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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 Flowering<sup>1</sup> 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 moon<sup>2</sup>--bats flying about.

---

<sup>1</sup> Cancelled in pencil.

<sup>2</sup>vertical pencil line through word

1 skaters &  
2 ^ water bugs? like sparks<sup>3</sup> 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 in<sup>4</sup> one  
13 spot on the white lily pads-- Some  
14 willows for relief in the distance on the  
15 right. It was Ossianic.  
16 <sup>5</sup>(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.)<sup>6</sup>  
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

---

<sup>3</sup>Vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "moon &..."

<sup>4</sup>"in" blotted

<sup>5</sup> Vertical line in left margin alongside lines 16 and 17

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

1  
2 distinct impression on the<sup>7</sup> 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 part<sup>8</sup>--then a little dab of earth--  
19 & after some water near you. Looking up  
20 the reach beyond Clam<sup>9</sup> 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. Hill<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup>vertical pencil line runs length of page

<sup>8</sup>vertical pencil line through "part"

<sup>9</sup>"Clam" altered from lower case (see "Shell")

<sup>10</sup>horizontal pencil line under word runs into margin

1                                   %transparent%  
2 NB seen blue through the<sup>11</sup> %^% mist--was as  
3     large & imposing as <sup>12</sup>Wachusett--&  
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--

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<sup>11</sup>vertical pencil line from here through rest of day's entry  
<sup>12</sup> "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--are<sup>13</sup> now the only Whortle  
 berries which are quite fresh. The feverwort berries  
 began to turn about a fortnight ago. Now quite  
 yellow.

Pm Up Assabet<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup>

They form floating masses of wreck--  
 small siums & %I observe} that also%  
 &<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup>This is a fall  
 %become rotten--though many are still green%  
 phenomenon. The river weeds<sup>18</sup> %^% fall or are loosened.

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

1 the water rises--the winds<sup>19</sup> come & they  
2 are drifted to the shore--& the water is  
3 cleared.<sup>20</sup>  
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 fairly<sup>21</sup> 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

---

<sup>19</sup>vertical pencil line from here through following line

<sup>20</sup>horizontal pencil line under this line runs width of page

<sup>21</sup>pencil 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. some<sup>22</sup> of its leaves a  
13 very deep & brilliant scarlet--equal to any leaves  
14 in this respect. Some waxwork<sup>23</sup> 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 handsome<sup>24</sup> pear- //  
28 shaped cranberries {drawing} not uncommon  
29 which may be a permanent var. dif. from  
30 the common rounded ones.

---

<sup>22</sup>pencil line through "some" and "brilliant scarlet" on following line  
<sup>23</sup>pencil line through "waxwork" and "green" on following line  
<sup>24</sup>vertical 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  
 2 incessant flashes that I remember to have  
 3 seen. It must be 20 miles off at least  
 4 for I can hardly hear the thunder at all.  
 5 The almost incessant flashes reveal  
 6 the form of the cloud--at least the  
 7 upper & lower edge of it--but it stretches  
 8 N & S along the horizon further than  
 9 we see-- Every minute I see the  
 10 crinkled lightning intensely bright dart to  
 11 earth--or forkedly along the cloud--  
 12 It does not always dart direct to earth  
 13 but sometimes<sup>25</sup> very crookedly like  
 14 the bough of a tree {drawing} or along  
 15                   The forked thunderbolt<sup>26</sup>  
 16 the cloud forkedly-- It seems  
 17 like a tremendous dark battery bearing  
 18 down on us, with an incessant fire kept  
 19 up behind it. And each time ap-- it  
 20 strikes the earth or something on it with  
 21 terrific violence. We feel the rush of the  
 22 cool wind while the thunder is yet scarcely audi-  
 23 ble. The flashes were in fact incessant for an  
 24 hour or more though lighting up dif. parts  
 25 of the horizon--now the edges of the cloud--  
 26 now far along the horizon--showing a clearer  
 27           beneath the cloud  
 28 golden space ^ where rain is falling. through which  
 29 stream tortuously to earth the brilliant bolts.  
 30 It is a visible striking or launching of bolts

---

<sup>25</sup> Followed by a mark that might be a canceled period or comma.  
<sup>26</sup>written as a caption under drawing

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 horizon<sup>27</sup> 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-sides<sup>28</sup>  
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?

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<sup>27</sup>"but . . . horizon" marked off by an ink line

<sup>28</sup>"its . . . broad-sides" marked off by an ink line

1  
2 The checker berries are just<sup>29</sup> 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 leaves<sup>30</sup>--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 that<sup>31</sup> of yesterday on the swamp  
24 white oak & the cast steel-soap galls. I think  
25 I may say that large<sup>32</sup> 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 or<sup>33</sup> squarish vib. nudum

---

<sup>29</sup>pencil line through "just"

<sup>30</sup>vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "is yellow..."

<sup>31</sup>"that" possibly altered from "the"

<sup>32</sup>pencil vertical line through line

<sup>33</sup>vertical 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 may<sup>34</sup> 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

---

<sup>34</sup>"It may" altered from another word, poss. "I how"

1

2 libra the 23d inst.  
 3 The wind has gone down.<sup>35</sup> & 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 west<sup>36</sup>--above & beneath-- The  
 26 or reddish<sup>37</sup>  
 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--<sup>38</sup> 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

---

<sup>35</sup>two vertical pencil lines run length of page

<sup>36</sup>"in our west" cancelled in pencil

<sup>37</sup>"or reddish" cancelled in pencil

<sup>38</sup>"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 walking<sup>39</sup> 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 if<sup>40</sup> 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 surface<sup>41</sup>. The twilight had now paled  
33 (lost its red & dun) & faintly illumined the  
34%//% high<sup>42</sup> bank. I observed no firefly this  
35 evening nor the 4th ult.<sup>43</sup> The moon had not

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<sup>39</sup>vertical pencil line from here through length of page

<sup>40</sup>"if" reformed

<sup>41</sup>Line in pencil from below "surface" and into the left margin.

<sup>42</sup>Line in pencil from below "high" into left margin.

<sup>43</sup>pencil line following "ult--"



1  
2 yet risen & there was a half<sup>44</sup> hour of  
3                   however  
4 dusk--in which ^ we saw the reflections  
5 of the trees-- Any peculiarity in the form  
6                   if it leans one side or has a pointed top, for instance,  
7 of a tree or other object^--is revealed in  
8 the reflection by being doubled & so insisted on.  
9 -- We detected thus distant maples pines &  
10 oaks--& they were seen to be related to the river  
11 as ~~distant~~ mts in the horizon--are by day.<sup>45</sup>  
12         Night is the time to hear, our ears took in  
13 every sound from the meadows & the village.  
14 At first as we were disturbed by the screeching  
15 of the locomotive & rumbling of the cars--  
16 --but soon wee left to the fainter natural  
17 sounds--the creaking of the crickets--& the  
18                   I am not sure that I heard it the latter part of the  
19                   %mole cricket%   evening,  
20 little rana palustris<sup>46</sup>^--& the shrilling of other  
21 crickets (?)--the occasional faint lowing of  
22                   distant  
23 a cow--& the ^ barking of dogs, as in a whisper.  
24 Our ears drank in every sound. I heard<sup>47</sup>  
25 once or twice a dumping frog. This was while                   //  
26 we lay off Nut Meadow Brook waiting for  
27 the moon to rise. She burned her way slowly thro'  
28 small--but thick clouds--and as fast as she  
29 triumphed over them & rose over them  
30 they appeared pale and shrunken like the<sup>48</sup>  
31 ghosts of their former selves. Meanwhile  
32 we measured the breadth of the clear cope  
33 over our heads which she would ere long  
34 traverse--& while she was concealed--looked  
35 up to the few faint stars in the zenith

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<sup>44</sup>vertical pencil line from here through length of page  
<sup>45</sup> Horizontal pencil line extending to edge of page from below "day."  
<sup>46</sup> "rana palustris" canceled in pencil  
<sup>47</sup> Horizontal pencil line extending to right edge of page from below "heard"  
<sup>48</sup> Horizontal pencil line extending to right edge of page from below "the".

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 could<sup>49</sup> ~~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 ball<sup>50</sup> 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 was<sup>51</sup> not clothed with that blue  
14 veil--like a mt which it wore on the 4th  
15 reflected  
16 The<sup>52</sup> ^ shadow of the Hill was black as night  
17 & we seemed to be paddling directly into  
18 a rod or two before us  
19 it<sup>53</sup> ^ 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 gleaming<sup>54</sup> 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 &<sup>55</sup> 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

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<sup>49</sup> Horizontal pencil line in left margin extending from below "could".

<sup>50</sup> Horizontal pencil line in left margin extending from below "ball".

<sup>51</sup> "was" altered from "ha": no AL necessary

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

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

<sup>54</sup> Horizontal pencil line in left margin extending from below "gleaming".

<sup>55</sup> 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. They<sup>56</sup>  
 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.<sup>57</sup>  
 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 the<sup>58</sup>  
 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 sound<sup>59</sup>  
 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--<sup>60</sup>

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

1 C.<sup>61</sup> had on f a red flannel shirt over  
2 his thin coat--since he expected it would  
3 %& looked like one%  
4 be<sup>62</sup> 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

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

<sup>62</sup>horizontal 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.)  
 His<sup>63</sup> 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  
 fulls--appear to be gathered from the river bottom  
 fine pontederias--sium--fontinalis &c &c  
 decayed--but somewhat adhesive. See  
 fresh<sup>64</sup> 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 like<sup>65</sup>--which has been

---

<sup>63</sup>Preceded by false start  
<sup>64</sup>Possibly "Fresh" altered from lower case  
<sup>65</sup>"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 brown<sup>66</sup> 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 it<sup>67</sup> baited with a fish--) The  
36 with a string 10 feet long attached

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<sup>66</sup>"brown" possibly added in margin  
<sup>67</sup>"it" possibly written over "wit"



1  
2 young but just hatched faced him--  
3 & he caught the old one by the legs  
4 thus--  
5 I have brought home a half bushel  
6 of grapes to scent my chamber with.  
7 It is impossible to get them home in a  
8 basket with all their rich bloom on them.  
9 which, no less than the form of the clusters,  
10 makes their beauty. As I paddled  
11 home with my basket of grapes in the  
12 bow every now & then their perfume was  
13 wafted to me in the stern & I thought that  
14 I was passing a richly laden vine on shore--  
15 Some goldfinches twitter over while I am  
16 pulling down the vines from the birch tops--  
17 The ripest ~~fall~~ rattle off & strew the  
18 ground before I reach the clusters--  
19 or ~~the~~ while I am standing on tiptoe  
20 & endeavoring gently to break the tough  
21 peduncle--the petiole of a leaf gets en-  
22 tangled in the bunch & I am compelled  
23 to strip them all off loosely.  
24 "Yet once more -- --<sup>68</sup> -- -- --  
25 -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --  
26 I come to pluck your berries harsh & crude:  
27 And with forc'd fingers rude,  
28 Shatter your leaves before the mellowing year:"  
29 {3-4 blank lines}

---

<sup>68</sup>vertical 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 sternothaerus<sup>69</sup>-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 are<sup>70</sup> 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

---

<sup>69</sup> Correct spelling: "sternothoerus"

<sup>70</sup> "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.<sup>71</sup>

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 hawks<sup>72</sup>--

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 10<sup>73</sup> 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

---

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

<sup>72</sup>Possibly "black-tipt-hawks"

<sup>73</sup>Blotched; 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?<sup>74</sup> 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~~ linearifolia & A. undulatus  
11 // ap. now in prime.  
12 Sep. 11th  
13 Measured today the little sternothaerus<sup>75</sup> 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 & <sup>flippers</sup> ~~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.<sup>76</sup>  
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

---

<sup>74</sup>"?" possibly inserted

<sup>75</sup>Correct spelling: "sternothoerus"

<sup>76</sup>Possible 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 <sup>&</sup> without attracting  
 21 attention. Not only was it made of a  
 22 color and form (like a bit of coal)  
 23 but<sup>77</sup> 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

---

<sup>77</sup>Either smudged or cancelled

1 that it ~~meditates~~--uses cunning & meditates  
2 reach  
3 how it may<sup>78</sup> 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!

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<sup>78</sup>Followed 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 to<sup>79</sup> show  
the colors of some flowers--that with  
an absence of light their own colors are  
more conspicuous and grateful against

---

<sup>79</sup>Blotted.

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 valisneria<sup>80</sup> & heartleaf--  
12 ~~are~~ (with its thread like stems) are added<sup>81</sup> 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 tipt 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

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<sup>80</sup>Correct spelling: "vallisneria".

<sup>81</sup>Possibly 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.<sup>82</sup>  
22 Thorn apples are now commonly ripe<sup>83</sup> //

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.<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>82</sup>Possible short line

<sup>83</sup>This and following line bracketed in ink in right margin

<sup>84</sup>This 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 maple<sup>85</sup> 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 mitchella<sup>86</sup> 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 stand<sup>87</sup> 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 have<sup>88</sup> dropped--more  
30 // than walnuts-- A few raspberries still fresh.

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<sup>85</sup>vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "spreading than..."

<sup>86</sup>vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "Medeola..."

<sup>87</sup>vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "purple centers..."

<sup>88</sup>double 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 <sup>crosswise the river</sup>  
 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 <sup>SE</sup>  
 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 cranberries<sup>89</sup> 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

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<sup>89</sup>vertical pencil line through the rest of the page

1  
 2 cranberry season. <sup>90</sup>The river has risen about  
 3 a foot within a week--& now the weeds //  
 4 in mid stream have<sup>91</sup> generally disappeared  
 5 washed away or drowned-- The ranunculus  
 6 stems & leaves are added to the floating wreck.<sup>92</sup>  
 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

---

<sup>90</sup>horizontal pencil line starts over "a foot..." and runs over this line at "The river..."  
<sup>91</sup>vertical pencil line from here though line beginning "stems &..."  
<sup>92</sup>horizontal pencil runs under this line for width of page

1 of small<sup>93</sup> 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 look<sup>94</sup> 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 none<sup>95</sup>-- 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)

---

<sup>93</sup>"small" possibly altered to upper case

<sup>94</sup>vertical pencil line from here through length of page

<sup>95</sup>Possibly 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 on<sup>96</sup> 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

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<sup>96</sup>vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "where yellowing..."

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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 --they<sup>97</sup> 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

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<sup>97</sup>Possibly 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 <sup>cuts</sup> about  
 28 the same with our fresh<sup>98</sup> 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

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<sup>98</sup>Followed by possible cancelled period

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diamonds (said she valued at two hundred thousand dollars) that she was escorted in her carriage by gendarmes, for fear of robbery." This illustrates the close connexion between luxury & robbery--but commonly the gendarmes are further off.

Sep 16th

Sophia & mother returned from Wachusett-- S. saw much bayberry in Princeton.

Pm. to Fringed gentian meadow over assabet & to Dugan Desert--

I see a wood tortoise in the woods. Why is it there now? One man thinks there are not so many pigeons as last week--that it is too cold for them. There have been slight a few ^ frosts in some places. The clematis is feathered the asclepias Cornuti begun to discount. I see many hardhacks in the lichen pasture by Tommy Wheeler's<sup>99</sup> which are leafing out again conspicuously. I see little flocks of chip-birds along the roadside & on the apple trees showing their light undersides when they rise. I find the mud turtle's eggs at the hole desert all hatched. There is a small ^ by which they have made their exit sometime before the last rain (of the 14th) & since I was here on the 4th. There is however one still left in the Nest-- As they <sup>eggs</sup> were laid the 7th of June, it

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<sup>99</sup>Altered from lower case

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.<sup>100</sup>

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

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The<sup>101</sup> first sternothaerus has remained buried in the mud in the tub--from the first. & the snap. turtle also for the last few days.

The locust sounds rare now-- I make the oak at the S. E. corner of the Ag. Ground to be a scarlet oak--not yellow barked--leaf more deeply cut--lighter green--narrower at point--acorn more pointed its <sup>upper</sup> ^ scales not recurved off from the acorn like the black--

//  
//

Monday Sep 18th 54

Vib nudum in flower again XXX Fringed Gentian near Peter's out a short time, but as there is so little and that has been cut off by the mowers & this is not the leading stem that blooms--it may after all be earlier Frost bitten in Hub's close the 21st (or before) than the hazel. ^I see the potatoes all black with frosts that have occurred within a night or 2 in Moore's swamp.

//

Tuesday Sep 19th

Pm to Conantum<sup>102</sup>-- ~~Ivy~~ V. Lentago berries now perhaps in prime though there are but few blue ones--

//

Thinking ~~of~~ this afternoon of the prospect of my writing lectures & going abroad to read them the next winter, I realized how incomparably great the advantages<sup>103</sup>

Another bet 1 & 3 Pm the 18th-- Another found out on the morning of the 19th--another was dug out the 25th, (All hatched then but one egg which I have)  
A snap. turtle had come out on the morn. of the 20th one at least--  
" "  
another " " "on the morn of the 23rd sep.  
another " " " " " " 26th<sup>104</sup>

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<sup>101</sup>Possibly added in margin  
<sup>102</sup>vertical pencil line through this and the following line  
<sup>103</sup>horizontal pencil line under this line goes the width of the page  
<sup>104</sup>Lines 30-36 are a continuation of the addition to the bottom of p. 46. It probably belongs in the LR table. It is not presently in the 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 pignuts<sup>105</sup> 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  
that wholesome ^ dark chestnut(?)  
color-- Did I see a returned yellow<sup>106</sup> 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.

---

<sup>105</sup>pencil line through "pignuts"  
<sup>106</sup>"yellow" written over another word

1 // See to day quite a flock of what I think  
2 rusty  
3 must be ^ grackles--about the willows &  
4 button bushes.  
5 Thursday Sep. 21st Pm to Flints P.  
6 // The first frost in your yard last night--  
7 the grass white & stiff in the morning.  
8 The musk melon vines are now blackened--  
9 in the sun-- There have been some frosts  
10 in low grounds about a week-- The fore-  
11 noon is cold & I have a fire--but  
12 it is a fine clear day as I find when  
13 I come forth to walk in the afternoon  
14 --a fine grained air with a seething  
15 or shimmering in it, as I look over  
16 the fields--days which remind me  
17 of the Indian summer that is to  
18 come. Do not these days always suc-  
19 ceed the first frosty mornings?  
20 The woods generally may now be  
21 // said to be fairly beginning to turn--  
22 (this with the first noticeable frost)  
23 the red maples especially at a distance  
24 begin to light their fires--some turning  
25  $\mathcal{E}$   
26 yellow--& within the woods many  
27 e.g. scarlet & black  
28 oak ^ & chestnut and other leaves  
29 begin to show their colors.  
30 Those leaves of the young white oaks which  
31 dull many incline to crimson  
32 have changed--^ salmon--crimson scarlet ^  
33 --are mostly within the tree & partially

1  
 2                                   They are handsomest looking  
 3                                   up from below-- --the light  
 4   concealed by the green leaves.<sup>107</sup> ^ 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 acorn<sup>108</sup> 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 wild<sup>109</sup> 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--%

---

<sup>107</sup>Slanted line follows "leaves.", probably to set off added material.

<sup>108</sup>pencil line through "acorn"

<sup>109</sup>vertical 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 begin<sup>110</sup> 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 withal<sup>111</sup>. The frosts come to  
12 ripen the year the days like<sup>112</sup> fruits--persimmons.  
13 What if we were<sup>113</sup> 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-- Grape<sup>114</sup> leaves in<sup>115</sup> 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

---

<sup>110</sup>pencil line through "begin"

<sup>111</sup>Possibly altered from something, "in the"?

<sup>112</sup>pencil line through "like"

<sup>113</sup>vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "are turned..."

<sup>114</sup>Altered from "Graped"?

<sup>115</sup>vertical pencil line through this and following line

1 horizon--the thin haze in the atmosphere,  
2 north & south along the W. horizon ~~5~~<sup>W</sup>  
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 <sup>116</sup>site--while in ~~the~~ black oak ^ these veins &  
19 nearly  
20 hence lobes are not ^ opposite

21 By moonlight<sup>117</sup> 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

---

<sup>116</sup>"Not general" written in pencil vertically in the left margin.

<sup>117</sup>vertical 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 here<sup>118</sup> & 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--.

---

<sup>118</sup>vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "in prime...."

1           Bull says it is only the<sup>119</sup> 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 Flowering<sup>120</sup> 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 frosts<sup>121</sup>--Grapes--button-bushes  
 18 what else? Prob. some asters & g. rods.<sup>122</sup>  
 19 //           Monroe has shot a loon today.  
 20                               Sunday Sep. 24.  
 21 //           6 Am to Hill.  
 22           Low fog--like veil on meadows--<sup>123</sup>  
 23 On the large sassafras trees<sup>124</sup> 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

---

<sup>119</sup>vertical pencil line through this and the following lines

<sup>120</sup>vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "withering &..."

<sup>121</sup>pencil line through "first frosts"

<sup>122</sup>"Prob. . . . rods." possibly added

<sup>123</sup>"Low . . . meadows--" possibly added

<sup>124</sup>vertical pencil line from here through end of paragraph



1  
 2 low  
 3 a confused ^ jingle. Afterward hear from a willow by //  
 4 river--a clear strain from a song sparrow!

5 Man identifies himself with earth  
 6 %Spirit is strange to him--he is afraid of ghosts%  
 7 or the material--just as he who has the  
 8 least tinge of African blood in his veins  
 9 regards himself as a Negro--& is identified  
 10 with that race.

11 The vib. lentago berries<sup>125</sup> now turn blue black  
 12 last  
 13 in pocket as the nudum did--which ^ are now //  
 14 all gone--while the lentago is now just in season.

15 Pm

16 By boat to Grape Cliff<sup>126</sup>. These are the  
 17 stages in the river fall. 1st the 2 vars  
 18 of yel-- lily-pads beg. to decay & blacken--  
 19 (long ago). 2<sup>127</sup>nd the first fall rains come  
 20 & cool  
 21 after dog days & raise ^ the river & winds wash  
 22 the decaying sparganium &c &c--to the  
 23 shores & clear the channel more or less--  
 24 4th when the first harder frosts come (as  
 25 this year the 21st & 22nd ult--) the button bushes  
 26 which before had attained only a dull mixed  
 27 yellow--are suddenly bitten--wither & turn  
 28 brown, all but the protected parts--

29 Our first fall is so gradual as not  
 30 to make so much impression--but the  
 31 last suddenly & conspicuously gives a  
 32 fall aspect to the scenery of the river--

---

<sup>125</sup>vertical pencil line through paragraph

<sup>126</sup>vertical pencil line through bottom of page

<sup>127</sup>"2" possibly altered from "1"

1 The button bushes<sup>128</sup> 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%  
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

---

<sup>128</sup>vertical pencil line through end of paragraph

1  
 2 the poison (venenat)<sup>129</sup> 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 generally<sup>130</sup> 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--reddish<sup>131</sup> & brilliant  
 35 scarlet all together-- The brightest hazel  
 36 dim vermillion. Some red maple sprouts

---

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

1 clear scarlet deepening to purplish--

2 The panicled cornel<sup>132</sup> 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 know<sup>133</sup> 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.

---

<sup>132</sup>vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "conspicuously..."  
<sup>133</sup>vertical 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 the<sup>134</sup> 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 leaves<sup>135</sup> 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~~<sup>136</sup> 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

---

<sup>134</sup>vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "It looks..."  
<sup>135</sup>vertical pencil line through this and following lines  
<sup>136</sup>vertical 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 trees<sup>139</sup> 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 hips<sup>140</sup> 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 with<sup>141</sup>  
26 thick molting beds--as front of Hubbards--  
27 perhaps earlier than usual--

28 // Bass berries dry & brown<sup>142</sup>-- 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 those<sup>143</sup> young trees  
34 --& I find on descending--that it is com-  
35 monly so as yet with the scarlet oak

---

<sup>139</sup>vertical pencil line through line beginning "seen from..."

<sup>140</sup>vertical pencil line through line beginning "of the moon..."

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

<sup>142</sup>vertical pencil line from here through bottom of page

<sup>143</sup>"those" possibly "these"



1  
 2 which is the brightest<sup>144</sup>-- 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 these<sup>145</sup> leaves have ~~b~~ only  
 6 begun to be sprinkled with bloody spots &  
 7 stains-- Sometimes as if<sup>146</sup> 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 leaves<sup>147</sup> 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 had<sup>148</sup> 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

---

<sup>144</sup>vertical pencil line through line beginning "begun to..."  
<sup>145</sup>Altered from "the"  
<sup>146</sup>Possibly altered from another word  
<sup>147</sup>vertical pencil line through line beginning "withered..."  
<sup>148</sup>Altered 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 felt<sup>149</sup>  
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 microscope<sup>150</sup> 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.

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<sup>149</sup>Possibly altered from "fell"

<sup>150</sup>Possibly underlined

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Sep 30th

Pm-- via Assabet to the Monarda road. I am surprised to see that some red maples which were so brilliant a day or 2 days ago have already shed their leaves-- & they cover the land and the water quite thickly-- I see a countless fleet of them slowly carried around in the still bay by the leaning hemlocks-- I find a fine tupelo near Sam Barretts--now all turned scarlet--& find that it has borne much fruit--small oval bluish berries those I see--and a very little not ripe is still left-- Grey calls it a blackish blue-- It seems to be contemporary with the Sassafrass Both these trees are now particularly forward & conspicuous in their autumnal change. I detect the sassafrass by its peculiar orange scarlet 1/2 mile distant. Acorns are generally now turned brown The ground is strown with them & in paths they are crushed by feet & wheels & fallen or falling. ^The wht oak ones are dark & the most glossy-- The clear bright scarlet leaves of the smooth sumach--in many places are curled & drooping--hanging straight down--so as to make a funeral impression--reminding me a red sash & a soldier's<sup>151</sup> funeral.

//

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<sup>151</sup>Possibly "robber's"

1           They impress me quite as black crape--  
2  similarly arranged--the bloody plants.  
3           The conventional acorn of art is  
4  of course of no particular species--but  
5  the artist might find it worth his while  
6  to study nature's<sup>152</sup> varieties again.<sup>153</sup>  
7 //           The song sparrow is still about & the  
8  blackbird.  
9 //           Saw a little bird with a distinct white spot  
10 on the wing--yellow about eye &--whitish beneath  
11 which I think must be one of the wrens I saw last  
12 spring--  
13           At present the river's brim is no longer browned  
14   of their  
15 with button bushes--for those ^ leaves which the  
16 frost had touched have already fallen entirely--  
17 leaving a thin crop of green ones to take their  
18 turn.  
19                                   Oct 1st  
20           The young black birches--about Walden  
21 next the S shore--one now ~~elea~~ commonly  
22 clear pale yellow--very distinct at  
23 distance like bright yel-- white birches so  
24 slender amid the dense growth of oaks  
25 & evergreens on the ~~hilly sides~~--steep shores--  
26 The black birches & red maples are the  
27 conspicuous trees changed about the  
28 pond-- Not yet the oaks.

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<sup>152</sup>Written over illegible letters beneath; also possibly upper case

<sup>153</sup>Possible short line

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Oct 7th 54

Went to Plymouth to lecture--& survey  
Watsons Grounds-- Returned the 15th  
The decodon verticillatum--Swamp loosestrife  
very abundant forming isles in the pond on  
Town Brook on Watson's farm--now turned  
  ?  
methinks it was a somewhat orange scarlet.

Measured a buck-thorn on land of  
N. Russell & Co, bounding on Watson--close  
by the ruins of the cotton factory--~~from~~  
in 5 places--from the ground to the first  
branching or as high as my head-- The diam-  
eters were 4ft 8 inches--4-6--4-3; 4-2;  
  now quite ripe  
4-6; It was full of fruit ^ which Watson  
plants. The birds eat it.<sup>154</sup>

                  small  
Saw a ^ golden-rod in the woods with 4  
very broad rays--a new kind to me.

Saw also the English oak-leaf much like  
our white oak--but acorns large & long--  
with a long peduncle--& the bark of these  
young trees 20 or 25 feet high quite smooth.

Saw moon-seed--a climbing vine  
Also the leaf of the gingo tree--of pine  
needles run together--

Spooners' Garden a wilderness of fruit trees.

Russell is not sure but Eaton has  
described my rare Polygonum

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<sup>154</sup>Followed by a cancelled false start.

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<sup>155^</sup> 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--

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<sup>155</sup>In 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 <sup>156</sup>landscape 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 Pond<sup>157</sup> 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~~<sup>158</sup>--its apex resting on the Green or Hossac<sup>159</sup> Mts--appearing as

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<sup>156</sup>Preceded by cancelled false start, poss. "cl".  
<sup>157</sup>Possibly altered to upper case  
<sup>158</sup>A hook shaped mark written before the dash: poss. a false start.  
<sup>159</sup>Correct 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 account<sup>160</sup> 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~~<sup>161</sup>.  
24 Pretty hard frosts<sup>162</sup> 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.

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<sup>160</sup>vertical pencil line through this and following interlined line

<sup>161</sup>Followed by a canceled high period.

<sup>162</sup>vertical 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-- (Sit<sup>163</sup> 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-- The<sup>164</sup> 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.

<sup>29</sup>  
Sunday^--detected<sup>165</sup> a large

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

---

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

1 that almost<sup>166</sup> all leaves are quite  
2 The same in gardens  
3 // dull or withered-- ^ The gooseberry  
4 leaves in our garden<sup>167</sup> & 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

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<sup>166</sup>"lm" lost in dry strokes

<sup>167</sup>vertical 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 <sup>Old</sup> a<sup>168</sup> ^ 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

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<sup>168</sup>Possibly 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 Pitcher<sup>169</sup>--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

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<sup>169</sup>Altered 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 donasia<sup>170</sup> 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

---

<sup>170</sup>Correct 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?<sup>171</sup>

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

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

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.--

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<sup>171</sup>horizontal pencil line below this line for width of page

<sup>172</sup>horizontal pencil line below this line for width of page

<sup>173</sup> Followed by canceled false start.

1 and the river is not nearly so high  
2 as last year. I see where they have  
3 begun to raise them another story. A  
4 few cranberries begin to wash up. And  
5 rails boards &c may now be col-  
6 lected by wreckers.

7 Nov. 17. Paddled up river  
8 to Clamshell--& sailed back. I think  
9 // it must have been a fish hawk which  
10 I saw hovering over the meadow & my  
11 boat (a raw cloudy afternoon) now  
12 and then sustaining itself in one place  
13 a hundred feet or more above the water--intent  
14 on a fish--with a hovering a fluttering motion  
15 of the wings somewhat like a king-fish-  
16 er-- Its wings were very long slender &  
17 curved in outline of front edge {drawing}  
18 thus perhaps-- I think there was some  
19 near  
20 white on rump-- It alighted ~~on~~ the  
21 top of an oak within rifle shot of me &  
22 my boat--afterward on the tip top of  
23 a maple by waterside--looking very  
24 large.

25 Nov 18th  
26 // Saw 60 geese go over the Great Fields in one  
27 waving line broken from time to time by their  
28 crowding on each other & vainly endeavoring to  
29 form into a harrow--honking all the while.



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 ^ the ~~heads~~<sup>all</sup>  
 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-- Also<sup>174</sup> 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 &c<sup>175</sup>--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.

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<sup>174</sup> "Also" possibly altered from "also", or vice versa  
<sup>175</sup>"&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-  
 mearcial 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~~t~~ 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--~~whit~~  
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           Harris tells me that since he ex-  
2   changed a duplicate Jes. Relation for  
3   one he had not--with the Montreal  
4   men--All theirs have been burnt.  
5            He has 2 early ones which I have not seen.  
6    & meadow  
7            Dec 8th Pm up River ^ on  
8   ice to Hub bridge--& thence to Walden.  
9            Winter has come unnoticed by me  
10   I have been so busy writing-- This is the  
11   life most lead in respect to nature--  
12   How different from my habitual one!  
13   It is hasty coarse & trivial as if you  
14   were a spindle in a factory. The other  
15   is leisurely fine & glorious like  
16   a flower-- In the first case you  
17   are merely getting your living--in  
18   the 2nd you live as you go along.  
19   You travel only on roads of the proper  
20   grade without jar or running off  
21   the track--& sweep round the hills  
22   by beautiful curves. Here is the river  
23 // frozen over in many places-- I am not  
24   sure whether the 4th night or later--but  
25   the skating is hobbly or all hobbled  
26   like a coat of mail or thickly bossed  
27   shield--ap sleet frozen in water.  
28            How black the water where  
29   Very little smooth ice--

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--First<sup>176</sup> 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

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<sup>176</sup>Possibly altered from lower case

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first with her wing--making 5 or 6 as it were  
 finger marks {drawing}  
 Dec 14th  
 Pm with C up N bank of Assabet to Bridge--  
 Good sleighing still with but little snow--A warm  
 thawing day. The river is open almost its whole  
 length-- It is a beautifully smooth mirror within  
 an icy frame.. It is well to improve such a  
 time to walk by it. This strip of water of irregular  
 width over the channel between broad fields  
 of ice looks like a polished silver mirror--or  
 like another surface of polished ice--and often  
 is distinguished from the surrounding ice only  
 by its reflections. I have rarely seen any  
 reflections--(of weeds willows & elms & the  
 houses of the village) so distinct, the  
 stems so black & distinct--for they contrast  
 not with a green meadow but clear white  
 ice--to say nothing of the silvery surface of  
 the water. Your eye slides first over  
 a plane surface of smooth ice of one color--  
 to a water surface of silvery smoothness--  
 like a gem set in ice--& reflecting the  
 & clouds  
 weeds & trees & houses ^ with singular beauty.  
 The reflections are particularly simple & distinct  
 These twigs are not referred to & confounded  
 with a broad green meadow from which they

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 abundance<sup>177</sup> 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

//

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<sup>177</sup>vertical 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. Said<sup>178</sup>  
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

---

<sup>178</sup>Possibly 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 the<sup>179</sup> 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  
sleighting 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

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<sup>179</sup>vertical pencil line from here through bottom of page

1 was not a rare day<sup>180</sup> 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--<sup>181</sup>& were now

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<sup>180</sup>vertical pencil line from here through bottom of page

<sup>181</sup>Dash 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 fell<sup>182</sup> 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

---

<sup>182</sup>Altered 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 bushel<sup>183</sup> of seeds.

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<sup>183</sup>pencil 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 clear<sup>184</sup>  
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

---

<sup>184</sup> 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--secured<sup>1</sup> 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 many times. The clerk said the depth<sup>of {1}</sup>  
 25 varied from 3 to 8 fathoms bet the  
 26 island & Cape. Whistled & ~~wait~~ listened  
 27 for the locomotive's answer--but  
 28 probably heard only the echo of our own  
 29 whistle at first--but at last the  
 30

---

<sup>1</sup>Possibly 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.<sup>2</sup>

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

---

<sup>2</sup>Possibly its own line

1                   whistle  
2 locomotives ^ & ~~the life boat's bell.~~<sup>3</sup>  
3 the rabbits have eaten the bark of  
4 smooth sumachs<sup>4</sup> & 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.<sup>5</sup> 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--

---

<sup>3</sup>This 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.

<sup>4</sup>"sumachs" altered from "sumacs"

<sup>5</sup>Possibly altered from another word

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

Jan 5th

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

There was a fireplace of stone oven like  
one side  
running out ^ & covered with earth  
It was the nest of a large meadow mouse--  
Had he ever hunted moose--when he  
was down at Green island<sup>6</sup> (Greenland(?))<sup>7</sup>  
where was that oh far down--very

---

<sup>6</sup>"island" altered to "Island" in pencil  
<sup>7</sup>"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 again<sup>8</sup> & 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~~<sup>9</sup> bails--&c About  
28 20 miles of Tel. wire in a day--of  
29 the best Swedish iron for strength--

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<sup>8</sup>"again" written over "&"

<sup>9</sup>lighter 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 In the cavernous furnace I saw the roof dripping with <sup>dark</sup> ^ stalactites  
12 from the mortar & bricks.  
13 their iron bars had furrowed it.

14 In one place they boiled the wire in water &  
15 vitriol which cleaned it and ate out  
16 grease & other foreign particles.

17 drawn  
18 Wire is hard ~~rolled~~--when it is rapidly reduced  
19 ie from one size to another much smaller.

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

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

1  
 2 Also of Mr. Frost the botanist of Brattle-  
 3 boro--who has found 5 or 6 new species  
 4 of lichens thereabouts<sup>10</sup>-- Geo. Emerson--  
 5 is aware that he has confounded 2  
 6 black oaks--one is found on Nantuck-  
 7 et. Is it not the *Q. nigra*--& have we not //  
 8 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.

---

<sup>10</sup>stray 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 so<sup>11</sup>--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 or<sup>12</sup> 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

---

<sup>11</sup>"so" altered from "see"

<sup>12</sup>"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 It<sup>13</sup> 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.

---

<sup>13</sup>possibly 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 Gourgias woodlot--?<sup>14</sup> horsemint? or calamint?  
 4           On Flints Pond I find Nat Rice<sup>15</sup>  
 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--on<sup>16</sup> 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--1st<sup>17</sup> 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.

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<sup>14</sup>"?" possibly added in pencil  
<sup>15</sup>"Rice" written over "rice"  
<sup>16</sup>"on" written over "of"  
<sup>17</sup>What 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--silveryish<sup>18</sup>  
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}

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<sup>18</sup>"or . . . silveryish" in AL table as added. Yes?

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The oak leaves now resemble the dif. kinds.  
of calf--sheep--& Russia<sup>19^</sup> ~~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<sup>20^</sup>  
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.

14<sup>21</sup> 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 Idaen<sup>22</sup>  
mts.

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<sup>19</sup>"R" written over "r"

<sup>20</sup>"The" written over "the"

<sup>21</sup>An 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.

<sup>22</sup>"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 showing<sup>23</sup>--& this  
7 on the Grt meadows  
8 lay in shallow drifts<sup>7</sup>, or waves<sup>^</sup> ~~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 leggins<sup>24</sup> from 1.50 to 3 or more dolls,  
32 also depending on the length--

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<sup>23</sup>top of "h" cancelled in pencil

<sup>24</sup>poss. "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 <sup>wet</sup> ^ 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 storm<sup>25</sup>  
--suggesting that in darkest storms

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<sup>25</sup>possibly 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 a<sup>26</sup> 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 Thuch<sup>27</sup> 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--& by<sup>28</sup>  
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 of<sup>29</sup> the last

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<sup>26</sup>Possibly altered from another word.

<sup>27</sup>poss "Much"

<sup>28</sup>Altered from "to"?

<sup>29</sup>Possibly 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 cloaks<sup>30</sup>-- 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,<sup>31</sup>making  
 34 more conspicuous than ever the ar-

---

<sup>30</sup>Probably altered from "cloth" or "clothes".

<sup>31</sup>Comma 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,<sup>32</sup> 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.<sup>33</sup>  
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--

---

<sup>32</sup>comma under caret

<sup>33</sup>"," 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

1 ~~fright~~ fruit-like balls as big as one's  
2 like cocoanuts  
3 head.^ Where the various oaks were  
4 bent down--the contrast of colors--  
5 of the snow & oak leaves--& the softened  
6 tints through the transparent snow--often<sup>34</sup>  
7 a delicate fawn color--were very agreeable.

8 As we returned over the Walden road  
9 the damp driving snow flakes when  
10 we turned partly round & faced them  
11 hurt our eye balls as if they had been dry  
12 scales.

13 It may be that the linarias {~~seek~~} the come  
14 into the gardens now--not only because all  
15 nature is a wilderness<sup>35</sup> today--but because  
16 were the wind has not free play  
17 the woods^are so snowed up--the twigs  
18 are so deeply covered that they cannot readily  
19 come at their food-- In many places  
20 drooping &  
21 single trees or clumps of two or 3 ^ massed  
22 together by the superincumbent weight--made  
23 tent like  
24 a sort of roof ^ under which you might  
25 Under one pitch pine which shut down to the ground on every  
26 take shelter. We saw only one in-  
27 side you could not see the sky at all--but sat in a gloomy light  
28 distinct snow covered trail of an animal.  
29 as in a tent.  
30 Where are the crows now? I never see  
31 them at such a time. The water of yesterday  
32 is very high now on the meadows over the  
33 ice--but the snow has mingled with it so  
34 densely that it is mere slosh now--

35 The channel ice is lifted up by the freshet  
36 & there is dry white snow--but on each

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<sup>34</sup>"often" written over "a"

<sup>35</sup>stroke missing in "wilderness"

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side are broad dirty or yellowish green strips of  
~~water~~ slosh. Where<sup>36</sup> 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--

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<sup>36</sup>"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 snow<sup>41</sup>  
 23 again-- How<sup>42</sup> 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

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<sup>41</sup>poss "snow,"

<sup>42</sup>Possibly 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 of<sup>43</sup> a hill where<sup>44</sup>  
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 plaits<sup>45</sup>  
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 ridge<sup>46</sup> or fin  
19    gracefully curved 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 come<sup>47</sup> 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.<sup>48</sup>  
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-

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<sup>43</sup>Possibly altered from "on"

<sup>44</sup>Possibly "when"

<sup>45</sup>Followed by blotted words

<sup>46</sup>Possibly altered from "side"

<sup>47</sup>Possibly altered from another word

<sup>48</sup>Caption--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 was<sup>49</sup>  
13 gone<sup>50</sup>& 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

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<sup>49</sup>Possibly "has"

<sup>50</sup>Indicates 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--its<sup>51</sup> 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.<sup>52</sup>

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

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<sup>51</sup>Possibly altered from another word  
<sup>52</sup>One 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 <sup>way,</sup> ^ 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 latter<sup>53</sup>  
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--

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<sup>53</sup>Possibly 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 <sup>pecked</sup> ^ 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--? <sup>%Prob. last%</sup> %^%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 <sup>whole</sup> ^ 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~~<sup>54</sup> 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 those<sup>55</sup> 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

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<sup>54</sup>Full word? Remove from AL table?

<sup>55</sup>Altered 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 the<sup>56</sup> 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 Lorings 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

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<sup>56</sup>altered 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 <sup>reddined with its blood</sup> ~~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.<sup>57</sup> 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--

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<sup>57</sup>vertical pencil line from here through bottom of page

1 as gooseberries--raspberries<sup>58</sup>--& ~~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 much<sup>59</sup> mast for  
30 19 hogs, especially every third year,"-- Does not  
31 this imply many more of them than now--

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<sup>58</sup>vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "speak of..."  
<sup>59</sup>vertical 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 it<sup>60</sup> 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,<sup>61</sup> --& 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."

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<sup>60</sup>Possibly altered from "its"

<sup>61</sup>"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 —<sup>64</sup> 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

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<sup>64</sup>Possibly 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 <sup>These obstructed the</sup>  
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 wher<sup>65</sup>  
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

---

<sup>65</sup>Possibly "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 Nature<sup>66</sup> 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 <sup>great</sup> 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

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<sup>66</sup>"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~~ <sup>toes</sup>  
 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 surrounding<sup>67</sup> 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 abundance<sup>68</sup> 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

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<sup>67</sup>"surrounding" written over "surrounded"

<sup>68</sup>vertical pencil line from here through end of page



1  
 2 with them. & thus they are planted<sup>69</sup> there--Some-  
 3 what perhaps in waving lines--as they wash up.  
 4 Returning over the fields--the shallow  
 5 pools made by the rain & thaw--whose  
 6 water has almost entirely settled away--and  
 7 the ice rests on the ground--where they are  
 8 bare of snow--now that the sun is about  
 9 1/4 of an hour high--looking East are quite  
 10 green. For a week or two the days  
 11 have been sensibly longer--& it is quite light  
 12 now when the 5 O'clock train comes in--

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

19 A pine cone blossoms out<sup>70</sup> now fully in about  
 20 3 days, in the house-- They begin to open about  
 21 half way up. They are exceedingly regular &  
 22 handsome--the scales with shallow triangular or  
 23 crescent shaped extremities--the prickle pointing  
 24 downward are most open above--& are so much  
 25 recurved at the base of the cone that they lie close  
 26 together & almost flat there--or at right-  
 27 angles with the stem--like a shield of iron scales  
 28 --making a perfectly regular figure of 13 [in one inst.) curved

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<sup>69</sup>vertical pencil line through this and the following lines  
<sup>70</sup>vertical 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 just<sup>71</sup> 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 length<sup>72</sup> pine cone I have, & each goes round once.  
 8 a Larch cone has five rows<sup>73</sup> 4 hemlock cones have 5 each like wht pine--but  
 9 little twisted<sup>74</sup>  
 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 Proteus<sup>75</sup> 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.<sup>76</sup>  
 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

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<sup>71</sup>vertical pencil line through this portion of text

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

<sup>73</sup>"There . . . rows" is written to the left of the drawing

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

<sup>75</sup>"P" written over "p"

<sup>76</sup>This 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 ice<sup>77</sup>  
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-

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<sup>77</sup>"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 (<sup>78</sup>snow 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?

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<sup>78</sup>Open paren possibly cancels a dash

1  
2 To Continue the 26th  
3 Pm to Walden--  
4 %Something like--but less than that of the 19th%  
5 A thick driving snow--%^% There is a strong easterly wind--  
6 & the snow is very damp-- In the deepest hollows  
7 on the Brister-Hill path it has already lodged  
8 handsomely-- Suppose you descend into the deepest  
9 circular one--far beneath the sweep of the  
10 blustering wind--where the flakes at last drop  
11 gently to their resting places-- There is a level white  
12 circular floor--indicating ice beneath--&  
13 all around the white-pines under an accumu-  
14 lating snowy burthen are hung with  
15 drooping white wreathes or fans of snow  
16 The snow on Pitch pines takes the forms  
17 of large balls, on<sup>7</sup> White pines often of <sup>great</sup> ^ rolling-  
18 pins-- Already the trees are bending in all  
19 directions into the paths & hollows as here--  
20 The birches here are bowed inward<sup>79</sup>  
21 to the open circle of the pond hole--their  
22 tops ap. buried in the old snow {drawing}  
23 Nothing can be prettier than the snow  
24 on the leafless shrub oaks--the twigs  
25 are so small & numerous--little  
26 snowy arms crossing each other at  
27 every imaginable angle--like a whirligig.  
28 It is surprising what a burden of snow  
29 already rests on little bare twigs hardly  
30 bigger than a knitting needle--both as  
31 they stand perpendicularly & horizontally.

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<sup>79</sup>"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 one corner {drawing}^. And in many places  
9 where the wind is felt--the<sup>80</sup> 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--or<sup>81</sup> 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 Snow<sup>82</sup> of the 19th & today partly  
23 I am<sup>83</sup> Imagine the<sup>84</sup> 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

---

<sup>80</sup>Altered from text

<sup>81</sup>"or" poss written over "on"

<sup>82</sup>"Lodging Snow" written over "lodging snow"

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

<sup>84</sup>false 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 Master<sup>85</sup>.  
 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

---

<sup>85</sup>"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.'Westerly<sup>86</sup> 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--<sup>87</sup> {drawing}<sup>88</sup> ^Then the rocks are  
27 incased with ice under which water  
28 flows--thin sheets of rippling water

---

<sup>86</sup>"S.'" inserted

<sup>87</sup>Dash above period

<sup>88</sup>Drawing 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 3/4<sup>89</sup> 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 Southward<sup>90</sup>  
 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

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<sup>89</sup>"3/4" written over "1/4"  
<sup>90</sup>Possibly 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's<sup>91</sup> 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 Robinhoods<sup>92</sup> 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.

---

<sup>91</sup>Possibly altered from "foxes"

<sup>92</sup>"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 ^<sup>93</sup>to 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

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<sup>93</sup>This 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 horse<sup>94</sup>.  
  
3                                   Jan 28th 55 Sunday  
4                   Grew warmer toward night & snowed  
5   But this soon turned to heavy rain in<sup>95</sup>  
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 saw<sup>96</sup> one but the

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<sup>94</sup>"horse" crossed out in pencil

<sup>95</sup>"in" written over "&"

<sup>96</sup>"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--as<sup>97</sup>  
if beginning to double on itself--and here  
& there at 9 o'clock--being cracked thus<sup>98</sup>  
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<sup>edging</sup> all along the  
river & meadows--covered with floating snow fleas

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<sup>97</sup>"as" written over "&"  
<sup>98</sup>Possibly altered from another word





1

2 hemmed in by highlands. I skated about 12  
 3 or 9 in all<sup>104</sup>  
 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 scrags 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 scrabs--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

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<sup>104</sup>line 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 motionlessness<sup>105</sup> & it was not  
11 till I brought my glass to bear on them  
12 steadily glaring on me  
13 & saw their eyes<sup>106</sup> 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

---

<sup>105</sup>Caret cancelled; line connects this to caret following "distinctly".

<sup>106</sup>Caret 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 washed<sup>107</sup> 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 low<sup>108</sup> over the meadow. //  
33 There was some dark color to its wings.  
34 You were often liable to be thrown<sup>109</sup> 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

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<sup>107</sup>Possibly altered from "washes"

<sup>108</sup>"low" written over "over"

<sup>109</sup>Possibly 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 23d<sup>110</sup> '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.

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<sup>110</sup>"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 family<sup>111</sup>; 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"  
                  That<sup>112</sup> was Tall's Island. "I sail again,  
                  an hour or 2?  
& within a day or two I behold, as the sun  
                  That was Nobscot surely<sup>113</sup>  
is setting, the solitary majesty of Crete,<sup>#</sup> mother of  
a religion, it is said, that lived 2000 years.<sup>#</sup> ^Onward &c  
<sup>#</sup>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

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<sup>111</sup>dashes cancelled  
<sup>112</sup>Altered from "that"  
<sup>113</sup>Pencil 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~~<sup>114</sup>  
 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 <sup>115</sup>2nd  
 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.

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

<sup>115</sup>crossed 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.--<sup>116</sup>the first say 4 or 5 inches to the  
outside--the last 2 or 3. They are generally

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<sup>116</sup>dash 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 touching<sup>117</sup>  
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}<sup>118</sup>

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

---

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

<sup>118</sup>Horizontal 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 distant<sup>119</sup> 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 got<sup>120</sup> 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

---

<sup>119</sup>Possibly altered from "owl"

<sup>120</sup>Possibly 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 course<sup>121</sup> 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

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<sup>121</sup>Possibly 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-- We<sup>122</sup>  
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 &

---

<sup>122</sup>Altered 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 pine<sup>123</sup> 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 there<sup>124</sup> 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.<sup>125</sup>  
 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

---

<sup>123</sup>"pine" written over "pines"  
<sup>124</sup>Possibly altered from another word  
<sup>125</sup>Caption 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--when<sup>126</sup>  
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.

---

<sup>126</sup>poss. "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~~ <sup>was</sup> 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 Minot tells of one shot once while eating an eel.  
22 bits of the skin of pouts or eels.  
23 Vance saw one this winter in this town by a brook eating a fish.  
24 The water has now fallen nearly 2<sup>127</sup> feet  
25 & those ice shelves I noticed yesterday--when  
26 you go into a swamp and all along the  
27 shore amid the alders birches & maples  
28 look just like ample pic-nic tables ready  
29 set 2 feet high--with often a leaf down or ^ a  
30 table cloth hanging. Just like camp tables--

---

<sup>127</sup>Possibly 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 sparkled<sup>128</sup>  
11 scuttle window reflecting the lamp from a  
12 when I went up to bed--^as if<sup>129</sup> 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 chuck<sup>130</sup> 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

---

<sup>128</sup>Line connects this to caret following "bed".

<sup>129</sup>"if" inserted

<sup>130</sup>Underlining 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 &<sup>131</sup> 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°-<sup>132</sup> 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.<sup>133</sup> A 4 Pm the thermometer is at  
 36 10°- at 6 it is at 14°-

---

<sup>131</sup>Possibly inserted  
<sup>132</sup>Not clear whether all of the marks following temps. are dashes or minus signs  
<sup>133</sup>"snow" cancelled in pencil

1 I was walking at 5 & found it stinging  
 2 cold--It stung the face-- When<sup>134</sup> I look  
 3 out at the chimneys I see that  
 4 the cold & hungry air snaps up the  
 5 smoke at once-- The smoke is<sup>135</sup> clear  
 6 & light colored & does not get far into  
 7 the air before it is dissipated<sup>^</sup> (~~as {at whole}~~)<sup>136</sup> The setting  
 8 sun no sooner leaves our west windows  
 9 than a solid but beautiful crystalliza-  
 10 tion coats them. which perhaps the sun has warmed & dried.  
 11 except perhaps a triangularish bare spot at one corner  
 12  
 13 (I believe the saying is that by the 1st  
 14 of February the ~~wood~~ & meal <sup>&</sup> grain for a horse  
 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 ~~&~~<sup>137</sup> as well as open winter up to this. At  
 19  
 20 9 o'clock P. m. thermometer at 16°-  
 21  
 22 They say it did not rise above 6°- today--  
 23 Feb 7th  
 24 The Coldest night for a long long time  
 25 was last-- Sheets froze stiff about the faces.  
 26 Cat mewed to have the door opened--but was at first disinclined to go out.  
 27 When she<sup>138</sup> ~~cat~~ came in at 9--she smelt of  
 28 We all took her up & smelled of her it was so fragrant  
 29 meadow hay^--had cuddled in some  
 30 People dreaded to go to bed.  
 31 barn^. The ground cracked in the night  
 32 as if a powder mill had blown up &  
 33 the timbers of the house also-- My pail  
 34 of water was frozen in the morning so

---

<sup>134</sup>Possibly altered from "I"

<sup>135</sup>"is" written over "&"

<sup>136</sup>Possibly altered from period

<sup>137</sup>Verify that this is cancelled

<sup>138</sup>"she" written over "the"

1  
 2           Must leave many buttons unbuttoned--owing to numb fingers  
 3    iron was like fire in the hands  
 4   that I could not break it-- ^Thermometer  
  
 5   at about 7 1/2 Am gone into the bulb--19°-  
 6   The cold has stopped the clock in the street  
 7   at least--^ Every bearded man ^ is a gray-beard  
  
 8   Bread--meat--milk--cheese &c &c  
 9   See the inside of your cellar door all covered & sparkling with frost like Golconda  
 10   all frozen--^ Pity the poor who have not  
  
 11   a large woodpile. The latches are white with  
 12           & every nail-head in entries &c has a white cap  
 13   frost. ^The chopper hesitates to go to the woods.  
  
 14   Yet I see S. Wetherbee stumping past 3/4 of a  
 15   mile for his morning's dram-- Neighbor Smiths  
 16   thermometer stood at 26°- early this morning--  
 17           But this day is at length more moderate  
 18   than yesterday.  
  
 19           R Rice says that alewives used to go  
 20                                   that you may go up Larned Brk & so into the Pond by a ditch  
 21   into Pelham Pond--^ His Brother James  
 22   skated from Sudbury to Billerica & by  
 23   canal to Charleston & back. He used  
 24   to see where the Otter had slid at  
  
 25   Ware (Weir?) Hill, a rod down the  
 26    a thousand  
 27   steep bank--as if many hundred times--  
 28           it was so smooth  
 29   After a thick snow had been falling  
 30   in the river & formed a slosh on the surface  
 31   he could tell whether otter had been at work  
 32   --by the holes in this slosh or snowy water where  
 33   they had put up their heads while fishing  
 34   --The surface would be all dotted with  
 35   them. He had known musquash to make  
 36   a canal & keep the water from



1  
 2 are off. Though<sup>139</sup> 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 6th<sup>140</sup>  
 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 8th<sup>141</sup> But they say this is<sup>142</sup> 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.

---

<sup>139</sup>"t" and "h" constructed with single stroke

<sup>140</sup>Connected to caret following "This"

<sup>141</sup>Date line should be centered

<sup>142</sup>"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 tracks<sup>143</sup> 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

---

<sup>143</sup>Possibly altered from "trails"



1 up some partridges out of the soft  
2 snow under the apple-trees in the<sup>144</sup> 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

---

<sup>144</sup>"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 chicadee-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 chicadee

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}<sup>145</sup>  
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.

---

<sup>145</sup>Caption 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~~} & 12<sup>146</sup> or  
19                                   %foot tracks not good%  
20 15<sup>147</sup> in width--{drawing}<sup>148</sup> 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 where<sup>149</sup> 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

---

<sup>146</sup>"12" written over "10"

<sup>147</sup>"15" written over "14"

<sup>148</sup>Caption in pencil

<sup>149</sup>Possibly 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 old<sup>150</sup> English word used  
27 in heraldry--where according to Bailey it is  
28 "certain balls resembling hurtleberries."

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<sup>150</sup>vertical 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 <sup>20 or 30</sup> ~~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}<sup>151</sup>  
These distinct impressions  
made by their wings, on<sup>152</sup>  
the pure snow, so com-  
mon on All hands--

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<sup>151</sup>Part of drawing cancelled  
<sup>152</sup>prob 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 it<sup>153</sup> 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)]<sup>154</sup>  
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°-

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

1           Aunt Louisa says that her cousin  
2 Nahum Jones, son<sup>155</sup> 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

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<sup>155</sup>Possibly 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.<sup>1</sup> 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

---

<sup>1</sup>"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 their<sup>2</sup> 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.

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<sup>2</sup>Possibly "these" or "the"





1  
 2 the Swamp Bridge on Back<sup>4</sup> 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<sup>5</sup>  
 6 about this time (under F. H. Hill--) The jays  
 7 were uttering their unusual notes--& this made  
 8 me think of a wood-pecker-- It reminds me  
 9 of the pine warbler--vetter vetter vetter vetter  
 10 vet--except that it is much louder--& I  
 11 should say had the sound of l<sup>5</sup> rather than t  
 12 veller & c perhaps-- Can it be a jay?--or a pig.  
 13 woodpecker?-- Is it not the earliest  
 14 spring ~~spring~~ ward note of a bird? In the  
 15 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 wet<sup>6</sup> 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 it<sup>7</sup> had not been so near the end of the neck<sup>8</sup>  
 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

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<sup>4</sup>Possibly "back" altered from "Back"  
<sup>5</sup>This is the letter "l", not the numeral "1"  
<sup>6</sup>Possibly altered from "to"  
<sup>7</sup>poss "if" written over "it"  
<sup>8</sup>Possibly "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 side<sup>9</sup>  
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 Bridge<sup>10</sup> 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 over<sup>11</sup> 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 tilted<sup>12</sup> up &  
26 if not 2 more  
27 commonly another ^ of equal size  
28 forced directly underneath the first

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<sup>9</sup>Possibly underlined in pencil

<sup>10</sup>Altered from "bridge"

<sup>11</sup>"as over" altered from another word

<sup>12</sup>First "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.<sup>13</sup>  
 31 Waded through water in the road for 8 or

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<sup>13</sup>"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 ice<sup>14</sup>  
 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--

---

<sup>14</sup>Possibly 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 the<sup>15</sup> 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 <sup>recurved</sup> ~~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

---

<sup>15</sup>Possibly 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 <sup>came</sup>  
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 <sup>had</sup>  
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 expense<sup>16</sup> of the town--& the traveller  
32 could blow a horn to call the ferry-man  
33 Youill<sup>17</sup> 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 alto<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup>"expense" possibly "Expence"

<sup>17</sup>Combined "You" and "will"--may want to emend

<sup>18</sup>"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 gentleman<sup>19</sup>. though  
 22 he should wear <sup>a</sup> ~~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

---

<sup>19</sup>Possibly 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 know<sup>20</sup>  
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

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<sup>20</sup>Possibly 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,<sup>21</sup> 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

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<sup>21</sup>"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-- Its<sup>22</sup> 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 12th<sup>23</sup>  
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 colored<sup>24</sup> 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. 10th<sup>25</sup>  
40 A strong wind drying the earth which  
41 // has been so very wet-- The sand begins

---

<sup>22</sup>Altered; possibly from "the" or "The"

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

<sup>24</sup>stray mark under word

<sup>25</sup>"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.<sup>26</sup>  
10 The quadrupeds which I know that  
11 we have in Concord are V. Emmonds p 5<sup>27</sup>  
12 Of Order Carnivora-- Fam. Vespertilionidae /<sup>28</sup> 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~~

<sup>26</sup>"& the . . .up." possibly added

<sup>27</sup>"V. . . . 5" possibly added

<sup>28</sup>This 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 <sup>29</sup> quadrupeds--5 & possibly 6 families		
11	order		
12	of the ^ Carnivora & 3 families of the order Rodentia		
13	None of <sup>30</sup> the order Ruminantia		
14	Nearly half of our quadrupeds belong to		
15	about <sup>31</sup>		
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	<del>comm</del> 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		

---

<sup>29</sup>Possibly pencilled "6" written over ink "5"

<sup>30</sup>"of" written over "or"

<sup>31</sup>"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 when<sup>32</sup> "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 latebrae<sup>33</sup> 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 the<sup>34</sup> 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

---

<sup>32</sup>Possibly "where"

<sup>33</sup>"latebricole" v. OED

<sup>34</sup>Possibly "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 begins<sup>35</sup> 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 with<sup>36</sup> perhaps a house on some remote  
38 bare<sup>37</sup>  
39 bere ridge, seen against them.

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<sup>35</sup>Preceded by interlined cancelled word--may be false start

<sup>36</sup>Possibly altered from "hill"

<sup>37</sup>T 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!<sup>38</sup>  
 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

---

<sup>38</sup>"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  
 2 apple  
 3 suddenly to an ^ tree near which he was working  
 4 o  
 5 run r^und & round & up it--when<sup>39</sup> a squirrel  
 6 jumped  
 7 sitting on the end of a branch ~~dropt~~ off & the  
 8 weasel jumping had him before he touched  
 9 the ground. He had no doubt that when  
 10 the weasel ran round the tree he was on  
 11 the track of the squirel--  
 12 F. said he had many of the black rat  
 13 but none or very few of the wharf rats on  
 14 his premises. He had seen mice nests 20  
 15 feet up trees.  
 16 3 or 4 weeks ago he traced a mink by his  
 17 tracks on the snow to where he had got a frog //  
 18 from the bottom of a ditch--dug him out.  
 19 Says that where many minnows are kept in a spring--they will kill 4 or 500 at once &  
 20 pile them up on the bank.  
 21 Showed me his spring--head of one of the sources  
 22 of Dodge's Brook--which by his mark is not  
 23 1/4 of an inch higher now when there is so  
 24 much water on the surface--than it was  
 25 great  
 26 in the midst of the ^ drought last summer--  
 27 This does not freeze-over for 20 rods--a pool in it some dozen or more rods  
 28 from source--where his cattle drink he never saw frozen--  
 29 But the important peculiarity of it is  
 30 that when in a dry spell this stream  
 31 is dry 15 or 20 rods from this source--  
 32 it may suddenly fill again before  
 33 any rain comes.  
 34 He had seen a partridge<sup>40</sup> drum standing  
 35 on a wall-- Said it stood very upright  
 36 and produced the sound by striking its  
 37 wings together behind its back--as a  
 38 cock often does--but did not strike

---

<sup>39</sup>Altered from "he h"

<sup>40</sup>"partridge" in ink; corrected in pencil to read "partridge"

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.<sup>41</sup>

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.

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<sup>41</sup>"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<sup>white</sup>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~~<sup>44</sup> 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.

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<sup>44</sup>3 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?<sup>45</sup> 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~~

---

<sup>45</sup>Possibly 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 around<sup>46</sup> 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.

---

<sup>46</sup>"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--<sup>47</sup>1/3 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 gone<sup>48</sup>  
25 down some 2 feet or more--but  
26 that part of the old ice which  
27 was broken up by the freshet--&

---

<sup>47</sup>Dash probably cancels false start

<sup>48</sup>Probably can construe as extra stroke in "n" rather than an "m"

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

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

22 Pm to further RR Bridge  
23 & Ministerial swamp--

24 I see that same kind of icicle terracing  
25 {drawing} about the piers of Wood's Bridge  
26 & others that I saw I think last //  
27 spring--but not now quite so perfect--as  
28 if where the water had stood at suc-  
29 cessive levels. %The lower edge now a foot  
30 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 before<sup>49</sup>  
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

---

<sup>49</sup>Possibly 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 North<sup>50</sup> 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~~ wood<sup>51</sup>--  
 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

---

<sup>50</sup>Possibly altered from "north"

<sup>51</sup>Something is written above in pencil, possibly initials "JM{ }"

1 all along there with wave-like regularity  
2 {drawing}<sup>52</sup> 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

---

<sup>52</sup>Pencil 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}<sup>53</sup>  
 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 <sup>ap.</sup> ^ 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 <sup>cavern</sup> ~~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.<sup>54</sup>  
 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

//

---

<sup>53</sup>Preceded by cancelled drawing

<sup>54</sup>"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}<sup>55</sup> 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

---

<sup>55</sup>Drawing 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 Derby<sup>56</sup> 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

---

<sup>56</sup>Possibly 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~~<sup>57</sup> 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

---

<sup>57</sup>Its 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. 11th<sup>58</sup>  
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

---

<sup>58</sup>"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 pastures<sup>59</sup>, little altered until  
26 spring"--my 5-fingered fungus?

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

---

<sup>59</sup>"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 ^ &<sup>60</sup> in many other

---

<sup>60</sup>Smudged; 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 expansion<sup>61</sup> 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--

---

<sup>61</sup>Underlining 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--they<sup>62</sup> 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 was<sup>63</sup> so untrue that it did

---

<sup>62</sup>Possibly altered from "the"

<sup>63</sup>"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}<sup>64</sup>

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 6<sup>65</sup> inches  
11                 There was something truly March-like in it--  
12 of frost in the swamps^ 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

---

<sup>64</sup>Cancelled 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"

<sup>65</sup>Followed 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 <sup>p</sup>pine--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<sup>^66</sup>--cutting them off regularly <sup>^</sup> at  
 13 the seeds or close to the core--Leaving<sup>67</sup> 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--<sup>68</sup> 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 ice<sup>69</sup> 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<sup>u</sup>ble 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

---

<sup>66</sup>Cancelled caret not in AL table  
<sup>67</sup>Possibly altered from "leaving", or vice versa  
<sup>68</sup>"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  
<sup>69</sup>Possibly 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}<sup>70</sup> 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 ~~ap~~ southerly.  
 7 Since the cold of a week ago--(they<sup>71</sup>  
 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.<sup>72</sup>

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 //

---

<sup>70</sup>arrow drawn above drawing

<sup>71</sup>Possibly altered from "it"

<sup>72</sup>"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 often<sup>73</sup> 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

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<sup>73</sup>Cancelled in pencil

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Since then colder--with increasing wind--& some--  
 clouds--with last night some rain.  
 The sands are too dry & light-colored to show arrow heads so well now--  
 I see many places where after the late freshet  
 the musquash made their paths under  
 the ice--leading from the water a rod or  
 the  
 two to a bed of grass above water level.

Mar. 7th<sup>74</sup> P. M to Red-ice Pond  
 A raw east wind & rather cloudy.  
 Methinks the buds of the early willows  
 the W. of the R. R. bank show more of the  
 silvery down than 10 days ago.

Did I not see crows flying N Easterly  
 yesterday toward night?

The redness in the ice appears mostly  
 to have evaporated so that melted it  
 does not color the water in a bottle.

Saw about a hemlock stump on the  
 hill side ~~E~~ N of the largest Andromeda  
 Pond--very abundant droppings of  
 some kind of mice on that common  
 green moss (forming a firm bird about  
 an inch high like little pines--surmounted  
 by a fine red stem with a green point in all  
 3/4 of an inch high) which they had fed  
 on to a great extent, evidently when it  
 was covered with snow, shearing it off  
 level-- Their droppings could be collected  
 by the handful<sup>75</sup> a light brown

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<sup>74</sup>Underlining for "Mar." and "7" in pencil  
<sup>75</sup>bleedthrough follows this word, to bottom of page

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<sup>v Mar 14<sup>76</sup></sup>  
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 blossomed<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>76</sup>"V Mar 14" LR in ink

<sup>77</sup>Blotched.

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}<sup>78</sup>  
 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}

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<sup>78</sup>Possibly 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 14th<sup>79</sup>  
 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 (?)<sup>80</sup>  
 23 large sedum<sup>81</sup> (?) 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

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<sup>79</sup>"V Mar 14th" LR in ink

<sup>80</sup>Cancelled in pencil

<sup>81</sup>Cancelled 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--?<sup>82</sup> Pine-wood nymphs had seasonably  
 29 wept there the fall of the tree--

---

<sup>82</sup>"?" 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 the<sup>83</sup> Andromeda Calycu-  
25       lata 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--<sup>84</sup>

30           An over cast & dark night.

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<sup>83</sup>vertical pencil lines through this and the following line

<sup>84</sup>"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.<sup>85</sup> "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 bait<sup>85</sup>. Lays<sup>86</sup> 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,

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<sup>85</sup>Preceded by cancelled misspelled "bait"--no AL needed

<sup>86</sup>Possibly "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~~<sup>91</sup>  
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

---

<sup>91</sup>"I though" cancelled before starting "Emmons...". "I" poss. "&"

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

Mar 13 '55

Northern lights last night--rain-bow in East this morn  
Almost all the meadow crust now (&

%//%

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

6 1/2 Am to Hill. Still<sup>92</sup>--but with  
some wrack here & there-- The river is  
low--very low for the season-- It has been  
falling ever since the freshet of Feb 18th.

Now about sunrise it is nearly filled  
with the thin half-cemented ice-crystals  
of the night--which the warmer temperature  
of day ap. has ~~set in~~ loosened. They  
grate against the bushes--& wheel round  
in great fields with a slight crash & piling  
up. I hear the rapid tapping of the woodpecker from  
over the water

//

Pm To Hub's Close

//

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

//

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<sup>92</sup>Possibly 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  
 this<sup>93</sup> 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

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<sup>93</sup>Possibly 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<sup>^</sup>, 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 <sup>^</sup> 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 <sup>^</sup> 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--<sup>^</sup>alders--& birches  
18 4 to 7<sup>94</sup> feet high  
19 <sup>^</sup>is completely destroyed--being pulled & broken  
20 broken near the ground  
21 down <sup>^</sup> 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--<sup>^</sup> 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 20<sup>95</sup>

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<sup>94</sup>lines written vertically in margin are marked for insertion following this interlineation

<sup>95</sup>"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

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 2  
 3           Jacob farmer gave me today the foot  
 4 of an otter, also of a fisher--(to put  
 5 with my pine marten's foot) He cut them  
 6 off of recent furs in Boston. He sells  
 7 about 100 mink skins in a year--  
 8 Thinks not more than 30 or 40 are  
 9 caught in Concord in a year. He says--(I think)  
 10 a mink's skin is worth 2 dollars!?. They are sent  
 11 to Europe to be worn there--not for hats.  
 12 Foul weather all day--at first a fine snow  
 13 & finally rain-- Now at 9 Pm a clear sky. //  
 14                   & so the storm which beg. eve of 13th ends--  
 15           As for the first half of this month  
 16 it began very pleasant & warm--(the latter  
 17 ~~part~~ 3d of Feb had been very clear & pleasant--  
 18 but colder--) the ~~ice rotting~~ river opening  
 19 & ice beginning to soften. then on the 4th it  
 20           Northerly, East--or SW  
 21 became windy^--sometimes very cold & raw--  
 22 occasionally rocking the house--the 9th  
 23 a little warmer storm threatening--the 10th  
 24 ground whitened with snow--& so it goes on  
 25 more or less raw till the snow of the 14th  
 26 Mr Rice tells me that when he was getting  
 27 mud out of the little swamp at the foot  
 28 of Bristers Hill last<sup>96</sup>                   he heard  
 29 a squeaking & found that he was digging  
 30 near the nest of what he called a "field mouse"--

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<sup>96</sup>T 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 1<sup>97</sup> 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 foot<sup>98</sup> 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

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<sup>97</sup>Probably a false start and not "1"

<sup>98</sup>"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 clearing<sup>99</sup> out today  
11 the throats of 2 holes within a rod of each  
12 other--scattering the mud like sand made<sup>100</sup>  
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 rudiment<sup>101</sup> 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--

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<sup>99</sup>"clearing" written over "cearing"

<sup>100</sup>Altered from "melti"--doesn't belong in AL table

<sup>101</sup>"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 Merganser<sup>102</sup>--

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 House<sup>103</sup> 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.

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<sup>102</sup>"Red breasted Merganser" cancelled in pencil  
<sup>103</sup>Preceded 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 <sup>to</sup> ~~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 the<sup>104</sup> 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 numns 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

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<sup>104</sup>Followed 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 // landing<sup>105</sup> 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

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<sup>105</sup>"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 <sup>ove</sup> 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 wht<sup>106</sup> 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

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<sup>106</sup>Possibly 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,<sup>107</sup> A very cold westerly wind this morning--ground<sup>108</sup>  
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.

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<sup>107</sup>Cancelled comma.

<sup>108</sup>Because "Clear, but" was added, start new paragraph with this line

1 //           There is no opening in Flints Pond  
2       except a very little around the boat house.  
3       The tree sparrow--flitting song-sparrowlike  
4       through the alders utters a sharp metallic tcheep  
5       In the hollow behind Brittain's Camp--I see  
6 // 7 mouse holes--prob. Mus leucopus--around  
7       an old oak stump--all within a foot of it  
8       many  
9       & ~~some~~ of their droppings at each hole & where they  
10      have gnawed off the grass--& indistinct galleries  
11      in the grass extending 3 or 4 feet on every side.  
12      I see red maple sap--oozing out & wetting  
13      the young trees where there is no obvious  
14 // wound. Crossed Goose pond on ice.  
15                                Mar 22nd  
16                6 1/2 Am to Hill. Over-cast--& cold. Yet  
17      there is quite a concert of birds along the  
18      river--the song-sparrows are very lively & musi-  
19      cal--& the black-birds already sing Q-  
20 // gurgle-ee-e-e from time to time--on the top  
21      of a willow or elm or maple--but oftener--  
22      a sharp--shrill--whistle--or a tchuck. I also  
23 // hear a short regular robin song--though  
24      many are flitting about with hurried note  
25      the blue bird faintly warbles--with such ventriloquism  
26      that I thought him further off-- He requires  
27      a warmer air--the jays scream-- I hear  
28      the downy woodpeckers rapid tapping--&  
29 // my first distinct spring note (phe-be) of  
30      the chickadee.







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.ond<sup>111</sup>

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

---

<sup>111</sup>"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 clang<sup>112</sup> 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~~)<sup>113</sup> & 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 & Part<sup>114</sup> 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

---

<sup>112</sup>Possibly "clung"  
<sup>113</sup>Parens probably added as part of the cancellation; in AL table now, but probably can remove them  
<sup>114</sup>"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~~<sup>115</sup>  
10 ~~progress~~ the distance was to the absolute height  
11 as 50 1/2 to 26 1/2--or it<sup>116</sup> 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 &

---

<sup>115</sup> "its" poss written over "at"

<sup>116</sup>written 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.<sup>117</sup> 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

//

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<sup>117</sup>Possibly "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 period<sup>118</sup>--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 catkins<sup>119</sup> The White maple buds too //  
show some further expansion methinks?

The last 4 days--including this<sup>120</sup>-- //  
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.

---

<sup>118</sup> letters "l" and "p" run together into one letter, one word  
<sup>119</sup> 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  
<sup>120</sup>Possibly 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 sucker<sup>121</sup>  
16 I saw dart along the brook beyond Jennie's?  
17 I see where the squirrels<sup>122</sup> 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 daintily<sup>123</sup> lifting his feet with a jerk as if his  
30 toes were sore. They seem to go a-hunting

---

<sup>121</sup>Followed by cancelled false start.

<sup>122</sup>vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "freshly torn..."

<sup>123</sup>Possibly altered from "to"



1  
 2 at night--along the edge of the river  
 3 --perhaps I notice them more at this<sup>124</sup>  
 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.

//

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<sup>124</sup>Possibly 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 or<sup>125</sup> Were they the  
11 // of their wings--^ Are they ^ Whistlers?<sup>126</sup> harlequin Ducks<sup>127</sup>  
12 %prob male & female wood duck%  
13 ~~For~~<sup>128</sup> ~~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 surface<sup>129</sup> & 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

---

<sup>125</sup>"golden eyes or" cancelled in pencil  
<sup>126</sup>"are they whistlers?" cancelled in pencil  
<sup>127</sup>"Were . . . Ducks" cancelled in pencil  
<sup>128</sup>Written over another word  
<sup>129</sup>Possibly 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 Jungermannia<sup>130</sup>-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

---

<sup>130</sup>Looks 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--black 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. As<sup>131</sup>  
 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 //

---

<sup>131</sup>Possibly 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 washed<sup>132</sup>  
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 fibres<sup>133</sup>--

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

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<sup>132</sup>Possibly altered from "in"

<sup>133</sup>Possibly 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 they<sup>134</sup>  
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.

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<sup>134</sup>Possibly 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.<sup>135</sup>

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

---

<sup>135</sup>Period 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.<sup>136</sup>

32 This rain will help take the frost

---

<sup>136</sup>"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-foil<sup>137</sup>--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

---

<sup>137</sup>vertical 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.<sup>138</sup> 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 & hence<sup>139</sup> 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

---

<sup>138</sup>Followed by downward facing caret indicating insertion of paragraph "Green .  
. . growing."

<sup>139</sup>Followed by cancelled false start

1  
 2 much ice as then on the bushes-- There  
 3 may be wind ~~Ap 3d~~ enough for this phenom-  
 4 enon, in the winter, but then there is no open  
 5 water to be blown--

6 Ap 3d

7 It is somewhat warmer but still windy--  
 8 --& P-- m. I go to sail--down to the Island & up  
 9 to Hubbards Causeway. Most would call it  
 10 cold today-- I paddle without gloves-- It is  
 11 a coolness--like that of Mar. 29th & 30th--  
 12 pleasant to breathe--& perhaps like that  
 13 presaging decidedly warm weather-- It is  
 14 an amelioration--as nature does nothing suddenly.  
 15 The shores are lined with frozen spray-  
 16 like foam with an abrupt edge--a foot  
 17 high often in the water side-- Occasionally  
 18 where there twigs--there is a nest of those  
 19 short<sup>140</sup> thick bull's horn icicles--pointing  
 20 in every direction. I see many hens  
 21 feeding close to the rivers edge--like  
 22 the crows--(& robins & black-birds later) & I  
 23 have no doubt they are attracted<sup>141</sup> by a like  
 24 cause-- The ground being first thawed there  
 25 not only worms but other insect & vege-  
 26 table life is accessible there ~~bef~~ sooner than  
 27 elsewhere. See several pairs of ducks--  
 28 mostly black.

---

<sup>140</sup>Possibly altered from "shoot"

<sup>141</sup>"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 fishing<sup>2</sup> 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 fully<sup>3</sup> 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

//

---

<sup>2</sup>Period probably ink drop  
<sup>3</sup>Possibly 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 by<sup>4</sup> 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

---

<sup>4</sup>Possibly 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 Meadow<sup>5</sup>--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 & beyond<sup>6</sup> 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.

---

<sup>5</sup>Possibly altered from "low"

<sup>6</sup>Possibly 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 say<sup>8</sup> 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 Wilson<sup>9</sup> is one  
 22 from it which was<sup>10</sup> flattened against the bill's base<sup>11</sup> & 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

---

<sup>8</sup>Cancelled in pencil

<sup>9</sup>Possibly written over text

<sup>10</sup>Possibly "were"

<sup>11</sup>"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 <sup>7/8</sup>  
10 My bird is 25 ^ inches long--& 35 in alar extent  
11 from point of wing to end of primaries 11 inches.  
12 <sup>12</sup>  
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 direction<sup>13</sup> ^ 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 Wilson<sup>14</sup> 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-

---

<sup>12</sup>Horizontal line in MS

<sup>13</sup>Possibly altered from another word

<sup>14</sup>Possibly altered from "wilson"

1  
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dle of its body to the end of its tail--& it is only 3 1/4  
 inches deep from back to breast at the thickest  
 part--while the greatest breadth horizontally  
 (at the root of the legs) is 5 1/2 inches. it reminds me  
 of an otter which however I have never seen.  
 I suspect that I have seen near a hundred of  
 these birds this spring. but I never got so near one  
 before In Yarrell's plate the depth of  
 the male goosander is to its length (i.e. from  
 tip of tail to most forward part of breast) as  
 37 to 103 or the depth is more than 1/3  
 This length in Yarrell's bird--calling the  
 distance from the point of the wing to the end of the  
 primaries 11 inches--is about 14 1/2 inches  
 of which my 3 1/4 is not 1/4.  
 In Nuttall's <sup>plate</sup> ^ the proportion is 32 to 91 also  
 more than 1/3. I think they have not represented  
 the bird flat enough.  
 Yarrell says it is the largest of the British  
 Mergansers--is a winter visitor--though a few  
 breed in the north of Britain; are rare in the  
 southern counties-- But, ac to Yarrell, a Mr Low  
 in his Nat. Hist of Orkney, says they breed there--& after  
 breeding the sexes separate--& Y. quotes Selby as saying  
 that their nest is near the edge of the water--of  
 grass, roots, &c lined with down--sometimes  
 among stones--in long grass--under bushes--  
 or in a stump or hollow tree. Y continues  
 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 of<sup>15</sup> 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

---

<sup>15</sup>Possibly 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 over<sup>16</sup> 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.

---

<sup>16</sup>Possibly 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?<sup>21</sup> //  
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?<sup>22</sup>--&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 crowfoot<sup>22</sup> {&} The buttercup ^ is a peculiarly sappy dark pickle green--decided  
29 spring & none of your sapless evergreens<sup>23</sup>  
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 it<sup>24</sup> shows  
35 some white. The grass is now ~~decide~~ conspicuously  
36 green about open springs.<sup>25</sup> in dense tufts.  
37 The frozen sod partly thawed in low grounds

---

<sup>21</sup>"?" possibly inserted

<sup>22</sup>Written vertically in left margin, with a connecting line drawn to this sentence.

<sup>23</sup>"& none . . . evergreens" written vertically in right margin

<sup>24</sup>Possibly altered from "is"

<sup>25</sup>poss "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 <sup>fatty</sup> ^ 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 look<sup>28</sup> 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

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<sup>28</sup>"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 20<sup>29</sup> 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

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<sup>29</sup>Possibly 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 earliest<sup>30</sup> 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 perceptible<sup>31</sup> 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 if<sup>32</sup> they had died in the winter--  
33 There are 3 or 4 small scollops in the Dorsal fin.

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<sup>30</sup>vertical pencil line thorough this and the next lines, also horizontal pencil under line

<sup>31</sup>pencil line through line

<sup>32</sup>Possibly 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--<sup>XXX</sup>. The  
saxifrage there tomorrow XXX-- One<sup>33</sup> flower is partly  
expanded.

//  
//

I measured the hemlock mentioned on the  
last page-- The diameter<sup>34</sup> ~~of~~ the trunk ~~at~~  
~~the but where it was~~--a<sup>35</sup> 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 flower<sup>36</sup> partly expanded--& its

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<sup>33</sup>"One" written over "It is"  
<sup>34</sup>"diameter" cancelled in pencil  
<sup>35</sup>"a" altered from another word  
<sup>36</sup>Possibly 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 across<sup>37</sup>  
 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

---

<sup>37</sup>Possibly 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~~<sup>^</sup>--& 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--<sup>^</sup> ~~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 within<sup>38</sup> 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 greening<sup>39</sup> 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 18th<sup>40</sup>  
 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--and<sup>41</sup>  
 30 see them dimpling ~~or rather~~ the surface  
 31 here & there by their movements-- But

---

<sup>38</sup>Possibly altered from "in"

<sup>39</sup>vertical pencil line through line

<sup>40</sup>"not . . . 18th" looks like later revision in ink

<sup>41</sup>Possibly 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. The<sup>42</sup> alnus incana blossoms  
16 begin generally to show. The Serrulata will  
17 // undoubtedly blossom tomorrow in some places XXXX<sup>43</sup>  
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

---

<sup>42</sup>"The" written over "A"

<sup>43</sup>Possibly added



1  
 2 trembling in the wind & ~~full of~~ shedding<sup>44</sup>  
 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 finger<sup>45</sup>  
 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 <sup>bunch</sup> ~~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) It<sup>46</sup> is ~~about~~ 3 or 4 inches  
 30 high with the oval & revolute leaves at  
 31 top & a few remote <sup>small</sup> ^ bract-like leaves on the  
 32 (3 sided) stem-- This pyrola is sometimes called  
 33 Flowering Wintergreen--& indeed--it is not

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<sup>44</sup>Possibly altered from another word

<sup>45</sup>Possibly altered from "find"

<sup>46</sup>Preceded 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.

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//

A-- 8. Am. Took caterpillars eggs from the apple trees at the Texas house--<sup>47</sup> 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-bell-- swallows) are & twittering skimming ^ above the water--perhaps catching the small fuzzy gnats with which the air is filled. The sound of church

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<sup>47</sup>Possibly "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,<sup>48</sup> 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.<sup>49</sup> He had  
18 got the fish under his feet on the limb,  
19 & would bow his head snatch a mouthful  
20 & then look, hastily over his right shoulder  
21 in our direction--then snatch another mouth-  
22 ful & look over his left shoulder-- ~~when~~  
23 At length  
24 ~~we approached in the boat~~ he launched  
25 off<sup>49</sup> & flapped heavily away-- We found  
26 at the bottom of  
27 in ^ the water beneath where he sat numerous  
28 fragments of the fish he had been eating  
29 parts of the fins {—} entrails--gills &c

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<sup>48</sup>Comma possibly altered from dash or period

<sup>49</sup>Possibly 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 what<sup>50</sup> 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 through<sup>51</sup> 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 in<sup>52</sup> 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--

---

<sup>50</sup>Possibly altered from "it" or "is"  
<sup>51</sup>Possibly altered from another word  
<sup>52</sup>Possibly 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 4th<sup>53</sup>  
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

---

<sup>53</sup>"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 sizes<sup>54</sup>  
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

---

<sup>54</sup>Possibly "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 headed<sup>55</sup> 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-- <sup>56</sup>There 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 arose<sup>57</sup> & 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 kinds<sup>58</sup>  
34 The black ducks alone uttered a sound, their  
35 usual hoarse quack--

---

<sup>55</sup>Possibly altered from "heading" or from another word  
<sup>56</sup>Horizontal line below "white throat--" to above "There were some", probably  
to mark paragraph separation  
<sup>57</sup>Possibly altered from another word  
<sup>58</sup>"d" reformed in pencil

1           They all flew in loose array--but the 3 kinds  
2   in separate flocks./<sup>59</sup> 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 of<sup>60</sup> 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

---

<sup>59</sup>Probably a false start

<sup>60</sup>Possibly 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--<sup>many</sup>~~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 little<sup>61</sup> 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 in<sup>62</sup> 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

---

<sup>61</sup>Blotched, possibly cancelled

<sup>62</sup>pencil line through "in"



1  
2 bare & smooth sandy paths under the eaves  
3 of the rock--& I suspect that they nibble the  
4 The Arabis is half exterminated by some creature  
5 early leaves there--^ They, or<sup>63</sup> the partridges or rabbits--  
6 there & at mid-Conant cliff--make sad havoc  
7 with the earliest rad-- leaves & flowers which  
8 I am watching--& in the village I have to con-  
9 tend with the hens--who also love an early sallad.  
10 Sat at the wall corner to see an  
11 & tail  
12 eagle's white head ^ against the red-hill-  
13 side--but in vain. The distant wht pines  
14 over the Spanish Brook--seem to flake into  
15 tiers--the whole tree looks like an open  
16 cone. A ~~warm~~ sudden warm day like yester-  
17 day & this takes off some birds--and adds  
18 others-- It is a crisis in their career-- The  
19 fox-col--spars--seem to be gone & I suspect  
20 that most of the tree spars & F.<sup>64</sup> hiemalis  
21 at least went yesterday. So the pleasanter  
22 weather seems not an unmixed benefit.  
23 The flowers of the common elm at Lee's  
24 are now loose & dangling--ap well out //  
25 a or 2  
26 ~~some~~ days in advance of Cheney's--but I see  
27 no pollen-- Walking und the Cliff--I  
28 am struck by the already darker healthier  
29 green of early weeds there--e.g. the little  
30 thyme-flowering sandwort--before there is  
31 any green to speak of elsewhere--  
32 Did I not see the yel-- red-poll-- on an //  
33 apple tree with some robins--by chance in the  
34 %Yes%  
35 same place where I saw one last year? %^%Yet  
36 I see no ~~sc~~ chestnut on head--but bright

---

<sup>63</sup>Possibly altered from "&" or "a"

<sup>64</sup>"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   leaves<sup>65</sup>--at a distance & soon an agreeable  
18   fresh air washes these warm rocks--&  
19   some mist surrounds me.  
20           A low blackberry on<sup>66</sup> 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;<sup>67</sup> ^ tumbler & prob. at Cliffs XXX prob a day           //  
34   2 before Cheney's.

---

<sup>65</sup>Possibly altered from "in" or "is"

<sup>66</sup>vertical pencil line through "on"

<sup>67</sup>Semicolon 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 8<sup>68</sup> or 10 feet into the water--  
23 // I hear no concert of tree sparrows. Hear  
24 // the tull-lull of myrtle<sup>69</sup> bird in street--&  
25 // the jingle of the chip bird.  
26 // This A. m. sit with open window.  
27 // Now plowing & planting will begin generally.  
28 // Pm to Walden  
29 // Some golden willows will now just peel  
30 // fairly--though on this one the buds have  
31

---

<sup>68</sup>Possibly altered from another word or number

<sup>69</sup>horizontal 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, it<sup>70</sup> 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 wing<sup>71</sup>--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

---

<sup>70</sup>Possibly altered from "& a" or "I was"  
<sup>71</sup>"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 Cliffs<sup>72</sup> 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 Near<sup>73</sup> 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

---

<sup>72</sup>Possibly altered from "Cliff"

<sup>73</sup>Possibly 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.<sup>74</sup>  
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.

---

<sup>74</sup>Written 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



1  
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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  
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--<sup>75</sup> 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.

---

<sup>75</sup>1 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. <sup>76</sup>Though 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 become<sup>77</sup> 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 skunk<sup>78</sup> cabbage  
 19 unfolding in the meadows--make more show  
 20 than any green yet-- The yel-- willow-catkins  
 21 pushing out beg. to give<sup>79</sup> 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

---

<sup>76</sup>false start before word  
<sup>77</sup>vertical pencil line through "become"  
<sup>78</sup>vertical pencil line through "skunk"  
<sup>79</sup>vertical 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 several<sup>80</sup> 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--

---

<sup>80</sup>vertical pencil line from here through bottom of page

1  
 2 Say--earliest gooseberry<sup>81</sup>--then elder--thimble  
 3 berry & raspberry<sup>82</sup>--& 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--<sup>83</sup> //

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 goose<sup>84</sup> 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

---

<sup>81</sup>vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "& hazel"  
<sup>82</sup>"thimble berry" and "raspberry" marked for transposition.  
<sup>83</sup>"under cliffs tomorrow--" possibly added  
<sup>84</sup>vertical 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 25<sup>85</sup>  
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 thick<sup>86</sup> haze-- Cannot  
25 see distant hills--nor use my glass to  
26 advantage. The Equisetum arvense on  
27 the causeway sheds<sup>87</sup> 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

---

<sup>85</sup>"prob . . . 25" LR in ink

<sup>86</sup>vertical pencil line through "thick"

<sup>87</sup>vertical pencil line through "sheds"

1 %391%

2 are just hatched on the wild cherry--some //

3 others just come out

4 are an ~~inch~~ inch<sup>88</sup> 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 Thrush<sup>89</sup> 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

---

<sup>88</sup>Looks like T corrected his spelling--previous word is cancelled "inch"--no AL added to table

<sup>89</sup>Possibly "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 looking<sup>90</sup> 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 leafing<sup>91</sup> ^ & 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 common<sup>92</sup> 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

---

<sup>90</sup>vertical pencil line through "looking"

<sup>91</sup>vertical pencil line through "leafing"

<sup>92</sup>vertical 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 <sup>a</sup> ~~this~~ faint cheep very rapidly repeated--  
 6 making a faint sharp jingle, ~~no doubt~~ <sup>prob by</sup> by  
 7 field sparrows--this their common low note.  
 8 ~~the same~~. Many Sparrows have a similar  
 9 faint metallic cheep--the tree spar-- &  
 10 field-spar-- for instance. I first saw the  
 11 white-throated sparrow at this date last year--  
 12 Hear the peculiar squeaking notes of a  
 13 pig-- woodpecker-- 2 Black duks circle--  
 14 around me 3 or 4 times wishing to  
 15 alight in the swamp--but finally go to  
 16 the river meadows-- I hear the whistling of  
 17 their wings. {drawing} Their bills point downward  
 18 thus in flying. The andromeda calycu-  
 19 lata is out in water--in the little swamp  
 20 E. of Beck stows--some perhaps yesterday XXX.  
 21 & C. says he saw many ~~of~~ bluets yesterday XX  
 22 & also that he saw 2 F. hiemalis yesterday.  
 23 I have noticed 3 or 4 upper jaws of  
 24 muskrats on the meadow lately--which  
 25 added to the dead bodies floating make more  
 26 than half a dozen pehaps drowned out  
 27 last winter.  
 28 After sunset paddled up to the Hub. bath.  
 29 The bushes ringing with the evening song of  
 30 song sparrows & robins--& the evening  
 31  
 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 4th<sup>93</sup> //  
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 fainter<sup>94</sup> oven  
29 bird like notes. The principal singer on this  
30 walk--both in wood & field away from town

---

<sup>93</sup>"? . . . 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  
<sup>94</sup>"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 already<sup>95</sup> 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--

---

<sup>95</sup>vertical 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--<sup>96</sup>with its catkins (not yet  
 6 or bracts,<sup>?</sup>  
 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 green<sup>97</sup> grass is springing up. //  
 12 Pm by boat to Lupine Hill.  
 13 It<sup>98</sup> 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 perfection<sup>99</sup> 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.

---

<sup>96</sup>vertical pencil line through this and the following lines

<sup>97</sup>vertical pencil line through "green"

<sup>98</sup>Possibly added

<sup>99</sup>vertical pencil line through "perfection"

1                                   somewhat fishy  
 2            It has a strong marshy,^ almost seaweed-like  
 3   scent when plucked. Seen through  
 4   a glass the surface is finely grooved.  
 5 //            The scrolls of the interrupted<sup>100</sup> fern are  
 6   already 4 or 5 inches high--  
 7            I see a woodchuck on the side of lupine<sup>101</sup>  
 8   Hill 8 or 10 rods off-- He runs to within 3 feet  
 9   of his hole then stops--with his head up--his  
 10                                   black  
 11   whole body makes an angle of 45° as I  
 12    I see his shining black eyes & ^ snout & his little erect ears  
 13   look sideways at it.^ He is of a light brown  
 14    at this distance                    or sorrel  
 15   forward ^ (Hoary above--yellowish ^ beneath) gradually  
 16   darkening backward to the end of the tail,  
 17                                    general  
 18   which is dark brown. The ~~whole~~ aspect is grisly--the ends of most  
 19   ~~As I advance~~ The (yellowish brown) of his throat  
 20                                    or rather sorrel  
 21   of the hairs being white  
 22   & breast ~~lik~~ very like the sand of his burrow  
 23   over which it is slanted. No glaring distinctions  
 24   to catch the eye & betray him. As I advance  
 25   he ~~draws~~ crawls a foot nearer--his hole--as  
 26   if to make sure his retreat while he satis-  
 27                                    Tired of holding up his head, he  
 28   fies his curiosity-- lowers it at last--yet waits my further advance.  
 29 //            The snout of the little sternotherus is the  
 30   most like a little black stick seen above  
 31   the water of any of the smaller tortoises.  
 32   I was almost perfectly deceived by it close  
 33 // at hand; but it moved. Choke cherry  
 34 // begins to leaf-- Dandelions out yest. at least  
 35 // Some Young alders beg to leaf-- V. ovata  
 36 // will open tomorrow X Mt ash beg-- to leaf  
 37   say yesterday<sup>102</sup>-- Makes a show with leaves

---

<sup>100</sup>"interrupted" cancelled in pencil  
<sup>101</sup>Written vertically in left margin, lines 7-26:  
 "4 nails on fore feet & 5 behind--the hind  
 feet are also longer--Are the first not hands  
 partly?"  
<sup>102</sup>vertical pencil line through "yesterday"



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 ap<sup>103</sup> 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 leaf<sup>104</sup>.--one of them. //  
 27 more  
 28 Another^still--cloudy almost drizzling  
 29 day<sup>105</sup>--in which as the last 3 I wear a  
 30 great coat. //  
 31 P. M. To Lee's Cliff.  
 32 Privet begins to leaf<sup>106</sup>--(Vib nudum & lentago //

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<sup>103</sup>Possibly "at"  
<sup>104</sup>vertical pencil line through "leaf"  
<sup>105</sup>Possibly altered from "in"  
<sup>106</sup>vertical 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 & when<sup>107</sup> 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

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<sup>107</sup>Possibly 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 were<sup>108</sup> screaming about their nest.~~  
40 nearly black-- ~~Have they begun to lay?<sup>109</sup> 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.~~

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<sup>108</sup>"were" written over "are"

<sup>109</sup>Caret 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 see<sup>110</sup> 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 the<sup>111</sup> Miles swamp side--& this single  
30 bright scarlet one shows that it belonged to  
31 a red-wing--which some hawk or quadruped

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<sup>110</sup>vertical pencil lines through this and the following lines  
<sup>111</sup>Possibly written over "Miles"

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devoured.

May 1st

Rained some<sup>112</sup> 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 gone<sup>113</sup> 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 seen<sup>114</sup> springing up & for 2 or  
3 days at the bottom of the river & on shore.

At Hill Shore--the anemone nemoralis  
tomorrow--see none<sup>115</sup> 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 flowers<sup>116</sup> in the air--  
--a true may day--raw & drizzling in  
the morning. The grackle still.

What various brilliant & evanescent

//

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<sup>112</sup>vertical pencil line through "some"  
<sup>113</sup>vertical pencil line through this and following lines  
<sup>114</sup>vertical pencil line through "seen"  
<sup>115</sup>Possibly altered from "now"  
<sup>116</sup>vertical 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?<sup>117</sup> or Marchantia? The  
14 // Why have the white pines at a dist. that silvery (dewy?) look around their edges  
15 or thin<sup>118</sup>  
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 a<sup>119</sup> 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

---

<sup>117</sup>"?" possibly "I" or "J"

<sup>118</sup>Possibly "their"

<sup>119</sup>Spotched--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 1/4<sup>120</sup> of an inch beyond the lower mandible. & is proportionally  
 17 1/4 of a circle^-- Whole visible, including cere<sup>121</sup>,  
 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 stand<sup>122</sup> 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.<sup>x123</sup> bet. 3d & 4th toes-- Toes with papillae  
 40 not rigid beneath.

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<sup>120</sup>Possibly altered from another word

<sup>121</sup>Possibly altered from another word

<sup>122</sup>Possibly altered from another word

<sup>123</sup>Written 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 begs<sup>124</sup> to leaf--& pear<sup>125</sup>--perhaps some of last earlier.  
30   at 20 to 25 feet high  
31        of young trees                   say yesterday began  
32 // Aspen leaves<sup>126</sup> ^ an inch long suddenly-^-<sup>127</sup>(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

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<sup>124</sup>vertical pencil line through "begs"  
<sup>125</sup>vertical pencil line through "pear"  
<sup>126</sup>vertical pencil line through "leaves"  
<sup>127</sup>Caret positioned under <n->.

1 %413%

2 The young aspens are the first of indigenous trees conspicuously

3 leafed.

4 Diervella say begs to leaf with<sup>128</sup> Viburnums. //

5 bot. //

6 Amelanchier--^yesterday<sup>129</sup> 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 river<sup>130</sup> 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 seems<sup>131</sup> 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 3d<sup>132</sup>

31 Pm to Assabet Bath--<sup>133</sup>

32 with a jerk of the head.

33 Small pewee--tchevet^. Hard-hack<sup>134</sup> 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^ //

<sup>128</sup>vertical pencil line through "with"

<sup>129</sup>vertical pencil line through "yesterday"

<sup>130</sup>vertical pencil line through "river banks"

<sup>131</sup>vertical pencil line through "seems"

<sup>132</sup>"May 3d" probably added--not in AL table yet

<sup>133</sup>"to Assabet Bath--" probably added--not in AL table yet

<sup>134</sup>vertical 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--opened<sup>135</sup> ap yest. XXX  
17 // Vac. Pennsylvanicum<sup>136</sup>--begs to leaf yesterday. Young  
18 // red. maple<sup>137</sup> leaf tomorrow--also some<sup>138</sup> 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)

---

<sup>135</sup>vertical pencil line through "opened"

<sup>136</sup>vertical pencil line through "Pennsylvanicum"

<sup>137</sup>vertical pencil line through "maple"

<sup>138</sup>vertical 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 active<sup>139</sup> 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 <sup>5</sup><sup>140</sup> 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 begining<sup>141</sup> 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. //

---

<sup>139</sup>"t" cross in "active" in pencil

<sup>140</sup>Possibly altered from "4"

<sup>141</sup>vertical pencil line through "begining"

1 // Red maple blossoms beg. to cover growth. Ostrya  
2 // will leaf<sup>142</sup> tomorrow-- (The 2nd Amelanchier<sup>143</sup>--sweet fern ~~lea~~  
3 // & early thorn<sup>144</sup> 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 // tomorrow<sup>145</sup>-- 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 setting<sup>146</sup>-- 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 now<sup>147</sup> 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

---

<sup>142</sup>vertical pencil line through "leaf"

<sup>143</sup>vertical pencil line through "Amelanchier"

<sup>144</sup>vertical pencil line through "thorn"

<sup>145</sup>vertical pencil line through "tomorrow"

<sup>146</sup>Possibly altered from another word

<sup>147</sup>vertical 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                               %falsey%  
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 generally<sup>150</sup> 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}<sup>151</sup> 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 buds<sup>152</sup> are still larger--may  
36 bloom in 8 days. Potentilla out X   //  
37 What that plant in Baker's Pool with sessile spat-

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<sup>148</sup>MS page fuzzy and difficult to read--some punctuation, misspellings and other nuances may have been missed; needs to be checked against original at Morgan  
<sup>149</sup>Possibly in pencil  
<sup>150</sup>vertical pencil line through "generally"  
<sup>151</sup> drawing includes the word "wood" which has not been transcribed here.  
<sup>152</sup>vertical 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 several<sup>153</sup> 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 Dr<sup>154</sup> 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--

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<sup>153</sup>vertical pencil line through "several"

<sup>154</sup>Possibly altered from another word

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Some Mt<sup>155</sup> 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 till<sup>156</sup> 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 when<sup>157</sup>, 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 my<sup>158</sup> resolve I detected

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//

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<sup>155</sup>poss revised to "Lt"  
<sup>156</sup>Possibly altered from another word  
<sup>157</sup>"when" altered from "then", or "then" altered from "when"--no AL written yet  
<sup>158</sup>Possibly altered from "they" or "the"

1 a new nest close to the top of the tallest  
2 white pine in the samp<sup>159</sup>-- A crow circled cawing  
3 about it within gun shot--then over me  
4 surveying--& perching on an oak directly over<sup>160</sup> 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 maples<sup>161</sup> leafing are more  
13 conspicuous now than any maples. Black  
14 // oak buds are large<sup>162</sup> & silvery. Peach leafed  
15 yesterday--

16 Pm to Epigaea

17 // S.<sup>163</sup> 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-- As<sup>164</sup>  
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?

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<sup>159</sup>Possibly "swmp"

<sup>160</sup>Possibly altered from another word

<sup>161</sup>vertical pencil line through "maples"

<sup>162</sup>vertical pencil line through "large"

<sup>163</sup>Possibly altered from "I"

<sup>164</sup>Possibly altered from another word

1 %421%

2 Eq. sylvaticum prob-- yest.<sup>165</sup> 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,

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<sup>165</sup>vertical 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 going<sup>166</sup> 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 insects<sup>167</sup> 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--perceive<sup>168</sup> 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

---

<sup>166</sup>vertical pencil line through "going"

<sup>167</sup>Possibly altered from "insect"

<sup>168</sup>vertical 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 themselves<sup>169</sup> 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 least<sup>170</sup> 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 discovered<sup>171</sup> & climbed to the nest  
 31 within a dozen rods. It was about 16  
 32 inches over--of the p. pine dead twigs

---

<sup>169</sup>vertical pencil line through "themselves"  
<sup>170</sup>vertical pencil line through "least"  
<sup>171</sup>Possibly 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~~<sup>172</sup> 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 this<sup>173</sup> name. The early  
35 // willow on the left beyond the bridge

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<sup>172</sup>T corrected spelling; no need to add to AL table

<sup>173</sup>Possibly 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 branches<sup>174</sup>  
 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-

---

<sup>174</sup>Possibly altered from another word



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 <sup>^177</sup> above--the feathers  
11 or fawn?  
12 shafted with small blackish brown <sup>^178</sup> 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 <sup>dark</sup> ^ 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.

---

<sup>177</sup>upside down caret with line connecting caret to "or fawn?" on l. 11  
<sup>178</sup>Caret 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 ash<sup>179</sup> 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 or<sup>180</sup> stamen than 2 together--in the very minute  
 calyx if it is one-- Young bass<sup>181</sup> 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  
 coming<sup>182</sup> & 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?<sup>183</sup> bird--though the egg was  
 not pure white-- I do not remember that my  
 bird was barred or mottled at all. %v the 12th%

//  
?  
?  
//

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<sup>179</sup>Possibly altered from another word  
<sup>180</sup>Possibly "&"  
<sup>181</sup>vertical pencil line through "bass"  
<sup>182</sup>Possibly altered from "come"  
<sup>183</sup>Possibly 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--<sup>184</sup>  
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) comes<sup>185</sup> on  
33 faster & showes more now<sup>186</sup> 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 just<sup>187</sup> begun to leaf-- Its keys  
38 1 1/2 inches long--by Assabet bridge.

---

<sup>184</sup>"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

<sup>185</sup>Possibly altered from "come"

<sup>186</sup>vertical pencil line through "now"

<sup>187</sup>vertical 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--hardly<sup>188</sup> 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 today<sup>189</sup> in some places-- The beach leaf buds are

30 more back ap. than chestnut<sup>190</sup>--but some

---

<sup>188</sup>vertical pencil line through this and following lines

<sup>189</sup>Possibly altered from "in"

<sup>190</sup>vertical 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  
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 maples<sup>191</sup> not  
27 // yet beg. to leaf--later considerably<sup>192</sup> 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

---

<sup>191</sup>vertical pencil line through "maples"

<sup>192</sup>vertical pencil through this and following lines



1  
2 Canoe birch just sheds pollen<sup>193</sup> 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--<sup>194</sup>passed round  
21 an oak<sup>195</sup> & 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

---

<sup>193</sup>"sheds pollen" possibly altered from "shed pollens"

<sup>194</sup>dash may be up stroke of "p"

<sup>195</sup>"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 for<sup>196</sup> 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

---

<sup>196</sup>vertical 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 interesting<sup>197</sup> tender green  
22 of the jut springing foliage--of the aspens  
23 app%l%es<sup>198</sup> 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 <sup>bare</sup> ^ 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--& looking<sup>199</sup>  
31 3 or 4 ways almost at once for insects.

//  
//

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<sup>197</sup>vertical pencil line through "interesting"  
<sup>198</sup>"l" added in pencil  
<sup>199</sup>Possibly 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 <sup>long & undulating</sup> ^ 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)^. <sup>standing this time ap. lengthwise on the limb</sup> Soon  
24 took to wing again & went to fishing down  
25 100 feet high  
26 the stream. ^When just below Bittern Cliff I  
27 observed by its motions that it observed some-  
28 thing-- It made a broad circle of observation  
29 in its course--lowering itself somewhat  
30 then by one or 2 <sup>steep</sup> ~~side flt~~ side wise flights  
31 it reached the water = & as near  
32 as intervening trees would let me see  
33 skimmed over it & endeovred to clutch  
34 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 the leaves & stem also not purplish but a yellowish & light green  
2 // columbines--not a tinge of scarlet--^with  
3 ~~all~~ the parts both flower & leaves more slender--& the leaves not so flat  
4 leaves differently shaped from the common--^  
5 but inclining to fold.  
6 // One flower of the polygonum pubescens open  
7 there--prob. may shed pollen tomorrow XXX<sup>200</sup>  
8 Returning over Conantum I directed my glass  
9 toward the dead tree on Cliffs & was surprised  
10 to see the Fish-hawk still sitting there about an  
11 hour after he first alighted--& now I found that  
12 he was eating a fish which he had under  
13 his feet on the limb--<sup>201</sup>& ate--as I have already  
14 described. At this distance his whole head looked  
15 white with his breast.  
16 Just before sundown took our seats before  
17 sat perfectly still &  
18 the owl's nest & ^ awaited her appearance--  
19 We sat about 1/2 an hour--& it was surprising  
20 what various distinct sounds we heard  
21 ~~from~~ there deep in the wood--as if the vistas  
22 aisles  
23 of the wood were so many ear trumpets--  
24 the cawing of crows--the peeping of hylas--in  
25 the swamp--& perhaps the croaking of  
26? // a tree-toad--the oven bird--the yorrick  
27 // of Wilson's thrush--a distant stake  
28 driver--the night warbler--& black &  
29 white creeper--the lowing of cows--the  
30 late supper horn--the voices of boys--  
31 the singing of girls--not all together  
32 but separately & distinctly & musically  
33 from where the Partridge--& the  
34 red tailed hawk & the screech owl  
35 sit on their--nests.

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<sup>200</sup>"XXX" possibly added

<sup>201</sup>Possibly "limb.--"

- 1 Clearer weather 1<sup>202</sup> 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 fall<sup>203</sup> & 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

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<sup>202</sup> 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.

<sup>203</sup> Possibly "fell"

- 1 To Baker farm by moonlight 15
- 2 Sounds in evening 15--6--7--8--9 &c
- 3 A-Graping<sup>204</sup> 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.

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<sup>204</sup>"Graping" written over "graping"