~~ like great rusty
23 springs on the top of an elm by the river-
24 side--& often at each char they open their
25 great tails. They also attain to a clear
26 whistle with some effort--but seem to
27 have some difficulty in their throats yet--
28 The P. Tremuloides by the Island shed pollen
29 // a very few catkins yet at least XX--for some
30 antheres are effete & black this morning--though
31 it is hardly curved down yet & is but 1 1/2 inches
32 long at most.

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White maples are now generally in bloom. The musk tortoise--stirring on the bottom. Most of the stellaria has been winter killed--but I find a few flowers or a protected & still green sprig--prob-- not blossomed long.

//
//
//

A-- 8. Am. Took caterpillars eggs from the apple trees at the Texas house--⁴⁷ found about 30.

It being completely overcast--having rained a little, the robins &c sing at 4 1/2 as at sundown usually.

The waters too are smooth & full of reflections.

Ap 15.

9 Am. to Atkin's Boat House-- (No sun till setting)

Another still moist overcast day--without sun but all day a crescent of light as if breaking away in the north. The waters smooth & full of reflections-- A still cloudy day like this is perhaps the best to be on the water-- To the clouds perhaps we owe both the stillness & the reflections--for the light is in a great measure reflected from the water. Robins sing now at 10 Am as in the morning--& the Phoebe--& pig-- woodpecker's cacille is heard--& many martins (with white-bellied swallows) are & twittering skimming ^ above the water--perhaps catching the small fuzzy gnats with which the air is filled. The sound of church

//

⁴⁷Possibly "I"

1 bells, at various distances--in Concord
 2 & the neighboring towns, sounds very
 3 sweet to us on the water--this still
 4 day-- It is the song of the villages heard
 5 with the song of the birds. The great
 6 meadows are covered, except a small
 7 island in their midst,⁴⁸ but not a duck
 8 do we see there. On a low limb of a
 9 maple on the edge of the river 30 rods
 10 from the present shore we saw a fish
 11 // hawk eating a fish. 60 rods off we
 12 could see his white crest-- We landed & got
 13 nearer by stealing through the woods
 14 His legs looked long as he stood up on
 15 the limb with his back to us--& his body
 16 looked black against the sky & by con-
 17 trast with the white of his head.⁴⁹ There was a dark stripe on the side of the head
 18 He had
 19 got the fish under his feet on the limb,
 20 & would bow his head snatch a mouthful
 21 & then look, hastily over his right shoulder
 22 in our direction--then snatch another mouth-
 23 ful & look over his left shoulder-- ~~when~~
 24 At length
 25 ~~we approached in the boat~~ he launched
 26 off⁴⁹ & flapped heavily away-- We found
 27 at the bottom of
 28 in ^ the water beneath where he sat numerous
 29 fragments of the fish he had been eating
 30 parts of the fins {—} entrails--gills &c

⁴⁸Comma possibly altered from dash or period

⁴⁹Possibly altered from another word

1

2 & some was dropped on the bough. From one
 3 fin which I examined, I judged that it
 4 was either a sucker or a pout-- There were
 5 small leaches adhering to it. In the meanwhile--
 6 as we were stealing through the woods--we
 7 heard the pleasing note of the pine-warbler //
 8 bringing back warmer weather--& we heard one //
 9 honk of a goose & looking up saw a
 10 large narrow harrow of them steering N. E.
 11 Half a mile further we saw another fish-
 12 midway up
 13 hawk upon a dead limb ^ of a swamp white-
 14 // oak over the water at the end of a small
 15 island. We paddled directly toward him till
 16 within 30 rods. A crow came scolding to
 17 looking about as large comp. with the hawk, as a crow b. bird to a crow--
 18 the tree & lit within 3 feet,^ but he paid
 19 no attention to him. We had a very good view
 20 of him as he sat sidewise to us--& of his
 21 eagle shaped head & beak. The white
 22 feathers of his head which were erected somewhat
 23 mad him look like a copple-crowned
 24 hen-- When he launched off he uttered
 25 a clear whistling note--phe phe, phe phe,
 26 phe phe, somewhat like that of
 27 a tell-tale--but more round & less shrill
 28 & rapid--& another perhaps his mate
 29 50 rods off joined him. They flew
 30 heavily, as we looked at them from behind,

1 more like a blue heron & bittern than
2 I was aware of--their long wings undu-
3 lating slowly to the tip--like the herons--&
4 the bodies seeming sharp like a gulls--&
5 unlike a hawk's. In the water beneath where
6 he was perched we found many frag-
7 // ments of a pout--bits of red gills--
8 entrails--fins--& some of the ~~feet~~ long flex-
9 ible black feelers--scattered for 4 or 5 feet.
10 This pout appeared to have been quite fresh
11 and was prob. caught alive-- We after-
12 ward started one of them from an oak
13 just above the boat-house
14 over the water a mile beyond--^& he ~~flew~~
15 skimmed off very low over the water
16 ~~as~~ several times striking it with ~~his~~
17 a loud sound heard plainly 60 rods
18 off at least--& we followed him with
19 {both} our ~~bo~~ eyes till we could only see
20 faintly his undulating wings against the
21 sky in the W. horizon. You could probably tell if any were
22 about by looking for fragments of fish
23 but under the trees on which they would perch.
24 // We had scared up ^ few ducks some ap. black
25 which quacked--& some small rolling pins
26 prob. teal.
27 // Returning--we had a fine ~~to~~ view of a blue-
28 heron standing erect & open to view on
29 a meadow island--by the great swamp
30 S of the bridge--looking as broad as a
31 // boy on the side--& then some sheldrakes

1
2 sailing in the smooth water beyond-- These
3 soon sailed behind points of meadow--the
4 heron flew away--& one male shell-drake
5 flew past us low over the water reconnoitering
6 large--& brilliant black & white-- When
7 the heron takes to flight what⁵⁰ a change
8 in size & appearance--it is presto change.
9 There go two great undulating wings
10 pinned together--but the body & neck must
11 have been left behind somewhere.

12 Before we rounded Balls' Hill--the //
13 water now beautifully smooth--at 2 1/2
14 Pm--we saw 3 gulls sailing on the
15 glassy meadow at least 1/2 mile off by
16 the plainer because they were against the reflection of the hills.
17 the oak peninsula^-- They looked larger
18 than afterward close at hand--as if
19 their whiteness was reflected & doubled.

20 As we advanced into the Great Meadows--
21 making the only ripples in its broad expanse
22 still
23 there being ^ not a ray of sunshine--only a
24 subdued light through⁵¹ the thinner crescent
25 in the north--the reflections of the
26 maples--of Ponkawtasset & the poplar
27 A wall which ran down to the water on the hill side--without
28 Hill--& the whole township in the SW
29 out any remarkable curve in⁵² it--was exaggerated by the
30 were as perfect as I ever saw--the
31 reflection into the half of an ellipse.
32 meadow was expanded to a large
33 lake--the shore line being referred to
34 the sides of the hills reflected in it--

⁵⁰Possibly altered from "it" or "is"
⁵¹Possibly altered from another word
⁵²Possibly altered from "it"

1
2 village-- There is a thin ice reaching a foot from
3 the water's edge--which the earliest rays will
4 melt. I scare up several snipes feeding on
5 the meadow's edge-- It is remarkable how they
6 conceal themselves when they alight on a bare spit
7 of the meadow-- I look with my glass to where one alighted
8 4 rods off--& at length detected its head rising
9 amid the cranberry vines--& withered grass blades
10 last
11 which ^ it closely resembled in color--with its eye
12 steadily fixed on me. The robins--&c--blackbirds--
13 songspars-- sing now on all hands just before
14 sunrise perhaps quite as generally as at any season
15 Going up the hill I examined the tree tops for
16 hawks-- What is that little hawk about
17 as big as a turtle dove on the top of one
18 of the wht oaks on top of the hill? It appears
19 to have a reddish breast--now it flies to the bare top
20 of a dead tree--now some crows join--& it pursues
21 one--diving at it repeatedly from above--down a
22 rod or more--as far as I can see toward the
23 hemlocks-- Returning that way I came unex-
24 pected close to this hawk perched near the top
25 of a large aspen by the river right over my
26 head-- He seemed neither to see or hear me.
27 new
28 At first I thought it a ^ woodpecker-- I had
29 a fair view of all its back and tail within
30 40 feet with my glass. Its back was I
31 rather
32 should say a ^ dark ash--spotted & so barred

//

1 woodpecker like (not well described in books)
2 wings & back with large white spots^--prob-- on
3 the inner vanes of the feathers--both 2ndaries &
4 primaries--& prob-- coverts. The tail conspicuously
5 barred with black--3 times beyond the covering
6 & feathers & once at least under them. Beneath
7 with long & conspic. femoral feathers, unlike Spar. hawk.
8 & undertail mainly a dirty white^-- Head darker
9 & bill dark-- It was busily pruning itself--& sud-
10 denly pitched off downward. What I call
11 prob. Sharp-shinned V. May 4th⁵³
12 // a pig. hawk. ^ In the mean while heard
13 the quivet through the wood--& looking
14 small
15 saw through an opening a ^ compact flock
16 // of pigeons flying low about.
17 From the Hill top looked to the Great Meadows
18 with glass-- They were very smooth--with a slight
19 mist over them--but I could see very clearly
20 the pale salmon of the E horizon reflected
21 there & contrasting with an intermediate
22 streak of skim milk blue--now just
23 after sunrise.
24 PM to Flints Pond.
25 A perfectly clear & very warm day--a little warmer
26 // than the 31st of March or any yet--& I have
27 for the first time
28 not got far before ^ I regret that I wore my
29 // great coat. Noticed the first wasp--& many
30 // cicindela on a sandy place--have probably seen
31 the latter before in the air--but this warmth
32 brings them out in numbers-- The grey of
33 Hubbards oaks looks drier & more like sum-
34 & it is now drier walking The frost in most places wholly out
35 mer--^ I got so near a grass bird as
36 to see the narrow circle of white round the
37 eye-- The spots on the E. guttatas in
38 leafy-paved which dries up
39 a still warm ^ ditch ^ are exceedingly bright

⁵³"prob. . . . 4th" LR in ink

1
2 Stows cold pond hole is still full of ice though partly submerged--
3 the only pool in this state that I see--
4 now--does it last? At Callitriche pool--

5 (I see no flowers on it)--I see what looks
6 like minnows an inch long with a remarkably
7 The water ranunculus was very forward here //
8 forked tail-fin-- Prob. larvae of dragonflies.
9 The eyed-head conspicuous & something like a large dorsal fin
10 They dart about in this warm pool & rest at
11 different angels with the horizon. This pool dries
12 The very pools--the receptacles of all kinds of rubbish--now {too} soon after
13 the ice has melted so transparent & of glassy smoothness & full of animal &
14 vegetable life
15 up in Summer. The orange copper vanessa //
16 are interesting & beautiful objects.
17 mid-sized is out--& a great many of

18 the large buffedged are fluttering over the leaves
19 in wood paths--this warm pm-- I am obliged
20 to carry my great coat on my arm--

21 A striped snake rustles down a dry open hill side //
22 where the withered grass is long. I could not
23 dig to the nest of the Deer-mouse in Britton's
24 Hollow--because of the frost--about 6 inches //
25 Yet though I have seen no ploughing in fields--the Surveyors plowed in the
26 road on the 14th ult
27 beneath the surface. ^As far as I dug their galleries
28 ~~occupied~~ appeared at first to be lined with a
29 sort of membrane--which I found was the
30 bark or skin of roots of the right sizes⁵⁴
31 their galleries taking the place of the decayed
32 wood--~~of the~~ An oak stump.

33 At Flints sitting on the rock--we see a great
34 many--ducks--mostly shell drakes on the pond--
35 which will hardly abide us within half a
36 mile. With the glass I see by their reddish
37 heads that all of one party--the main-
38 body--are females-- You see little more

⁵⁴Possibly "size" with "e" smudged

1 than their heads at a distance & not much
2 white but on their throats perchance-- When
3 they fly they look black & white but not
4 so large nor with that brilliant contrast
5 of black & white which the male exhibits--
6 In another direction is a male ~~or 2~~ by himself
7 conspicuous--perhaps several. Anon alights
8 // near us a flock of Golden eyes--surely
9 with their great black (-looking) heads
10 & a white patch on its side
11 ^short stumpy bills(after looking at the mergansers--)
12 Much clear black--contrasting with much
13 clear white--{drawing} Their heads & bills look
14 ludicrously short & parrot like--after the
15 party
16 others-- Our presence & a boat ^ on
17 the pond at last drove nearly all the
18 ducks into the deep easterly cove--
19 We stole down on them carefully through
20 the woods--at last crawling on our bellies--
21 with great patience--till at last we found
22 as I measured afterward
23 our selves within seven or 8 rods ^ of the
24 great body of them & watched them for
25 or 30
26 ~~15 or~~ 20 ^ minutes with the glass through
27 a screen of catbriar & alders &c There
28 were ~~a do~~ 12 female sheldrakes close
29 within 2 rods of the shore where it was very shallow
30 together & nearest us^--~~1 or~~ 2 or more constantly
31 within about the diam. of a rod
32 moving about & keeping watch~~ed~~ while
33 the rest were trying to sleep ~~with~~ to catch
34 a nap with their heads in their backs--
35 would
36 but from time to time one ^ wake up enough
37 to plume himself. It seemed as if

1
2 they must have been broken of their sleep--& were
3 trying to make it up--having an arduous
4 journey before--them--for we had seen them
5 all disturbed & on the wing within half
6 They were headed⁵⁵ various ways
7 an hour. ^Now & then they seemed to see
8 or hear or smell us--& uttered a low note
9 of alarm--something like the note of a tree-
10 or perhaps a little more wiry & like that of
11 very pigeons--
12 toad but ^ fainter--^but the sleepers hardly lifted
13 How fit that this note of alarm should be made to resemble the croaking
14 their heads for it. ~~Now & then one of th~~
15 of a frog--& so not betray them to the gunners!
16 They appeared to sink about mid-way in the
17 water--& their heads were all a rich red-
18 dish brown--their throats white-- Now & then
19 one of the watchmen would lift his head
20 & turn his bill directly upward showing his
21 white throat-- ⁵⁶There were some black--
22 or dusky ducks in company with them at first--
23 ap. about as large as they--but more alarmed--
24 Their throats looked straw colored--somewhat
25 like a bitterns & I saw their shovel bills. These
26 soon sailed further off
27 At last we arose⁵⁷ & rushed to the shore--
28 within 3 rods of them--& they rose up with
29 a din--26 mergansers I think all
30 females--10 black ducks--(& 5 golden-
31 a little
32 eyes from ^ further off--also another still more
33 distant flock of one of these kinds⁵⁸
34 The black ducks alone uttered a sound, their
35 usual hoarse quack--

⁵⁵Possibly altered from "heading" or from another word
⁵⁶Horizontal line below "white throat--" to above "There were some", probably
to mark paragraph separation
⁵⁷Possibly altered from another word
⁵⁸"d" reformed in pencil

1 They all flew in loose array--but the 3 kinds
2 in separate flocks./⁵⁹ We were surprised to
3 find ourselves looking on a company of
4 birds devoted to slumber after the alarm &
5 // activity we had just witnessed.
6 which many water bugs--(gyrinus) were now dimpling,
7 Returning at Goose Pond ^ we scared up
8 2 black ducks-- The shore was strewn
9 with much fresh eel grass--& the fine
10 now short eriocaulon with its white roots--ap--
11 all pulled up by them & drifted in.
12 // The spearer's light tonight--& after
13 // dark the sound of geese honking all together
14 very low over the houses--& ap. about to settle
15 on the Lee meadow.
16 // Have not noticed fox-col-- spars since Ap. 13th.
17 I am startled sometimes these mornings
18 to hear the sound of⁶⁰ doves alighting on the
19 roof just over my head--they come down
20 so harrrd upon it, as if one had thrown
21 a heavy stick on-to it--& I wonder it
22 does not injure their organization.
23 Their legs must be cushioned in their sockets
24 to save them from the shock.
25 When we reached Britton's clearing
26 on our return this Pm--at sunset--
27 The mts after this our warmest day as
28 yet--had got a peculiar soft mantle
29 of blue haze--pale blue as a blue
30 heron--ushering in the long series

⁵⁹Probably a false start

⁶⁰Possibly altered from "a"

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of Summer sunsets--& we were glad that
we had stayed out so late & felt no
need to go home now in a hurry--

Ap 17

5 Am-- Up Assabet--very little frost--
a clear--morning-- The oars still cold to the

hands at this hour-- Did I not hear an F. Juncorum //
Yes Saw some C. b. birds inspecting that old nest of theirs-- //
at a dist.?? ^ ^ I believe I see a tree-sparrow still //

but I do not remember an F. hiemalis for 2 ~~or~~ //
v 18 //
3 days. ^Geese went over at noon--when warm & sunny //

P. m. to Lee's Cliff.

I leave off my great coat--though the //

wind rises rather fresh before I return. It is
worth the while to walk so free and light--

having got off both boots & great coat. Great
flocks of grackles & redwings about the
Swamp-B. brook willows--perching restlessly

on an aple tree all at once & then with

a sweeping or curving flight alighting on

the ground. Many robins flit before

me in flocks these days. I rarely find

a nest (of the right species) near the river but

it has a pice of fish-line in it-- The yel-- spot

tortoises are very common now in the ditches--

tumbling in & crawling off--& perhaps burying

themselves at your approach--^{many}~~some~~ are

outside. The 2nd sallow catkin (or any

willow) I have seen in blossom--there are

1 3 or 4 catkins on the twig partly open--
2 // I am about to clutch--but find already
3 curved close on intoxicated with its early sweet.
4 half opened catkin
5 a bee ~~to~~ ^ each ^ --one perhaps a honey bee--so
6 intent on its sweets or pollen--that they do not
7 Various kinds of bees--some of the honey bees have little⁶¹ yell masses of pollen?
8 on their thighs--some seem
9 dream of flying ^--so quickly & surely does
10 to be taking into their mouths.
11 the bee find the earliest flower--as if he
12 had slumbered all winter at the root of
13 the plant. No matter what pains you take
14 probably--undoubtedly--an insect will
15 have found the first flower before you.
16 Yesterday I saw several larger frogs out--
17 // perhaps some were small bullfrogs-- That
18 warmth brought them out on to the bank--
19 & they jumped in before me. The general stirring of frogs
20 // To day I see a rana palustris--I think
21 // the first--& a mid sized bull frog. I think
22 I suspect that those first seen in Hub's
23 // close were the little croakers
24 I see by their droppings that many birds
25 perhaps robins--have lately roosted in that wine-
26 glass--apple-scrub on Conantum--an
27 excellent covert from the hawks--& there
28 are 3 old nests in it though it is only 6
29 or 8 feet in diameter-- I also see where
30 birds have roosted in⁶² a thick white pine--
31 in Lees wood-- It is easy to detect their
32 roosting places now because they are in
33 // flocks-- Saw a woodchuck--his deep
34 reddish brown rear--somewhat grizzled
35 about--looked like a ripe fruit mellowed
36 by winter. C. saw one some time ago--
37 They have several holes under Lee's
38 Cliff--& ~~I sus~~ where they have worne

⁶¹Blotched, possibly cancelled

⁶²pencil line through "in"

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bare & smooth sandy paths under the eaves
of the rock--& I suspect that they nibble the
The Arabis is half exterminated by some creature
early leaves there--^ They, or⁶³ the partridges or rabbits--
there & at mid-Conant cliff--make sad havoc
with the earliest rad-- leaves & flowers which
I am watching--& in the village I have to con-
tend with the hens--who also love an early sallad.
Sat at the wall corner to see an
& tail
eagle's white head ^ against the red-hill-
side--but in vain. The distant wht pines
over the Spanish Brook--seem to flake into
tiers--the whole tree looks like an open
cone. A ~~warm~~ sudden warm day like yester-
day & this takes off some birds--and adds
others-- It is a crisis in their career-- The
fox-col--spars--seem to be gone & I suspect
that most of the tree spars & F.⁶⁴ hiemalis
at least went yesterday. So the pleasanter
weather seems not an unmixed benefit.
The flowers of the common elm at Lee's
are now loose & dangling--ap well out //
a or 2
~~some~~ days in advance of Cheney's--but I see
no pollen-- Walking und the Cliff--I
am struck by the already darker healthier
green of early weeds there--e.g. the little
thyme-flowering sandwort--before there is
any green to speak of elsewhere--
Did I not see the yel-- red-poll-- on an //
apple tree with some robins--by chance in the
%Yes%
same place where I saw one last year? %^%Yet
I see no ~~sc~~ chestnut on head--but bright

⁶³Possibly altered from "&" or "a"
⁶⁴"F" written over "T"

1 yellow breast & blackish further extremity. The
2 // early aspen catkins are now some of them
3 2 1/2 inches long--& white dangling in the breeze
4 // The earliest gooseberry leaves are fairly
5 unfolding now & show some green at a little dist.
6 Ap. 18
7 // 6 Am--see & hear tree spars--& hear hiemalis. %still%
8 // Rained last evening & was very dark--
9 Fair this morning--& warm-- White-bel-- swal's
10 &--martins twitter now at 9 Am.
11 Pm to Cliffs--& Walden--& Hub's Close.
12 // The hill-side & especially low bank-sides are
13 now conspicuously green. Almost did
14 without a fire this A. m. Coming out
15 // I find it very warm warmer than yesterday or
16 any day yet. It is a reminiscence of past sum-
17 mers-- It is perfectly still & almost sultry
18 // with wet looking clouds hanging about--&
19 1st weather of this kind.
20 from time to time hiding the sun^--& as I sit
21 on F. H. Hill side the sun actually burns my
22 cheek-- Yet I left some fire in the house--
23 not knowing behind a window, how warm it
24 was. The flooded meadows & river are smooth
25 & just enough in shadow for reflections--
26 The rush sparrows tinkle now at 3 Pm far
27 are peeping
28 in
29 over the bushes--& hylodes ^ a distant pool.
30 Robins are singing & peeping--& jays are
31 screaming. I see one or 2 smokes in the
32 // horizon. I can still see the mts slightly
33 // spotted with snow-- The frost is out enough
34 for plowing prob. in most open ground--

1
2 When I reach the top of the hill--I see sud-
3 east or South from Bear hill in Waltham to the river
4 denly--all the Southern ^ horizon full of a
5 mist--like a dust--already concealing the
6 Lincoln hills and producing distinct wreathes of
7 the rest of the horizon being clear
8 vapor--^ Evidently a sea turn--a wind from over //
9 the sea--condensing the moisture in our warm
10 atmosphere--& putting another aspect on the
11 face of things--all this I see & say long before
12 I feel the change--while still sweltering on
13 for the heat was oppressive
14 the rocks--^ Nature cannot abide this sud-
15 den heat--but calls for her fan. In 10 min-
16 utes I hear a susurrus in the shrub oak
17 leaves⁶⁵--at a distance & soon an agreeable
18 fresh air washes these warm rocks--&
19 some mist surrounds me.
20 A low blackberry on⁶⁶ the rocks is now ex- //
21 panding its leaves just after the gooseberry--
22 A little sallow--~~wit~~ about 2 feet high--and //
23 ap. intermediate bet-- tristis & the next--with red-
24 dish anthers not yet burst will bloom tomorrow--in
25 well-meadow path. The shad-bush flower buds //
26 begining to expand look like leaf-buds bursting now
27 Male--sweet gale XX 1 cowslip fully // //
28 expanded--but no pollen--prob. is at 2nd Division. //
29 Some fully open May 4th but no pollen till next morn in chamber?!
30 Some are plowing^. Am over taken by //
31 a sudden sun shower after which a rain-bow //
32 Am. {or}
33 Elm;⁶⁷ ^ tumbler & prob. at Cliffs XXX prob a day //
34 2 before Cheney's.

⁶⁵Possibly altered from "in" or "is"

⁶⁶vertical pencil line through "on"

⁶⁷Semicolon prob just a comma; "Am." probably abbreviation for "American"

1 // In the evening hear far & wide the ring
2 of toads--& a thunder shower--with its
3 lightning is seen & heard in the west.
4 Ap 19th
5 5 Am up Assabet-- Warm & still
6 // & somewhat cloudy--am without great
7 coat. The guns are firing & bells ringing
8 I hear a faint honk & looking up see
9 or rather within the breadth of a mile
10 going over the river within 50 rods--
11 At least 300 have past over C. this Spring^ (perhaps 2ce as many) for I have seen
12 // 32 geese in the form of a hay-hook--
13 or heard of a dozen flocks--& the 2 I counted had about 30 each--
14 only 2 in the hook--& they are at least
15 6 feet apart-- Prob. the whole line is 12
16 // rods long. Many tortoises have their heads
17 // out. The river has fallen a little. Going
18 up the Assabet 2 or 3 tortoises roll down
19 the steep bank--with a rustle--one tumbles
20 on its edge & rolls swiftly like a disk
21 cast by a boy with its black back to me.--
22 from 8⁶⁸ or 10 feet into the water--
23 // I hear no concert of tree sparrows. Hear
24 %White throated spar?}%
25 // the tull-lull of myrtle⁶⁹ bird in street--&
26 // the jingle of the chip bird.
27 // This A. m. sit with open window.
28 // Now plowing & planting will begin generally.
29 Pm to Walden
30 // Some golden willows will now just peel
31 fairly--though on this one the buds have

⁶⁸Possibly altered from another word or number

⁶⁹horizontal pencil line under word

1
 2 not started--(Another sudden change
 3 to NE
 4 in the wind--^& a freshness with some mist
 5 from the sea at 3 1/2 p. m.) These osiers to
 6 my eye have only a little more liquid green
 7 than a month ago. A shad frog on the //
 8 dry grass-- The wild red cherry will beg to leaf //
 9 tomorrow-- From Heywoods Peak I
 10 thought I saw the head of a loon in the
 11 35 or 40 rods distant
 12 pond.^ Bringing my glass to bear, it⁷⁰ seemed
 13 sund very low in the water--all the
 14 neck concealed--but I could not tell
 15 which end was the bill. At length I dis-
 16 covered that it was the whole body of a
 17 little duck--asleep with its head in its back
 18 exactly in the middle of the pond. It
 19 had a moderate sized black head &
 20 neck--a white breast--& ~~ap~~ seemed dark
 21 brown above, with a white spot on the
 22 side of the head--(not reaching to the outside
 23 --from base of mandibles) and another, perhaps
 24 on the end of the wing⁷¹--with some black there.
 25 It sat drifting round a little, but with
 26 ever its breast toward the wind--& from
 27 time to time, it raised its head & looked
 28 round to see if it was safe-- I think it
 29 was the smallest duck I ever saw--
 30 Floating buoyantly asleep on the middle
 31 of Walden Pond. Was it not a female

⁷⁰Possibly altered from "& a" or "I was"
⁷¹"wing" written over "wind"

1 // of the buffel-headed or spirit duck? I
2 believed the wings looked blacker when it flew--
3 with some white beneath. It floated like
4 a little casket--and at first I doubted
5 a good while if it possessed life--until
6 I saw it raise its head and look around.
7 It had chosen a place for its nap exactly
8 equidistant between the 2 shores there--&
9 with its breast to the wind swung round only as
10 much as a vessel held by its anchors in the stream.
11 At length the cars scared it.
12 // Goodwin had caught 25 pouts & one shiner
13 at the Walden meadow--but no perch.
14 // Slip Elm in tumbler today--prob. tomorrow at Cliffs XXX
15 // A partridge drums.
16 Ap. 20
17 // Rains all day--taking out the frost--
18 & imprisoning me. You cannot set a
19 // post yet on ac. of frost.
20 Ap 21
21 5 Am to Cliffs-- Fair & still.
22 // There is a fog over the river which
23 shows at a distances more than near by--
24 Not much. The frost conceals the green
25 of the gooseberry leaves just expanding.
26 The shallow puddles left by yesterday's
27 rain in the fields are skimmed over.
28 // Hear the first seringo-- The duskyish
29 crown is divided by a lighter line

1
2 Above it is ashy-brown & drab?--a streak of
3 lemon yellow over the eye--some brownish drab
4 or bay
5 ^making a spot on wings--~~a~~ white lines diverging from
6 throat--reddish legs against sun--breast & beneath
7 sides dashed-- It has not the note of Nuttall's
8 F Savannah--or methinks the blackness of
9 Wilson's-- Is it the passerina--which Nuttall
10 %Yes--% ~~Yes~~ he calls it F. Savanarum p. 494 says they arrive about the mid. of May
11 "occasionally"
12 does not describe? At Cliffs--I hear at
13 !! "On these occasions they perch in sheltered trees in pairs, and sing in an agreeable
14 voice
15 a dist-- a wood thrush. It affects us as a //
16 somewhat like that of the Purple Finch, though less vigorously." Thinks they go north
17 to breed.
18 part of our unfallen selves. The P-- Grandi-
19 dentata there may open tomorrow XXX-- The frost saves //
20 my feet a wetting probably-- As I sit on
21 the Cliffs⁷² the sound of the frost & frozen drops
22 melting & falling on the leaves in the woods
23 below--sounds like a gentle but steady
24 rain all the country over--while the
25 sun shines clear above all.
26 Aunt Maria has put into my hands to
27 day for safe keeping 3 letters--from Peter
28 Thoreau, dated Jersey--(the 1st July 1st 1801,
29 the 2nd Ap. 22nd 1804--& the 3d. Ap. 11th 1806) &
30 directed to his niece "Miss Elizabeth Thoreau
31 Concord Near⁷³ Boston." &c also a "Vüe de la
32 Ville de St Helier &c" accompanying the 1st.
33 She is not certain that any more were
34 received from him.
35 The 1st is in answer to one from Elizabeth an-
36 nouncing the death of her father (my grand

⁷²Possibly altered from "Cliff"

⁷³Possibly altered from "near"

1 father). He states that his mother died
2 the 26th of June 1801--the day before he
3 received E's letter--though not till after
4 he had heard from another source of the
5 death of his brother, which was not com-
6 municated to his mother. "She was in the
7 79th year of her age, & retained her
8 memory to the last." -- -- -- "She lived with
9 my two sisters, who took the greatest care
10 of her." He says that he had written to
11 E's father about ~~the death of~~ his oldest
12 brother, (who died about a year before,
13 but had had no answer--had written)--that
14 he left his children, two sons & a daughter, in
15 a good way, "the eldest son and daughter are
16 both married, and have children, the youngest
17 is about eighteen. I am still a widdower
18 of 4 children, -- -- -- -- I have but two left,
19 Betsy & Peter, James & Nancy are both at rest."

21 He adds that he sends a view "of our native
22 town" &c.

23 The 2d of these letters is sent by Capt. John
24 then at Guernesey.
25 Harvey of Boston.^ He says that on the 4th of
26 %X%
27 Feb. previous he sent her a copy of the last
28 letter he had written, which was in answer to
29 her 2nd, since he feared she had not received it.⁷⁴
30 Says they are still at war with the French--
31 That they received the day before a letter
32 from her "Uncle & Aunt Le Cappelain of
33 London." Complains of not receiving letters.
34 "Your Aunts Betsy & Peter join with me" &c.

⁷⁴Written vertically in left margin in pencil, lines 27-32: "X Where is it?",
to correspond to the "X" interlined in pencil above "copy", line 26

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Ac. to the 3rd letter he received an answer
to that he sent by Captn Harvy, by Capt. Touzel,
& will forward this by the last--who is going via
Newfloundland to Boston. "He expects to go to
Boston every year." Several vessels from Jersey go there
every year. His nephew had told him some time before
that he "met a gentleman from Boston who
torn out
told him he [saw or knew?] Thoreau & Hayse
there." ~~& he thinks the~~ & he (Peter Thoreau) therefore
thinks the chidren must have kept up the name
of the firm. Says Capt. Harvey was an old
friend of his. "Your Cousin John is a
Lieutenant in the British service, he has
been already a campaign on the continent,
he is very fond of it." "Your aunts Betsy &
Peter join &c".

Aunt Maria thinks the correspondence
ceased at Peters death--because he was the
one who wrote English.

Pm Sail to meadow near
Carlisle Bridge.

A fine clear & pleasant day with a little
west wind. Saw a painted turtle not 2 inches in
diameter--this must be more than 1 year old.
A female red-wing-- I see yellow-red
polls on the bushes near the water--handsome
birds but hear no note. Watched for some

//
//

1 time a dozen black ducks on the meadows
2 edge in a retired place--some on land and
3 50 rods off & without the glass they looked like crows feeding on the
4 some sailing--^ Examining the ground after-
5 meadow's edge--with a a scarcely perceptible tinge of brown.
6 ward found that the whitish lichen thallus
7 (which formed a crust--a sort of scurfy
8 bald place ~~in th~~ here & there in the meadow
9 where the water had just risen) was loosened
10 up & floating over the bare spaces mixed with
11 a few downy feathers-- I thought the
12 flat meadow islets showed traces of having
13 been probed by them-- All the button
14 bushes &c &c in and about the
15 water are now swarming with those
16 // minute fuzzy gnats about 1/8 of an
17 The insect youth are on the wing
18 inch long--^ The who shore resounds
19 with their hum whereever we approach
20 it--& they cover our boat & persons--
21 They are in countless myriads the whole
22 peet-weet
23 // length of the river--⁷⁵ A peep ^ on the
24 // shore.
25 There is some gossamer on the willows
26 // The river has risen considerably owing
27 & new drift is brought down
28 to yesterday's rain.^ The greater fullness
29 of the Assabet is perceptible at the junction
30 The N.Y. Tribune said on the 19th ult--
31 "The caterpillar-blossoms, and the slightest peep-
32 ing of green leaves among the poplars & willows,
33 and a tolerable springing of grass, are
34 the only vegetable proofs yet to be seen".
35 I should think they were just with our gooseberry.

⁷⁵1 or 1 1/2 inch space in MS

1
 2 Ap 22
 3 5 1/2 Am to Assabet Stone Bridge--
 4 Tree sparrows still. See a song sparrow getting //
 5 its breakfast in the water on the meadow like a
 6 an early one by further Stone bridge
 7 wader. Red maple yesterday XXX--^ Balm of
 8 Gilead prob. to-morrow-- The Black currant is just
 9 begun to expand leaf--prob yesterday elsewhere--a little //
 10 earlier than the red. ⁷⁶Though my hands
 11 are cold this morning I have not worn gloves
 12 for a few mornings past--a week or 10 days. //
 13 The grass is now become⁷⁷ rapidly green by the
 14 sides of the road--promising dandelions & //
 15 buttercups.
 16 Pm to Lee's Cliff-- Fair--but windy--
 17 Tree-sparrows about with their buntinish head
 18 & faint chirp. The leaves of the skunk⁷⁸ cabbage
 19 unfolding in the meadows--make more show
 20 than any green yet-- The yel-- willow-catkins
 21 pushing out beg. to give⁷⁹ the trees a misty downy
 22 appearance--dimming them. The bluish band
 23 on the breast of the king-fisher leaves the pure
 24 white beneath in the form of a heart {drawing}
 25 The blossoms of the sweet gale are now
 26 on fire over the brooks--contortoted like cater-
 27 pillars. The fem. flowers also out like the
 28 hazel--with more stigmas--out at same //
 29 time with the male. I first noticed my little

⁷⁶false start before word
⁷⁷vertical pencil line through "become"
⁷⁸vertical pencil line through "skunk"
⁷⁹vertical pencil line through "give"

1 mud turtles in the cellar out of their
2 one of them--some 8 days ago-- -- I suspect
3 // those in the river begin to stir abut that time?
4 // Antennaria prob yest. XX Skullcap--mead ditch.
5 Many yel-- redpolls on the willows now--they
6 jerk their tails constantly like phoebes--but
7 I hear only a faint chip. Could that have been
8 a female with them with an ash head & merely
9 ? a yellow spot on each side of body--white beneath?
10 prob. a myrtle-bird--
11 // & forked tail.^ Red stemmed moss now--
12 // Goosanders male & female-- They rise
13 & fly--the female leading-- They afterward
14 show that they can get out of sight about
15 as well by diving as by flying. At a dist--
16 you see only the male--alternately diving &
17 sailing--when the female may be all the while
18 by his side. Getting over the wall under
19 the mid. Conantum Cliff--I heard a
20 loud & piercingly sharp whistle of 2 notes
21 phe-phe--like--a peep somewhat--could it
22 have been a woodchuck? Heard afterward
23 under
24 ~~at~~ Lees Cliff a similar fainter one--which
25 at one time appeared to come from a Pig.
26 // woodpecker-- Cowbirds on an apple tree.
27 // Crowfoot on Cliff--XXX Johnswort
28 & angelica
29 rad. leaves have grown several⁸⁰ inches ^ shows
30 // Elder leaves have grown 1 1/2 inches--& Thim-
31 ble berry is forward under rocks-- Mead. sweet
32 in some places begs to open today--also barberry
33 under Cliffs & a moss-rose tomorrow--

⁸⁰vertical pencil line from here through bottom of page

1
2 Say--earliest gooseberry⁸¹--then elder--thimble
3 berry & raspberry⁸²--& low blackberry--(the last 2
4 under rocks)--then wild red cherry--then
5 black currant yesterday--then mead sweet (&
6 barberry under Cliff) today.-- A moss-rose tomorrow
7 & hazel under cliffs tomorrow--⁸³ //

8 Ap 23d

9 River higher than before since winter. Whole //

10 of Lee Meadow covered. Saw 2 pig-- woodpeckers--
11 approach--& I think put their bills together & utter that
12 o-week--o-week--

13 The currant--& 2nd goose⁸⁴ berry are bursting //

14 into leaf.

15 Pm. to Cedar Swamp via Assabet--

16 Warm & pretty still-- Even the river sides are
17 quiet at this hour (3 P. m.) as in summer--the
18 birds are neither seen nor heard-- The anthers //

19 of the larch are conspicuous--but I see no pollen.
20 in house the 24th
21 White cedar--tomorrow XXX ^ See //

22 a frog hawk--beating the bushes--regularly
23 What a peculiarly formed wing. It should be
24 called the kite. Its wings are very narrow
25 & pointed--and its form in front--is
26 a remarkable curve--& its body {drawing} is
27 not heavy & buzzard-like-- It occasionally hovers
28 over some parts of the meadow or hedge
29 & circles back over it--Only rising
30 enough from time to time to clear the trees
31 & fences-- Soon after I see hovering

⁸¹vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "& hazel"
⁸²"thimble berry" and "raspberry" marked for transposition.
⁸³"under cliffs tomorrow--" possibly added
⁸⁴vertical pencil line through "goose"

1 over Sam Barretts--high sailing--a
2 // more buzzardlike brown hawk--black-
3 barred beneath and on tail--with short broad
4 ragged wings--& perhaps a white mark on
5 under side of wings. The chickens utter
6 a note of alarm-- (Is it the Broad-
7 prob not v May 25⁸⁵
8 winged hawk--F Pennsylvanicus?) But
9 why should the other be called F. Fuscus?
10 I think this is called the partridge-hawk--
11 The books are very unsatisfactory on these
12 // 2 hawks. Ap. barn swallows over the
13 river. & do I see bank swallows also?
14 // C. says he has seen a yellow legs.
15 I have seen also for some weeks occasionally
16 a brown hawk with white rump--flying low--
17 ? which I have thought the frog-hawk in a
18 diff. stage of plumage--but cant it be at
19 %prob-- female hen harrier%
20 this season--& is it not the marsh hawk--
21 Yet it is not so heavy nearly as the hen hawk.
22 Ap. 24th
23 Pm to Flints Pond.
24 Warm & quite a thick⁸⁶ haze-- Cannot
25 see distant hills--nor use my glass to
26 advantage. The Equisetum arvense on
27 the causeway sheds⁸⁷ its green pollen
28 --which looks like lint on the hand abundantly
29 & may have done so when I first saw it upon
30 // the 21st. Young caterpillars nests

⁸⁵"prob . . . 25" LR in ink

⁸⁶vertical pencil line through "thick"

⁸⁷vertical pencil line through "sheds"

1 %391%

2 are just hatched on the wild cherry--some //

3 others just come out

4 are an ~~inch~~ inch⁸⁸ in diameter^-- The little

5 creatures have crawled at once to the extremity

6 of the twigs & commenced at once on the

7 green buds just about to burst--~~sust~~ eating

8 holes into them-- They do not come forth till

9 the buds are about to burst. I see on the

10 P pines at Thrush⁸⁹ alley that G C wren or //

11 the other ashey olive above & whitish beneath--with

12 a white bar on wings--restlessly darting at ~~birds~~ //

13 insects

14 like a flycatcher--into the air after them-- It is

15 quite tame-- -- A very neat bird--but does not sing

16 now. I see a bee like a small //

17 bumble bee go into a little hole under a leaf

18 in the road--which ap. it has made & come

19 out again back foremost. That fine

20 slaty blue butterfly bigger than the small //

21 red, in wood paths. I see a cone-bearing

22 willow in dry woods which will beg-- to leaf to- //

23 morrow. & ap to show cones. Pyrus arbutifolia //

24 will beg to leaf tomorrow--its buds are red while

25 those of the shad bush are green--

26 I can find no red cedar in bloom--but it //

27 will undoubtedly shed pollen tomorrow XXX

28 It is on the point of it. I am not sure that

29 the white cedar is any earlier-- The sprigs

30 of red cedar now full of the buff colored

31 staminate flowers like fruit are very

⁸⁸Looks like T corrected his spelling--previous word is cancelled "inch"--no AL added to table

⁸⁹Possibly "thrush" or "Thrush" altered from "thrush"

1 rich-- The next day they shed an abundance
2 of pollen in the house-- It is a clear buff
3 color--while that of the white cedar
4 is very different being a faint salmon--
5 It would be very pleasant to make a
6 collection of these powders--like dry
7 They would be the right kind of chemicals to have.
8 ground paints.^ I see ~~on~~ the black-
9 birch stumps where they have cut by F. Pond
10 the past winter completely covered with
11 a greasy looking⁹⁰ pinkish colored cream
12 --yet without any particular taste or
13 smell. What the sap has turned to
14 // The salix alba begs to leaf.
15 Have not seen the F. hiemalis for a week.
16 Ap 25th
17 A moist april morning. A small
18 or say May 1st if they are bracts
19 // native willow leafing⁹¹ ^ & showing catkins today
20 // also the black-cherry in some places--The
21 // common wild rose tomorrow-- Balm of
22 // Gilead will not shed pollen ap for a day
23 // or more. Shep. purse will bloom today XX
24 The first I have noticed which has sprung from
25 the ground this season--or of any age.
26 Say lilac begs to leaf with common⁹² currant.
27 Pm to Beck Stow's.
28 Hear a faint cheep & at length detect
29 the white throated sparrow--the handsome
30 & well marked bird--the largest of

⁹⁰vertical pencil line through "looking"

⁹¹vertical pencil line through "leafing"

⁹²vertical pencil line through "common"

1
 2 the sparrows with a yellow spot on each
 3 side of the front. hopping along under
 4 the rubbish left by the woodchoppers-- I after-
 5 ward Hear ^a ~~this~~ faint cheep very rapidly repeated--
 6 ^{prob by}
 7 making a faint sharp jingle, ~~no doubt~~ by
 8 field sparrows--this their common low note.
 9 ~~the same~~. Many Sparrows have a similar
 10 faint metallic cheep--the tree spar-- &
 11 field-spar-- for instance. I first saw the
 12 white-throated sparrow at this date last year--
 13 Hear the peculiar squeaking notes of a
 14 pig-- woodpecker-- 2 Black duks circle--
 15 around me 3 or 4 times wishing to //
 16 alight in the swamp--but finally go to
 17 the river meadows-- I hear the whistling of
 18 their wings. {drawing} Their bills point downward
 19 thus in flying. The andromeda calycu- //
 20 lata is out in water--in the little swamp
 21 E. of Beck stows--some perhaps yesterday XXX.
 22 & C. says he saw many ~~of~~ bluets yesterday XX //
 23 & also that he saw 2 F. hiemalis yesterday.
 24 I have noticed 3 or 4 upper jaws of
 25 muskrats on the meadow lately--which
 26 added to the dead bodies floating make more
 27 than half a dozen pehaps drowned out
 28 last winter.
 29 After sunset paddled up to the Hub. bath.
 30 The bushes ringing with the evening song of
 31 song sparrows & robins--& the evening
 32

1 sky reflected from the surface of
2 the rippled water like the lake grass
3 on pools-- A spearers fire seems
4 3 times as far off as it is.
5 Ap 26th.
6 A cloudy--still--damp & at length drizzling
7 day-- P. m. to Bayberry & Black-
8 // ash cellar-- Wheildon's Arbor vitae well
9 // out--may be for a week-- The S. abele
10 prob. today or yesterday--but I do not see
11 pollen-- The blossoms of the red maple
12 (some a yellowish green) are now
13 // most generally conspicuous & handsome
14 scarlet crescents over the swamps.
15 Going over Ponkawtasset--hear a
16 G-- C. (?) wren the robins note &c--in
17 the tops of the high wood--see myrtle
18 birds--& half a dozen pigeons-- The
19 prate of the last--is much like the
20 creaking of a tree-- They lift their wings
21 There are said to be many about now
22 // at the same moment as they sit. See
23 their warm colored breasts-- I see
24 pigeon woodpecker billing on an
25 // oak at a dist. Young apple leafing
26 say with the common rose--also some early large
27 ones. Bay-berry not started much-- Fever
28 // bush out ap a day or 2 bet. Black-birch

1
 2 cellar & Easterbrooks-- It shows plainly
 3 now before the leaves have come out on ~~st~~
 4 bushes--20 rods off-- See and hear
 5 chewinks--all their strains--the same //
 6 date with last year by accident-- Many male
 7 & female White-throated sparrows feeding
 8 on the pasture with the song sparrow-- The
 9 male's white is buff in the female.
 10 A brown thrasher--? seen at a little dist.--heard May 4th⁹³ //
 11 We see & hear more birds than usual
 12 this mizzling & still day--& the robin
 13 sings with more vigor & promise than
 14 later in the season.
 15 Ap 27.
 16 5 Am S Tristis path around Cliffs.
 17 Cold & windy--but fair-- The earliest //
 18 willow by RR. begins to leaf. & is out of bloom //
 19 Few birds are heard this cold & windy morn-
 20 ing-- Hear a partridge drum before 6 Am
 21 prob. today
 22 also a G. C. (?) Wren. Salix tristis ^ XXXX //
 23 the female more forward than the male. Heard
 24 a singular sort of screech somewhat like a
 25 hawk under the cliff--& soon some pigeons flew
 26 out of a pine near me. The black & white //
 27 creepers--running over the trunks or main
 28 limbs of red maples & uttering their fainter⁹⁴ oven
 29 bird like notes. The principal singer on this
 30 walk--both in wood & field away from town

⁹³"? . . . 4th" added: "--heard . . . 4th" is LR in ink; "? . . . dist.--" possibly part of that LR--it is also added, and not yet in the AL table
⁹⁴"fainter" written over "faint"

1 is the field sparrow. I hear the sweet
2 // warble of a tree sparrow in the yard.
3 // Cultivated cherry is beg. to leaf. The Balm-
4 of Gilead catkins are well loosened &
5 // I have seen only females--say male the 25th 6th or 7
6 about 3 inches long--but I have seen only
7 fertile ones--
8 Ap 28
9 // A 2nd cold but fair day. Good fires
10 are required today & yesterday.
11 Pm Sail to Ball's Hill
12 // The chimney swallow--with the white bellied
13 & barn swallows over the river-- The
14 red maples now in bloom are quite hand-
15 some at a distance over the flooded meadow
16 beyond Peters-- The abundant wholesome
17 grey of the trunks & stems beneath--surmounted
18 by the red or scarlet crescents. Are not
19 // they sheldrakes which I see at a distance
20 on an islet in the meadow? The wind
21 is strong from the NW.
22 Landed at Ball's Hill to look for birds
23 under the shelter of the hill in the sun--
24 There were a great many myrtle birds
25 there--(they have been quite common
26 for a week) also yel-- red-polls--&
27 // some song-spars--tree-spars--field spars
28 // & one F hiemalis. In a cold and windy

1
 2 day like this you can find more birds than
 3 in a serene one--because they are collected
 4 wooded
 5 under the ^ hill sides in the sun. The myrtle //
 6 birds flitted before us in great numbers--yet
 7 quite tame--uttering commonly only a chip--but
 8 sometimes a short trill or che che, che che, che che,
 9 Do I hear the tull-lull in the P-- m? It is
 10 a bird of many colors--slate--yellow--black--
 11 & white--singularly spotted-- Those little
 12 gnats of the 21st are still in the air
 13 in the sun under this hill--but elsewhere
 14 the cold strong wind has either drowned them
 15 or chilled them to death. I saw where they had
 16 taken refuge in a boat & covered its bottom
 17 with large black patches.

18 I noticed on the 26 (and also today) that
 19 since this last rise of the river which reached its
 20 height the 23d--a great deal of the //
 21 young flag already⁹⁵ 6 inches to a foot long
 22 (Though I have hardly observed it growing yet)
 23 has washed up all along the shores--and
 24 as today I find a piece of flag-root with
 25 it gnawed by a muskrat-- I think that
 26 very extensively
 27 they have been feeding ^ on the white & tender
 28 part of the young blades-- They & not ducks
 29 for it is about the bridges also as much
 30 as anywhere. I think that they desert
 31 the clams now for this vegetable food--

⁹⁵vertical pencil line through "already"

1 In one place a dead muskrat scents
2 the shore--prob. another of those drowned
3 Saw the little heaps of dirt where
4 // out in the winter. worms had come out by river
5 Ap 29th
6 // This morning it snows--but the ground is
7 not yet whitened. This will prob. take the
8 cold out of the air. Many chip-birds
9 are feeding in the yard--& one baywing.
10 The latter incessantly scratches like a hen
11 all the while looking about for foes-- The
12 bay on its wings is not obvious except when it
13 opens them-- The white circle about the eye is
14 visible afar-- Now it makes a business of
15 pluming itself--doubling its prettily upon itself
16 --now touching the root of its tail--now
17 thrusting its head under its wing--now between
18 its wing & back above--& now between its legs
19 & its belly--& now it drops flat on its breast
20 & belly & spreads & shakes its wings--now
21 stands up & repeatedly shakes its wings.
22 It is either cleaning itself of dirt acquired
23 in scratching & feeding--for its feet
24 are black with mud--or it is oiling
25 its feathers thus. It is rather better con-
26 cealed by its color than the chip bird with
27 its chestnut crown--& light breast. The
28 chip bird scratches but slightly & rarely--it

1
2 finds what it wants on the surface--keeps its head
3 down more steadily--not looking about. I see the
4 bay-wing eat some worms--

5 For 2 or 3 days the S alba--⁹⁶with its catkins (not yet
6 or bracts,[?]
7 open) and its young leaves^--has made quite a //

8 show--before any other tree. a pyramid of tender
9 yellowish green in the russet landscape--

10 The water now rapidly going down on the
11 meadows a bright green⁹⁷ grass is springing up. //

12 Pm by boat to Lupine Hill.

13 It⁹⁸ Did not whiten the ground. Raw overcast
14 & threatening rain. A few of the cones within
15 reach on F. Monroe's larches shed pollen--say //

16 The crimson female flowers are now handsome but small.
17 then yesterday XX That lake grass--or perhaps

18 I should call it purple grass is now ap. in //

19 perfection⁹⁹ on the water--long & slender blades
20 (about 1/8 of an inch wide & 6 to 12 inches long
21 the part exposed) lie ~~side~~ close side by side
22 straight
23 ^& parallel on the surface with a dimple

24 at the point where they emerge--some are a
25 very rich purple with ap. a bloom & very sug-
26 gestive of p%l%acidity--it is a true bloom at
27 any rate--the first blush of the spring caught
28 on these little standards elevated to
29 the light,-- By the water they are kept per-
30 fectly smooth & flat & straight as well
31 as parallel--& thus by their mass make
32 the greater impression on the eye.

⁹⁶vertical pencil line through this and the following lines

⁹⁷vertical pencil line through "green"

⁹⁸Possibly added

⁹⁹vertical pencil line through "perfection"

1
 2 alone before any tree--
 3 Paddling slowly along I see 5 or 6
 4 snipes within 4 or 5 rods feeding on the
 5 meadow just laid bare--or in the shallow &
 6 grassy water-- This dark damp cold day they
 7 do not mind me-- View them with my glass--
 8 How the ends of their wings curve upward
 9 {drawing} They do not thrust their bills clear
 10 down commonly--but wade & nibble at something
 11 amid the grass ap¹⁰³ on the surface of the
 12 sometimes it seems to be the grass itself
 13 water--^sometimes on the surface of the bare
 14 meadow-- They are not now thrusting their bills
 15 deep in the mud. They have dark ash or slate-
 16 colored breasts. At length they take a little alarm
 17 & rise with a sort of rippling whistle or peep--^ a little like a robin's peep
 18 but faint & soft--& then alight within a
 19 dozen rods-- I hear often at night a very
 20 different harsh squeak from them at night
 21 squeak
 22 & another ^ much like the nighthawks--& also
 23 the booming.
 24
 25 Ap 30.
 26 Hose chestnut begs to leaf¹⁰⁴.--one of them. //
 27 more
 28 Another^still--cloudy almost drizzling
 29 day¹⁰⁵--in which as the last 3 I wear a
 30 great coat. //
 31 P. M. To Lee's Cliff.
 32 Privet begins to leaf¹⁰⁶--(Vib nudum & lentago //

¹⁰³Possibly "at"
¹⁰⁴vertical pencil line through "leaf"
¹⁰⁵Possibly altered from "in"
¹⁰⁶vertical pencil line through "leaf"

1 yesterday). I observed yesterday that
2 the barn swallows confined themselves
3 to one place about 15 rods in diameter
4 in Willow Bay about the sharp rock--
5 They kept circling about & flying
6 up the stream (the wind easterly)
7 about 6 inches above the water--
8 (It was cloudy & almost raining)
9 ^yet I could not perceive any insects
10 there. Those myriads of little fuzzy
11 gnats mentioned on the 21st & 28th
12 must afford an abundance of
13 Many new birds should have arrived about the 21st
14 food to insectivorous birds. The swallows
15 There were plenty of myrtle birds & yel. red-polls where the gnats were
16 were confined to this space when
17 I passed up & were still there when
18 I returned an hour & a half
19 later-- I saw them nowhere else.
20 They uttered only a slight twitter from
21 time to time & when¹⁰⁷ they turned out for
22 each other on meeting. Getting their
23 meal seemed to be made a social affair.
24 Pray how long will they continue to
25 circle thus without resting?
26 ? The early willow by Hubb's bridge has not
27 begun to leaf. This would make it a dif. species
28 from that by RR which has.
29 Hear a short rasping note somewhat Tweezer bird like, I think from a yel. red poll.
30 I hear from far the scream of a hawk
31 circling over the Holden woods & swamp.
32 // yellow daw-bug

¹⁰⁷Possibly altered from "&c"

1
2 This accounts for those 2 men with guns
3 just entering it-- What a dry shrill angry
4 scream. I see the bird with my glass resting
5 tall
6 upon the topmost plume of a ^ white pine.
7 its back reflecting the light looks white in patches
8 ^& now it circles again-- It is a red-tailed
9 hawk-- The tips of its wings are curved
10 upward as it sails-- How it scolds at
11 I see its open bill
12 the men beneath^--! it must have a
13 nest there. Hark! there goes a gun
14 or 2
15 (& down it tumbles from a rod ^ above
16 so I thought but was mistaken
17 the wood.) In the meanwhile I learn
18 that there is a nest there--& the
19 gunners killed one this morning--which
20 They are now getting the young
21 I examined.^ Above it was brown--but not
22 except about head perhaps I should call it ~~coal~~ brown
23 at all reddish brown^--above^--& a dirty white
24 beneath--wings above thickly barred with
25 wings
26 darker--and also ^ beneath. The tail of
27 reddish or ~~correl~~
28 once barred near the end.
29 12 ^ feathers ^ black ~~tipped~~-- The ~~legs &~~ feet
30 pale yellow--& very stout with strong
31 sharp black claws. The head & neck
32 were remarkably stout--& the beak short
33 & curved from the base-- Powerfull neck
34 The claws pricked me as I handled it
35 & legs.^ It measured 1 yard & 3/8+ from
36 v forward more
37 tip to tip--i.e. 4 2/12 feet.^ Some fer-
38 ruginous on the neck--ends of wings
39 ~~At any rate the pair were¹⁰⁸ screaming about their nest.~~
40 nearly black-- ~~Have they begun to lay?¹⁰⁹ v forward~~ //

41 (Columbine just out XXXX one anther sheds-- //

42 ~~The first 2 or 3 primaries being short the wings have a~~

43 ~~rounded outline also broad & ragged.~~

¹⁰⁸"were" written over "are"

¹⁰⁹Caret possibly belongs to "v forward" and not "At . . . nest."; if so, change wording in AL table

1 // Also Turritis will tomorrow ap. XXX--many
2 prob. if they had not been eaten. Crowfoot
3 // & saxifrage are now in prime at Lees
4 they yellow & whiten the ground. I see
5 // a great many little piles of dirt made
6 by the worms on Conantum--pastures.
7 The woodchuck--has not so much what
8 I should call a musky scent--but exactly
9 that peculiar rank scent which I perceive
10 The musky--at length becomes the reg. wild beast scent.
11 // in a menagerie.^ Redwing black-
12 birds now fly in large flocks--covering
13 the tops of trees--willows--maples--
14 apples--or oaks--like a black fruit
15 & keep up an incessant gurgling &
16 whistling--all for some purpose--
17 what is it? White pines now
18 show the effects of last year's drought
19 in our yard & on the cliffs--the
20 needles faded & turning red--to
21 an alarming extent.
22 I now see¹¹⁰ many Juniper repens berries of
23 being still green beneath
24 a handsome light blue above^, with
25 3 hoary pouting lips. The Garfields had
26 Saw the old & tracks of young--thinks they may be 1 month old.
27 // found a burrow of young foxes^--how old?
28 I see the black feathers of a black
29 bird by the¹¹¹ Miles swamp side--& this single
30 bright scarlet one shows that it belonged to
31 a red-wing--which some hawk or quadruped

¹¹⁰vertical pencil lines through this and the following lines
¹¹¹Possibly written over "Miles"

1
2
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devoured.

May 1st

Rained some¹¹² in the night--cloudy in the
fore noon--clears up in the afternoon.

Pm by boat with Sophia to Conantum
a-Maying. The water has gone¹¹³ down very
fast & the grass has sprung up-- There
is a strong fresh-marsh scent wafted
from the meadows--much like the salt-
marshes. We sail with a smart wind
from the NE--yet it is warm enough.

Horsemint is seen¹¹⁴ springing up & for 2 or
3 days at the bottom of the river & on shore.

At Hill Shore--the anemone nemoralis
tomorrow--see none¹¹⁵ wide open-- The myrtle bird
is one of the commonest & tamest birds now
It catches insects like a pewee darting off
from its perch & returning to it. & sings
something like a--chill chill, chill chill,
chill chill, a twear, twill twill twee. or

it may be all tw--(not loud--a little
or more like pine-warbler
rapid &
like the F hiemalis^.)^ more & more intense

as it advances. There is an unaccountable
sweetness as of flowers¹¹⁶ in the air--
--a true may day--raw & drizzling in
the morning. The grackle still.

What various brilliant & evanescent

//

//

¹¹²vertical pencil line through "some"
¹¹³vertical pencil line through this and following lines
¹¹⁴vertical pencil line through "seen"
¹¹⁵Possibly altered from "now"
¹¹⁶vertical pencil line through "flowers"

1 colors on the surface of this
2 agitated water--now as we are crossing
3 willow bay looking toward the half
4 concealed sun over the foam spotted
5 flood! It reminds me of the sea.
6 // At Clam Shell the V. blanda XXX
7 I do not look for pollen. I find a clam
8 shell 5 inches long wanting 1/16 & more
9 & 2 inches thick.
10 than 2 1/2 inches broad--^ What that little
11 dusky colored lichen on the ground at
12 // Clam Shell end ditch--with a sort of triangular
13 green fruit?¹¹⁷ or Marchantia? The
14 // Why have the white pines at a dist. that silvery (dewy?) look around their edges
15 or thin¹¹⁸
16 maples of Potters swamp seen now
17 parts? Is it owing to the wind showing the under sides of the needles?
18 nearly half a mile off against the
19 Methinks you do not see it in the winter.
20 russet ~~hill~~ or reddish hill side--are
21 a very dull scarlet like Spanish brown--
22 but one against a¹¹⁹ green pine wood
23 Thalictum anemonoides at Conant
24 // is much brighter. Cliff XXX--did not look for pollen.
25 Went to Garfields for the hawk of
26 yesterday. It was nailed to the barn
27 and as a trophy
28 in terrorem. ^He gave it to me with
29 an egg. He called it the female
30 --& prob was right, it was so large--
31 He tried in vain to shoot the male
32 which I saw circling about just out of gunshot & screaming--while he robbed the nest
33 He climbed the tree when I was there
34 The tallest white pine or other tree in its neighborhood over a swamp.
35 yesterday P. m. & found 2 young
36 // which he thought not more than

¹¹⁷"?" possibly "I" or "J"

¹¹⁸Possibly "their"

¹¹⁹Spotched--possibly altered from another word

1
2 down, at least
3 a fortnight old--with only ~~pin feathers~~--&
4 no feathers
5 one addled egg-- Also 3 or 4 white bellied
6 or deer mouse--(mus leucopus) ~~and~~
7 a perch--& a sucker--& a gray rabbits
8 I think these must have been dead fish they found
9 skin.^ He had seen squirrels &c in other
10 I found the remains of a partridge under the tree--
11 nests. These fishes were now stale. The
12 reason I did not see my hawks at Well
13 Meadow last year was that he found
14 & broke up their nest there containing
15 5 eggs.
16 The hawk measures exactly 22 1/2 inches in length
17 & 4 feet 4 1/2 inches in alar extent. & weighs 3 1/4 pounds.
18 The ends of closed wings almost 2 inches short
19 of end of tail. General color of wings above &
20 back an olivacious brown, thickly barred with
21 waving lines of very dark brown, their being a
22 much broader bar next to the tip of the 2ndaries
23 & tertiaries--& the first 5 primaries are nearly
24 black toward the ends-- A little white appears,
25 especially on the tertiaries. The wing coverts &
26 scapulars glossed with purple reflections.
27 The 12 tail feathers (which Macgillivray says
28 is the number in all birds of Prey--ie. the
29 Falconinae & Striginae) showing 5 3/4 inches
30 a clear brown red or rather fox color above,
31 with a narrow dark band within 1/2 inch of
32 the end, which is tipped with dirty white--
33 A slight inclination to dusky barrs near the

1 Lower tail coverts for nearly an inch white barred with fox colored
 2 end of one side feather--^ Head and neck
 3 a paler inclining to ferruginous brown
 4 Beneath--breast & wing linings brown
 5 feathers of
 6 & white--the^first centered with large dark brown
 7 hastate spots--& the wing linings streaked with
 8 feruginous. Wings white barred with dusky--"vents
 9 Nuttall
 10 & femorals" as ~~Wilson~~ says "pale ochreous".
 11 Tail white softened by the superior color
 12 I do not perceive that the abdomen is barred.
 13 Bill very blue black--with a short stout
 14 more than
 15 curved tip--curving from the cere ~~full~~ a
 16 extends not quite 1/4¹²⁰ of an inch beyond the lower mandible. & is proportionally
 17 1/4 of a circle^-- Whole visible, including cere¹²¹,
 18 stouter at tip than in any of his Falconinae, judging from plates of heads
 19 1 1/8 inch long, & 1 inch deep at base. Cere
 20 yellowish green. Tarsus & toes very pale
 21 yellow--claws blue black-- As {Macgilliray}
 22 says of Buteos claws flattened beneath, "that
 23 of the middle toe with an inner sharp edge."
 24 as I gather.
 25 (He says ^ that all the diurnal birds of prey of G-- B.
 26 i.e. Falconinae--have claws either flattened or
 27 except ~~the~~ Pandion
 28 concave beneath^--the inner edge of the middle
 29 one being more or less sharp--but least so in
 30 or harrier
 31 Circus^) Tarsus feathered in front 1/3 the
 32 length
 33 way down. The toes for stoutness stand¹²² in
 34 this order-- The 1st (or hind) 2nd 4th 3d the
 35 1st being the shortest-- -- -- -- For stoutness
 36 thus 1--2--3--4-- Claws for stoutness follow
 37 the same order with the toes-- Utmost spread
 38 of toes & claws 4 1/2 inches. A considerable
 39 web.^{x123} bet. 3d & 4th toes-- Toes with papillae
 40 not rigid beneath.

¹²⁰Possibly altered from another word

¹²¹Possibly altered from another word

¹²²Possibly altered from another word

¹²³Written vertically in margin along length of page:

& Milvus several
 xIn this respect-- Circus & Falco much the same; Aquila & Pernis ^ have ^ short
 webs--Haliaetus--Pandion. & Accipiter are free

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A wing extends nearly 2 feet from the
 from flexure is 15 3/4 inches
 body & is 10 3/4 inches wide ^ When fully
 expanded it has a rounded outline &
 a ragged appearances owing to the separa-
 tion of the 1st 5 or 6 primaries--as I noticed
 the male bird while sailing. The first
 primary short--they stand 1st & 8--7th--6th--2nd 5th--
 3d--4 The 5th & 3d are about the same length & the
 4th only 1/4 of an inch longer than the 3d.

As in the Buteo Vulgaris of MacGillivray--found
 in Europe & in our north--the 4 first primaries "abruptly
 cut out on the inner web;" the 2d 3d 4th & 5
 but not the 1st & 6th "slightly so on the outer".

10 14
 If There are ~~but 8~~ primaries & ~~then~~ there are ~~15~~
~~2ndaries--but I am not sure whether there are 8 or~~
 (Mac. says the primaries of the Falconinae are 10--the 2ndaries from
~~10 primaries~~ 13 to 18.) The wing, I see, naturally opens at the primaries

This is evidently very closely allied to the
 Buteo Vulgaris--but ap. the ~~tail~~ wings are
 not so long compared with the tail--& there
 is a dif-- in the comparative length & stoutness of
 the feet of this are not "Bright yellow,"
 the toes^--(the upper mandible is much stouter
 & more recurved at tip--judging from his
 plate of the head--& his description. It is recurved
 his
 as much as ~~the~~ Osprey's.

The ear looked like a large round hole in the
 side of the head behind the eyes.

The egg is a very dirty brownish white--with brown
 spots about the smaller end--though one
 end is about as large as the other-- It is larger
 than a hen's egg--2 3/8 inches x 2.

1 Macgillivray des. the Buteo, as "body full, broad
2 & muscular anteriorly;"--"wings long, broad, rounded,
3 the 3d or 4th quill longest, the first very short;" Of Haliaetus
4 he says "wings very long, broad, rounded, the 4th & 5th quills
5 longest;" Aquila like last omitting the very-- Pandion
6 "Wings very long, comparatively narrow, rounded, with 30
7 quills, the 3d primary longest, the 2nd nearly equal, the 4th not
8 much shorter, the 1st longer than the 5th;"-- Falco "Wings very
9 long, pointed, the 2nd quill longest, the 1st almost as long;
10 primaries 10;" Accipiter "Wings ~~very~~ long, much rounded;
11 primary quills 10, 4th & 5th longest, 1st very short,--"
12 "Pernis "wings very long, broad, rounded, the 3d quill longest,
13 the first about the length of the 6th;"-- Milvus "Wings
14 extremely long, broad, & pointed, the 4th quill longest -- -- --
15 -- -- 1st much shorter;"-- Circus "wings long, much rounded;
16 primary quills 10, the 4th & 3d longest, the 1st about equal to
17 the 7th,--" These the genera--of G. Britain.
18 Says of Buteo--"In form & plumage they are very
19 intimately allied to the eagles & sea-eagles, as well
20 as in the form of the bill, which is, however, shorter
21 and less deep towards the end, and of the feet, which
22 differ, notwithstanding, in being proportionally less
23 robust, and in having the claws smaller. -- -- --
24 -- -- Usually fly low, & with less rapidity than
25 the falcons & hawks; sail in circles like the eagles
26 & some other species, and prey on heavy-flying
27 birds, small quadrupeds, reptiles, and even
28 insects."

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He says the Buteo-vulgaris "greatly resembles the Golden Eagle in his mode of flying"--so that he has mistaken them for it at a distance--that he "rarely gives chase to a bird on the wing."
 in this case in the case of the red-tail
 Neither he^--nor Wilson nor Nuttall speaks of their feeding on fishes.

Mac.--says the Falconinae lay from 2 to 5 eggs--& their cries are "seldom heard except at the breeding season".--"When the young have longitudinal spots on the breast, the old have them transverse,"--

I do not find much in Mac. about the breeding season of the Falconinae. He says the White tailed Sea-eagle--Haliaetus albicilla begs to prepare a nest sometime in March--& the Kestrel near the end of March--& the young of the Golden Eagle "are fledged about the end of July."

Nuttall says the White-headed Eagle begs to lay early in February. That with F. Peregrinus incubation "commences in winter, or very early in the spring"--& that the Osprey begs to lay early in May. This is all to the purpose about the season of incubation of hawks & eagles.

Early in spring I occasionally see henhawks perched about river & approach quite near them--but never at any other time.

This hawks flesh has a very disagreeable rank scent--as I was cutting it up--though fresh. --cutting off the wings &c &c

I found the feathers of a partridge under the tree where the nest was.

1 // What I have called the frog hawk
 2 is prob the male hen-harrier--Nuttalls Cir-cus
 3 cyaneus--which he says is the same with the European--
 4 V. Wilson
 5 ? (Mac. refers to C. Americanus?) & the larger
 6 & says the quest. of identity is undecided.
 7 // brown bird with white rump is the female.

 8 // (Prob. my small brown hawk is the F fuscus--or
 9 sharp shinned)
 10 Mac. says the harrier occassionally eats dead
 11 fish--and also will catch a chicken--not
 12 a hen-- Sometimes catches its prey in open flight--
 13 Will hunt on the same beat--at the same hour
 14 for many days--ac to Jardine-- (Mac. says
 15 that the Golden eagle "seeks for live prey at a small
 16 height over the surface.") Sail in circles. "The male,
 17 after the first Autumnal moult, acquires in
 18 a considerable degree the plumage of the adult--"
 19 --"the change of plumage is effected in the au-
 20 tumn of the year after it leaves the nest, and
 21 not in the same year." The female used to
 22 be regarded as a distinct species called the "Ring-tail.
 23 Country people name it Blue Kite, Blue Hawk,
 24 Ring-tail, Brown Kite, or Gled; and the High-
 25 landers call it Breid-air-toin (rag-on-rump),
 26 on ac. of the white tail coverts conspicuous in both
 27 sexes."
 28 May 2d Pm. by boat up Assabet.
 29 // Quince begs¹²⁴ to leaf--& pear¹²⁵--perhaps some of last earlier.
 30 at 20 to 25 feet high
 31 of young trees say yesterday began
 32 // Aspen leaves¹²⁶ ^ an inch long suddenly-^-¹²⁷(not till
 33 the 11th last year.). Leafing then is differently affected
 34 by the season--from flowering-- The leafing is ap.
 35 comparatively earlier this year than the flowering

¹²⁴vertical pencil line through "begs"
¹²⁵vertical pencil line through "pear"
¹²⁶vertical pencil line through "leaves"
¹²⁷Caret positioned under <n->.

1 %413%

2 The young aspens are the first of indigenous trees conspicuously

3 leafed.

4 Diervella say begs to leaf with¹²⁸ Viburnums. //

5 bot. //

6 Amelanchier--^yesterday¹²⁹ leafed XXX That small //

7 native willow now in flower or say yesterday XXX //

8 just before leafs--for the first seem to be bracts--2 to

9 7 or 8 feet high very slender & curving. Ap has 3 or

10 petioled

11 4 lanceolate toothed bracts at base of ^ catkin--male

12 3/4 & fem 1 inch long--scales black & silky haired-- Ovary

13 oblong oval stalked--downy--with a small yellowish

14 gland not so long as its stalk--see leaf by & by ?

15 Saw many Crow b. birds day bef. yesterday. //

16 Vigorous look the little {~~Che~~} spots of triangular

17 sedge (?) springing up on the river¹³⁰ banks 5-6

18 inches high yellowish below glaucous & hoary

19 atop--straight & rigid. Many clamshells

20 have round brassy colored spots as big as a

21 fourpence--found one opened by rats last winter--

22 almost entirely the color of tarnished brass within

23 Open the Assabet spring-- ~~That~~ The anemone

24 is well named--for see now the nemorosa--amid

25 the fallen brush & leaves--trembling in the wind

26 so fragile. Hellebore seems¹³¹ a little later than

27 the cabbage.

28 Was that a harrier seen at first skimming low

29 then soaring & circling--with a broad whiteness on //

30 the wings beneath? May 3d¹³²

31 Pm to Assabet Bath--¹³³

32 with a jerk of the head.

33 Small pewee--tchevet^. Hard-hack¹³⁴ leafed 2 or //

34 if I have not named it //

35 may be 3 days in one place. Early pyrus leafed yest. or day before^ //

¹²⁸vertical pencil line through "with"

¹²⁹vertical pencil line through "yesterday"

¹³⁰vertical pencil line through "river banks"

¹³¹vertical pencil line through "seems"

¹³²"May 3d" probably added--not in AL table yet

¹³³"to Assabet Bath--" probably added--not in AL table yet

¹³⁴vertical pencil line through bottom of page

1 The skull of a horse--(not a mare for I did
2 not see the 2 small canine teeth in the upper jaw--
3 nor in the under--) 6 molars on each side above &
4 // below--& 6 incisoris to each jaw. I first ob-
5 served the stillness of birds &c at noon--with
6 the increasing warmth--on the 23d of April.
7 Sitting on the bank near the stone heaps I
8 see large suckers rise to catch ~~flies~~ insects
9 some times leap--
10 // A Butterfly 1 inch in alar extent--dark velvety
11 brown with slate colored tips--on dry leaves.
12 On the N of Groton Turnpike beyond Abel Hos-
13 mers--3 distinct terrace to river--1st annually
14 over flows--say 25 or 30 rds wide--2d 7 or 8
15 feet higher & 40 or 60 wide--3d 40 feet
16 // higher still-- Sweet fern--opened¹³⁵ ap yest. XXX
17 // Vac. Pennsylvanicum¹³⁶--begs to leaf yesterday. Young
18 // red. maple¹³⁷ leaf tomorrow--also some¹³⁸ white birch.
19 & perhaps Sugar maple.
20 Humphrey Buttrick--one of 8 who alone returned
21 from Texas out of 24 says he can find wood-
22 knows of several nests
23 // cocks eggs now^--has seen them setting with
24 snow around them--(& that Melvin has seen
25 // Partridges eggs some days ago.) He has
26 // seen crows building this year. Found in a
27 // Henhawk's nest once the legs of a cat.
28 Has known of several Gosshawk's nests
29 (or what he calls some kind of eagle)

¹³⁵vertical pencil line through "opened"

¹³⁶vertical pencil line through "Pennsylvanicum"

¹³⁷vertical pencil line through "maple"

¹³⁸vertical pencil line through "some"

1
 2 Garfield called it the Cape Eagle) one
 3 in a shrub oak--with eggs. Last year his
 4 dog caught 7 black ducks so far grown that //
 5 takes a pretty activ^e¹³⁹ dog to catch such
 6 he got 60 cents a pair for them--^ He frequently finds
 7 or hears of them. Knew of ~~some~~ a nest this year--
 8 Also finds wood-ducks nests-- Has very often
 9 seen partridges drum--close to him, has watched
 10 one for an hour-- They strike the body with their
 11 wings. He shot a white-headed eagle from
 12 Carlisle Bridge--it fell in the water & his dog
 13 was glad to let it alone-- He suggested that my fish hawks
 14 found pouts in holes made by ice
 15 May 4th--
 16 A robin sings when I in the house cannot dis-
 17 tinguish the earliest dawning--from the the full moon-
 18 light. His song first advertises me of the day-
 19 break--when I thought it was night--as I lay
 20 looking out into the full moonlight-- I heard
 21 a robin begin his strain--& yielded the point to
 22 him--believing that he was better acquainted
 23 with the springs of the day than I--with the
 24 signs of day--
 25 ⁵¹⁴⁰ Am to Hill-- Many redwings
 26 & grackles feeding together on meadows-- //
 27 They still fly in flocks--some dark ash; are
 28 they fem. grackles? Hear a brown thrasher.
 29 Yel. lily pads are just begining¹⁴¹ to show themselves on //
 30 the surface--the first noticeable on the water. All kinds
 31 of young maples & some limbs of large white beg. to leaf. //

¹³⁹"t" cross in "active" in pencil
¹⁴⁰Possibly altered from "4"
¹⁴¹vertical pencil line through "begining"

1 // Red maple blossoms beg. to cover growth. Ostrya
2 // will leaf¹⁴² tomorrow-- (The 2nd Amelanchier¹⁴³--sweet fern ~~lea~~
3 // & early thorn¹⁴⁴ beg to leaf today. Small white-barked
4 // shrub--(andromeda?) on Island neck ~~today leaf~~ begs. to leaf
5 // or say 7th--& then slow
6 // tomorrow¹⁴⁵-- I think I hear a warb. vireo. certainly
7 // the 10th
8 // Birds--still see 3 or 4 crows together though
9 // some at least are building. Jays do not
10 // scream as early-- Chickadee spring notes still--
11 // Partridges setting-- Have noticed no ducks for
12 // black
13 // some days-- All the ^ blackbirds as plenty as
14 // ever--& in flocks-- Have not noticed robins
15 // in flocks for 2 or 3 days. See no gulls--
16 // think I saw one to-day.
17 // nor F Hiemalis^--nor tree sparrows--now-- Red tail
18 // hawk young 14 days old-- Snipes feeding in numbers
19 // on the 29th Ap. Yel. redpolls in numbers May 1st--
20 // Woodcocks setting¹⁴⁶-- Purple finch sings steadily.
21 // Myrtle birds numerous--& sing their tea-lee tea lee--
22 // & numerous
23 // in morning-- White throated sparrows here^-- No gold-
24 // finches for long time-- The water is now¹⁴⁷ generally off the meadows
25 // P. M. to Beeches.
26 // In cut woods a small thrush--with crown inclining
27 // to rufuous--tail foxy & edges of wings dark ash
28 // clear white beneath-- I think the Golden crowned?
29 // See more White throated sparrows than any
30 // other bird today in various parts of our walk--
31 // generally feeding in numbers on the ground
32 // dry
33 // in open ^ fields & meadows next to woods-- -- Then flitting
34 // through the woods-- Hear only that sharp
35 // lisping chip (?) from them. A partridge's grayish
36 // tail feather--with a subterminal dark band.
37 // Several larger thrushes on low limbs & on
38 // ground--with a dark eye (not the white around
39 // it of the wood thrush) & I think the nankeen

¹⁴²vertical pencil line through "leaf"

¹⁴³vertical pencil line through "Amelanchier"

¹⁴⁴vertical pencil line through "thorn"

¹⁴⁵vertical pencil line through "tomorrow"

¹⁴⁶Possibly altered from another word

¹⁴⁷vertical pencil line through "now"

1
2 spot on the 2ndaries--a hermit thrush?
3 Sitting in Abel Brooks' Hollow--see a small hawk
4 go over high in the air--with a long tail--& distinct
5 from wings-- It advanced by a sort of limping flight
6 yet rapidly--not circling--nor tacking--but
7 flapping briskly at intervals & then gliding straight
8 ahead with rapidity--controlling itself with its tail--
9 It seemed to be going a journey. Was it not
10 the Sharp shinned or F Fuscus? I think that
11 %falsely%
12 what I have called the Sparrow hawk%^%--& latterly
13 Fig. hawk--is also the sharp shinned. V Ap 26 & May 8 '54 ?¹⁴⁹
14 %& July 58%
15 & Ap 16th 55--for the Fig. Hawks tail is white barred.
16 Found a black snakes skeleton--remarked the
17 globular protuberance on which the vertebrae revolve--&
18 recurved
19 the 4 (?) sharp ^ teeth in the lower jaw--
20 Red cherry not generally¹⁵⁰ leafing before yesterday-- //
21 Sand cherry--yesterday leafs-- See where a //
22 skunk has probed last night & large black
23 large
24 dung--with ap. ^ ants' heads & earth or sand & stubble
25 or insects wings in it-- Prob. had been probing a large
26 ants hill. Was that a cerasus or prunus on ?
27 Pine hill--? thus from woodpile--{drawing}¹⁵¹ AB 2 rods west.
28 leaf
29 The beech ^ buds are very
30 reddish brown
31 handsome ^ now--some nearly an inch
32 & a half long & very slender not more than
33 1/6 of inch in diameter & regularly swelling
34 from each end--will open ap in 3 or 4 days. ?
35 The blossom buds¹⁵² are still larger--may
36 bloom in 8 days. Potentilla out X //
37 What that plant in Baker's Pool with sessile spat-

¹⁴⁸MS page fuzzy and difficult to read--some punctuation, misspellings and other nuances may have been missed; needs to be checked against original at Morgan
¹⁴⁹Possibly in pencil
¹⁵⁰vertical pencil line through "generally"
¹⁵¹ drawing includes the word "wood" which has not been transcribed here.
¹⁵²vertical pencil line through "buds"

1 ? ulate leaves toothed at end--now 4 or 5 inches high.
 2 Noticed a perfectly regular circular concavity
 3 in a sandy soil in a hollow in birch woods where
 4 ap. a partridge had dusted herself--
 5 Yesterday a great many spotted & wood tortoises
 6 in the Sam. Wheeler--birch fence mead-- pool which
 7 dries up-- One of the former--gradually settled ~~him~~-
 8 itself into the sod--by turning round & round & scratching
 9 // with its claws. A shower
 10 May 5th
 11 P. m. to Beck Stows
 12 Cold weather for several¹⁵³ days. Canada
 13 ? plum & cultivated cherry--& Missouri currant look
 14 // as if they would bloom tomorrow. The sugar
 15 maples on the common--have just begun to show
 16 their stamens peeping out of the bud--but that
 17 by Dr¹⁵⁴ Barrets has them 1 1/2 inches long or more.
 18 The trees & shrubs which I observe
 19 to make a show now with their green--with-
 20 out regard to the time when they began--are
 21 to put them in the order of their intensity & generalness
 22 Gooseberry--both kinds
 23 Raspberry
 24 Mead sweet
 25 Choke cherry shoots
 26 Some young trembles
 27 Very young apples
 28 Red currant--& prob. black
 29 Pyrus prob. arbutifolia
 30 Young black cherry
 31 Thimble berry
 32 Prob. wild red cherry in some places
 33 S alba--with bracts?
 34 Some small native willows
 35 Cultivated cherry--

¹⁵³vertical pencil line through "several"

¹⁵⁴Possibly altered from another word

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Some Mt¹⁵⁵ ash--%(ie European)%

Some horse Chestnut.

Ecepting the S alba--I am inclined to stop with the Pyrus arbutifolia.

The Andromeda Polifolia will ap-- open ?
about the 10th High blueberry beg to leaf in some
places yesterday. Larch began to leaf say when it //
opened the 28th of april--but not noticeably till¹⁵⁶ today. I find
one bundle with needles 1/4 of an inch long & spreading.

The small andromeda has lost its reddish leaves //
prob. about the time it blossomed
& I can neither get the red cathedral window
light looking toward the now westering sun--in
a most favorable position--nor the gray colors in
the other direction--but it is all a grayish
patches of in the swamp
green. But the ^ cranberry ^ seen at some distance
toward the sun are a beautiful crimson, which
travels with you--keeping bet you & the sun--like
some rare plant in bloom there densely-- I could
not believe it was cranberry--

Looking over my book I found I had done
to myself
my errands & said ^ I would find a crow's nest--
(I had heard a crow scold at a passing hawk
1/4 of an hour before--) I had hardly taken this
resolution when¹⁵⁷, looking up, I saw a crow wending
his way across an interval in the woods towards
the highest pines in the swamp--on which he
alighted-- I directed my steps to them--& was
soon greeted with an angry caw--& within
5 minutes from my¹⁵⁸ resolve I detected

¹⁵⁵poss revised to "Lt"
¹⁵⁶Possibly altered from another word
¹⁵⁷"when" altered from "then", or "then" altered from "when"--no AL written yet
¹⁵⁸Possibly altered from "they" or "the"

1 a new nest close to the top of the tallest
2 white pine in the samp¹⁵⁹-- A crow circled cawing
3 about it within gun shot--then over me
4 surveying--& perching on an oak directly over¹⁶⁰ my
5 head within 35 feet--cawed angrily-- But
6 suddenly, as if having taken a new resolution, it
7 flitted away--& was joined by its mate & 2 more
8 they went off silently 1/4 of a mile or more
9 & lit in a pasture, as if they had nothing
10 to concern them in the wood.

11 May 6th

12 // The young Sugar maples¹⁶¹ leafing are more
13 conspicuous now than any maples. Black
14 // oak buds are large¹⁶² & silvery. Peach leafed
15 yesterday--

16 Pm to Epigaea

17 // S.¹⁶³ Alba opened yest XXX Gilead not leafing yet,
18 but perhaps tomorrow? A Robins nest with 2
19 eggs--betrayed by peeping. On the 30th of ap.
20 // a phoebe flew out from under the arched bridge
21 prob-- building.

22 // Saw again--a slender vireo-like bird (seen yesterday--
23 near R. Brown's) head somewhat crested
24 behind made me think of small pewee--
25 catches insects somewhat like it-- As¹⁶⁴
26 I remember--May be ashy white beneath--
27 dusky olive above with 2 whitish bars on wings
28 & dusky tail-- Can it be the solitary vireo?

¹⁵⁹Possibly "swmp"

¹⁶⁰Possibly altered from another word

¹⁶¹vertical pencil line through "maples"

¹⁶²vertical pencil line through "large"

¹⁶³Possibly altered from "I"

¹⁶⁴Possibly altered from another word

1 %421%

2 Eq. sylvaticum prob-- yest.¹⁶⁵ XXX or day before //

3 Strawberry X That low sedge-like plant //

4 X ~~prob~~ under Clam Shell very common-- //

5 with brownish somewhat umbelled spikes--

6 prob. Luzula campestris? one of the wood rushes--

7 Viola lancolata--yesterday at least--X //

8 High-black berry has begun to leaf say 2 days //

9 Hear near near 2nd Div. the Er er twe, //

10 Ev. forest note

11 ter ter twe Bright yellow head & shoulders

12 & beneath & dark legs & bill--catching insects

13 along base of Pitch pine plumes somewhat

14 creeper like--very active & restless--darting from

15 darted at & drove off a chickadee

16 tree to tree--^ I find I have thus described its

17 colors last year--at various times--viz-- Black

18 this often

19 throat ^ with dark & light beneath-- /Again

20 Black streak from eyes--Slate col. back? forked

21 tail--white beneath? Another bird with yel throat

22 near by perhaps female./ Again June 17 black

23 wings with white bars?--

24 Is it Black throated Green--or Latham's ?

25 the

26 yel. fronted--or Golden winged warbler?

27 From Wilson I should think it the last which he thinks the same with Pennant & Latham's

28 yel-- front.

29 The small juncus of 2nd div. shows a A field

30 of dark green with reddish top--the flower just //

31 beginning to peep out--this the earliest plant

32 of this kind to make a show. More than a foot high

33 Epigaea in full bloom. Myrtle birds //

34 very numerous just beyond 2nd division-- They

35 sing like an instrument tee~~7~~ tee te, t t t,

¹⁶⁵vertical pencil line through "yest."

1 // t t t, on very various keys. ie high
2 or low--sometimes beginning like ~~th~~ phe-
3 be-- As I sat by road side one drew near
4 once or twice
5 perched within 10 feet & dived ^ with a curve
6 black
7 to catch the little ^ flies about my head coming
8 once within 3 feet, not minding me much. I
9 could not tell at first what attracted
10 it toward me-- It saw them from 25 feet off.
11 There was a little swarm of small flies
12 with large shoulders
13 regularly fly-like^about my head.
14 // Many white throated sparrows there.
15 Road full of cattle going¹⁶⁶ up country.
16 Heard at a dist a ruby? crowned wren
17 so robin like & spirited. After saw one--
18 // within 10 or 15 feet-- Dark bill & legs--ap
19 dark olivacious ashy head--a little whitish
20 before & behind the full black eyes--ash breast
21 olive yellow on primaries with a white bar.
22 dark tail & ends of wings--white belly & vent
23 Did not notice vermillion spot on hindhead.
24 It darted off from apple tree for insects¹⁶⁷ like
25 a pewee & returned to within 10 feet of me as if
26 ? curious-- I think this the only regulus I have
27 ever seen.
28 Near Jenny Dugans--perceive¹⁶⁸ that unaccountable
29 // fugacious fragrance as of all flowers--bursting
30 forth in air--not near a meadow--which
31 perhaps I first perceived on May 1st-- It
32 is the general fragrance of the year-- I am
33 almost afraid I shall trace it to some

¹⁶⁶vertical pencil line through "going"

¹⁶⁷Possibly altered from "insect"

¹⁶⁸vertical pencil line through "perceive"

1
 2 particular plant. It surpasses all particular
 3 fragrances-- I am not sitting near any flower that
 4 I can percieve. 2 or 3 rods this side of John.
 5 Hosmers Pitch pines beyond Clam Shell some
 6 white v. ovatas--some with a faint bluish tinge-- //

7 A beautiful sunset--the sun behind a gilt //

8 edged cloud--with a clear bright crimson space
 9 beneath.

10 May 7

11 5 Am to Island. Finger cold--& windy.
 12 The sweet flags showed themselves¹⁶⁹ about with
 13 pads. Hear Maryland yel. throat. Many //

14 grackles still in flocks singing on trees //

15 male & female the latter a very dark or black
 16 ash but with silvery eye. I suspect the red- //

17 wings are building. Large white maples beg.
 18 to leaf yesterday at least¹⁷⁰ generally--one now shows //

19 considerably across the river. The aspen is earlier--
 20 Vib. dentatum yest. leafed. Bass to-morr (some
 21 shoots sheltered now) A crow's nest%??% near the
 22 top of a pitch pine about 20 feet high
 23 just completed--betrayed by the bird's cawing //

24 %a mistake%
 25 & alarm--%^%as on the 5th one came and
 26 sat on a bare oak within ~~30~~ 40 feet.
 27 both
 28 cawed reconnoitred & then ^ flew off to a distance
 29 One comes near to spy you first.
 30 while I discoveered¹⁷¹ & climbed to the nest
 31 within a dozen rods. It was about 16
 32 inches over--of the p. pine dead twigs

¹⁶⁹vertical pencil line through "themselves"
¹⁷⁰vertical pencil line through "least"
¹⁷¹Possibly altered from "discover"

1 laid across the forks--& white oak leas
2 & bark fibres laid copiously on them--the
3 cavity deep & more than half covered &
4 long
5 concealed with a roof of leaves--a ^ sloping
6 approach or declivity left on one side
7 // the nest. Red currant out XX
8 Pm to Lee's Cliff.
9 // Via Hub's Bath. V. cucullata ap a day or 2.
10 // A lady bug--& Humblebee--the last prob some
11 // time. A lily wholly above water & yellow
12 on the 12th prox. I observed it sunk beneath the water
13 in Skull-Cap mead. ready to open.
14 Climbed to 2 crows nests or--maybe one
15 of them a squirrel's in Hub's grove--
16 see Rana fontinalis
17 // Do they not some times use a squirrels
18 // nest for a foundation? A Ruby crested
19 wren is ap. attracted & eyes me. It
20 as well as dirty
21 is wrenching & fatiguing ^ work to climb
22 a tall pine with nothing or maybe
23 only dead twigs & stubs to hold by. You
24 must proceed with great deliberation &
25 see well where you put your hands & your
26 // feet. Saw prob. a femal F. Fusca
27 sail swift & low close by me--and alight
28 on a rail fence-- It was a rich very dark
29 perhaps reddish slate brown-- I saw some
30 white under the head--no white on rump--
31 Wings thickly ~~banded~~¹⁷² barred with dark
32 beneath. It then flew & alighted on a maple
33 Did not fly so irregularly as the last
34 one I called by this¹⁷³ name. The early
35 // willow on the left beyond the bridge

¹⁷²T corrected spelling; no need to add to AL table

¹⁷³Possibly altered from "the"

1
 2 has beg. to leaf--but by no means yet the //
 3 one on the right. Scared up 2 gray squirrels
 4 in the Holden wood which ran glibly up the
 5 tallest trees on the opposite side to me
 6 & leaped across from the extremity of the branches¹⁷⁴
 7 to the next trees & so on very fast ahead of me--

8 Remembering--aye aching with--my ex-
 9 perience in climbing trees this Pm & morning
 10 I could not but admire their exploits.-- To
 11 see them travelling with so much swiftness
 12 & ease that road over which I climbed
 13 a few feet with such painful exertion--

14 A partridge flew up from within 3 or
 15 4 feet of me with a loud whirr & betrayed //
 16 one cream colored egg in a little hollow
 17 amid the leaves. Hear the tweezer bird--
 18 It looks like a bluish slate above--with a
 19 greenish? yellow back--& bright orange yel--
 20 throat & breast--forked tail 2 white bars on
 21 wings--whitish ven--another prob. female
 22 paler bluish with fainter yellow--& a conspic-
 23 uous black crescent on breast {drawing}. This
 24 is undoubtedly the Particolored warbler //
 25 --ie Brewers--Blue Yellow Back Sylvia
 26 Americana of Latham & Audubon--Pusilla of
 27 Wilson. V June 18 54 & May 9th 53.

28 I believe the Yel. rump. warbler has a
 29 note somewhat like the tweezer's.

30 Climbed a hemlock to a very large & complete
 31 prob. gray squirrel's nest--18 inch diameter--a founda-

¹⁷⁴Possibly altered from another word

1 tion of twigs--on which a body of leaves--
2 some
3 & ^ bark fibers lined with the last--and
4 the whole covered with many fresh green
5 hemlock twigs 1 foot or more long with
6 the leaves on--which had been gnawed off--
7 & many strewed the ground beneath having
8 fallen off-- Entrance one side.

9 A short dist. beyond this & the hawks-nest pine--
10 I observed a mid sized red oak standing
11 a little aslant on the side-hill ~~of~~ over
12 the swamp--with a pretty lrg hole in one
13 side about¹⁷⁵ 15 feet from the ground
14 where ap. a limb on which a felled
15 tree lodged had been cut some years before
16 & so broke out a cavity--I thought that such
17 a hole was too good a one not to be
18 improved by some inhabitant of the wood--
19 Perhaps the gray squirrels I had just seen
20 had their nest there--or was not the entrance
21 big enough to admit a screech owl.

22 So I thought I would tap on it & put
23 my ear to the trunk--& see if I could hear
24 anything stirring within it but I heard
25 nothing. Then I concluded¹⁷⁶ to look into
26 it-- So I shinned up--& when I reached
27 up one hand to the hole to pull myself
28 up by it the thought passed through
29 my mind perhaps something may take
30 hold of my fingers--but nothing did--
31 nearly
32 The first limb was ~~on the~~ ^ ~~directly~~ opposite

¹⁷⁵Possibly altered from "at"

¹⁷⁶Altered from "conclude" plus another word or letter

1
 2 to the hole--& resting on this I looked in--
 3 & to my great surprise there squatted
 4 filling the hole which was about 6 inches
 5 deep & 5 to 6 wide--a salmon-brown
 6 not so big as a partridge
 7 bird--^seemingly asleep within 3 inches of the
 8 top & ~~rath~~ close to my face. It was a minute
 9 or two before I made it out to be an owl--~~it~~
 10 It was a salmon brown ^{^177} above--the feathers
 11 or fawn?
 12 shafted with small blackish brown ^{^178} somewhat
 13 {drawing} hastate (?) marks-- greyish toward the ends of
 14 the wings & tail as far as I could see.
 15 A large white circular space about or behind
 16 1/3 of an inch.
 17 eye banded in rear by a pretty broad ^ & quite
 18 conspicuous perpendicular dark brown stripe.
 19 Egret say 1 1/4 or ~~1-1/2~~ inches long sharp triangular
 20 reddish brown without mainly. It lay crowded
 21 in that small space--with its tail somewhat
 22 bent up--& one side of its head turned
 23 up with one egret--& its large ^{dark} ^ eye open
 24 only by a long slit about 1/16 of an inch
 25 wide--~~After~~ visible breathing-- After
 26 a little while I put in one hand an
 27 stroked it repeatedly whereupon it
 28 reclined its head a little lower & closed its
 29 eye entirely. Though curious to know
 30 what was under it I disturbed it
 31 no farther at that time.

¹⁷⁷upside down caret with line connecting caret to "or fawn?" on l. 11
¹⁷⁸Caret cancelled

1 In the mean while the crows were making
2 a great cawing amid & over the pine-
3 tops beyond the swamp--& at intervals I
4 heard the scream of a hawk, prob-- the
5 surviving male henhawk, whom they
6 were pestering (unless they had discovered the
7 male screech owl) & a part of them
8 came cawing about me. This was a
9 very fit place--for hawks & owls to dwell in
10 the thick wood just over a white spruce
11 swamp--in which the glaucous kalmia
12 grows-- The grey squirrels--partridges--hawks
13 & owls all together-- It was prob these screech
14 owls which I heard in moonlight nights
15 hereabouts last fall. V. end of this day.
16 // Birch leafs today--prob some yest. with white
17 // maple-- The Conantum thorn (cock spur?
18 leafs with earliest
19 // That little red stemmed (?) moss has now yellow
20 green oval fruit hanging densely in the sod.
21 // Sweet briar shoots 2 inch long--this one of
22 roses
23 the earlier ~~rubuses~~ to leaf. Put it with early rose
24 The r triflorus up 2 inches or more put it
25 // next after--raspberry for present
26 // At Lees a carex well out yet rad. leaves
27 2 stamens 3 stigmas
28 // ap. one of those on p 554^-- A carex some
29 what like C. caespitosa of Big just beginning in XXX
30 some light colored
31 meadows--dark purple ^ linear spikes somewhat 3 sided
32 This makes large tussocks in meadows--the green leaves & debris standing 6 or 8
33 inches erect
34 in tufts. Polyg. pubescens at Lees in 3 or 4
35// on large tussocks of dead many cut edged blades falling weeping on every side 18 to 20
36 inches long
37 days-- Amelanchier botryapium on rocks
38 // partly open will prob shed pollen tomorrow XXX

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The long narrow unfolded flower buds--
 very pretty with the dark purplish leaves
rose pink without are prettier than the open
 ones--like little cigarettes to compair fair
 with foul. The dark purple fruit
 like fascicles of the staminate flowers of
 the ash¹⁷⁹ on the rocks are now very remark ++
 able--about the size of pignuts & looking some ?
 on the perfectly bare tree
 what like them against the sky^--or like dry alder
 scales or cones--will shed pollen in a day or 2. Oftener one
pedicelled anther or¹⁸⁰ stamen than 2 together--in the very minute
 calyx if it is one-- Young bass¹⁸¹ from seed an
 inch high the 2 leaves remarkable cut
 {drawing}
 Returning by owl's nest about 1 hour
 before sunset-- I climbed up and looked in again.
 The owl was gone but there were 4 nearly
 quite warm
 round dirty brownish white eggs^--on nothing
 but the bits of rotten wood which made the
 MacGillivray describes no eggs of this color--only white & the same with Nuttall
 bottom of the hole-- The eggs were very nearly
 except the great grey owl.
 as large at one end as the othe--slightly oblong
 1 3/8 inches by 1 2/8 as nearly as I could measure
 It would prob. have hatched within a week the young being consid feathered & the
 bill remarkably developed.
 --I took out one. ^Perhaps she heard me
 coming¹⁸² & so left the nest. My bird
 as far as I saw it
 corresponds in color ^ with Wilson%'s S. asia--(//
 but not his Naevia) which Nuttall & others
 consider a young?¹⁸³ bird--though the egg was
 not pure white-- I do not remember that my
 bird was barred or mottled at all. %v the 12th%

¹⁷⁹Possibly altered from another word
¹⁸⁰Possibly "&"
¹⁸¹vertical pencil line through "bass"
¹⁸²Possibly altered from "come"
¹⁸³Possibly inserted

1 Nuttall says
2 Little Screech Owl--Greenland to Florida--
3 chiefly prey on mice--also small birds beetles, crickets,
4 &c--nests in May & June. & lined with &c &c eggs
5 4 to 6-- Several blue-birds black birds & song-spars in one--
6 In cloudy weather come out earlier-- Wilson's thrush
7 attacked one. note in autumn--"hō, hō hō hō hō
8 hō hō, proceeding from high & clear to a low
9 guttural shake or trill."

10 Was not that an owls feather which I
11 found 1/2 mile beyond downy more than 1/2
12 & with base & seperate white points at
13 beyond a dark band at the end?

14 But
15 Was not mine a bird of last year?-- ^ Macgillivray
16 says of owls that the young dif. very little from
17 the old "the older the individ. becomes, the more
18 simple is the coloring; the dark markings dimin-
19 ish in extent, and the finer mottlings are gradually
20 // obliterated." Rhus toxicodendron under rocks leaf.

21 May 8

22 // 5 Am to Gilead--began to leaf yest.
23 Think I saw bank swallows--¹⁸⁴
24 not at all certain
25 // still finger cold.

26 // At noon begs. a cold drizzling rain.
27 a cold may storm wind Easterly
28 which continues at intervals through the

29 // next day.-- Grackle here still-- Cult--

30 // cherry opened flower yest XXX. The rock
31 generally
32 maples (such sized as we ^ have) comes¹⁸⁵ on
33 faster & showes more now¹⁸⁶ than the red--

34 May 9th

35 ? Pm to Anursnack-- The black currant
36 will not bloom for 5 or 6 days. A large

37 // red maple just¹⁸⁷ begun to leaf-- Its keys
38 1 1/2 inches long--by Assabet bridge.

¹⁸⁴"began . . . yest." or "Think . . . swallows" possibly added; no AL in table yet; "still finger cold." may be new paragraph, depending which lines are considered added

¹⁸⁵Possibly altered from "come"

¹⁸⁶vertical pencil line through "now"

¹⁸⁷vertical pencil line through "just"

1 %431%

2 Castilleja show red one but will not bloom //

3 under a week prob. The same of Erigeron ?

4 C. alternifolia & Paniculata beg-- to leaf-- //

5 Scared up 3 quails in the stubble in G-- M //

6 Barretts orchard-- They go off ~~with~~ partridge

7 like--from within 2 rods, with a sharp whist-

8 ling whirr. Heard methinks a white throat

9 sparrow? sing very much like the beginning

10 of a cat bird's song--could see no other

11 bird--thought it a catbird at first. See

12 several of these sparrows yet. //

13 May 10

14 Can. Plum opens petals today XX & leafs //

15 Domestic Plum only leafs. Sum. yel-bird //

16 Pm to Beeches

17 to leaf

18 Young red maples are generally later ^ than

19 Yound sugar do--hardly¹⁸⁸ began before yest.

20 & large white--are not so forward as young sugar--

21 Muhlenburg's Willow leafed 4 or 5 days--young- //

22 yel-- birch leaf--say 2 days. In callitriche pool //

23 hear a bull-frog belch--or dump-- Is that

24 a proserpinacea with finely divided leaves ?

25 in this pool? Hear a tree toad or maybe //

26 a woodpecker tapping. A juncus in Hubb's //

27 Close 2 feet high & big as a crows quill.

28 Round leafed cornel--leaf tomorrow XXX also pignut //

29 leaf today¹⁸⁹ in some places-- The beach leaf buds are

30 more back ap. than chestnut¹⁹⁰--but some

¹⁸⁸vertical pencil line through this and following lines

¹⁸⁹Possibly altered from "in"

¹⁹⁰vertical pencil line through "chestnut"

1 // leaves are expanding with the flower buds--
2 which are now opened so as to show the separate
3 buds-- V. Pennsylvanicum--early blueberry in
4 // bloom XXX prob. may shed pollens a yel. red-
5 poll still.
6 May 11
7 // Am. To Island-- Only the lower limbs
8 of Bass begin to leaf yest-- A crow-black
9 // birds nest--about 8 feet up a White maple
10 loose
11 over water a large ^ nest without some
12 8 inches high--bet. a small twig & main
13 trunk--composed of coarse bark shreds
14 without mud
15 & dried last years grass ^ ~~stem~~--within deep
16 & size of robins nest--with 4 pale green
17 eggs streaked & blotched with black
18 young bird not begun to form.
19 // & brown. took one^. Hear & see Yel. throat
20 // vireo. See oatseed spawn--a mass
21 as big as fist on bottom--of brown jelly
22 composed of smaller globules each with a
23 fish-like tadpole color of a seed.
24 Pm to Andromeda polifolia
25 // Some young elms beg. to leaf. Butternut leafs
26 // ap. tomorrow-- Larger rock maples¹⁹¹ not
27 // yet beg. to leaf--later considerably¹⁹² than
28 large white maples & somewhat than large
29 // red. Ap. Andromeda will not open before
30 just
31 the 15th or 16 & the buck bean now ^ budded
32 above the water not before the 20th ~~Jun~~
33 ? Juniper repens will not open ap before the 14th or 15th

¹⁹¹vertical pencil line through "maples"

¹⁹²vertical pencil through this and following lines

1
2 Canoe birch just sheds pollen¹⁹³ XXX Very //
3 golden
4 handsome drooping ^ catkins sometimes 2
5 or 3 together some 5 1/4 inches long. The leaves
6 some //
7 of ^ youn sprouts already 3/4 inch over--but of
8 the trees not started The 2nd Amelanchier just
9 sheds pollen XXX in a swamp-- I trod on //
10 a large black-snake which as soon as //
11 I stepped again went off swiftly down the
12 hill toward the swamp with head erect like
13 a racer-- Looking closely I found another
14 left behind partly concealed by the dry leaves.
15 They were lying amid the leaves in this open
16 wood E of Beck-stow's amid the sweet fern
17 & huckleberry bushes-- The remaining one ran-
18 out its tongue at me--& vibrated its tail
19 swiftly making quite a noise on the leaves--
20 then darted forward--¹⁹⁴passed round
21 an oak¹⁹⁵ & whipped itself straight down
22 into a hole at its base 1 1/2 inches over--
23 After its head had entered its tail was
24 not long in following. You can hardly
25 walk in a thick pine wood now--especially
26 a swamp--but presently--you will have
27 a crow or 2 over your head, either silently
28 flitting over--to spy what you would be
29 at--& if its nest is in danger or angrily
30 cawing. It is most impressive when--looking
31 for their nest, you first detect the

¹⁹³"sheds pollen" possibly altered from "shed pollens"

¹⁹⁴dash may be up stroke of "p"

¹⁹⁵"an oak" possibly altered from other words, include "&" and "&c"

1 presence of the bird by its shadow--
2 Was not that a bay wing which I
3 heard sing--Ah, twar twe twar, twit
4 // twit twit twit-twe? V. pedata sheds
5 a great many out on the ~~20~~ 13th
6 pollen^--the first I have chanced to see.
7 // I hear some kind of owl partially hooting
8 now at 4 pm I know not whether
9 far off or near--
10 May 12
11 Cold enough for¹⁹⁶ a fire this many
12 a day-- 6 Am to Hill.
13 I hear the myrtle bird's te-e-e, te-e e-,
14 %white throat sparrows%
15 t t t, t. t t clear flute-like whistle.
16 // & see 8 or 10 crow b. birds together.
17 Pm to Lee's Cliff.
18 // C says he saw upland plover 2 or 3
19 // nights ago. The sweet gale begs to leaf.
20 // The 1. I perceive the fragrance of
21 the Salix alba now in bloom more
22 than 1/8 of a mile distant-- They now
23 adorn the causeways with their
24 yellow blossoms & resound with the
25 bumble
26 // hum of ^ bees &c. &c I have found half
27 a dozen robins' nests with eggs already--
28 1 in an elm 2 in a salix alba--1 in a
29 salix nigra--1 in a pitch pine &c &c
30 I find the partridge nest of the

¹⁹⁶vertical pencil line through "for"

1
 2 7th ult partially covered with dry oak leaves--&
 3 2 more eggs only = 3 in all--cold. Prob-- the
 4 bird is killed. As I approached the owls nest
 5 I saw her run past the hole up into that
 6 part of the hollow above it--& probably she
 7 was there when I thought she had flown on
 8 I looked in & at first did not know what I saw--
 9 the 7th.^ One of the 3 remaining eggs was
 10 hatched--& a little downy white young one
 11 2 or 3 times as long as an egg lay helpless between
 12 the 2 remaining eggs-- Also a dead white-
 13 bellied mouse (mus leucopus) lay with them its
 14 tail curled round one of the eggs. Wilson
 15 says of his Red Owl--strix asio--with which
 16 this ap. corresponds--& not with the mottled--
 17 though my egg is not "pure white"--that "the
 18 young are at first covered with a whitish down."
 19 heard an oven-bird-- //
 20 Passing on into the Miles' Meadow--
 21 was struck by the interesting¹⁹⁷ tender green //
 22 of the jut springing foliage--of the aspens
 23 app%l%es¹⁹⁸ cherries (more reddish) &c It is now
 24 especially interesting while you can see
 25 through it--and also the tender yellowish
 26 green grass shooting up in the ^ bare river
 27 meadows {~~am~~} & prevailing over the dark
 28 & sere. Watched a black & white creeper
 29 from Bittern cliff-- A very neat & active
 30 bird--exploring the limbs on all sides--& looking¹⁹⁹
 31 3 or 4 ways almost at once for insects.

¹⁹⁷vertical pencil line through "interesting"
¹⁹⁸"l" added in pencil
¹⁹⁹Possibly altered from "look"

1 Now & then it raises its head a little opens its
2 bill & without closing it utters its faint
3 seeser seeser seeser. From beyond the
4 orchard saw a large ~~ha~~ bird far over
5 the Cliff hill--which with my glass I
6 // soon made out to be a fish-hawk advan-
7 cing. Even at that dist. half a mile off
8 I distinguished its gull like body--(piratelike
9 fishing body fit to dive) & that its wings
10 did not curved upward at the ends like
11 a hen hawk's--(at least I couldnt see that
12 they did) but rather hung down. It came
13 on steadily, bent on fishing--with ^{long & undulating} ^ heavy ^ wings
14 with an easy sauntering flight--over
15 the river to the pond--& hovered over
16 Pleasant meadow a long time--hovering
17 from time to time in one spot--when more
18 than a hundred feet high--then making
19 a very short circle or 2 & hovering again--then
20 sauntering off against the woodside--
21 At length he reappeared passed down-
22 ward over the shruboak-plain & alighted
23 on an oak (of course now bare)^. ^{standing this time ap. lengthwise on the limb} Soon
24 took to wing again & went to fishing down
25 ^{100 feet high} the stream. ^When just below Bittern Cliff I
26 observed by its motions that it observed some-
27 thing-- It made a broad circle of observation
28 in its course--lowering itself somewhat
29 ^{steep} then by one or 2 ~~side fli~~ side wise flights
30 it reached the water = & as near
31 as intervening trees would let me see
32 skimmed over it & endeovred to clutch
33 its pray in passing.-- It failed the

1
2 first time but prob. succeeded the 2nd. Then it
3 leisurely winged its way to a tall bare tree on the east
4 ap. pluming itself
5 end of the Cliffs. & there we left it^-- It had a
6 very white belly--& indeed appeared all white beneath
7 its body-- I saw broad ~~dark~~ black lines between
8 The brown thrasher is a powerful
9 the white crown & throat. singer--he is 1/4 of a mile off across the
10 river where he sounded with 15 rods.
11 Hear the night warbler-- Slip. elm leaf //

12 more forward than the common--say yest. Only //

13 young common yet. White ash begs to shed-
14 pollen at Lee's yest. or possibly day before XXX-- //

15 but no leaves on the same-- Hear the first creak
16 of a cricket beneath the rocks there-- //

17 So serene & composing-- Methinks it surpasses
18 the song of all birds--sings from everlasting
19 to everlasting. Ap a thousand little slender catch-
20 flies shooting up on the top of the cliff. The red oak //

21 or--1 day
22 there leafed a day or 2 ^ earlier than hickory--&
23 the black near it not yet. Rhus radicans leafed //

24 spar
25 there a day or 2-- See one white throat ^ still. //

26 The hearing of the cricket whets my eyes.
27 I see on or 2 long lighter & smoother streakes
28 across the rippled pond from west to east--
29 which preserve their form remarkably--only
30 are bent somewhat at last. The zephyr
31 does not strike the surface from over the
32 broad button bush row--till after a rod
33 or so leaving a perfectly smooth border
34 with a fine irregular shaded edge where
35 the rippling begins. I now begin to distinguish
36 where at a distance the amelanchier botryapium
37 with its white against the russet is waving in //

38 the wind. Under Lee's C. about 1 rod east
39 pale
40 of the ash--am surprised to find some ^ yellow

- 1 Clearer weather 1²⁰² 27
- 2 Butterflies 1
- 3 Pratt's sweetbriar 1
- 4 Winged ants 1
- 5 Flowers 1 & 2
- 6 Walk with Pratt 1
- 7 Willow in morning 2
- 8 My little ~~snap~~ turtles 3--10--26
- 9 To Climbing Fern 3
- 10 Galls 3--9--13
- 11 To F H. Pond by moonlight 3
- 12 Waterless viscid (?) 4
- 13 Owls 6--18
- 14 Berries 7
- 15 River fall²⁰³ & wreck 7
- 16 To Sam Barretts Pond 7
- 17 Drought--8--9
- 18 Saw dust in river 8
- 19 Birch lice (?) exuviae 8
- 20 Sam Barretts Pond 9
- 21 Cranberries 9
- 22 Pigeons 10
- 23 Blue Heron 10
- 24 Locusts 10
- 25 Birds 10--13
- 26 Distant thunder Shower 11
- 27 Water warm again 12
- 28 Aut. tints 13--24
- 29 Acorns 13
- 30 Cracks in ground 13
- 31 Fall 14
- 32 Marsh hawk 14

²⁰² Material on this page is written in pencil in two columns in MS, with a vertical line in the middle of the page; the second column is not completely filled.

²⁰³ Possibly "fell"

- 1 To Baker farm by moonlight 15
- 2 Sounds in evening 15--6--7--8--9 &c
- 3 A-Graping²⁰⁴ 19--26
- 4 Clams 19
- 5 Garfield 21--4--6
- 6 Snap-turtles 21--3
- 7 Brant 22
- 8 Otter 22
- 9 Musquash 22--3
- 10 Bidens Cernua 23
- 11 Aster of Hub. swamp. 23
- 12 Pickerel 26
- 13 Fall rain 27 & new greenness
- 14 Failure of fungi-- 28
- 15 Birds (what heard) 28.

²⁰⁴"Graping" written over "graping"