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.
// Lambkill again in Hunt pasture. Close

// 100 rods S of the Oak a bay-berry bush

without fruit--prob. a male one. It

made me realize--that this was only

a more distant & elevated sea beech--and

that we were within reach of marine in-

fluences. My thoughts suffered a sea

turn. N. of the oak (4 or 5 rods) on the

left of the bridle road in the pasture next to

Masons tried to find the white hardhack

still out--but it was too late. Found the

// mt Laurel out again 1 flower close ^ on

end of this years shoot-- There were numerous

blossom buds expanding & they may possibly

open this fall. Running over the laurel

// an amphicarpaea in bloom--some pods

nearly an inch long--out prob. a week or 10 days at

linear

// most. Epilobium molle ^ still in flower in

// the spruce swamp--near my path. A white hardhack

out of bloom by a pile of stones on which I put

another in Robbins' field & a little south of

// it a clump of red huckleberries.

Monday Sep 4th

// A multiflorus XXX Observed the undersides of

a shrub willow by the river lit by the rays

of the rising sun--shining like silver or dew

drops-- Yet when I stood nearer & looked

down on them at a different angle they

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

1 Cancelled in pencil.
^vertical pencil line through word
skaters &

^ water bugs? like sparks\(^3\) of fire on the surface

between us & the moon The high shore

above the RR bridge was very simple

& grand--1st the bluish sky with the

moon & a few brighter stars--then

{drawing}

the near high level bank--like a distant

mountain ridge or a dark cloud in the

E horizon--then its reflection in the

water--making it double--& finally

the glassy water--& the sheen in' one

spot on the white lily pads-- Some

willows for relief in the distance on the

right. It was Ossianic.

\(^5\)(I noticed this afternoon that bubbles would

not readily form on the water--& soon burst

forth on account of the late rains which have

changed its quality. There is prob. less stagnation

& scum-- It is less adhesive.)\(^6\)

A fine transparent mist

Lily bay seemed as wide as a lake--

you referred the shore back to the

clam shell hills-- The mere edge which

a flat shore presents makes no
distinct impression on the eye—& if seen
at all appears as the base of the dis-
tant hills—Commonly a slight mist yet
low
more conceals it. The dim shore but a few
distant
rods distant is seen as the base of the hills
whose distance you know—The low shore, if
not entirely concealed by the low mist—is seen
against the distant hills & passes for their
immediate base. For the same reason
hills near the water appear much more steep
than they are. We hear a faint metallic
chip from a sparrow on the button bushes
or willows now & then. Rowse was struck
by the simplicity of nature now—The sky the
greater part—then a little dab of earth—
& after some water near you. Looking up
the reach beyond Clam[Shell]—the moon on
our east quarter—its sheen was reflected for
half a mile from the pads & the rippled
water next them on that side—while the
willows lined the shore in indistinct black
masses—like trees made with India ink—
(without distinct branches) & it looked like
a sort of broadway with the sun reflected
from its pavements. Such willows might
be made with soot or smoke merely—lumpish
with fine edges. Meanwhile Fair H. Hill
NB seen blue through the %transparent% mist—was as large & imposing as Wachusett—& we seemed to be approaching the High-lands of the river. A mt pass. Where the river had burst through mts.

A high mt would be no more imposing.

Now I began to hear owls—screech owls at a distance up stream—but we hardly got nearer to them as if they retreated before us— At length when off Wheelers grape & cranberry meadow we heard one near at hand. The rhythm of it was this once or twice repeated pe-pe-ou ^ but more of a squeal-- & somewhat human. Or do not all strange sounds thrill us as human—till we have learned to refer them to their proper source. They appeared to answer one another half a mile apart—could be heard from far woods a mile off.

The wind has risen & the echo is poor—it does not reverberate up & down the river—

NB No sound of a bullfrog, but steadily %mole% // the %\%^ cricket %(%like—rana palustris%)% along shore.

Rowse heard a whippoorwill at Sleepy Hollow tonight. No scent of muskrats.

Sep 5th '54

? Were those plump birds which looked some—what like robins crossing the river yesterday Pm—
Golden plover—? I heard the upland plover note
at same time, but these were much stouter birds.
The dangle-berries——are 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 to Sam Barrets Pond.
%The river rising (distinctly)%
The river weeds are now much decayed—almost
%& they are thinned%
all pads but the white lily have disappeared—%&—
%& as I wade I trod on the great roots only
& in mid stream those dense beds of weeds of the yellow lily—%are so much thinned (Potamogetons--heart-
leaf--sparganium--&c &c--) as to give one
the impression of the river having risen—though
it is not more than 6 inches higher on ac--
of the rain. I see now against the edge
of the pads on each side of the stream a
%at first%
floating wreck—of weeds, %&% almost ex—
clusively the sparganium %(%minor%)%--which
%so thick%
%The 1st [ ] contribution to the river wrack!%
stood %&% in mid stream. %&% These ap. become rotten
or loose—(though they are still green) and
the wind & water wash them to one side.15
They form floating masses of wreck—
%small slums %
%I observe% that also%
%& 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
%\textit{brink} is in perfection.17 This is a fall
%become rotten—though many are still green%
phenomenon. The river weeds18 %&% fall or are loosened.
the water rises--the winds\textsuperscript{19} come & they
are drifted to the shore--& the water is
cleared.\textsuperscript{20}

During the drought I used to see Sam
Wheeler's men carting hogsheads of
water from the river to water his shrubbery.
They drove into the river--& naked all but
a coat & hat--they dipped up the water
with a pail--though a shiftless, it
looked like an agreeable labor that
hot weather--Bathed at the Swamp--
The water warmer again than I expected larger
white oak--"one of these" oaks is stript
// nearly bare by the caterpillars. Cranberry-

raking is now fairly\textsuperscript{21} begun. The very bottom
of the river there is loose & crumbly with
saw dust. I bring up the coarse bits
of wood (waterlogged) between my feet.
// I see much thistle down without the seed
\textsuperscript{20}//\% floating on the river--Saw a humming

bird about a cardinal flower--over
the water's edge--Just this side the rock
the water near the shore & pads is quite
for 20 rods as with a white sawdust
\textsuperscript{white} with the exuviae of small insects
mixed with scum & weeds
about 1/8 of an inch long--"ap. like the
green lice on birches--though they want the
long antennae of the last--Yet I suspect
did not the rain destroy them?
they are the same--"What others are so
plenty? I see as often before, a dozen
doves on the rock—ap for coolness—
which fly before me. Polyg amphium
va terrestre ap. in prime. I find some
Zizania grains almost black.
See a chip bird. See many galls
thickly clustered & saddled about the
twigs of some young swamp white oaks—
hold on all winter
dome shaped {drawing} ^ (with grubs in middle)—
--reddish green A pretty large tupelo on a rock
behind Sam Barrets. some of its leaves a
very deep & brilliant scarlet—equal to any leaves
in this respect. Some waxwork leaves variegated
greenish yellow & dark green— His Pond has
been almost completely dry—more than he
ever knew—& is still mostly so— The muddy
bottom is exposed high & dry half a dozen
rods wide & half covered with great drying
yel— & white lily pads & stems— He improves
the opportunity to skim off the fertile deposit
for his compost heap— Saw some button
bush balls going to seed which were really
quite a rich red over a green base.—especially
in this evening light. They are commonly
greener—& much duller reddish— Barrett
shows me some very handsome pear—
shaped cranberries {drawing} not uncommon
which may be a permanent var. dif. from
the common rounded ones.
Saw two pigeons which flew about his pond & then lit on the elms over his house—he said they had come to drink from Brooks' as they often did. He sees a blue heron there almost every morning of late—Such is the place for them. A soapwort gentian by river—remarkably early?—The top has been bitten off! I hear the tree-toad today.

Now at sundown A blue heron flaps away from his perch on an oak over the river before me just above the rock—Hear locusts after sundown.

Sep 6th

6 Am to Hill—the sun is rising directly mag. E over the E ^ end of the street. Not yet the Equinox. I hear a faint warbling vireo on the elms still—in the morning.

My little turtle taken out of the shell Sep 2nd has a shell 1 7/40 inch long or 4/40 longer than the diameter of the egg shell— to say nothing of head & tail— Warm weather again & sultry nights the last 2. The last a splendid moon light & quite warm.

I am not sure that I have seen bobolinks for 10 days—nor blackbirds since aug. 28th

9+ pm There is now approaching from the W. one of the heaviest thundershowers—apparently—& with the most
incessant flashes that I remember to have
seen. It must be 20 miles off at least
for I can hardly hear the thunder at all.
The almost incessant flashes reveal
the form of the cloud—at least the
upper & lower edge of it—but it stretches
N & S along the horizon further than
we see—Every minute I see the
crinkled lightning intensely bright dart to
earth—or forkedly along the cloud—
It does not always dart direct to earth
but sometimes25 very crookedly like
the bough of a tree {drawing} or along
The forked thunderbolt26
the cloud forkedly—It seems
like a tremendous dark battery bearing
down on us, with an incessant fire kept
up behind it. And each time ap— it
strikes the earth or something on it with
terrific violence. We feel the rush of the
cool wind while the thunder is yet scarcely audi-
ble. The flashes were in fact incessant for an
hour or more though lighting up dif. parts
of the horizon—now the edges of the cloud—
now far along the horizon—showing a clearer
beneath the cloud
golden space ^ where rain is falling. through which
stream tortuously to earth the brilliant bolts.
It is a visible striking or launching of bolts

25 Followed by a mark that might be a canceled period or comma.
26 written as a caption under drawing
on the devoted villages. It crinkles through
the clear yellow portion beneath the cloud
where it rains--like fiery snakes or worms
--like veins in the eye. At first it was a
small and very distant cloud in the
SW horizon revealed by its own flashes
--but it gradually advanced & extended--
itself & united with others N & S along
and the thunder began to be heard--& wind came &c
the horizon its rugged upper
outline & its whole form revealed by
& no thunder heard
the flashes--^ It seemed like a ship firing
broad-sides
At last came the rain, but not heavy,
nor the thunder loud--but the flashes
were visible all around us.
Before this in the Pm--to the Hol-
lowell Place--via Hub-- Bath crossing the
river. A very warm day one of the
warmest of the year-- The water is again
say an average summer warmth
warmer than I should have believed--^ yet not so warm as it has been. It
makes me the more surprised that
only that day & a half of rain should
have made it so very cold when I last
bathed here. Is not all our really hot weather always contained between the
20th of May & the middle of September?

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27"but . . . horizon" marked off by an ink line
28"its . . . broad-sides" marked off by an ink line
The checker berries are just\(^2\) beginning to redden XXX

The cinnamon ferns along the edge of many woods next the meadow are \(^\wedge\) yellow or cinnamon--or quite brown & withered.

The sarsaparilla leaves\(^3\)--green--or reddish are spotted with yellow eyes centered with or dull reddish eye with yellow iris reddish.\(^4\) They have a very pretty effect held over the forest floor--beautiful in their decay. The sessile leaved bell-wort is yellow green & brown all together or separately. Some white oak leaves are covered with dull yellow spots. Now ap. is the time to gather the clusters of shrub oak acorns be- to adorn a shelf with fore they drop. \(^5\) some however are ready to fall on account of the late drought-- I see where the squirrels have eaten them (the ilicifolia) & left the shells on a stump. See galls on the chinquapin sessile on the stem spherical--\(^6\) & in ap. between that\(^7\) of yesterday on the swamp white oak & the cast steel-soap galls. I think I may say that large\(^8\) sol-seal berries have begun to be red. I see no swallows now at Clam shell They have probably migrated. Still see the cracks in the ground. and no doubt shall till the snow comes. very few of the A undulatus this year & they late. Some large roundish or\(^9\) squarish vib. nudum
berries—by fence bet. Hosmer spring & Lupine Hill near foot of hill—but I see no dif—bet the leaves &c & the others.

// An A. longifolius like some days at Hosmer ditch %27 rayed% with smaller flowers %^%--smaller scales—leaves rough rough above & serrate & purple stem "--I will call it A A similar with flesh colored blossom & longer scales at ^ Heywood ditch. ? A carneus for present". It may^34 be a var of what I saw by Mill brook & called Tenuifolius—scales alike but that had smooth leaves.

Thursday Sep 7th 54

// The rain of last night has brought down more leaves of elms & buttonwoods Pm to Moores swamp & Walden. rose

// See some hips of the mooss ^ very large & handsome bright scarlet—very much flattened globular—On the Walden road heard a some what robin like clicking note—looked round &

// saw one of those small slate col— %male marsh hawk% skiming over the meadows with head down—{drawing}—at first 30 feet high—then low till he appeared to drop into the grass. It was quite a loud clicketling sound

Paddled to Baker Farm—just after sundown—by full moon— I suppose this is the Harvest moon since the sun must be in Virgo—enters

^34“it may” altered from another word, poss. “y how”
libra the 23d inst.

The wind has gone down. & it is a still warm night, & no mist.

$the moon not yet risen$

It is just after sundown & One star--

& many bats over & about our heads

Jupiter (?) visible. ^There are many clouds

and small skaters creating a myriad dimples on the evening waters. We

see a muskrat-crossing--& pass a white cat on the shore.

about & a beautiful sunset sky--

dunnish?

A yellowish golden sky between them

an elm in the yellow twilight looks very rich as if moss or ivy-clad

All = this is

in the horizon--looking up the river--

& A dark blue cloud extends into the dun golden sky--on which there is a little

fantastic

the point of

cloud like a chicken--walking up ^ it--with its neck outstretched

we see reflected in the water-- The beauty

of the sunset is doubled by the reflection.

Being on the water we have double

dun-colored

the amount of lit & colored sky

in our west --above & beneath-- The

or reddish?

reflected sky is more dun ^ & richer than the

real one-- This seems the first autumnal

sunset. The small skaters seem more active

than by day--or their slight dimpling is more

obvious in the lit twilight-- A stray white

cat sits on the shore looking over the water.

This is her hour-- A Night-hawk dashes

past low over the water-- Take a glorious

sunset sky & double it--so that it shall

extend downward beneath the horizon as

much as above it--blotting out the earth--

& the lowest half be ^ the deepest tint--

& every beauty more than before insisted

on--& you seem withal to be floating

directly into it-- This is what we had.

It was in harmony with this fair evening

---

35two vertical pencil lines run length of page

36"in our west" cancelled in pencil

37"or reddish" cancelled in pencil

38"This . . . water." in lines 28-34 set off with a vertical pencil line in

left margin and marked with a pencilled "2". "Take . . . it--" in lines 34-42 set

off with a vertical pencil line in left margin and marked with a "1"
that we were not walking\textsuperscript{39} or riding
with dust and noise through it
but moved by a paddle without a
almost
jar over the liquid & ^ invisible surface--
floating directly towards those islands
\textsuperscript{4} which we call clouds in the (west) sky
of the blessed.\textsuperscript{5} I thought of the Indian
who so many similar + evenings had
paddled up this stream--with what advantage
he beheld the twilight sky-- So we advanced
\textsuperscript{6} without dust or sound\textsuperscript{8}
\textsuperscript{7} by gentle impulses as the twilight gradually
faded-away. The height of the RR.
bridge--already high--(more than 20
ft to the top of the rail) was doubled by the
reflection--equaling that of a Roman
aqueduct--for we could not possibly
see where the reflection began--& the
piers appeared to rise from the lowest
part of the reflection of the rail above
about 50 feet-- We floated directly under
it between the piers as if\textsuperscript{10} in mid air--
not being able to distinguish the surface
more than
of the water--& looked down ^ 20 feet to
the reflected flooring through whose inter-
vals we saw the starlit sky-- The ghostly
piers stretched downward on all sides--
& only the angle made by their meeting
the real ones betrayed where was the water
surface\textsuperscript{11}. The twilight had now paled
\textsuperscript{12} (lost its red & dun) & faintly illumined the
\textsuperscript{13} // high\textsuperscript{14} bank. I observed no firefly this
\textsuperscript{15} evening nor the 4th ult.\textsuperscript{16} The moon had not
\textsuperscript{17} vertical pencil line from here through length of page
\textsuperscript{18} "if" reformatted
\textsuperscript{19} Line in pencil from below "surface" and into the left margin.
\textsuperscript{20} Line in pencil from below "high" into left margin.
\textsuperscript{21} Pencil line following "ult--"
yet risen & there was a half\(^{4}\) hour of
dusk--in which " we saw the reflections
of the trees-- Any peculiarity in the form
  if it leans one side or has a pointed top, for instance,
of a tree or other object"--is revealed in
the reflection by being doubled & so insisted on.
-- We detected thus distant maples pines &
oaks--& they were seen to be related to the river
as \textit{distant mts} in the horizon--are by day.\(^{45}\)
\textbf{\textit{Night is the time to hear, our ears took in}}
every sound from the meadows & the village.
\textbf{\textit{At first as we were disturbed by the screeching}}
of the locomotive & rumbling of the cars--
--but soon we left to the fainter natural
sounds--the creaking of the crickets--& the
\textbf{\textit{I am not sure that I heard it the latter part of the}}
\textit{mole cricket}\(^{5}\) evening,
little \textit{rana palustris}--& the shrilling of other
\textit{crickets (?)}--the occasional faint lowing of
\textbf{\textit{distant}}
a cow--& the " barking of dogs, as in a whisper.
\textbf{\textit{Our ears drank in every sound. I heard\(^{17}\)}}
\textit{once or twice a dumping frog. This was while}
\textit{we lay off Nut Meadow Brook waiting for}
\textit{the moon to rise. She burned her way slowly thro'}
\textit{small--but thick clouds--and as fast as she}
\textit{triumphed over them & rose over them}
\textit{they appeared pale and shrunken like the\(^{10}\)}
\textit{ghosts of their former selves. Meanwhile}
\textit{we measured the breadth of the clear cope}
\textit{over our heads which she would ere long}
\textit{traverse--& while she was concealed--looked}
\textit{up to the few faint stars in the zenith

\(^{4}\)vertical pencil line from here through length of page
\(^{5}\) Horizontal pencil line extending to edge of page from below "day."
\(^{17}\) "rana palustris" canceled in pencil
\(^{45}\) Horizontal pencil line extending to right edge of page from below "heard"
\(^{17}\) Horizontal pencil line extending to right edge of page from below "the"
which is ever lighted. C. thought that
in the ever-lit sky inconceivable
these few faint lights ^--whose infinite dis-
tance was enhanced by a few downy wisps
of cloud--surpassed any scene that earth
could show. When the moon was
behind these small black clouds in the horizon
they had a splendid silver edging-- At length
She rose above them & shone aslant like a
ball of fire over the woods-- It was re-
markably clear tonight--& the water was
not so remarkably broad therefore--and
F Haven was not clothed with that blue
veil--like a mt which it wore on the 4th
reflected
The shadow of the Hill was black as night
& we seemed to be paddling directly into
a rod or two before us
it ^ but we never reached it at all--(But
it was not till we had past the bridge
that the first sheen was reflected from the pads)
The trees & hills were distinctly black between
us and the moon--& the water black or
gleaming accordingly. It was quite dry
& warm. Above the Cliffs we heard only one
or 2 owls at a distance, a-hooting owl
& a screech owl--& several whippoorwills.
The delicious fragrance of ripe grapes was
by the night air
wafted to us ^ as we paddled by from every
fertile Vine on the shore--& thus
its locality was revealed more surely
than by daylight-- We knew their fragrance
was better than their flavor-- They perfumed
thi whole river for a mile--by night.
You might have thought you had reached

49 Horizontal pencil line in left margin extending from below "could".
50 Horizontal pencil line in left margin extending from below "ball".
51 "was" altered from "ha": no AL necessary
52 Lines 16-18 set off with a vertical line in pencil in the left margin and marked with a "2".
53 Lines 18-21 set off with a vertical line in pencil in the left margin and marked with a "1."
54 Horizontal pencil line in left margin extending from below "gleaming".
55 Horizontal pencil line in left margin extending from below "&".
the confines of elysium. A slight zephyr wafted
us almost imperceptibly into the middle of F. H. Pond--
while we lay watching & listening-- The sheen of the
moon extended quite across the pond to us in a
long & narrow triangle--or rather with concave sides
like a very narrow Eddystone light house, with its
base in the SW shore (drawing) & we heard the dis-
tant sound of the wind thro the pines on
the hill top. Or if we listened closely--we heard
still the faint & distant barking of dogs. They
rule the night. Near the south shore disturbed some
ducks--in the water--which slowly flew away to
seek a new resting place--uttering a distinct
& alarmed quack--something like a goose.57
We walked up to the old Baker House--
In the bright moonlight the character of
the ground under our feet was not easy
to detect--& we did not know at first but
we were walking on sod and not on
a field laid down & harrowed. From
the upland the pond in the moon-
light ___ looked blue--as much so as the58
sky. We sat on the window sill of the
thought of its former inhabitants
old house--"saw our bandit shadows
down the cellar way--listened to each sound59
& observed each ray of moonlight through
the cracks. Heard an apple fall in the
little orchard close by. while-- a whippoorwill
was heard in the pines--60

56 Horizontal pencil line extending to right edge of page from beneath "They"
57 Horizontal pencil line extending to right edge of page from beneath "goose."
58 Horizontal pencil line extending to right edge of page from beneath "the"
59 Vertical pencil line in right margin from "sound" to "whippoorwill", l. 27-31, and labeled "2."
60 "while . . . pines--" possibly added
C.61 had on a red flannel shirt over his thin coat--since he expected it would look like one% be cold & damp%^%-- Returning to the boat saw a glow worm in the damp path in the low ground. Returning later-- better we experienced the weird-like character of the night--especially perceived the fragrance of the grapes--& admired the fair smooth fields in the bright moon reflections light. There being no mist the shadows were wonderfully distinct--the whole of bittern cliff with its grove was seen beneath the waves--

Sep 8th 54

Pm to boat under Fair H. Hill via Hub Bath &c. &c. A-graping The ivy at ivy tree is scarlet 1/4 part--

// Saw one of my small slate-col hawks of yesterday sitting in the midst of the upland field beyond like a crow-- There is a great crop of vib. nudum berries this year. The green briar berries not quite ripe-- Clams still lie up-- The grapes would no doubt be riper a week hence but I am compelled to go now before the vines are stripped. I partly smell them out. I pluck splendid great bunches of the purple ones

61 Lines 1-4 set off with a vertical pencil line in the margin and marked with a "1"
62 Horizontal pencil line under word in margin
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
on that shore where we were "as big as
a tray". Once he & another man were
digging a ditch in a meadow in Waltham
--(he thought it was the last of September
or first of October--and that we
did not see them put there put their
heads out much later than this.) they
found two mud turtles 3 feet beneath
the surface--& no hole visible by which
they entered. They lay them out on the
grass--but when they went to look for
them again--one was lost & the other
had buried himself in the meadow all
but the tip of his tail.

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

His father caught the great turtle while fishing and 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 the 1st frost & when the river wreck has begun to wash about a small hummock 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 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—which has been
out about a week & which I will
call the Hub swamp S. is quite peculiar--
is smooth &
It ^ has an erect narrow wandlike compound
& dense raceme--about 14 to 17 rayed heads--
-- Leaves very entire thin peculiarly elliptic (?)
lanceolate & pointed at both ends--not
triple veined--only the lower slightly serrate
--spatulate lanceolate with long slender
partly clasping winged petioles.

Many green briar leaves are very agreeably
thickly or pine green
^spotted now with reddish brown ^ on a yellow
or green ground--producing a wildly variegated
leaf-- I have seen nothing more rich.
Some of these curled leaves are 5 inches wide.
with a short point. It is a leaf now
for poets to sing about--a leaf to
inspire poets. Now while I am gathering
grapes I see them. It excites me to
a sort of autumnal madness--

They are leaves for Satyrus & Faunus
to make their garlands of-- My
thoughts break out like them spotted
all over--yellow & green & brown-- The
freckled leaf-- Perhaps they should be
poison to be thus spotted-- I fancied these
brown66 were blood red spots--by contrast--but they
are not-- Now for the ripening year--
even leaves are beginning to be ripe--

Garfield says he found a hen-
hawks nest near Holden's swamp--(the old
ones had got his chickens) 60 feet up
a white pine-- He climbed up & set a
trap in it67 baited with a fish--) The
with a string 10 feet long attached

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

"vertical pencil line from here though line beginning "Shatter..."
This morn I find a little hole 3/4 of an inch over above my small tortoise
eggs--& find a young tortoise coming out
(ap. in the rainy night) just beneath--
It is the sternothaerus⁶⁹-odoratus already
has the strong scent--& now has drawn in
& there are no traces of the yolk or what not attached
It may have been out of the egg some days
its head & legs" Only one as yet. I buried them in the garden June 15th--
I am affected by the thought that the earth nurses these eggs-- They are planted in the earth--& the earth takes care of them--she is genial to them & does not kill them. It suggests a certain vi-
& intelligence tality ^ in the earth--which I had not realized. This mother is not merely inanimate--& in-
organic-- Though the immediate mother turtle abandons her off spring--the earth & sun are kind to them-- The old earth turtle on which the resting takes care of them"-- Earth was not made poison-
ous & deadly to them. The earth has some virtue in it--when seeds are⁷⁰ put into it they germinate--when turtles' eggs they hatch. in due time-- Though the mother turtle remained and brooded them--it would still nevertheless be the universal world turtle which through her cared for them as now-- Thus the earth is the mother of all creatures--
Garfield said that one of his sons while they were haying in the river meadows once found a hundred little pickerel

⁶⁹ Correct spelling: “sternothroerus”
⁷⁰ “are” possibly altered from “&"

26
an inch or inch & a half long in little hole
in the meadow not bigger than a bushel
basket & nearly dry-- He took them out &
put them into the river-- Another time he
himself found many hundred in a ditch
brought them home & put them into his
large tub-- They there lived a spell without
his feeding them--but small as they were--
lived on one another--& you could see the
tails sticking out their mouths. It would
seem as if their spawn was deposited in those
little muddy bottomed hollows in the meadows
where we find the schools of young thus land-
locked.

Sep 10th 54

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

On account of the drought one crop has
What follows is a list—will need to decide how to indent or paragraph and how to handle runovers; it now follows copy

Possibly "black-tipt-hawks"

Blotched; possibly written over another number

almost entirely failed this year thus far—

which the papers have not spoken of. Last year for the last 3 weeks of August

the woods were filled with the strong musty scent of decaying fungi—but this year

I have seen very few fungi—and have not noticed that odor at all—A failure more perceptible to frogs & toads but no doubt serious to those whom it concerns.

As for birds.

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

Within a week several of the small slate-col—& black tipt hawks—

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

Hear screech owls & hooting owls these evenings.

Have not noticed blue-jays of late Occasionally hear the phe-be note of chicadees

Partridges prob. cease to mew for their young.

For about 3 weeks have seen 1 or 2 small dippers

For 10 days a few wood—and prob—black ducks

Small flocks of bluebirds about apple trees

Larks common—but have not heard them sing for some time

Am not sure that I have seen redwings or other b. birds for 20 days

Flew about 3 weeks ago a small flock of robins {&} pig. woodpeckers.

Robins common & still hear some faint notes
of woodpeckers--
Saw a downy woodpecker as a rarity within a week.

Believe I hear no song sparrows sing now adays
See no F hiemalis--hear no quails.

Heard my last phoebe Aug 26
See no flocks of white in tails--

Hear the nuthatch as a novelty within a week about
street--

Saw 1st tree sparrow about a week since
in first rain
Have seen pigeons about a fortnight.

Have not distinguished rush sparrows for
a long time--nor Savannah, nor
yellowwinged.

See no snipe since Aug. 16
Turtle doves for more than a month--
A chip-sparrow seen within a few days
The warbling vireo still heard faintly in the morning.

For 3 weeks blue herons common on meadows
& great--green bittern

Green bittern rather earlier for most part--
Have not heard king fisher of late, not for

3 weeks methinks.

Methinks I heard a faint sound from a che-wink within
a week?

Seen no barn swallows for a week
Heard no Catbirds nor brown thrashers sing

for a long time--but saw the last at least
within 10 days.

Whippoorwills still common.

Think I saw white-throated (?) sparrows on button bushes
about a week ago--the mizzling day.

Hear no golden robins for the last fortnight

Bats common

Not sure I have seen bobolinks since Aug-- 20

Kingbirds seen within a day or 2
Hummingbird within a week
Goldfinches common--
Nighthawks still--but have not noticed the booming lately
Cherrybirds common--
Cuckoo not heard lately--
Meadow hen? seen Aug 30th
Now generally ducks & other migratory birds are returning from N-- & ours going S.

Diplopappus und linarifolia & A. undulatus
// ap. now in prime.

Sep. 11th
Measured today the little sternothoerus odoratus which came out the ground in the garden Sep. 9th
Its shell is 32/40 of an inch long, by 25/40 wide. It has a distinct dorsal ridge & its head & flippers are remarkably developed-- Its raised back & dorsal ridge--as in the case of the mud-turtle, enable it to turn over very easily. It may have been hatched some time before it came out--for not only there was no trace of the yolk (?) but its shell was much wider than the egg, when it first came out of the ground. I placed a sieve over it, & it remained in the hole it had made mostly concealed the 2 rainy days--the 9th & 10th--but today I found it its head & legs drawn in & quite motionless against the edge of the sieve*. I put it so that you would have said the pulses of life had not fairly begun to beat-- into the tub on the edge of the mud.

74“?” possibly inserted
75Correct spelling: "sternothoerus"
76Possible short line
It seems that it does not have to learn
to walk--but walks at once--It seems
to have no infancy--such as birds have. It
is surprising how much cunning it already
exhibits. It is defended both by its form &
color & its instincts. As it lay on the mud
its color made it very inobvious--but
besides it kept its head & legs drawn in &
perfectly still, as if feigning death. But
this was not sluggishness. At a little
distance I watched it for ten minutes or more.

A length it put its head out far enough to
see if the coast was clear--then with its
flippers it launched itself toward the water (which
element it had never seen before)--& suddenly
& with rapidity turned itself into it
& dove to the bottom--Its whole behavior
was calculated to enable it to reach its
& proper element safely & without attracting
attention. Not only was it made of a
color and form (like a bit of coal)
but which alone almost effectually con-
sealed it--but it was made, infant as it
was to be perfectly still as if inanimate
and then to move with rapidity when unobserved.
The oldest turtle does not show more, if so
much cunning. I think I may truly say

7Either smudged or cancelled
that it meditates--uses cunning & meditates
reach
how it may the water in safety-- When
I first took it out of its hole on the morn. of
the 9th it shrunk into its shell & was motionless--
feigning death-- That this was not sluggishness
I have proved. When today it lay within half an
inch of the water’s edge-- It knew it for a friendly
element--& without deliberation or experiment,
but at last, when it thought me and all
foes unobservant of its motions--with remarkable
as if realizing a long cherished idea
precipitation it committed itself to it. Plainly
all its motions were as much the re-
sult of what is called instinct-- as is
the act of sucking in infants. Our own
subtlest is likewise but another kind
of instinct. The wise man is a wise infant
& never failing--
obeying his finest ^ instincts. It does not
so much impress me as an infantile be-
ing of life--as an epitome of all the
past of turtledom and of the earth.

I think of it as the result of all the turtles
that have been

The little snap. turtle lies almost constantly
on the mud with its snout out of water--
It does not keep under water long. Yesterday
in the cold rain, however, it lay buried in the
mud all day!

"Followed by false start
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** show
the colors of some flowers—that with
an absence of light their own colors are
more conspicuous and grateful against

**Blotted.
the cool moist dark green earth--the
A. puniceus--(the most densely massed) the
(now beginning to prevail) tradescanti--purple
gerardia &c &c-- The river has at length
risen perceptibly--and bathing I find it
colder again than on the 2nd ult--
So that I stay in but a moment--
I fear that it will not again be warm
The weeds in mid stream are mostly
drowned--& are washing up to the
shore--much valisneria*** & heartleaf--
*** (with its thread like stems) are added*** to
the previous wreck (v Sep. 5th)
A sprinkling drove me back for an
umbrella & I started again for Smith's
Hill--via Hub's Close. I see plump young
blue birds in small flocks along the fences
with only the primaries & tail a bright blue
the other feathers above dusky ashy brown
tipt with white. How much more the
crickets are heard a cool cloudy day like
this! Is it not partly because the air is stiller!
// I see the Epilobium molle? (linear) in Hub's Close
still out--but I cannot find a trace of the
fringed gentian. I scare pigeons from
Hub's oaks beyond-- How like the creaking
eight
of trees the *** sounds they make!-- Thus

***Correct spelling: "vallisneria".
**Possibly written over another word
Not only they are concealed. Their prating or quivet is like a sharp creak—but I heard a sound or cracking from them like a dull grating of bough on bough. small in the woods at I see the aster (?) with ink black spots the base of the leaves—(It looks like a dumosus, but has no flowers.) Whit oak acorns have many of them fallen—They are small & very neat light green acorns—With small cups—commonly arranged 2 by 2 close together {drawing} often with a leaf growing out between them; but frequently 3 forming a little star with 3 rays looking very artificial Some black scrub oak acorns have fallen & A few black oak acorns also have fallen The red. oak began to fall first. Thorn apples are now commonly ripe & the prinos berries are conspicuous. Beside many white birch I now see many chestnut leaves fallen & brown in the woods. There is now at last some smell of fungi in the woods since the rains. On a white oak beyond Everett's orchard by the road I see quite a flock of pigeons & their blue black droppings & their feathers spot the road—The bare limbs of the oak ap. attracted them—though its—acorns are thick on the ground. These are found whole in their crops. They swallow them whole.
I should think from the droppings that they had been eating berries. I hear that Wetherbee caught 92 dozen last week. I see maple viburnum berries blue black with but little bloom—no full cymes—& the cymes rather less spreading than the other kinds. Some time. Now especially the strong bracing scent of the delicate fern by the Saw-mill Brook path. Dicksonia? or a coarser. How long has the mitchella been ripe? I see many still perfectly green in the swamp. Fruit of the damp & mossy forest floor—ripening amid the now mildew & bracing fern scent of the damp wood. shining Medeola berries ^ black—or perhaps on long peduncles dark blue-black? "how long? The whorls of leaves—now stand? empty for most part like shallow saucers, with their purple centers—& bare peduncles—upland I hear that many ^ plover have been seen on the burnt Brook’s meadow. // Marsh speedwell & yel—beth star still out.

Wednesday Sep 13th 54 Pm to Great Fields Many butternuts have? dropped—more // than walnuts— A few raspberries still fresh.
I find the large thistle--cirsium muticum out of bloom 7 or 8 rods perhaps N of the potato field & 7 feet W of ditch amid a clump of raspberry vines.

Thursday Sep. 14th 54

6 Am to Hill-- I hear a vireo still in the elms. The banks have now begun fairly to be sugared with the A. Tradescanti. I get very near a small dipper behind Dods--which sails out from the weeds fairly before me--then crosswise the river scoots over the surface ^ through throwing the water high--dives & is lost.--A v. lanceolata out on the meadow-- The sun soon after rising has gone into a mackerel sky this morning-- and as I come down the hill I observe a singular mirage (?) There is a large dense field of mackerel sky with a straight SE & distinct edge--parallel with the ^ horizon & lifted above it ap. about double the height of the highest hills there--beneath this a clear sky--& lower still some level bars of mist which cut off the top of Pine hill--causing it to loom-- The top fringed with pines on account of the intervening lower mist is seen as it were above the clouds--appears much to high being referred to a far greater distance than the reality. Our humble scenery appears
on a grand scale-- I see the fair
forms of mighty pines standing
along a mt ridge above the clouds
and overlooking from a vast dis-
tance our low valley-- I think that the
image is not really elevated, but the
bars of mist below make me refer it
to too great a distance & therefore it
is seen as higher. The appearance of those
fine edged pines--a narrow strip of a
mt ridge half a mile in length, is
stupendous & imposing. It is as if we
lived in a valley amid the Himmaleh
mts--A vale of Cashmere. There
was a fog last night which I think
prevented a frost.

8 Am to op. Pelham's Pond
by boat-- Quite cool--with some wind from
E & SE.

Took a watermelon for drink. I see
many new & perfect ^ cobwebs on the
Sium gone to seed by the side of
the river-- Now instead of haying they
are raking cranberries'' all along the
river. The raker moves slowly along with
a basket before him into which he rakes
(hawling) the berries--& his wagon stands
// one side. It is now the middle of the
cranberry season. The river has risen about
a foot within a week--& now the weeds
in mid stream have generally disappeared
washed away or drowned-- The ranunculus
stems & leaves are added to the floating wreck.
Now our oars leave a broad wake of
large "bubbles which are slow to burst-- Methinks
they are most numerous large & slow to
burst near the end of a warm & dry spell--
& that the water loses some of this tenacity in
a rain. But now we have had rain--
At any rate on the 4th ult, just after the
1st rains of the 1st & 2nd they would not readily
form to the hand. There is such a dif. in the
state of the water. As we go up the Clam
Shell reach I see the reflections of oaks
very much prolonged--by the fine ripple
-- Perhaps it is re-reflected from ripple to
ripple. The rain-bow portion of the
bayonet rush is just covered now by the
rise of the river-- This cooler morning
methinks the jays are heard more
Now that the pontederias have mostly
fallen the polygonums are the most
common & conspicuous flowers of
the river. The smaller one has not
shown more before. I see a stream
of small\textsuperscript{51} white insects in the air over
the side of the river-- W. Wheeler is burning
his hill by the Corner road.--just cut over--
-- I see the scarlet flame licking along
not in a continuous rank--but upright individual tongues
of flame
the ground--"undulating flashing
erect
forked--narrow ^ waves about the
size of a man or boy-- Next the
rising perpendicularly blue
\textcolor{blue}{smoke ^ against the pines--&
\textcolor{brown}{fuscous} fuscous against the sky. Not
till high in the sky does it feel the southerly
wind-- When I look\textsuperscript{52} around for those
light undersides of the crisped leaves
which were so conspicuous in the
drought 3 weeks & more ago-- I
see none\textsuperscript{53}-- Methinks they have not so
much flattened out again since the
rains--but have fallen--and that
thus there are two falls every year--
Those leaves which are curled by the
drought of July & August--ap. fall
\textsuperscript{54}about the
first week of September---& those which
remain are green as usual--& go on
to experience their regular october change.
The only dif. this year will be that there
will not be so many leaves for the 2nd

\textsuperscript{51}"small" possibly altered to upper case
\textsuperscript{52}"vertical pencil line from here through length of page
\textsuperscript{53}Possibly altered
Going by Lee’s Crossing F-- H. the reflections were very fine--not quite distinct but prolonged by the fine ripples made by an east wind just risen-- At a distance entering the pond we mistook some fine sparkles prob. of insects--for ducks in the water--they were so large "which seem when we were nearer looking down more at a greater angle with the surface--wholly disappeared-- Some large leaved willow bushes in the meadow SE of Lee’s reflected the light from the under sides of a part of their leaves--as if frost covered--or as if white asters were mingled with them. We saw but two large lilies on this voyage--they are now done. about a dozen pontederia spikes--no Micania--(that is now white or grey) 4 or 5 large yel. lilies & 2 or 3 small yel-lilies. The B. Beckii is drowned or dried up--& has given place to to the Great Bidens the flower & ornament of the river sides at present--& now in its glory--especially at I. Rice’s shore--where there are dense beds. It is a splendid yellow Channing says a lemon yellow--& looks larger than more or less it is (2 inches in diameter)--
Full of the sun—It needs a name
tufts of
I see ^ ferns on^ the edge of the meadows
at a little distance—handsomely
tipped on edge with cinnamon brown--
--like so many brown fires—they light
up the meadows-- The button bush every
where yellowing— We see half
a dozen herons in this voyage--
Their wings are so long in prop. to their
bodies—that there seems to be more
than one undulation to a wing as
they are disappearing in the distance &
so you can distinguish them. You see another
begun before the first has ended. It is re-
markable how common these birds
are about our sluggish & marshy river--
we must attract them from a wide section
of country— It abounds in those fenny
districts--& meadow pond holes in which
they delight-- A flock of 13 tell-tales--
great yel-- legs--start up with their
shril whistet from the midst of the
great Sudbury meadow--& away they
or skimming
sail in a flock--(a salling flock
showing their white tails
that is some thing rare methinks)^ to alight
in a more distant place— We see some
small dippers & scare up many ducks

"vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "where yellowing..."
--black mostly--which prob. came as soon as
the earliest-- The great bittern too rises from
time to time slowly flapping his way along
at no great height above the meadow--
The small polygonum is first particularly
abundant in the bend above the coreopsis--
but it is greatest abundance & perfection
at 3/4 through the great meadow
--in great beds 1 to 3 rods wide very
dense & now rising but 6 ^ inches or so above
See swallow like a barn swallow
the water. It is now ap. in perfection.
Counted 20 haycocks in the Great meadow
on staddles, of various forms--
drawing tied round with hay ropes--
--they are picturesque objects in the meadow--
Little as the river has risen these meadows
are already wet-- The Phragmites is still green. Why does not that
large typha above the Causeway bear fruit?
Just above the Mill Village Bridge
there is an interesting view of Nobscot
clad with wood--up the broad meadows
on Larned Brook--which comes in
there-- Above the Pelham Pond bridge
a short distance further we dined.
Then went one An interesting view &
part of the river--quite broad at the
Great Chestnut house--& a good
land just before on the left. Went half
a mile or more above the chestnut
house-- Plenty of hibiscus out of bloom
just above the Chestnut house on the
W side--& some op. some elms where
we had dined--all in Wayland.

What is that large sharply 3 angular
hollow sided sedge about 4 feet high
on the N edge of the river in mid of the
great Meadow?--coarse grass like somewhat.

We went up 13 or 14 miles at least &
as we stopped at F. H. Hill, returning rowed
about 25 miles today.

Sep 15

Pm to boat under F. H. Hill & down river
Desmodium? or lespedeza ticks cover my clothes.
I know not when I get them. The Witch

Hazel has opened since the 8th say 11th XXX.
It was abundantly out the 14th (yesterday) on Wachusett mt where it is prob. more
exposed to the sun & drier. Sophia was there
Its the leaves 1/3 or 1/2 of them are yel. and brown
S. speciosa at Clam-shell out several days.
Goodwin the one-eyed fisherman is back again
at his old business--(& Haynes also) he
says he has been to Cape Cod a-haying.
He says that their "salt grass "cuts about
the same with our fresh Meadow."

Saw a chewink.

Mrs Mowatt, the actress, describes a fancy
ball in Paris, given by an American Millionaire,
at which "One lady -- -- --wore so many

"Followed by possible cancelled period
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 clemantis is feathered the asclepias Cornuti begun to discount. I see many hardhacks in the lichen pasture by Tommy Wheeler's 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 eggs in the Nest-- As they were laid the 7th of June, it
makes about 3 months before they came out

   The nest was full of sand & egg shells. I saw no tracks of the old one--
of the ground. ^I took out the remaining one--

which perhaps could not get out alone--&

it began slowly to crawl toward the brook about

5 rods distant. It went about 5 feet in as

   At this rate it would have reached the water in a couple of
hours at most

many minutes. ^ Then being disturbed by my moving,

stopped--& when it started again retraced its steps--crossed

the hole which I had filled and got into a rut

leading toward another part of the brook--

   It climbed directly over some weeds & tufts of grass in its way
about 10 rods dist. ^Now & then it paused--stretched

out its head looked round--& appeared to be

deliberating--waiting for information or listening

to its instinct. It seemed to be but a blundering instinct which it obeyed--and as if it

might be easily turned from its proper course

   Whenever I took it up it drew in its head & legs and shut its eyes & remained motionless

   --Yet in no case did it go wholly wrong-- ^It

was so slow that I could not stop to watch

it--& so carried it to within 7 or 8 inches of
the water--turning its head inland. At length

it put out its head & legs--turned itself round--
crawled to the water, & endeavored as soon as it
entered it to bury itself at the bottom--but

it being sand it could not. I put it

further into the stream--& it was at once

carried down head over heels by the current.

I think they come out in the night.

Another little sternothaerus has come out of the ground

since 8 this morning (It is now 11 Am)

   Another the 18th bet 8 & 11 Am

   Am

(Another Sep 17th found in morning,) another " " 11 ^ & 1 Pm.100
The 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 ^ 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-- 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 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

101Possibly added in margin
102vertical pencil line through this and the following line
103horizontal pencil line under this line goes the width of the page
104Lines 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.
of obscurity & poverty which I have enjoyed
so long--(& may still perhaps enjoy--)
I thought with what more than
princely--with what poetical leisure I
had spent my years hitherto--without
care or engagement--fancy free--
I have given myself up to nature-- I have
tried so many Springs & summers & autumns
and winters as if I had nothing else
to do but to live them--& imbibe whatever
nutriment they had for me-- I have
spent a couple of years, for instance,
with the flowers chiefly, having none
other so binding engagement as to
observe when they opened-- I could have
afforded to spend a Whole fall observing
the changing tints of the foliage
Ah how I have thriven on solitude &
poverty-- I cannot overstate this ad-
vantage. I do not see how I could
have enjoyed it--if the public had
been expecting as much of me as there
is danger now that they will-- If
I go abroad lecturing how shall
I ever recover the lost winter?
It has been my vacation--my sea-
son of growth & expansion--a prolonged
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 have fallen-- Hardhack

is very generally commonly putting forth

new leaves--where it has lost the old. They

are half an inch or 3/4 long & green the

stems well. The stone-crop fruit has for

a week or more had a purplish or pinkish(?)

tinge by the roadside--

Fallen acorns in a few days acquire

shining that wholesome ^ dark chestnut(?)

color-- Did I see a returned yellow redpoll?

fly by?

I saw some nights ago a great

deal of light reflected from a fog

bank over the river upon Monroes

white fence--making it conspicuous

almost as by moonlight from my

window.

Scarlet oak (drawing) acorn commonly

a broader cup--%V. another figure%

with more shelf Sep. 20th %in fall of 58%

Windy rainstorm last night.

---

105pencil line through "pignuts"
106"yellow" written over another word
See to day quite a flock of what I think rusty
must be grackles--about the willows & button bushes.

Thursday Sep. 21st Pm to Flints P.

The first frost in your yard last night--
the grass white & stiff in the morning.
The musk melon vines are now blackened--
in the sun-- There have been some frosts
in low grounds about a week-- The fore-
noon is cold & I have a fire--but
it is a fine clear day as I find when
I come forth to walk in the afternoon--
a fine grained air with a seething
or shimmering in it, as I look over
the fields--days which remind me
of the Indian summer that is to
come. Do not these days always suc-
ceed the first frosty mornings?

The woods generally may now be
said to be fairly beginning to turn--
(this with the first noticeable frost)
the red maples especially at a distance
begin to light their fires--some turning
yellow--& within the woods many
e.g. scarlet & black
oak & chestnut and other leaves
begin to show their colors.

Those leaves of the young white oaks which
dull many incline to crimson
have changed-- salmon--crimson scarlet--
--are mostly within the tree & partially
They are handsomest looking up from below—the light concealed by the green leaves. \textsuperscript{107} through them

\%{chinquapins some scarlet}\%

With this bright clear but rather cool air—the bright yellow of the aut. dandelion is in harmony& the heads of the dilapidated golden rods. The gentian is already frost-bitten\%?% almost as soon as it is open—Those pretty little white oak acorn\textsuperscript{108} stars of 3 rays are now quite common on the ground.

L. Utricularia (the leafless) abundant & dort- //

manna still out at F Pond. That //

small erect milfoil is very abundant now

the pond is low near the bathing rock.

I hear many jays since the frosts began //

The nuthatch is common in woods & on street-- //

Hear the chewink & the cluck of the thrasher //

I sometimes seem to myself

all for which men commend me
to owe all my little ^ success to my

vices. I am perhaps more willfull than

others—and make enormous sacrifices

even of others' happiness it may be to gain

even my ends—It would seem ^ as if nothing
good could be accomplished without

some vice to aid in it.

The leaves of the wild\textsuperscript{109} cherry being sound & entire handsome are in some places a particularly ^ clear uniform

what you may call cherry red. perhaps

inclining to crimson (perhaps like the stain of cherry

juice. \%v Sep 30\% \%v. Chestnut--%
I am surprised to see how many leaves in the woods have been apparently eaten through on the edges—leaving only a contrasting with the green centers. In some places almost every leaf of the young white oaks (and black or shrub oak) & chestnuts has this very handsome & regular pale edging as of lace work—It is about 1/12 of an inch in diameter and is exceedingly singular following strictly the outline of the leaf however cut or lobed—by nature or accident. and preserving the same width. As these leaves (of young oaks &c.) are commonly several together in one plane disposed ray-wise rosettes ^the effect of this edging is enhanced—These young leaves are still of a clear & delicate—& now somewhat precious green. The extreme edge is left firm & entire & the ^ leaf is eaten through only just within it.

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

Pm Over Nawshawtuct. The river is peculiarly smooth & the water clear—& sunny—stone as I took from the ^ bridge. A painted tortoise outside of the—with his head out—(where there are no) weeds—looks as if resting in the air in that attitude—or suggests it. an angle of 45° with
head & flippers outstretched. I see no particular
effects of frost on the Pontederias--they have
been falling steadily without regard to it--
It would be worth the while to observe all
the effects of the 1st frosts--on vegetation &c. &c.

Celtis berries begin\textsuperscript{10} to yellow. As I look off
from the hill-top I wonder if there are any finer
days in the year than these-- The air is so fine
& more bracing--& the landscape has acquired some
fresh verdure withal\textsuperscript{11}. The frosts come to
ripen the year the days like\textsuperscript{12} fruits--persimmons.

What if we were\textsuperscript{11} to walk by sun--
light with equal abstraction--& aloofness--
yet with equally impartial observation
%As if it shone not for you nor you for it--but you had come forth%
and criticism. %^%By moonlight we are not
%into it for the nonce--to admire it--%\%
of the earth earthy--but we are of the earth
be sunlight
spiritual-- So might we (walk (by \textsuperscript{14}, seeing
the sun but as a moon--a comparatively
& reflected
faint ^ light--and the day as a brooding night.
in which we glimpse some stars still.
Some shrub oak acorns are prettily rayed
--green & yellowish--some \textsuperscript{15} oak ones
are turned salmon color--or blushing like
the leaves-- Grape\textsuperscript{14} leaves in\textsuperscript{15} low grounds are
frostbitten & crisped before they have yellowed.
\textsuperscript{17}V. top 3 ps forward%
Crossing the hill behind Minott's

\textsuperscript{10}pencil line through "begin"
\textsuperscript{11}Possibly altered from something, "in the"?
\textsuperscript{12}pencil line through "like"
\textsuperscript{13}Vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "are turned..."
\textsuperscript{14}Altered from "Graped"?
\textsuperscript{15}vertical pencil line through this and following line
horizon--the thin haze in the atmosphere,

north & south along the W. horizon

reflects a purple tinge--& bathes the mts

with the same--like a bloom on fruits--

I wonder if this phenomenon is observed in warm

weather--or before the frosts have come. Is it not

another evidence of the ripe days? I saw it yesterday.

I am surprised to see balls on the scarlet

oak. Its acorn & cup are peculiarly top

-shaped--the point of the acorn being the bottom.

The cup is broader than in the black oak--

making a broader shelf about the acorn--&

is more pear shaped or prolonged at top-- The acorn

is not so rounded but more tapering at point.

And some scarlet oak leaves which I have

their two main veins or diverging ribs nearly oppo-

site--while in the black oak ^ these veins &

nearly

hence lobes are not ^ opposite

By moonlight all is simple--

we are enabled to erect ourselves--our

minds on account of the fewness of objects--

We are no longer distracted. It is simple

as bread & water-- It is simple as the rudiments

of an art-- A lesson to be taken before

sun-light perchance--to prepare us for

that.

Sep 23rd 54

Pm to Great Meadows via Gowing's Swamp.

I was struck with the peculiar & interesting

colors of the naked arms of the button

wood at the brick house--delicate tints

---

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

117vertical pencil line from here through end of day's entry
seen from the ground—whitish—greenish—
& fawn (?) colored— They look as if recently bared
by the scaling off of the old bark, in a flourishing condition
this year. The first time.
My pink azaleas which had lost their leaves
in the drought are beginning to leave out again.

The button woods are
The Helianthus tuberosus (Jerusalem Artichoke)
beyond Moore's shows a little yellow—but will not
open then for some days yet. "Blackberry vines
generally red. There are many lice on birches
still notwithstanding the frosts. The high blue-
berry bushes scattered here & there—the higher islands—
in Beck Stows swamp—begin to paint it bright
red— Now look out for redness on the face
of the earth—such as is seen on the cheek of
the sweet viburnum—or as frosty morning
walk imparts to a man's face— Very brilliant
& remarkable now are the prinos berries—
so brilliant & pert—when most things
flowers & berries have withered. I gather pretty
good wild pears near the New Road—now
in prime. The C. sericea bushes along the
down edge of the great meadows—are now turned
mulberry— & here is an end of its berries then.
The hard frosts of the 21st & 22nd have put an
end to several kinds of plants & prob.
berries for this year— This is the crisis when
many kinds conclude their summer—.

---

vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "in prime...."
Bull says it is only the miniature leaves of his new grape—which are crisped by the frost as yet.

Here on the east edge of the great meadows—

all the Flowering fern is turned brown & withered (I am not sure but it began before the frost)

& the common Eupatoriums are a very dark brown or black for the same reason.

All along the river the upper half of the button bushes is turned brown & withered in consequence of the frost—while many other plants in their midst are untouched—As it began late, it falls early. Its balls are equally browned & may now be said to be ripened by frost—After those frosts a day's sun revealed what mischief the frost had done—by the withering & blackened leaves. Many plants fall with the first frosts—Grapes—button-bushes what else? Prob. some asters & g. rods.

Monroe has shot a loon today.

Sunday Sep. 24.

6 Am to Hill.

Low fog—like veil on meadows— On the large sassafras trees on the hill— clubshaped I see many of the handsome red ^ pedicels left—with their empty cups which have held fruit—& I see one or 2 elliptical but still green berries— Ap. the rest have ripened or been gathered by birds & fallen ^ already—unless the fell prematurely.

Grey says that the berries are dark blue & ripen in September.

Catnip still in bloom. Hear the flicker note.

See a song-sparrow like bird singing
a confused jingle. Afterward hear from a willow by a clear strain from a song sparrow!

Man identifies himself with earth

%Spirit is strange to him--he is afraid of ghosts% \( \frac{1}{2} \) or the material--just as he who has the

least tinge of African blood in his veins

regards himself as a Negro--& is identified with that race.

The vib. lentago berries now turn blue black in pocket as the nudum did--which are now all gone--while the lentago is now just in season.

By boat to Grape Cliff. These are the stages in the river fall. 1st the 2 vars of yel-- lily-pads beg. to decay & blacken--(long ago). 2nd the first fall rains come & cool after dog days & raise the river & winds wash the decaying sparganium &c &c--to the shores & clear the channel more or less--

4th when the first harder frosts come (as this year the 21st & 22nd ult--) the button bushes which before had attained only a dull mixed yellow--are suddenly bitten--wither & turn brown, all but the protected parts--

Our first fall is so gradual as not to make so much impression--but the last suddenly & conspicuously gives a fall aspect to the scenery of the river--
The button bushes thus withered,
covered still with the gray already withered
suddenly
mikania--^ paint with a rich brown
the river's brim-- It is like the crust, the
edging of a boy's turn over done brown--
And the Black willows--slightly faded
& crisped with age or heat--enhance my
sense of the years maturity-- There
where the land appears to lap over
the water--by a mere edging--these
thinner portions are first done brown--
I float over the still liquid middle.
I have not seen any such conspicuous
effect of frost as this sudden withering
of the button bushes. The muskrats make
haste now to rear their cabins & conceal
%Looking over the (woods) (backward) & (forward) from a hill top
themselves. % (westward)% %V VII--114%
I see still what I take to be small
flocks of grakles--feeding beneath the
cover of the button bushes--& fitting
from bush to bush. They seldom expose them-
selves long-- The water begins to be clear
of weeds & the fishes are exposed. It is
now too cold to bathe with comfort--yet
the clams have not gone down-- The river is
still low-- I scared up a duck (wood?)
side
(white under ^ wings) which circled round 4 times
middle times
2^ce high in the air--a diameter of 100 rods--&
finally alighted with a long slanting flight
near where it rose.
The sumach (though I have not observed

---

128vertical pencil line through end of paragraph
the poison (venenat)\textsuperscript{129} are now turned before
trees. Green brier berries--ripe blue black or
purplish--ap with the frosts of 21st & 22nd

The red maple leaves along the river are
much curled & show their whitish undersides
even more than a month ago--owing prob.
to their age as well as the summer's drought
(from which last they had partly recovered)
a fortnight (?) ago
(Saw a warbler which inquisitively approached
me creeper-wise along some dead brush twigs--
It may have been the pine creeping warbler--though
I could see no white bars on wings--I should say
all yel--olivaceous above--clear lemon yellow
throat & breast--& vent (?) narrow white ring round
eye--black bill straight--clay col (?) legs--edge
of wings white)

Young hickories pretty generally--& some black oaks
are frost bitten--but no young white oaks--
\%look {now} at a { } {flood} hill side--(it also & {} { } it is variously
\%all in a { } {of any colors as burst forth} in its {cap}%;
On the shrub oak plain under Cliffs--the
young white oaks are generally\textsuperscript{130} now tending to
a dull inward red--The ilicifolia generally
green still with a few yellowish or else
young scarlet leaves--The \textsuperscript{'} black oaks with many
red--scarlet--or yellowish leaves--The
chinquapin pretty generally a clear brilliant
dark red--The same with \textsuperscript{\textsuperscript{130}} a few twigs
of the scarlet oak, but not brilliant i.e.
glossy--The tupelo green--reddish\textsuperscript{131} & brilliant
scarlet all together--The brightest hazel
dim vermillion. Some red maple sprouts

\textsuperscript{129}Vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "to their...
\textsuperscript{130}Vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "chinquapin..."
\textsuperscript{131}Pencil lines cancel "green--reddish" and "together--The brightest" in the following line
clear scarlet deepening to purplish--

The panicked cornel\textsuperscript{132} green with a tinge of
reddish purple--

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

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

But little \textit{bright} S nemorosa is left--
It is generally withered or dim.

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

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

Sep 25th 54

Pm to boat op Bittern Cliff via Cliffs.

I suspect that I know\textsuperscript{133} on what the
brilliance of the autumnal tints will--
depend-- -- On the greater or less drought
of the summer-- If the drought has been
uncommonly severe, as this year, I should
think it would so far destroy the vitality
of the leaf that it would attain only to a
dull dead color in autumn--that to
produce a brilliant autumn the plant should
be full of sap & vigor to the last.

\textsuperscript{132}vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "conspicuously..."

\textsuperscript{133}vertical pencil line from here through bottom of page
Do I see an _F. hiemalis_ in the deep cut--

it is a month earlier than last year

I am detained by the very bright red blackberry leaves strewn along the sod--the vine being inconniscuous-- How they spot it!

On the shrub oak plain--as seen from Cliffs the red at least balances the green.

It looks like a rich shaggy rug--now--before several the woods are changed. I see many

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

The button bush leaves are rapidly falling--& covering the ground with a rich brown carpet. The pontederias too show decidedly

the effect of the frost. The river is as low ordinarily in summer--8 or 9 inches below the long stone--& the pink stripe of the bayonet rush--, now clear dark pink 8 or 9 inches wide,

is again exposed. Saw at a distance a fox or an otter withdrawing from the river side. I think that if that August haze had been much of it smoke I should have smelt it much more strongly, strongly for I now smell the smoke of this burning half a mile off though it is scarcely perceptible in the air.

There was a splendid sunset while I was on the water--beginning at the

---

134vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "It looks..."
135vertical pencil line through this and following lines
136vertical pencil line through this and following lines
Clam Shell reach. All the lower edge
of a very broad dark slate cloud
which reached up backward almost to
the zenith--was lit up through & through
the sun being below the horizon
with a dun golden fire"--like a furze
plain densely on fire--a short distance
above the horizon--for there was a clear
pale robin's egg sky beneath--& some
on which the light fell
little clouds ^ high in the sky but nearer--
upper part of the
seen against the ^ distant uniform
dark slate one were of a fine greyish
silver color--with fine mother o'pearl
tints--unusual at sunset!?
The furze gradually burnt out
on the lower edge of the cloud--changed
into a smooth hard-pale pink ver-
million--which gradually faded
in to a grey satiny pearl--a fine
Quaker color. All these colors
were prolonged in the rippled reflection to
5 or 6 times their proper length-- The effect
was particularly remarkable in the case
of the reds--which were long bands of red
perpendicular in the water (drawing)
Bats come out 15 min after sunset--
& then I hear some clear song sparrow strains
as from a fence post amid snows in early spring.
Took my last bath the 24th—Prob. shall not bathe again this year—It was chilling cold. It is a warm & very pleasant afternoon & I walk along the river side in Merrick's pasture. I hear a faint jingle from some sparrows on the willows &c tree—or else song sparrows. Many swamp-oak acorns have turned brown on the trees. Some single red maples are very splendid now— the whole tree bright scarlet—against the cold green pines—now when very few trees are changed a most remarkable object in the landscape. Seen a mile off. It is too fair to be believed—especially seen against the light—Some are a reddish or else greenish yellow— others with red or yellow cheeks—I suspect that the yellow maples had not scarlet blossoms.

The bunches of panicled cornel are purple—though you see much of the grey undersides of the leaves. Vib. dentatum berries still hold on.

R. W. E's pines are pariticolored—preparing to fall—some of them.
The sassafras trees on the hill are wholly now a bright orange scarlet as seen from my window--& the small one elsewhere are also changed-- // Sweet briar hips ripe X--
as I complain that the voyager to arctic regions--in his description of the scenery does not enough re-
directly or indirectly of the peculiar dreariness of the scene or mind the reader"--of the perpetual
twilight of the arctic night--so he whose theme is moonlight--will find it difficult to illustrate it %with the light %exclusively% of the moon alone--

Sep 29th '54

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

Yesterday was quite warm requiring the thinnest coat--To day is cooler. The // elm leaves have in some places more than half fallen--& strew the ground with thick molting beds--as front of Hubbards-- perhaps earlier than usual-- // Bass berries dry & brown-- Now is the time to gather barberries--

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

139Vertical pencil line through line beginning "seen from..."
140"vertical pencil line through line beginning "of the moon..."
"The dry year", written vertically in pencil up the right margin along this and the two previous lines.
142Vertical pencil line from here through bottom of page
143"those" possibly "these"
which is the brightest\textsuperscript{144}-- It is the \textsuperscript{144} lower
1/2 or 2/3 which have changed--and this
is surmounted by the slender still green
top. In many cases these\textsuperscript{145} leaves have \textsuperscript{145} only
begun to be sprinkled with bloody spots &
stains-- Sometimes as if\textsuperscript{146} one had cast
up a quart of blood from beneath--&
stained them. I now see the effect of that
long drought on some young oaks--especially
black oaks-- Their leaves\textsuperscript{147} are in many instances
all turned to a clear \& uniform brown
having so far past their vitality--but still
plump & full veined \& not yet withered--
Many are so affected \& of course show
no bright tints-- They are hastening to a pre-
mature decay-- The tops of many young
white oaks which had\textsuperscript{148} turned--are already
withered ap. by frost. Saw 2 either pig. or
sparrow hawks--ap male \& female--the one
much larger than the other. I see in \textbf{many}
places the fallen leaves quite thickly covering
the ground in the woods. A large flock of
crows wandering about \& cawing as
usual at this season-- I hear a very pleasant
\& now unusual strain on the sunny side
of an oak wood from many--I think F.
hiemalis (?) though I do not get a clear view

\textsuperscript{144}vertical pencil line through line beginning "begun to..."
\textsuperscript{145}Altered from "the"
\textsuperscript{146}Possibly altered from another word
\textsuperscript{147}vertical pencil line through line beginning "withered..."
\textsuperscript{148}Altered from "are"
of them-- Even their slight jingling strain--
is remarkable at this still season.

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

This evening is quite cool & breezy with a
prolonged white twilight--quite September.

When I look at the stars nothing
which the astronomers have said
attaches to them, they are so simple
& remote-- Their knowledge is felt

to be all terrestrial & to concern the
earth alone-- It suggests that
the same is the case with every object
however familiar--our so called knowledge
of it is equally vulgar & remote.

One might say that all views
through a telescope or microscope were
purely visionary--for it is only by his
eye & not by any other sense--not
by his whole man, that the beholder
is there where he is presumed to be--
It is a disruptive mode of viewing
as far as the beholder is concerned.
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 blackish blue-- It seems to be contemporary with the Sassafrass Both these trees are now particularly for ward & 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 im--pression--reminding me a red sash & a soldier's 151 funeral.

151 Possibly "robber's"
They impress me quite as black crape--
similarly arranged--the bloody plants.
The conventional acorn of art is
of course of no particular species--but
the artist might find it worth his while
to study nature's varieties again.

The song sparrow is still about & the
blackbird.

Saw a little bird with a distinct white spot
on the wing--yellow about eye &--whitish beneath
which I think must be one of the wrens I saw last
spring--

At present the river's brim is no longer browned
of their
with button bushes--for those ^ leaves which the
frost had touched have already fallen entirely--
leaving a thin crop of green ones to take their
turn.

Oct 1st

The young black birches--about Walden
next the S shore--one now commonly
clear pale yellow--very distinct at
distance like bright yel--white birches so
slender amid the dense growth of oaks
& evergreens on the hilly sides--steep shores--
The black birches & red maples are the
conspicuous trees changed about the
pond--Not yet the oaks.

152Written over illegible letters beneath; also possibly upper case
153Possible short line
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--
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.154

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--4 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

154 Followed by a cancelled false start.
Oct 16th '54

In the streets the ash & most of
the elms trees are bare of leaves--
The red maples also for the most part
appeared at a distance-- The pines too have fallen--

Oct 19th '54

7 1/4 Am To Westminster by cars--
theeence on foot to Wachuset--mt--
4 ms to Fosters & 2 ms thence to mt
on foot to Wachuset--mt--
by road. The country above
Littleton--(ploughed ground) more
// or less sugared with snow--the first
I have seen-- We find a little on the
mt top. The prevailing tree on
this mt-- top & all is ap. the red
oak--which toward & on the top is
very low & spreading. Other trees
& shrubs which I remember on the top
are beech--P. tremuliformis--Mt
ash--(Looking somewhat like sumac) witch
hazel--white & yellow birch--white pine
Black spruce &c &c
Most of the deciduous woods look as if dead
On the sides
beside red oak, are rock maple
beech
yellow birches--lever wood--chestnut--
shag bark--hemlock--striped maple
witch-hazel--&c &c--

15\(^{15}\)In MS, caret written underneath dash.
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 Ro-below bertianum in bloom 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--steeples & houses on that side were revealed-- But on the east all the land-scape was a misty & gilded obscurity-- a glowing obscurity It was worth the while to see West-ward the countless 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 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--its apex resting on the Green or Hossac--appearing as

---

154Preceded by cancelled false start, poss. "cl".
155Possibly altered to upper case
156A hook shaped mark written before the dash: poss. a false start.
157Correct spelling: "Hoosac"
a deep blue section of a cone

there--(drawing) It rapidly contracted

& its apexed approached the mt itself

--& when about 3 miles distant the

whole conical shadow was very distant--

The shadow of the mt makes some

minutes dif-- in the time of sunrise to

the inhabitants of Hubbardston within

-- a few miles west.

F hiemalis how long?

Saw some very tall & large dead

chestnuts--in the wood between Fosters

& the mt. Wachuset Pond appeared

the best place from which to view the

Our host had picked 34 bushels of

--(from a boat--) shag barks last year. For the most

part they do not rattle out yet--but it

is time to gather them on account of squirrels

now is the time.

Oct 22nd This & the last 2

days-- Ind-- Summer weather--following

sprinkling of Concord

hard on that ^ snow west of

Pretty hard frosts these nights--

// many leaves fell last night--& the

assabet is covered with their fleets.

Now they rustle as you walk through them

in the woods. Bass trees are bare--
 the redness of huckleberry bushes is past its

// prime-- I see a snapping turtle not

yet in winter quarters-- -- The chicadees

are picking the seeds out of p. pine

cones.
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 with windows open)
I see considerable gossamer on the
causeway & elsewhere-- Is 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--
//
as well as bass-- elm-- maple--
Sat Oct 28-- The 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.
Sunday-- detected a large
Eng. cherry in Smiths woods beyond
Saw Mill Brook by the peculiar fresh
orange scarlet color of its leaves--now

---

\footnote{Possibly altered from "Set" or another word}
\footnote{vertical pencil line through line beginning "the trees..."}
\footnote{vertical pencil line through bottom of page}
that almost all leaves are quite dull or withered---

The same in gardens leaves in our garden & in fields are equally & peculiarly fresh scarlet---

Oct 31st. Rain--still warm--

// Ever since Oct 27th we have had remarkably warm & pleasant Indian summer--

with frequent frosts in the morning-- Sat with open window for a week.

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with frequent frosts in the morning-- Sat with open window for a week.
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
during
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
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
sitting there--to come & see where
they had dug for money. There was
a hole 6 feet square & as many
deep--and the sand was heaped about
over a rod square-- Hosmer--said
that it was dug 2 or 3 weeks before
--that 3 men came in a chaise &
dug it in the night-- They were seen
about there by day. Some body dug
near there in June & then they covered
up the hole again. He said they
had been digging thereabouts from
time to time for a hundred years.
I asked him Why. He said that
Dr Lee (who hid where Joe Barrett did)
Old
told him that Mr Wood, who
lived in a house very near his (Hosmer's)
told him that one night in Capt--
Kid's day--3 pirates came to his
house with a pair of old fashioned
deer-skin breeches--both legs full
of coin--& asked leave to bury it
in his cellar. He was afraid & refused
them. They then asked for some ear-
thern pots & shovels & a lanthon
which he let them have. A woman

16 ^ Possibly altered to "an"
in the house followed the pirates at a
distance down the next hollow on the
south--& saw them go along the meadow
side & turn up this hollow--& then being
alone & afraid she returned. Soon
after the men returned with the tools
and an old fashioned hat full of
holding
the coin ("about a quart) which
they gave to Wood. He being afraid
buried it in his cellar but after
ward becoming a poor man dug it
up & used it. A bailiff mad some
inquiry hereabouts after the pirates.
Hosmer said that one thing which
confirmed the diggers in their belief
was the fact that when he was a little
boy--plowing one day with his father
on the hill-side they found 3 old fashioned
bottles bottom upward but empty under
the plow. Somebody consulted Moll--
Pitcher143--who directed to dig at
a certain distance from an apple
tree on a line with the bottles & there
they would find the treasure.

I think it is the fox-col. sparrow //

I see in flocks--& hear sing now--

by woodsides
Nov 6th Surveying on Colburn Place

// -- It is suddenly cold. Pools frozen so
as to bear--& ground frozen so that
it is difficult if not impossible to force down
a stake in plowed ground. Was that a
fish-hawk I saw flying over the Assabet--
or a goshawk? White beneath, with slender
wings.

Nov. 8th I can still rake
// clams near the shore--but they are chiefly
in the weeds I think. I see a snipe-like
bird by river side this windy Pm--which
goes off with a sound like creaking
tackle

Nov. 10 Pm Sail to Ball's
Hill--with W. E. C. See where the
muskrats have eaten much pontederia
// root. Got some donasia\(^\text{170}\) grubs
for Harris--but find no chrysalids.
The sight of the masses of yellow
hastate leaves & flower buds of the
yellow lily--already 4 or 6 inches
long at the bottom of the river--reminds
me that nature is prepared for
an infinity of springs yet.

Nov. 11 Minott heard

// geese go over night before last

\(^\text{170}\)Correct spelling: "donacia"
about 8 Pm. Therien too heard them

where he is cutting

%"%yelling like anything%"% over Walden^.

the

same evening. He cut down a tree

with a flying squirrel on it--after sees

them. Receive this eve. a letter

in French--& 3 "ouvragens" from

the Abbé Rouquette in Louisiana.

Nov. 13 It has rained hard

the 11-12. & 13th & the river is at last

10th
decidedly rising. On Friday ^ it was

still at summer level.

Nov 14th The river is slightly over

the meadows. The willow twigs on the

right of the red bridge cause-way are bright

greenish & yellow & reddish as in the spring.

Also on the right rr. sandbank at Heywood's

meadow-- Is it because they are preparing

their catkins now against another spring?™

The first wreck line--of pontederia--spar-

ganum &c is observable.™

Nov. 15 The first snow, a mere

sugaring which went off the next morn-

ing.™

Nov 16. Pm sailed to Hubbard's

Bridge. Almost every muskrat's house

is covered by the flood--though they

were unusually high, as well as numerous.--

™ horizontal pencil line below this line for width of page

™ horizontal pencil line below this line for width of page

™ Followed by canceled false start.
and the river is not nearly so high
as last year. I see where they have
begun to raise them another story. A
few cranberries begin to wash up. And
rails boards &c may now be col-
lected by wreckers.

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

Nov 18th

// Saw 60 geese go over the Great Fields in one
waving line broken from time to time by their
crowding on each other & vainly endeavoring to
form into a harrow--honking all the while.
To Philadelphia--
Nov 20th 7 Am--to Boston--
9 Am Boston to Phil New York--by express

train land route-- See the reddish soil
(red sandstone?) all through Connecti-
cut-- Beyond Hartford a range of
rocky hills crossing the state on each
side the RR-- The E one very precipitous
& ap terminating at E rock at N. Haven.
Pleasantest part of the whole route
Between Springfield & Hartford along
the river--perhaps include the hilly
region this side of Springfield. Reached
Canal Street at 5 Pm. or Candlelight.

Started for Philadelphia from foot
of Liberty St-- at 6 Pm--via Newark &c
&c--Bordentown--&c &c Camden-ferry--to
Phil--all in the dark-- Saw only the
glossy pannelling of the cars reflected
out into the dark like the mag-
nificent lit facade of a row of edifices
reaching all the way to Philad.--
except when we stopped & a lanthorn
or two showed us a ragged boy & the
dark buildings of some New Jersey town--
Arrive at 10 Pm--Time 4 hours from
NY--13 from Boston--15 from Concord.
Put up at Jones' Exchange Hotel

77 Dock Street -- Lodgings 37 1/2 per night -- meals separate Not to be named with French's in NY.

Next door to the fair of the Franklin Institute then open -- over against the Exchange -- in the neighborhood of the printing offices.

Nov 21st

Looked from the Cupola of the State House where the Declaration of Ind. was declared.

The best view of the city I got -- Was interested grey & black in the squirrels & in Independence & Washington squares -- (Heard that they have or have had deer in Logan square --) The squirrels are fed and live in boxes in the trees in the winter.

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

Was admitted into the Building of the Academy of Nat. sciences by a Mr Durand of the botanical depart ment -- Mr Furness applying to him.

The carpenters were still at work ad
! ding 4 stories ^ (of galleries) to the top--

These 4--(Furness thought all of them) I

am not sure but Durand referred to one

side only) to be devoted to the birds.

It is said to be the largest collection of

birds in the world--. They belonged to the

son of Massena (Prince of Essling?) and

were sold at auction--& bought by

all

a Yankee for $22000 over ^ the

crowned heads of Europe--& presented to

the Academy. Other collections also are added

to this. The Academy has received great

donations.

There is Mortons collection of Crania

with I suppose a cast from an Ind skull

found in an Ohio mound.

A Polar bear killed by Dr. Kane.

A male moose not so high as the fe-

male which we shot-- A European

elk--(a skeleton) about 7 feet high--with

horns each about 5 feet long & tremen-
dously heavy.

Grinders &c of the mastodon giganteum

from Benton Co. Missouri. &c &c--

Zinzinger was named as of the geological

department.

In Phil & also N.Y. an orna-

mental tree with bunches of seed vessels
supplying the place of leaves now--I sup-
pose it the Ailanthus--or Tree of Heaven.

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

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

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

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

\[^{174}\] "Also" possibly altered from "also', or vice versa
\[^{175}\&c" written after false start
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
c 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 sculptures & paintings innumerable—&
armor from the tower of London—some of the
8th century. Saw Greeley—Snow the com-
mercial editor of the tribune—John Robinson—
Fry the musical critic &c—and others
Greeley carried me to the New opera
house—where I heard Grisi & her troupe
First at Barnum's Museum I saw
the Camelopards said to be one 18 the
other 16 feet high I should say the highest
The body was only about 5 feet long.
stood about 15 feet high at most. (12
why has it horns but for ornament
or 13 ordinarily) ^Looked through
his diorama—& found the houses
all over the world much alike—
Greely appeared to know & be known
by everybody—was admitted free to
the opera & were led by a page
to various parts of the house at dif. times
Saw at museum some large flakes of cutting arrowhead stone made into a sort of wide cleavers--also a hollow stone tube prob from mounds.

Nov 24th 54

What that little long sharp nosed mouse I found in the Walden road today--

town dark brown above grey beneath--black incisors 5 toes with claws on each foot--long snout with small blunt black extremity--many moustachios--eyes far forward feet light or dirty white--tail 1 1/2 inches long whole length 3 3/4 inches--on causeway.

Nov. 28 Paddled to Clam Shell Still very clear & bright as well as comfortable weather-- River not so high as on the 16th ult

Were those Plover which just after sunset flew low over the bank above the RR & a-lighted in the op. meadow--with some white in tails like larks--graybirds--rather heavier than robins?

Nov 30th Pm Sail down river No ice but strong cold wind--river slightly over meadows-- Was that large diver which was on the edge of the shore & scooted away down stream as usual--throwing the water about for a some time quarter of a mile--then diving--"afterward
flying up stream over our head—the goosander
or red-breasted merganser?—It was
large with I should say a white breast—long
reddish bill—bright red or pink on sides or
beneath—reddish brown crest—white speculum
—upper part of throat dark—lower white with
breast—

Dec 2nd Got up my boat &

housed it—ice having formed about it.

Sunday Dec 3rd—The first

snow of consequence fell in the evening—
wind NE
very damp—5 or 6 inches deep in
morning. After very high wind in the night.
Snow birds in garden in the midst of
the snow in the P. m.

Dec 4th Pm down RR. to Walden

Walden went down quite rapidly about
the middle of November—leaving the isthmus
to Emerson's meadow bare—Flint's has been
very low all summer—The NE sides of the
trees are thickly incrusted with snowy
shields—visible afar—(the snow was
so damp—At Boston it turned to rain—)
This had not of the dry delicate powdery
beauties of a common first snow.
Already the bird-like birch scales dot the snow
Dec 5th

Very cold last night—Probably
river skimmed over in some places.
The damp snow with water beneath
(in all (5 or 6 inches deep & not drifted
notwithstanding the wind) is frozen solid
// making a crust which bears well--
This I think is unusual at this stage
of the winter.

Dec 6th to Providence--to lecture--
thick
I see ^ ice and boys skating all the
way to Providence--but know not
when it froze I have been so busy writing
my lecture--prob. the night of the 4th.
// In order to go to Blue Hill by Prov. RR--
stop at Readville Station (ap. Dedham
low Plain once) 8 miles: The hill ap
2 miles East. Was struck with
the Providence depot--its towers & great
length of brick--Lectured in it.
Went to R. Williams Rock on the
Blackstone with Newcomb--& thence
to hill with an old fort atop in Seekonk
Mass--on the E side of the Bay whence
fine
a ^ view down it. At Lectures spoke
with a Mr Clark--& Vaughn
& Eaton--

After lecturing twice this winter
I feel that I am in danger of
cheapening myself--by trying to
become a successful lecturer--i.e. to interest the my audiences. I am disappointed to find that most that I am & value myself for is lost or worse than lost on my audience. I fail to get even the attention of the mass. I should suit them better if I suited myself less. I feel that the public demand an average man--average thoughts & manners--not originality--nor even absolute excellence. You cannot interest them except as you are like them--& sympathize with them. I would rather that my audience come to me--than that I should go to them--and so they be sifted--i.e. I would rather write books than lectures-- That is fine--this coarse. To read to promiscuous ^ audience who are at your mercy--the fine thoughts you solaced yourself with far away--is as violent as to fatten geese by cramming--& in this case they do not get fatter--

Dec 7th Walked to Olneyville in Johnstone 2 1/2 or 3 miles west of Providence.
Harris tells me that since he ex-
changed a duplicate Jes. Relation for
one he had not--with the Montreal
men--All theirs have been burnt.

He has 2 early ones which I have not seen.

Dec 8th Pm up River ^ on
ice to Hub bridge--& thence to Walden.

Winter has come unnoticed by me

I have been so busy writing-- This is the
life most lead in respect to nature--
How different from my habitual one!

It is hasty coare & trivial as if you
were a spindle in a factory. The other
is leisurely fine & glorious like
a flower-- In the first case you
are merely getting your living--in
the 2nd you live as you go along.

You travel only on roads of the proper
grade without jar or running off
the track--& sweep round the hills
by beautiful curves. Here is the river
// frozen over in many places-- I am not
sure whether the 4th night or later--but
the skating is hobbly or all hobbled
like a coat of mail or thickly bossed

shield--ap sleet frozen in water.

How black the water where
Very little smooth ice--
the river is open when I look from
the light--by contrast with the surrounding
white, the ice & snow--! a black artery
here and there concealed under a pellicle
of ice. Went over the fields on the
crust to Walden--over side of Bear-
Garden--already foxes have left their tracks--
How the crust shines afar, the sun now
setting. There is a glorious clear sunset
sky--soft and delicate & warm even like
a pigeon's neck. Why do the mts never
look so fair as from my native fields?

Dec 9th Surveying for T.

Holden--a cold morning-- What is

that green pipes on the side-hill at Nut--
about a dozen rods
It forms a dense bed "along the side of the bank in the woods, a rod in width rising
Meadow on his land--looking at first
to 10 or 12 feet above the swamp.
like green briar cut off. Equisetum hiemale
Scouring rush--Shave grass
White Pond mostly skimmed over.

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

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

Dec 10th

Pm to Nut Meadow-- Weather warmer
snow softened-- Saw a large flock of
snow-buntings--(quite white against
woods at any rate) though it is quite warm.
// Snow fleas in paths--First\d+ I have seen
-- Hear the small wood pecker's whistle--
not much else--only crows & partridges
else--& chicadees. How quickly the snow
feels the warmer wind-- The crust which
was so firm & rigid--is now suddenly
softened--& there is much water in the road.

Dec 11th Pm to Bare Hill.

// C says he found Fair Haven frozen over
%how much before?%  
// last Friday i.e. the 8th%^%-- I find Flint's
frozen today--& how long?

We have now those early still clear
winter sunsets over the snow-- It is but
mid afternoon when I see the sun
setting far thro' the woods--and there
is that peculiar clear vitreous greenish
sky in the west--as it were a molten
gem-- The day is short--it seems to be
composed of two twilights merely--the morn-
ing & the evening twilight make the whole
day-- You must make haste to do the work
of the day before it is dark-- I hear rarely
a bird except the chicadee--or perchance
a jay or crow-- A gray rabbit\d+ scuds away
over the crust in the swamp on the
edge of the Great Meadows beyond Peters.
A partridge goes off--& coming up
I see where she struck the snow

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

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

I saw on the 11th an abundance 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 (?) 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

\[17^{\text{vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "of the drought..."}}\]
was so cold that the river closed up

almost everywhere--and made good

skating where there had been no ice to

catch the snow of the night before.

First there is the snow ice--somewhat

rough & brown or yellowish

spotted where the water overflowed

the ice on each side yesterday--& next

over the middle the new dark smooth

ice--And where the river is wider

thick

than usual a fine grey ice--marbled--

prob.

where there there was a thin ice yesterday

--probably the top froze as the snow

fell. I am surprised to find how rapidly

& easily I get along--how soon I am

at this brook or that bend in the river

which it takes me so long to reach on

the bank or by water. I can go more

than double the usual distance before

dark-- It takes a little while to learn

to trust the new black ice-- I look

for cracks to see how thick it is--

Near the island I saw a muskrat

close by swimming in an open reach--

He was always headed upstream

a great proportion of the head out

of water [drawing] and its
though the root of the tail is about level
with the water.

whole length visible"-- Now & then it swimming
& floated down stream still keeping its
head pointed up with its tail. It is surprising
how dry he looks--as if that back was
never immersed in the water. It is apt
to be melted at the bridges about the piers
& there is a flow of water over the ice there.

There is a fine smooth grey marbled
ice on the bays--which ap. began to
freeze when it was snowing night before
last--there is a marbling of dark where
there was clear water amid the snow.

Now and then a crack crosses it &
the water oozing out has frozen on each
side of it 2 or 3 inches thick & sometimes
as many feet wide--these give you a
slight jolt. Off Clam Shell I heard

& saw a large flock of fringilla linaria

//

over the meadow. No doubt it was these I
saw on the 15th ult--(but I saw then & on
the tenth a larger & whiter bird also--may have been
the bunting.) Suddenly they turn aside
in their flight & dash across the river to
a--large White birch 15 rods off--which
plainly they had distinguished so far--

I afterward saw many more in the Potter
swamp up the river-- They were commonly
brown or dusky above streaked with yellowish
white or ash and more or less white or
ash beneath. Most had a crimson crown
or frontlet & a few a crimson neck & breast,
very handsomne. Some with a bright crimson
crown had clean white breasts-- I suspect
that these were young males. They keep
up an incessant twittering varied from time
to time with some mewing notes, and occasionally
for some unknown scaring they will all suddenly
dash a way with that universal loud note
(twitter--) like a bag of nuts. They are busily
clustered in the tops of the birches picking the
seeds out of the catkins--and sustain themselves
in all kinds of attitudues--sometimes
head downwards while about this. Common
as they are now--& were winter before last--I saw
none last winter.

Dec 20th 7 Am to Hill. Said

to be the coldest morning as yet. The river appears
to be frozen everywhere-- Where was water last
night is a firm bridge of ice this morning.
The snow which has blown on to the ice has taken
the form of regular star shaped crystals
an inch in diameter-- Sometimes these are ar-
ranged in a spear 3 feet long quite straight
I see the mother o'pearl tints now at sun-
rise, on the clouds high over the east-
ern horizon before the sun has risen above
the low bank in the east. The sky in

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

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

It has been a glorious winter day.
Its elements so simple--the sharp clear
air--the white snow every where covering
the earth--& the polished ice--
cold as it is--the sun seems warmer on
my back even than in summer--as if
its rays met with less obstruction.

And then the air is so beautifully still--there is not an insect in the air--& hardly a leaf to rustle. you are sure to detect it if there is a grub out ^ on the snow or ice.

The shadows of the clam shell hills are beautifully blue as I look back half a mile at them. And in some places where the sun falls on it, the snow has a pinkish tinge.

I am surprised to find how fast the dog can run in a straight line on the ice. I am not sure that I can beat him on skates--but I can turn much shorter--

It is very fine skating for the most part--all of the river that before was not frozen ^ & therefore not covered with snow on the 18th--is now frozen quite smoothly-- But in some places for a quarter of a mile it is uneven like frozen suds-- in rounded pancakes as when bread spews out in baking.

At sundown or before, it begins to belch. It is so cold that only in one place did I see a drop of water flowing out on the ice.
Dec 21st. '2

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

those

calls ice-rosettes i.e. ^ small pinches of crystallized

snow--as thickly as if it had snowed in

that form-- I think it is a sort of hoar

frost on the ice. It was all done last

night--for we see them thickly clustered

about our skate tracks on the river

--where it was quite bare yesterday.

We are tempted to call these the finest days

of the year. Take Fair Haven Pond for-

instance--a perfectly level plain of white

snow--untrodden as yet by any fisherman.

surrounded by snow clad hills--dark

evergreen woods--& reddish oak leaves--

so pure & still-- The last rays of the

sun falling on the Baker Farm reflect

a clear pink color-- I see the feathers

of a partridge strewn along on the

snow a long distance. The work of

some hawk perhaps for there is no

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

Dear Sir--
I hear that you have
a lecture of some humor--will you
do us the favor to read it before the
Bungtown Institute--?

Dec 24th
Some 3 inches of snow fell last night
& this morning concluding with a
// fine rain--which produced a slight
glaze--the first of the winter. This gives
the woods a hoary aspect--& increases
the stillness by making the leaves immova-
able even in considerable wind.

Dec 25th
To New Bedford via Cambridge.
I think that I never saw a denser growth
than the young white cedar in swamps
on the Taunton & New Bedford RR-- In most
places it looked as if there was not room
for a man to pass between the young
trees-- That part of the country is remarkably level & wooded. At N. B--saw
of oil. The evergreen pines very common in the low ground.
the 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
" AEson'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 sleighing 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 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
was not a rare day there—that
they had little or no winter such as
we have—and it was owing to the in-
fluence of the gulf stream which was
only 60 miles from Nantucket at the
nearest—or 120 miles from them
In mid winter when the wind was SE or
even SW they frequently had days as
warm & debilitating as in summer—There
is a dif. of about a degree in Lat. bet—
C. & N. B.—but far more in climate.
The American holly is quite common there
with its red berries still holding on—and
is now their christmas evergreen—I heard
the larks sing strong & sweet & saw robins.
R. lives in that part of N. B. 3 miles N of
the town called The Head of the River—i.e.
the Acushnet River. There is a Quaker meeting
house there—Such an ugly shed, without
a tree or bush about it—which they
call their meeting house—(without steeple
of course) is altogether repulsive to me—
like a powder house or grave. & even
the quietness & perhaps unworldliness of
an aged quaker has something ghostly
& saddening about it—as it were a mere
preparation for the grave.
R. said that pheasants from England
(to which where they are not indigenous) had
been imported into Naushon—and were now
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 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 safely 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.
It was Edmund Gardiner of N. B. (a relative of Edwards--) who was carried down by a whale--& Hussey of Nantucket who, I believe, was one to draw lots to see who should be eaten.

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

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

At the Ocean House I copied from Wm Coffin's map of the town 1834.--this 30.590 acres including 3 isles beside 1.050 are fresh ponds--about 750 peat swamp.

Clay in all parts--But only granite or gneiss boulders. Population of island over 80

Dec 28th

A misty rain as yesterday-- Capt. Gardiner carried me to Siasconset in his carriage.

He has got from 40 to 45 or 50 bushels of corn to an acre from his land. Wished to know how to distinguish guinea cocks from Guinea hens-- He is extensively engaged in raising pines on the island. There is not a tree to be seen--except such as are set out about houses-- The land is worth commonly from 1 dollar to a dollar & a half. He showed me several lots of his--of different ages

Altered from "was"
--one tract of 300 acres sewn in rows
2 yrs old
with a planter--where the young trees ^ were
just beginning to green the ground--& I
saw one of Norway pine & our Pitch--mixed
8 years old--which looked quite like
a forest at a distance-- The Nor-
way pines had grown the fastest ^ & had
a bluer look at a distance more like
the white pine. The com pitch pines have
a reddish crisped look at top. Some are
sown in rows some broad-cast. At first
he was alarmed to find that the ground
moles had gone along in the furrows
directly under the plants & so injured the
roots as to kill many of the trees ^
sowed enough survy--& he planted over again.
He was also discouraged to find that
a sort of spindle-worm had killed the
leading shoot of a great part of his
neighbors older trees. These planta-
tions must very soon change the
aspect of the island. His com. P. pine
Cape seed obtained from the nearest main
land cost him about 20 dollars
at least about a dollar a quart.
a bushel ^ with the wings--& they told him
it took about 80 bushels of cones to
make one such bushel[^] of seeds.
I was surprised to hear that the Norway imported from France had pine seed without the wings ^ cost not quite $200 a bushel delivered at New York or Philadelphia. He has ordered 8 hogsheads!! of the last clear wingless seeds at this rate-- I think he said it took about a gallon to sow an acre. He had trid to get White pine seed, but in vain. cones They had not contained any of late (?).

This looks as if he meant to sow a good part of the island though he said he might sell some of the seed. It is an interisting enterprise.

Half way to Siasconset I saw the old corn hills where they had formerly cultivated. --the authorities laying out a new tract for this purpose each year. This island must look exactly like a prairie the view in clear weather except that ^ is bounded by the sea--

Saw crows--saw & heard larks frequently--& saw robins--but most abundant running along the ruts or circling about just over the ground in small flocks--what the inhabitants call snow birds a grey bunting like bird about the size of the snow bunting-- Can it be the Sea-side finch--? or the Savannah Sparrow?--or the shore lark?

Gardiner said that they had

184 Poss. "dear"
Pigeon--hen--& other hawks--but where there are no places for them to breed--
also owls, which must breed, for he had seen their young. A few years ago
some on imported a dozen partridges from the mainland--but one had a
though some were seen for a year or 2 not one had been seen for some time & they were thought to be extinct. He thought the raccoons which had been very numerous, might have caught them. In Harrisons days some coons were imported & turned loose--& they multiplied very fast & became quite a pest killing hens &c & were killed in turn--Finally they turned out & hunted them with hounds & killed 75 at one time since which he had not heard of any. There were foxes once but none now--& no indigenous animal bigger than a "ground mole". The nearest approach to woods that I saw was the swamps where the blueberries maples &c are higher than ones head. I saw as I rode & maple in the swamps High blueberry bushes--huckleberries--shrub-oaks--uva ursa (which he called mealy plum) gaultheria--beach plum--clethra--may-flower (well budded). Also
withered poverty grass--golden-rods--
asters-- In the swamps are
cranberries & I saw one carting the
vines home to set out.--which also
many are doing. G. described what he
made out to be "star-grass" as common.
Saw at Siasconset perhaps 50 little houses
but almost every one empty-- Saw some
peculiar horse carts for conveying fish up
the bank--made like a wheel barrow--
with a whole iron bound barrel for
the wheel--a rude square box for
the body resting on the shafts--&
the horse to draw it after him-- The barrel
makes a good wheel in the sand. They may
get sea weed in them. A man asked 37
cents for a horse cart load of sea weed
carried 1/4 mile from the shore. G.
pointed out the house of a singular old
hermit & genealogist Franklin Folger--
over 70 years old
"who for 30 years at least has lived
alone & devoted his thoughts to genealogy--
He knows the genealogy of the whole island.
& a relative supports him by making
genealogical charts from his dictation for those
who will pay for them. G. at last
lives in a very filthy manner--& G. helped
clean his house when he was absent about 2
years ago-- They took up 3 barrels of dirt
Ascended the light house at Sancoty head in his room. The mist still prevented my seeing off & around the island. I saw the eggs (?) of some creature in dry masses as big as my fist like the skins of so many beans--on the beach. G. told me of a boy who a few years since stole near to some wild geese which had alighted & rushing on them seized 2--before they could rise--& though he was obliged to let one go--secured the other.

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

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

Dec 29th

Nantucket to Concord at 7 1/2 Am--still in mist. The fog was so thick that we were lost on the water--stopped & sounded many times. The clerk said the depth varied from 3 to 8 fathoms bet the island & Cape. Whistled & listened for the locomotive’s answer--but probably heard only the echo of our own whistle at first--but at last the
locomotive’s whistle & the life boat bell.

I forgot to say yesterday that there was

at one place an almost imperceptible

rise not far west of Siasconset—to

or swell

a slight ridge ^ running from Tom Nevers

[John] This conceals the town of Nantucket

Head northward to ^ Gibbs' Swamp--"(John Gibbs was

the name of the Ind. Philip came after) This seen ^

a mile off through the mist which concealed the

relative distance of the base & summit

appeared like an abrupt hill--though

an extremely gradual swell--

At the end of Obed Macy's Hist of

Nantucket are some verses signed

"Peter Folger 1676" as for the sin

which God would punish by the Indian war

"Sure 'tis not chiefly for those sins

that magistrates do name,"

but for the sins of persecution & the like--the

banishing & whipping of godly men--

"The cause of this their suffering

was not for any sin,

But for the witness that they bare

against babes sprinkling."

"The church may now go stay at home,

there's nothing for to do;

Their work is all cut out by law,

and almost made up too."
"'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  

A beautiful clear not very cold day—The  
shadows on the snow an Indigo blue—  
The pines look very dark. The white 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 perfect stillness & peace of the winter landscape!  
Jan 1st 55 P. m.²  

Skated to Pantry Brook with C.  
All the tolerable skating was a narrow strip often only 2 or 3 feet wide—bet. the frozen spew & the broken ice of the middle—  
Jan 2nd  
I see, on the path near Goose Pond, where  

²Possibly its own line
3This sentence is actually the first sentence on p. 112. T probably accidentally skipped a page when turning over pp. 110-111, started writing, recognized his mistake, cancelled this line, and turned back to p. 112 to continue his thought. Notice that “whistle” is online on p. 112 and was interlined with a caret here. There is now an AL written for this line; probably “whistle” should be emended out, and a TN written describing the situation.

“sumachs” altered from “sumacs”

Possibly altered from another word
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 southerly 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. 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 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^ (Greenland(?))^7

where was that oh far down—very

^"island" altered to "Island" in pencil

^7"Greenland (?) cancelled in pencil; parens not cancelled
again caught seals there—No books

down that way."

Saw men catching minnows for fishing through large
holes in the ice of the Blac Stone

At Quinsigamond Vill. a Mr Washburn

showed me the wire rolling & drawing mill

in which he is concerned. All sorts of scrap

iron is first heated to a welding heat in

masses of about 200 weight—then

rolled between fast Iron rollers in successive

grooves till it is reduced to long rods or little

more than inch in diameter. These are

cut up by powerful shears into lengths of

about 3 feet—heated again & rolled

bet. other rollers in grooves successively

of various forms square oval, round

diamond &c (drawing) &c which part of the

work only one man in the concern fully

understood & kept secret—It was

here rolled & reduced to a large sized

wire may 3/8 inch in diameter—of which

screws are made—At this stage first

it begins to be drawn—Though it must

be heated again in the course of the

drawing to restore its ductility. Make

a great deal of telegraph wire—

for pail bails—&c About

20 miles of Tel. wire in a day—of

the best Swedish iron for strength—

"again" written over "&"

lighter ink seems to read "pail" but then darker ink seems to reform the "a"

and possess the tip of "p"
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 symptoms when all run. I saw a part of the glowing mass which had been heated to a welding heat-- ready to be rolled but had dropt on its way-- I could still trace the outlines of old screws of the various scraps which composed it--screws--bolts--bar iron--an old axe curiously twisted &c &c all which by mere pressure would have been rolled into a homogeneous 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
more spirit than other laborers--In hot
sometimes
weather would drink 2 quarts of water an
hour--& sweat as much--If they would
not sweat left off work.

Showed me a peculiar coarse yellow sand which
they imported from the shore of Long Island--
where quartz examined by a microscope was seen to be
perfect crystals-- This they used to on the floor
of their furnace to repair & level it where

In the cavernous furnace I saw the roof dripping with stalactites
dark
from the mortar & bricks.
their iron bars had furrowed it.

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

Wire is hard drawn--when it is rapidly reduced
ie from one size to another much smaller.

Higginson showed me a new translation of the Vishnu Sarma--Spoke of
the autobiography of a felon older than
Stephen Burroughs--one Fitch--of Revolutionary
days.

R. W. E told Mr Hill his classmate of
Banger who was much interested in
my Walden--but relished it merely as
a captital satire & joke--& even
thought that the survey & map of
the pond were (not real but) a
caricature of the coast surveys.
Also of Mr. Frost the botanist of Brattleboro—who has found 5 or 6 new species of lichens thereabouts—Geo. Emerson—is aware that he has confounded 2 black oaks—one is found on Nantucket—et. Is it not the Q. nigra—and have we not got it in C.?

Jan 6th

Pm to Great Meadows

Saw one of those silver-gray cocoons which are so securely attached—by the silk being wound round the leaf stalk and the twig. This was more than a year old and empty—and having been attached to a red-maple shoot a foot or more above the meadow—it had girdled it just as a wire might, it & the wood had overgrown it on each side was so unyielding—^ What is that small insect with large slender wings which I see on the snow or fluttering in the air these days? Also some little black beetles on the ice of the meadow ten rods from shore

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

119

17Stray mark preceding "t"
The skating is for the most part spoiled by a thin crispy ice on top of the old ice--which was frozen in great crystals & crackles under your feet-- This is ap. the puddles produced by the late thaw & rain--which froze thinly while the rest of the water was soaked up. A fine snow is falling--& drifting before the wind over the ice & lodging in shallow drifts at regular intervals.

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

I see that the locust pods are still closed or but partially open--but they open wider after lying in my chamber--

Sunday Jan 7th

Pm JP Brown Road & Hub-Bridge.
Cloudy & misty--
On opening the door I feel a very warm
South westerly wind contrasting with the
cooler air of the house--& find it
& the manure is being washed off the ice into the gutter
unexpectedly wet in the street^-- It is in
fact a Jan. thaw-- The channel of the
river is quite open in many places, & in
others I remark--that the ice & water
alternate like waves & the hollow between
them-- There are long reaches of open water
where I look for muskrats & ducks, as
I go along to Clamshell Hill. I hear
the pleasant sound of running water--
I see that black scum on the
surface of water above the ice.

The delicious soft spring-suggesting
air--how it fills my veins with life
-- Life becomes again credible to me--
A certain dormant life awakes
in me--& I begin to love nature again.
Here is my Italy--my heaven--my New
England. I understand why the Indians
hereabouts placed heaven in the SW--
The Soft South. On the slopes the
ground is laid bare & radical
leaves revealed--crowfoot--shep-
herds purse--clover & a fresh green
& in the meadow the skunk cabbage
buds--with a bluish bloom--& the
leaves of the meadow saxifrage & these
& the many withered plants laid bare
^remind me of spring & of botany.

On the same bare sand is revealed a
new crop of arrowheads-- I pick up
2 perfect ones of quartz, sharp as if
just from the hands of the maker.
Still birds are very rare-- Here comes
a little flock of titmice plainly to keep
me company--with their black caps &
throats--making them look top heavy--rest-
lessly hopping along the alders. with a
sharp clear--lisping note-- There begin
to be greenish pools in the fields
where there is a bottom of icy-snow--
I saw what looked like clay-colored
snow fleas on the under side of a stone.
The bank is tinged with a most del-
icate pink or bright flesh color--where
the beomyces rosaeus grows. It is a
lichen day. The ground is covered with
cetrariae &c under the pines. How
full of life & of eyes is the damp bark--
It would not be worth the while to die
& leave all this life behind one.
The hill sides covered with the bear scrub
oak--methinks are of the deepest red at
a distance. The p pine tops were much
broken by the damp snow last month-- I see
where the birches which were weighed down & lay across the road have been cut off--& all
their scales & seeds shaken off by the sleighs
in one spot color the snow like thick saw-dust.
The sky seen here & there through the
wrack--bluish--& greenish--& perchance
with a vein of red in the west--seems like
the inside of a shell--deserted of its tenant
into which I have crawled.
The willow catkins began to peep from
under their scales as early as the 26th of
buds
last month. Many have lost their scales
entirely.

Jan 8th 55

7 1/2 Am to river
Still warm & cloudy--but with a great
clear crescent of clear sky increasing in the
north by west-- The streets are washed bare
down to the ice. It is pleasant to see the
sky reflected in the open river reach--now
perfectly smooth--
10 Am. To Easterbrooks place via

Old mill site. It is now a clear warm
The willow osiers by the Red Bridge decidedly are not bright now--& were too old
& sunny day-- There is a healthy earthy
sound of cock-crowing-- I hear a few
chicadees near at hand--& hear & see
jays further off--& as yesterday--a crow
sitting sentinel on an apple tree-- Soon
their places near him. Then off they flap
with their "caw" of various hoarseness. I see
various caterpillars & grubs on the snow--
& in one place a reddish ant about 1/3 of
an inch long walking off. In the swamps
you see the mouths of squirrels' holes in the
snow--with dirt & leaves & perhaps pine scales
about them-- The fever bush is betrayed by
its little spherical buds.

Jan 9th '55

Pm to Conantum--

A cloudy day--threatening snow, wet under
foot-- How pretty the evergreen radical
shoots of the St-- Johnswort now exposed--
partly red or lake--various species of it.

Have they not grown since fall? I put
at the end of
a stone ^ by one to try it. A little wreath
of green and red lying along on the
muddy ground amid the melting snows.

I am attracted at this season by
the fine bright red buds of the privet an-
dromeda sleeping ^ along the slender light
brown twigs-- They look brightest against
I notice the pink shoots of low blueberries
where they are thick

How handsome now the fertile fronds
of the sensitive fern standing up
a foot or more on the sides of
or stipe? causeways--the neat pale brown rachis
clothed with rich dark brown fruit
pinnae
at top-- The /divisions of the frond/ on
"a one sided spike or raceme"
one side & slightly curved.--Still full
of seed. They look quite fresh though

dry & rigid. Walked up on the river
a piece above the Holden Swamp--though
there were very few places where I could get
on to it it has so melted along the shore
& on the meadows-- The ice over the channel
looks (em) dangerously dark & rotten in spots.
The oak leaves are of the various leather
colors-- The white oak which is least so
& most curled & withered has to my eye a
or pink
tinge of salmon color ^ in it. The black shrub
oak is particularly dark reddish & firm.
I think it is the red oak or maybe the black
whose leaves are such a pale brown verging
some times reddish
on yellowish--but well preserved.
This winter I hear the axe in almost every
wood of any consequence left standing
in the township.

Made a splendid discovery this pm--as
I was walking through Holden's white spruce
swamp--I saw peeping above the snow crust some
slender delicate evergreen shoots very much
like the andromeda polifolia--amid sphag-
um, lambkill--andromeda calyculata
blueberry bushes &c--though there was
very little to be seen above the snow--

// It is I have little doubt--the Kalmia glauca

var Rosmarinifolia%(?)%--with very delicate

opposite
evergreen\"linear leaves--strongly revolute-
as it were slightly weather beaten imbrowned or ripened by the winter

its cheeks made ruddy by the cold.
somewhat reddish green above\"--white glaucous

beneath--with a yellow midrib--(not veined

nor mucronated nor alternate like the Andromeda

on the ends of the twigs which are

polifolia)^The twigs sharply 2-edged. The

blossom buds quite conspicuous. The whole

aspect more tender & yellowish than the And.

and \~ green while that is mulberry now V Jan. 10

Polifolia.^The pretty little blossom buds--arranged
cross-wise in the axils of the leaves as you

look down on them.

What a strong & hearty--but reckless, hit-or-
miss style had some of the early writers

of New England--like Josselyn--& Em Wood--

and others elsewhere in those days-- As if

they spoke with a relish making their

lips--like a coach whip--caring more to

speak heartily than scientifically true.

They are not to be caught napping by the

wonders of nature in a new country &

perhaps are often more ready to appreci-

ate them than she is to exhibit them.

They give you one piece of nature at any

\%Cotton Mather too was a rich phrase% rate, & that is themselves. They use a strong

homely

course ^ speech which cannot always

be found in the dictionary--nor some-
times be heard in polite society--but which

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

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

Expressions he uses which you now hear only in Kitchens & bar-rooms--which therefore sound particularly fresh & telling--not book worn. They speak like men who have backs & stomachs & bowels--with all the advantages & disadvantages that attach to them-- Ready% to find lions here-- some having "heard such terrible roarings"--"which must be either Devils or Lions; there being no other creatures which use to roar."

What a gormandizing faith (or belief) he has ready to swallow all kinds of portents & prodigies
Says the wolves have no joints from head to tail."

Most admirable when--they most 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
delicately 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 Calycula--
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
like cathedral windows
more or less brown—“but when I look back
from the sun the whole bed appears merely
gray & brown.

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

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

At Europ. Cranberry Swamp—I saw great quantities
of the seeds of that low 3 celled rush or sedge—about
%Scheuchzeria palustris% the edge of the pool—%on the ice black & elliptical
looking like the droppings of mice this size {drawing}
So thick in many places that by absorbing the
sun’s heat they had melted an inch or more into
the ice. No doubt they are the food of
some creatures. Saw a thorn with
long thorns and its peculiarly shining varnished
twigs.

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

Jan 11th P.m.
Skated to Lee’s bridge & Farrar’s swamp— Call
it otter swamp— A fine snow had just begun
to fall—So we made haste to improve the
skating before it was too late— Our skates
made tracks often nearly an inch broad
in the slight snow which soon covered the ice-- All along the shores and about the islets the water had broadly overflowed the ice of the meadows-- & frequently we had to skate through it making it fly-- The snow soon showed where the water was. It was a pleasant time to skate so still & the air so thick with snow flakes that the outline of near hills was seen against it-- & not against the more distant & higher hills. Single pines stood out distinctly against it in the near horizon-- The ground which was 2/3 bare before--began to gray about Fair Haven--Pond--as if it were all rocks. There were many of those grubs & caterpillars on the ice half a dozen rods from shore-- some sunk deep into it-- This air thick with snow flakes making a back-ground enabled me to detect a very picturesque clump of trees on an islet at pole brook-- A red (?) oak in midst with birches on each side.

Jan 12th Pm

To Flints Pond via Minott's meadow.
After a spitting of snow in the fore-
noon--the sun is coming out-- It is
still & warm-- The earth is 2/3 bare--
I walk along the Mill-Brook below
Emerson's looking into it for some life--
Perhaps what most moves us in winter
is some reminiscence of far off sum-
er-- How we leap by the side of the
open brooks-- What beauty in the run-
ing brooks--! What life! What society!
The cold is merely superficial--it is sum-
er still at the core--far far within--
It is in the cawing of the crow--the crowing
of the cock--the warmth of the
sun on our backs. I hear faintly the
cawing of a crow far far away--echoing
from some unseen woodside--as if
deadened by the spring-like vapor which
the sun is drawing from the ground--
It mingles with the slight murmur
of the Village--the sound of children
at play--as one stream empties
gently into another--& the wild & tame
are one-- What a delicious sound. It
is not merely the crow calling to
crow--for it speaks to me too. I am
part of one great creature with
him--if he has voice I have ears.

"possibly altered to upper case"
I can hear when he calls--& have engaged
not to shoot nor stone him.--if he will
one
caw to me each spring. On the hand it may
be is the sound of children at school saying
their a.b. abs--on the other far in the
wood-fringed horizon--the cawing of crows
out at their long recess
from their blessed eternal vacation.^^--Children
who have got dismissed! While the vapor-
ous incense goes up from all the fields
of the spring--(if it were spring). Ah bless
the Lord o my soul, bless him for
wildness--for crows that will not
alight within gunshot--& bless him
for hens too that croak and cackle
in the yard.

Where are the shiners now & the trout--?
I see none in the brook-- Have the for-
Ah may I be there to see when they go down-- Why can they not tell me?
mer descended to the deep water of the river^?
or gone into the mud? There are few or no in-
sects for them now--

The strong scent of this red oak--just split
& corded is a slight compensation for the
loss of the tree.

How cheering the sight of the evergreens
now--on the forest floor--the various
pyrolas &c--fresh as in summer.

What is that mint whose seed vessels
rubbed are so spicy to smell--minty--
at the further end of the pond by the
Gourgas woodlot—? horsemint? or calamint?

On Flints Pond I find Nat Rice.

fishing—he has not caught one—I asked
him what he thought the best time to fish—
He said—When the wind first comes south
after a cold spell—on a bright morning.

Well may the tender buds attract us at
this season—no less than partridges—for they
are the hope of the year—the spring rolled up—
the summer is all packed in them.

Observed this Pm the following oak
leaves—1st the white oak—the most withered
spotted
& faded & curled—Many with black dot-lichens
2nd the Bear Scrub—the most firm—& fresh-colored
& flat
3d the Black—moderately firm—the darkest above
much curled—
Bear
4th scarlet—Firmest after the ^ Scrub—with much freshness & life—
some conspicuously red still (unwithered)—Lobes
remarkably distorted.
5 Red—very much—withered & lifeless & worn—
some reddish slightly
thin & faded—^ not small & not inclined to curl—
6 Swamp White Pretty firm & bright but
considerably curled

7 I suspect that the small chinquapin is deciduous
leaf
for I could not find one ^ in all my walk Jan 1st though I look
along the Lupine Wall. These on the ground are considerably
withered faded & curled—yet pretty firm.

---

14“?” possibly added in pencil
15“Rice” written over “rice”
16“on” written over “of”
17What follows is a list that is not spaced according to MS here, and will
have to be mocked up.
For color—perhaps all may be
called brown—& vary into each other more or less
The 1st—as both sides are seen—pale brown with a
  salmon tinge beneath—
  Leather like often paler
  2nd clear reddish brown " above"—whitish or very
  light beneath—silveryish  
  [not always]
  3d— Dusky brown above"—clear tawny (?) brown
  beneath
  4th clear pale brown—(except the unfaded red ones)
  very generally reddish
  leather-like—nearly the same both sides
  or slightly reddish
  5th Quite pale brown"—nearly the same both sides
  Some prematurely dead are yellowish—
  6th Deep rusty-colored brown often bright leather red—
  silveryish white beneath—
  Leaves on ground
  7th Quite Pale brown much like a withered red. but
  whitish beneath like bear scrub.

{one-half blank page}
The oak leaves now resemble the dif. kinds.

leather

of calf--sheep-- Russia  

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 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

Jan 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

mts.

%135%

1."p" written over "r"

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This may be ruled a correction or clarification, rather than an alteration.

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

Jan 15th Pm. Skated to Bedford

It had just been showing^23--& this on the Grt meadows
lay in shallow drifts^7 or waves^ of alternate snow & ice-- Skated into a crack & slid on my side 25 feet--
The river channel dark ^ rough --with fragments of old ice cemented together--not strong, polygons of various forms.

Jan 16--to Cambridge & Boston.

Carried to Harris the worms--brown light--striped--& fuzzy black caterpillars-- He calls the first also caterpillars. Also 2 black beetles, all which I have found ice & within a week or two on snow; Thickest in a thaw.

Showed me in a German work plates of the larvae of dragon flies & ephemerae or their cases such as I see on rushes &c over water.

Says the Ant lion is found at Burlington Vt. and may be at Concord.

I can buy Ind. coats in Milk street from 3 1/2 to 6 dolls--depending on the length.
also leggins^24 from 1.50 to 3 or more dolls,
also depending on the length--

^2top of "h" cancelled in pencil
^2poss. "leggins" written over "&"
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 over shoes in the mid. of the road.

In the night it turned to snow—(which
wet
now still falls--) & now covers the 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

—suggesting that in darkest storms

possibly followed by a period
we may still have the hue of heaven in us.

At noon it is still a driving snow

storm--& a little flock of red-poles is busily
picking the seeds of the pigweed &c in the garden.
Almost all have more or less crimson a few are
very splendid with their particularly bright crimson
breasts. The white on the edge of their wing coverts is
very conspicuous--
damp
Pm. The snow still

drives from the NW nearly horizontally
over the fields--while I go with C--
toward the Cliffs & Walden-- There is
not a single fresh track on the
Back road & the aspect of the
road & trees & houses is very wintry.

Thuch considerable snow has fallen
it lies chiefly in drifts under the
walls. We went through the Spring
woods--over the Cliff--by the wood
path at its base to Walden & thence
by the path to Bristers Hill--& by
road home-- It was worth the while
damp
to see what a burden of snow
lay on the trees not withstanding the
wind-- Pitch pines were bowed to the
ground with it--and birches also--
and white oaks-- I saw one of the last
splintered
at least 25 feet high near the
ground past recovery. All kinds of ever-
oaks
greens--and which retain their
leaves--and birches which do not
bent to up to 25 feet or more in height
were bent to the earth--and these novel
but graceful curves were a new feature
in
of the woodland scenery. Young white
veiled
pines often stood draped in the robes of purest
like a maiden that has taken the veil
white--emblems of purity--with their heads
main
slightly bowed & their ^ stems slanting to one
side, like travellers bending to meet the
storm with their heads muffled in their
cloaks-- The windard side of the
wood & the very tops of the trees every-
where--for the most part--were com-
paritively bare--but within the woods
the whole lower 2/3 of the trees were
laden with the snowy burden which
had sifted down onto them. The snow
a little damp had lodged on every
not only on the oak leaves & the
evergreens--but on every twig &
branch & stood in upright walls
like miniature chinese walls zig zag over hill & dale
or ruffs 5 or 6 inches high,^making
more conspicuous than ever the ar-

---

2"Probably altered from "cloth" or "clothes".
3"Comma possibly cancelled by caret/flourish indicating placement."
rangement & the multitude of the twigs

& branches, & the trunks also being plastered

with snow--a peculiar soft light

very unlike the ordinary darkness of the forest

was diffused around, as if you were

This was when you stood on the windward side

inside a drift or snow house-- In

most directions you could not see

more than 4 or 5 rods into this labyrinth

This is to be insisted on-- on every side it was like a snow drift that lay loose
to that height.

or maze of white arms-- They were

so thick that they left no crevice through

which the eye could penetrate further.

The path was for the most part blockd

up with the trees bent to the ground

which we were obliged to go round by

zig zag paths in the woods-- or carefully

creep under at the risk of getting our

necks filled with an avalanch of

snow-- In many places the path was

shut up by as dense a labyrinth high

as the tree tops & impermeable to vision

as if there had neve been a path there.

Often we touched a tree with our foot--
or shook it with our hand-- so relieved

it of a part of its burden-- & rising a

little it made room for us to pass

beneath-- Often singular portals &
winding passages were left between

the pitch pines-- through stooping-- & grazing

the touchy walls, we made our way--

\[^{32}\text{comma under caret}\]

\[^{33}\text{" possibly ":" or ";"}\]
When the path was open in the midst
of the woods--the snow was about 7 or
8 inches deep. The trunks of the trees
so uniformly covered on the northerly
as happens frequently every winter & sometimes continuing so for weeks
side--"suggested that this might be
a principal reason why the lichens watered
by the melting snow flourished there
most. The snow lay in great contin-
uous masses in the pitch pines & the
white--not only like napkins but
great white table-spreads and
counterpains--when you
looked off at the wood from a little
distance--Looking thus up at the
Cliff. I could not tell where it
lay an unbroken mass on the smooth
It was so massed on the last also
rock--& where on the trees."White
pines were changed into firs by it--
& the limbs & twigs of some large ones
were so matted together by the
like immense
weight--that they looked^ solid fungi
on the side of the trees--or those
nests of the social grossbeak (?) of
africa which I have seen represented.
Some White pine bows hung down
like fans or the webbed feet of
birds-- On som pitch pines it lay in
fruit-like balls as big as one's
like cocoanuts

head. Where the various oaks were
bent down—the contrast of colors—
of the snow & oak leaves—and the softened
tints through the transparent snow—often
a delicate fawn color—were very agreeable.

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

It may be that the linarias {seek} the come
into the gardens now—not only because all
nature is a wilderness today—but because
were the wind has not free play
the woods are so snowed up—the twigs
are so deeply covered that they cannot readily
come at their food— In many places
drooping &
single trees or clumps of two or 3 ^ massed
together by the superincumbent weight—made
tent like
a sort of roof ^ under which you might
Under one pitch pine which shut down to the ground on every
take shelter. We saw only one in—
side you could not see the sky at all— but sat in a gloomy light
distinct snow covered trail of an animal.
as in a tent.
Where are the crows now? I never see
them at such a time. The water of yesterday
is very high now on the meadows over the
ice— but the snow has mingled with it so
densely that it is mere slosh now—
The channel ice is lifted up by the freshet
& there is dry white snow— but on each

34"often" written over "a"
35stroke missing in "wilderness"
side are broad dirty or yellowish green strips of

water slosh. Where does 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 woodand roads were strewn with
birches against which had obstructed the
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

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--
You went winding between—stooping under—them—fearing to touch them—lest they should relieve themselves of their burden & let fall an avalanche or shower of snow on to you. You would not have believed there were so many twigs & branches in a wood as were revealed by the snow resting on them—perfect walls of snow—no place for a bird to perch. Ever & anon the wind shook down a shower from high trees you. & anon the wind shook down a shower from high trees & 26th instant—%

Our lesser redpoll is said to be the same with the European which is called This in Bewick Le Sizerin by Buffon. I heard its mew about the house early this morning before sunrise.

In many instances the snow had lodged on the trees yesterday in just such forms as a white napkin or counterpane dropped on them would take—protuberant in the middle with many folds & dimples—An ordinary leafless bush supported so much snow like a whirligig on its twigs—a perfect maze—though not in one solid mass—that you could not see through it—We heard only a few chic-a-dees. Some times the snow on the bent P. Pines made me think of rams' or elephants' heads ready to but you in particular places standing on their snowiest side the woods were incredibly fair—white as alabaster—indeed the young pines reminded you of the purest statuary. & the stately full grown ones towering

37Possibly "" 38Added at end of line; probably emend and make its own line. 39Possibly altered from "on" or "in". 40""bent" corrected from "Bent"
Possibly reformed.
hacknied where a new snow can come
& cover all the landscape. The snow
lies chiefly behind the walls-- It is sur-
prising how much a straggling rail fence
detains it--and it forms a broad low
swell beyond it 2 or 3 rods wide, also
just beyond the brow of a hill where
it begins to slope to the S. You can
tell by the ridges of the drifts on the
S side of the walls which way the
wind was--They all run from N to S
drawing i.e. the common drift
or plaits
is divided into ridges ^ this
directly--frequently down to the
ground between--Which separate drifts
are of graceful outlines somewhat
like fishes with a sharp ridge or fin
gracefully curved both as you look
Their sides curving like waves about to break
from one side & down on them. ^ The
at the wall end
thin edge of some of these drifts^, where
the air has come through the wall
& made an eddy, are remarkably curved
like some shells even thus ^ I would
not have believed it. More than once round.
The world is not only new to the eye--but
is still as at creation--every blade & leaf
is hushed--not a bird or insect is heard
--onl, perchance--a faint tinkling sleigh-

"Possibly altered from "on"
"Possibly "when"
"Followed by blotted words
"Possibly altered from "side"
"Possibly altered from another word
"Caption--part of drawing, not of body of text.
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 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
& dog--which I guessed to be channing's. Further
still a mile & a half from home
"as I was showing to T. under a bank
the single flesh colored or pink apo-
thecia of a baeomyces which was not covered
by the snow-- I saw the print
of C's foot by its side & knew that his
eyes had rested on it that afternoon--
It was about the size of a pin's head.
Saw also where he had examined the lichens on
& all was clear again
the rails. Now the mackerel sky was
gone--& I could hardly realize that
low dark stratus far in the east was
it, still delighting perchance some
sailor on the Atlantic in whose zenith
it--was--whose sky it occupied.
T. admired much the addition to the
red-house--with its steep bevelled roof--
Thought he should send Mr. Upjohn to see it.
The whole house methought was well planted
--rested solidly on the earth--with its
great bank (green in summer). &
few stately elms before--it so much
simpler & more attractive than a front
yard with its knick-knacks. To contrast
with this pleasing structure--which is
painted a wholesome red--was a modern
addition in the rear--perhaps no
uglier than usual--only by contrast
such an outline alone as our--carpen-
ters have learned to produce--{drawing}. I see
that I cannot draw any thing so bad

"Possibly "has"
Indicates interlineation, line 11
so you will often see an ugly new barn beside
a pleasing old house.
as the reality.\(^\text{149}\) Causeways are no sooner
made--than the swamp white oak
springs up by their sides--its\(^3\) acorns
prob. washed there by the freshets--

In Sagard's Hist. I read--"the villager
did not wish to hear the Huguenot min-
ister, saying that there was not yet
any ivy on the walls of his church,
and that ours were all grey with
age" [chennes de vieillese.] The walls
in their turn\(^4\) of the Protestant church \(^5\) have now
got some ivy on them--4 the villager
does not wish to hear the preacher of any
new\(^6\) church which has not.\(^4\)

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

\(^3\)Possibly altered from another word
\(^\frac{1}{2}\)One blank line between lines 18 and 19
which in some places, it is called the
Wheel bird:"--"It is seldom seen in the
daytime." This last sound is ap. the same
which I hear our Whip-poor-will make
& which I do not remember to have heard

On the sides of dry hills the dried heads
of the hard hack rising above the snow are
very perfect and handsome now. I think it
may be owing to the drought of the last
summer which caused them to dry up prema-
turely--but before they began to be brittle & to
crumble. This on the first Cladonia
pasture of Conantum. I sit there
looking up at the mackerel sky--and
also at the neighboring wood so suddenly
relieved of its snowy burden. The
Pines--mostly white--have now at this season
a warm brown or yellowish tinge, & the
oak--chiefly young white ones--are

comparatively red--The black oak I see
is more yellowish. You have these colors
of the evergreens and oaks in winter
for warmth & contrast with the snow.

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

You see where yesterdays snowy billows
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 listening 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-- It seemed
as if there could have been none left to reach
the ground-- these countless zigzag white
arms crossing each other at every possible angle
completely closed up the view like a light
drift within 3 or 4 rods on every side-- The win-
triest prospect imaginable. That snow which
sifted down into the wood paths was much
drier & lighter than elsewhere.

Jan 21st

2 1/2 Pm. The sky has gradually become over-
cast & now it is just beginning to snow--
looking against a dark roof-- I detect
a single flake from time to time-- but
when I look at the woods 2 miles off
in the horizon there already is seen a slight
thickness or mistiness in the air-- In this perhaps
may it first be detected.

Pm to Andromeda Ponds-- via
RR-- return by base of Cliffs--

The snow is turning to rain through a
fine hail.

Pines & oaks seen at a distance-- say 2 miles
off-- are considerably blended & make
one harmonious impression-- the former
the former if you attend are seen
or misty
to be of a blue black-- and the latter
form commonly a reddish brown ground
out of which the former rise-- These
colors are no longer in strong contrast
with each other--
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 pecked from the ground a hole ^ 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 %Prob. last% or chic-a-dee's nest--? %^%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. whole In some places for 15 rods the ^ 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
torrents through the commonly dry
under
channels ^ of the causeways--to hear
only the rush & roar of waters & look
down on mad billows where in summer is
commonly only dry pebbles--great cakes
of ice lodged & sometimes tilted up
against the causeway bridges over which
the water pours as over a dam. After
their passage under these commonly dry
bridges the crowding waters are at least
6 or 8 inches higher than those of the
surrounding meadow-- What a tumult
at the Stone Bridge--where cakes of
a foot
ice a rod in diameter & inches thick are
carried round & round by the eddy
or 10
only by in circles rods in diameter, & rarely get a chance to go
down stream--while others are seen
coming up edgewise from below in
the midst of the torrent. The musk-
of rats driven out by their holes by the
yet many of their cabins are above water on the S branch here there are none
water are exceedingly numerous--^ We saw
15 or 20 at least bet Derby's bridge
& the Tarbel spring--either swimming
with surprising swiftness up or down or across
the stream--to avoid us--or sitting at
resting
the waters edge--or ^ the edge

^Full word? Remove from AL table?
^Altered from "the"
One refreshed himself there after his cold swim regardless of us--probed its fur on the surface-- They frequently swam toward an apple tree in the midst of the water--in the vain hope of finding a resting place & refuge there. I saw one--looking quite a reddish brown busily feeding on some plant just at the waters edge--thrusting his head under for it-- But I hear the sound of Goodwin's gun up stream--& see his bag stuffed out with their dead bodies. The radical leaves of the yellow thistle are now very fresh & conspicuous in Tarbel's meadow--the rain having suddenly carried off the snow.

Jan 23d

Pm-- The water is still higher than yesterday--I found just over the red-bridge road--near the bridge. The willow row near there is not now bright--but a dull greenish below--with a yard at the ends of the twigs red. The water in many hollows in the fields has suddenly fallen away run off or soaked up--leaving last night's ice to mark its hight around the edges & the bushes-- It has fallen 2 feet in many cases--leaving some--
times a mere feathery crystallization to supply its place-- I was pleased to see the vapor of Sam. Barrrett's fall--and after-- the icy caves of the alder & willow stems below-- But the river is higher than ever-- especially the N. river. I was obliged to after crossing Hunt's Bridge to keep on round to the RR bridge at Loring's before I could recross--it being over the road with a roar like a mill dam this side the further stone-bridge--& I could not get over dry for the feebleness and incontinuity of the fence-- In front of G. M. Barretts was a great curving bay--which crossed the road bet him & Heywoods--and by Fort Pond bridge at Lorings it had been over for 10 rods in the night. A great cake a foot thick stands on end against the RR bridge-- I do not quite like to see so much bare ground in mid win- ter-- The rad. leaves of the shepherd's purse seen in green circles on the water-washed plowed grounds--remind me of the internal heat & life of the globe--anon to burst forth anew-- Yesterday I met Godwin shooting musk- rats--& saw the form & bloody stains of two through his game bag-- He shot
such as were close to the shore where he could
get them—for he had no dog—the water
being too cold he said. I saw one poor
reddined with its blood
rat lying on the edge of the ice
half a dozen rods from the shore—which he
had shot but was unwilling to wade for.

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

Jan 24th '55

I am Wm Wood's N. E.'s Prospect--

He left NE. Aug 15th 1633—and the last Eng. Edition
referred to in this Am. one of 1764 is that of Lond. 1639.

The wild meadow grasses appear to
have grown more rankly in those days. He
describes them as "thick & long, as high as a
man's shoulder middle; some as high as
the shoulder,"—v. Ind. book. Strawberries too
were more abundant and large before they
were so cornered up by cultivation "some being
2 inches about; one may gather half a
bushel in a forenoon;" and no doubt many
other berries were far more abundant--
as gooseberries--raspberries\textsuperscript{5}--\textsuperscript{6} especially 
currants--which last so many old writers
speak of but so few moderns find wild.
We can perhaps imagine how the primitive
wood looked from the samples still left
in Maine-- He says "The timber of the country
grows straight, & tall, some trees being
20, some 30 foot high before they spread
forth their branches; generally the trees
be not very thick, tho' there be many
that will serve for mill-posts, some
being 3 foot & a half over." One
would judge from accounts that the
woods were clearer than the primitive wood
on ac. of Ind. fires
that is left--"for he says you might
ride a hunting in most places--"There is
no underwood saving in swamps" which
the Ind. fires did not burn. v. Ind. book.
"Here no doubt might be good done with
saw mills; for I have seen of these
[he is speaking of pines] particularly]
stately high grown trees, \textsuperscript{7} ten miles together
[prob. Charles R.]
close by the river'side,"-- He says at first
"fir & pine" as if the fir once grew in this
part of the state abundantly as now in
Maine & farther west. Of the oaks he says
"These trees afford much\textsuperscript{5} mast for
19 hogs, especially every third year,"-- Does not
this imply many more of them than now--

\textsuperscript{5}vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "speak of...
\textsuperscript{6}vertical pencil line through this and the following lines
"The hornbound tree is a tough kind of wood,
that requires so much pains in riving as
is almost incredible, being the best to make
bowls & dishes, not being subject to crack or
leak." & speaks, both in prose & verse, of the
vines being particularly inclined to run over this tree.
If this is the true hornbeam it was probably
larger then—but I am inclined to think it the
tupelo—& that it was both larger & more abundant
for he says it was good for bowls & it has been so used since
than commonly now. Of the plums of the
country he says "they be black & yellow, about
the bigness of damsons, of a reasonable
good taste." Yet Emerson has not found
the Yellow plum i.e. Canada--growing wild
in Mass.

Of quadrupeds no longer found in Concord he--
"which some affirm that they have seen"
names--the Lion--that Cape Ann Lion--which
may have been a cougar for he adds--"Plimouth
men have traded for lions skins in former times".--
Bear, Moose--Deer--Porcupines--"The grim fac'd
"For bears they be common, being a black
kind of bear, which be most fierce in strawberry
time, at which time they have young ones; at which
time likewise they will go upright like a man,
& climb trees, & swim to the islands;" & c & v Ind. book.

In the winter they lie in "the clifts of rocks & thick
swamps"--
The wolves hunt these in packs & "tear him as a
dog will tear a kid."
"they never prey upon the English cattle,
or offer to assault the person of any man,"
unless shot. Their meat "esteemed-- -- --above venison."

For moose & deer see Ind. book.

Complains of the wolf as the great devourer of

Bear--Moose--& deer--which kept them from

multiplying more. "Of these deer; [i.e the small)

there be a great many, & more in the Massachu-

setts-Bay, than in any other place,"-- "Some have

killed 16 deer in a day upon this island," so called because the deer swam thither
to avoid the wolves.

For Porcupine & Raccoon v. Ind Book--

Grey squirrels were evidently more numerous than now--
or wild cat

I do not know whether his Ounce ^ is the

He calls it wild cat--& does not describe the little wild cat.

Canada lynx %(%or wolverene%??%)%-- v Ind Book.

%prob. this.%%

Says they are accounted "very good meat. Their skins

be a very deep kind of fur, spotted white &

Aud. & Bach. make the Lynx rufus black & white beneath.

black on the belly."'' For wolf v. Ind. Books

He says "These be killed daily in some places or other,

-- -- -- -- --Yet is there little hope of their utter de-

struction,--" "travelling in the swamps by kennels".

Says the beaver are so cunning ^the English "seldom

or never kill any of them, being not patient to

lay a long siege--" & not having experience.

-- -- -- -- -- -- ----63

Eagles are probably less common--Pigeons

v. Ind. B. price "4 pence" good cock "4 shillings"
of course--" heath cocks all gone---& Turkeys"-- Prob more owls

of humilities he "killed 12 score at 2 shots."

then--& cormorants &c &c sea-fowl generally---& Swans.

Of pigeons "Many of them build among the pine

trees 30 miles to the north-east of our plantations;

joining nest to nest, & tree to tree by their nests, so

that the sun never sees the ground in that

place, from whence the Indians fetch whole

loads of them."

& then for turkies tracking them in winter--or

shooting them on their roosts at night.

--Possibly altered from "multiply"

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

"Possibly cancelled dashes
to swim, having likewise such longing desire
after the fresh water ponds, that no beatings
with poles, or forcive agitations by other de-
VICES, will cause them to return to the sea,
till they have cast their spawn."

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

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

Speaks of "a great oyster bank" in the middle
of back bay just off the true mouth of the Charles--
These obstructed the
& of another---in the mystic Mistick. the navigation of both rivers.

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

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

On the 19th Walden was covered with slosh

4 or 5 inches deep--but the rain of the 22d
turned it all to water--or chiefly--leaving it
pretty smooth in the main--but at dif.
levels-- Under the higher levels are many
handsome white figures one to 2 feet
long where water has flowed--now empty
& white in form of trees or cladonia lichens
{drawing} very handsome. I saw a
meadow full of lambkill turned reddish--
the other day which looked quite handsome
with the sun on it. Those Andromeda
ponds are very attractive spots to me
They are filled with a dense bed of the
small andromeda--a dull red mass
--brighter--or translucent red looking toward the sun, greyish looking from it
as commonly seen (above) 2 feet or more
high--as thick as a moss bed--springing out of a still denser bed of sphagnum beneath-- Above the general level
rise in clumps here & there the pani--
with its brown clustered fruit
clad andromeda (above) & the high blueberry--
But I observe that the Andromeda
does not quite fill the pond--but
there is an open wet place with coarse
grass,--swamp loosestrife & some button bush--
about a rod wide surrounding the whole.
Those little hummocks or paps of
sphagnum--out of which the androme-
da springs--as bouquets are tied up in
the same to keep them fresh--{drawing}
are very beautiful-- Now where the frost
has touched them they are hoary protuberances
perhaps inclining to ridges--now frozen firmly now
"^--green beneath & within--general aspect ^ perhaps
the green only driven in a little deeper spotted
pale withered brownish^--with more or less bright
reddish stars--where drier frequently beautiful
crimson stars amid the hoary portions--a
beautiful soft bed--of a myriad swelling bosoms
out of which the andromeda springs. I got
the chinks in
a load once to shift into^--a well I was building
to keep the sand out it being covered it died &
^--but ^ I believe I only filled the water with moats
& worms ever after-- A beautiful--pale
brown & hoary--red & crimson--ground
of swelling bosoms-- Dr Harris spoke of
this andromeda as a rare plant in
Cambridge-- There was one pond hole wher^-
he had found it but he believed they had
destroyed it now getting out the mud.
What can be expected of a town where
this is a rare plant? Here is nature's
parlor--here you can talk with her
if you can speak it--if you have anything to say
in the lingua vernacula--^--her little
back sitting room--her with-drawing--
her keeping room.
I was surprised to find the ice in the

"Possibly "when"
middle of the last pond a beautiful delicate rose color--for 2 or 3 rods--deeper in spots--it reminded me of red snow & may be the same--I tried to think it the blood of wounded muskrats--but it could not be--It extended several inches into the ice at least & had been spread by the flowing water--recently--as for vegetable pingents. there were button bushes in & about it. It was this delicate rose tint with internal bluish tinges like mother o'pearl--or the inside of a conch--It was quite conspicuous 15 rods off--& the color--of spring-cranberry juice. This beautiful blushing ice!

what are we coming to?

Was surprised to see oak balls on a bear scrub oak--Have them then on black--scarlet--red & bear-scrub.

another in same state has an oak ball on it!

Saw a young ap. red oak ^ [it did not taste bitter.] 10 feet high the ends of whose twigs looked at first sight as if they had been twisted off, by some hungry browsing bird, leaving the fibres streaming--These I found were the strong woody fibres of last years leaf stalk--standing white out ^ in some cases 2 inches in all directions--from the ends of the twigs--in others rolled together like strong twine--& commonly this twine of dif. leaf stalks with the flapping of the leaves twisted together--Sometimes 4 or 5 leaf stalk fibers ***with wonderful regularity as if
braided--like braided horsetails. On other
oaks the leaves still remained with their
leaf-stalks thus reduced to fibers & twisted together.
It was wonderful how they could have become
so wonderfully knotted or braided together--
but Nature" had made up in assiduity for
want of skill. In one instance 4 leaf stalks
reduced to fine white fibres & rolled & twisted into strong
twine, had afterwards been closely braided together
for 1/2 an inch in length--& in the course of it
tied twice round the twig. I think it must be
great
that these leaves--died [perhaps in the ^ drought
of last year] while still their fibres were still
strongly united with their twigs--& so preserving
their flexibility without losing their connexion
& so the wind flapping the leaves has twisted
which hang short down {drawing} has twisted them
together--and commonly worn out the leaves
entirely--without losening or breaking the
tough leaf stalk. So fickle & unpredictable, not to say insignificant a motion
does yet get permanently recorded in some sort. Not a leaf flutters--summer or
winter.
Old Wood in his NE's Prospect--says
but its variation & dip & intensity are registered in The Book.
Englishmanlike--"It is thought there
can be no better water in the world, yet
dare I not prefer it before good beer,
as some have done, but any man will
chose it before bad beer, whey, or butter-
milk. Those that drink it be as

"Nature" written over "nature"
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 oozed out over the 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 Yes case they are coming down the page.^

In The partridge tracks the side toes are more spread than in crows & I think believe the hind one is not so long --both trail the middle toe-- The partridge track looks like this {drawing} I see the tracks ap. of many hunters that hastened out this morning.
I have come with basket & hatchet
to get a specimen of the rose-colored ice.
It is covered with snow—I push it away
with my hands & feet—At first I
detet no rose tint & suspect it may
have disappeared faded or bleached
out—or it was a dream—But the
surrounding snow & the little body
of the ice I had laid bare—was what
hindered—At length I detect a faint
young
tinge—I cut down a white oak &
sweep bare a larger space—I then
cut out a cake. The redness is
all about an inch below the surface—
for 1/2 an inch vertically
—the little bubbles in the ice there ^ being
interruptedly
coated ^ within or without with what looks
like a minute red dust when seen through
a microscope—as if it had dried on—
Little balloons with some old red paint almost scaled off their spheres.
It has no beauty nor brightness thus
seen more than brick dust. And
this it is which gave the ice so
delicate a tinge—seen through that
inch of clear white ice. What is it?
Can it be blood?
I find an abundance of the seeds of sweet
gale frozen in in windrows on the ice of
the R. meadows as I return—which were washed
out by the freshet—I color my fingers

---

"surrounding" written over "surrounded"
"vertical pencil line from here through end of page
with them. & thus they are planted there--Some--
what perhaps in waving lines--as they wash up.

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

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

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

There are just {drawing} end of scale

13 rays in each-- on side of cone.

of the 3 I have!!!

These vary in their roundness I find just71 5 such rays--(the no'

or the flatness of the cone-- of the needles in a fascicle) in each Whl.--

So the Whl. P. cones in their length72 pine cone I have, & each goes round once.

a Larch cone has five rows73 4 hemlock cones have 5 each like wht pine--but

Jan 26--55 This morning

little twisted74

it snows again--A fine dry snow with

do no wind to speak of giving a winry aspect

to the landscape--

What a Proteus75 is our weather-- Let me

try to remember its freaks-- We had remarka-

bly steady sleighing *** on a little snow

some 6 inches deep from the 5th of December

all through the month--& some way into

Jan. It came damp & froze up solid--

Yet there was none in Boston the while.

There was however a little rain near the

end of December--& occasional slight

flurries of snow.

Jan 6th After some comparatively pleasant days--

there was a raw northerly wind & fine drifting or

driving snow in the P.m. as I walked over the Great

Meadows--forming shallow drifts on the ice--but it soon

stopped.76

Jan 7th I was surprised when I opened the door in the P.m.

by the warm south wind--& sudden softening

& melting of the snow-- It was a Jan. thaw without

rain--the manure beginning to wash off the ice in the streets. The

winters back was broken & I dreamed of spring &c &c

---vertical pencil line through this portion of text

---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."

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

---"I find . . . twisted" is written to the right of the drawing, under the

---dividing line.

---"p" written over "p"

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

"water . . . ice" possibly added
yond all--account-- Walked in woods in midst of it
to see the pines bent down & the white oaks &c & broken--
Snow birds i.e. linarias in yard. Making drifts by walls.

Jan 20
Still higher wind in night (snow over) shaking
the snow from trees--Now almost bare--snow 7 or 8
inches on level in woods--but almost all in drifts under the
vales in fields. The sudden-frozen slosh ponds--
partly run off--like spewed bread. Hardly bear yet.

Not very cold. Go studying drifts. Fine clear weather.

Jan 21st
Becomes over cast at noon-- A fine snow spits
then turns to fine--hail then rain glazing a little.

Jan 22d
Rained all night. Walking now worse than ever this
year--mid-leg deep in gutters. Lakes in the street--River
risen--a freshet--breaking up ice a foot thick--flows
under dry causeway bridges a torrent--muskrats driven out by hundreds
& shot--dark angry waves where was lately ice and snow--Earth
washed bare--radical leaves appear & russet hills--still
rains a little.

Fair weather
Jan 23
"Water still rising ove the Redbridge road--though
suddenly fallen in many hollows in fields leaving ^ ice 2 feet
above it around--& by clumps--{drawing}-- Great work done
by brooks last night by brooks-- Have to go round 2 or 3 miles
to find a dry causeway. not strong enough for skating.

Jan 24
Not strong enough to skate on meadows went
to Walden. At dark--snowed 3/4 inch & spoiled pros-
ppect of skating.

Jan 25
Clear bright & mild--Water still higher than
before--over the causeways

Jan 26
--A fine snow falling--spoiling all prospect
of skating on this broad ice-- Is not good
skating the surest sign of snow or foul weather?
To Continue the 26th
Pm to Walden—

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

"inward" written over "into"
The great damp flakes come & soon
bridge across the interval even 2 inches
over between the forks of such twigs where
they are horizontal—one sticking to another—
it rests on such horizontal twigs com-
monly in the form of a prism resting on
vertical section where no wind
one corner {drawing}". And in many places
where the wind is felt—the little
walls of snow are built out at an
angle with the perpendicular, in the
direction whence the snow comes {drawing};
(a vertical section—or end) Damp as it is—it
like swans down—as if it lay as light as
well as thick. As it is with these Shruboaks
—so with the largest trees in the stiller parts
of the woods—even the lowest dead limbs of
the white pines are not prevented by the upper
from bearing their part of the burden.

I am afraid I have not de-
cribed vividly enough the aspect of
that Lodging Snow of the 19th & today partly
I am imagine the innumerable twigs
& boughs of the forest (as you stand
in its still midst) crossing each other
at every conceivable angle on every side
from the ground to 30 feet in height
--with each its zigzag wall of

---Altered from text
**"or" poss written over "on"
**"Lodging Snow" written over "lodging snow"
**Possibly "I am" rather than a false start; if so, write AL
**False start before word
snow 4 or 5 inches high—so innumerable at
different distances one behind another that they
completely close up the view like a loose-
 woven downy screen—into which however stooping
& winding you ceaselessly advance—The win-
triest scene. Which perhaps can only be seen
in perfection while the snow is yet falling
before wind & thaw begin. Else you miss,
you lose, the delicate touch of the Master".
A coarse woof & warp of snowy batting—
—leaving no space for a bird to perch.
I see where a partridge has waddled through
the snow still falling—making a con-
tinuous track— I look in the direction
to which it points— & see the bird just
skimming over the bushes 15 rods off.
The plumes of pitch pines are first filled up
solid—then they begin to make great snowy
casse-têtes—or pestles. In the fields the air
is thick with driving snow—you can only
see a dozen rods into its woof & warp
It fills either this ear or that & your
eyes with hard cutting blinding scales if
you face it. It is forming shelly drifts
behind the walls— & stretches in folds
across the roads— But in deep withdrawn
hollows in the woods—the flakes at last

"Master" written over "master"
come gently & deviously down—lodging
on every twig & leaf—& forming deep
& downy—& level beds between
& on the ice of the pools. The lowermost
twigs support not less snow but more.
   In many places where you knew
there was a thrifty young wood—there
appears to be none—for all is bent
down & almost completely buried in
   & you are stepping over them.
the snow.^ The P—pines are most round
young
headed— --& the ^ White oaks are most leaved
at top—& hence suffer most—

   What changes in the aspect of the
earth— one day russet hills—& muddy
ice—& yellow & greenish pools in the fields—
the next all painted white— the fields
& woods & roofs laid on thick— The great
sloshy pools in the fields freezing as they
dried away—look like bread that has
spewed in the baking the fungi of a
night— an acre in extent— but trust
not your feet on it— for the under-
side is not done.— there the principle of water
still prevails.
   Methinks that after any great storm
in winter whether of snow or rain— the equi-
librium of the air is again disturbed & there
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
bottomless pit. The state of Maryland
is a moral fungus. her offence
is rank--it smells to heaven. Knowing
that she is doing the devils work--
& that her customers are ashamed to
be known as such--she advertises--
as in the case of private diseases--that
"the strictest confidence will be observed."
"Consolidated" Deviltry\\
P. m. up meadow to Cliffs
& Walden Road.
A cold cutting S.'Westerly" wind. The crust
bears where the snow is very shally--but
lets you through to water in many places
on the meadow. The river has not yet fallen
much-- The muskrats have added to their
houses in some places. So they still use them.
Started a hare among shrub oaks--it
had been squatting in a slight hollow--
rather concealed than sheltered. They al-
ways look poverty stricken.
Some ice organ-pipes at the Cliffs. They
appear to be formed of successive rings
about 1/2 inch thick & diameters lessening
with more or less regularity sometimes the point split in two.
"to the point--" (drawing)\\ Then the rocks are
incased with ice under which water
flows--thin sheets of rippling water
frozen as it flowed--4 with the sun again
ap. thawing beneath & giving room to
a new sheet of water--for under the south
side of the rocks it melts almost every
day.

I came upon a fox's track under the
N end of the Cliffs--4 followed it. It
was made last night--after the sleet
before it froze. It must have been at midnight or after.
& prob. the rain was over"-- The tracks were
commonly 10 or 12 inches apart--& each
1 3/4" or 2 inches wide--Sometimes there was
a longer interval & 2 feet fell nearer to-
gether, as if in a canter. It had doubled
directly on its track in one place for a
rod or 2--then went up the N end of the
Cliff where it is low--& went along Southward
just on its edge--ascending gradually.
In one place it had made water like
a dog--& I perceived the peculiar rank
fox odor without stooping. It did not
wind round the prominent rocks
but leaped upon them as if to reconnoitre--
Its rout was for the most part a little
below the edge of the Cliff--occasionally
surmounting it. At length after going
perhaps 1/2 a mile--it turned as if to de-
send a dozen rods beyond the Juniper

"3/4" written over "1/4"
Possibly reformed
Possibly altered from "foxes"
"R" written over "r"
As I went through the woods toward the RR--the sun setting--there were many ^ violet colored ^ clouds scattered along the otherwise clear Western horizon.

I often see the mincing tracks of a skunk.

I came upon the track of a woodchopper who had gone to his work early this morning across Fair Haven Pond. It suggested his hard work--& little pecuniary gain--but simple life & health & contentment-- As I took the back track on his trail--comparing his & stride foot ^ with mine--I was startled to detect a slight aberration, as it or were sliding in his tread ^ as if he had occasionally stopped & taken a fresh & made a fresh impress not exactly coincident with the first.

In short I discovered ere long that perchance they were 2 thieves trying to pass for one, thought he had had a companion^--& he, but the truth was the 2nd ^ to save his strength in this long walk to his work through the crusty snow had stepped with more or less precision in the tracks of his predecessor-- The snow was 3 or 4 inches deep-- I afterwards used the track of a horse in like manner to my advantage--So that my successor might have thought that a sleigh had

---

This caret and the caret in line 25 seem to both indicate placement for the same, continuous sentence; have written only one AL
gone along drawn by a horse\textsuperscript{\textdagger}.

Jan 28th 55 Sunday

Grew warmer toward night & snowed

But this soon turned to heavy rain in\textsuperscript{\textdagger}\textsuperscript{\textdagger}

the night--which washed all the snow off

the ice--leaving only bare ground & ice the

country over--by next morn.

Jan 29th

Not cold--Sun comes out at noon.

Jan 30

Clear & not cold & now fine skating--the

river rising again to the height it had

// attained the 24th ult which (with this) I

think remarkable for this season. It

(it had fall only 18 inches since then)

is now about 1 foot lower than on the 24th\textsuperscript{\textdagger} but

is rising. It is unusual for the river to be

Both these--or this whole rise--is owing to heavy rains on the frozen ground

so much swollen in mid winter because it

carrying off what snow there was--& now soaking up-- The hills shed it all like

is unusual to have so much rain at

a roof into the valleys. It is up to the hubs on the causeways

this season--Melvin & others are out

& foot travellers have to cross on the river & meadows.

after muskrats again & see them with

their pouches stuffed out with their round

bodies.

Minott to day enumerates--the

red--gray--black--& what he calls the

Sampson fox-- He says "its a sort of yaller

fox--but their pelts aint good for

much." He never saw\textsuperscript{\textdagger} one but the

\textsuperscript{\textdagger}"horse" crossed out in pencil
\textsuperscript{\textdagger\textdagger}"min" written over "&"
\textsuperscript{\textdagger\textdagger\textdagger}"saw" written over "say"
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 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
if beginning to double on itself—and here
& there at 9 o'clock—being cracked thus
in the lowest parts the water begins
to spurt up in some places in a stream
{drawing}
as from an ordinary pump & flow
along these valleys & thus we have
edging of
soon reestablished an "shallow yellowish
water
or oil-colored" edging all along the
river & meadows—covered with floating snow fleas
By night though it was a pretty cool day--the water had generally burst through & overflown the ice along along the shore & once more stood at a level there.

i.e. Water & ice made a level where the ice was uneven before (drawing) boat

"Before skating upstream I tried my ^ sail on the meadow in front of the house & found that I could go well enough before the wind--but couldn't resting the mast on my hip & holding by the middle with one hand--but I could not easily tack.

The country thus almost completely bare of snow--only some ice in the roads & fields--& the frozen freshet at this remarkable height-- I skated up as far as the boundary between Wayland to a point which a woman called about 1 1/2 miles from Saxonville & Sudbury--just above Pelhams' Pond--about 12 miles--bet 10 Am & 1

--quite leisurely--. There I found the river open unexpectedly--is if there were a rapid there--& as I walked up it some 3/4 of a mile it was still open before 1/2 at least me--a ^ mile further ^ or probably to the falls. ??? Somewhat like this {drawing}

All the open part 1 1/2 miles at last--was pretty closely %Saxon ville%
hemmed in by highlands. I skated about 12
or 9 in all\(^1\) mile & walked 3/4 of a mile further.
I skated past 3 bridges above Sherman's--& walked to the 4th. The next or 5th would
prob be that in mid of Saxonville
It was all the way that I skated a chain
viz Causeway bridges--Mill village Bridge at Larned Brook--Pelham P. bridge--& that on
road from Dudley P. to Southboro & Marlboro
of meadows--with the muskrat houses still
commonly on
rising above the ice--the bank of
& marking it like smaller hay cocks amid the large ones still left.
the river^ As I skated near the shore
under Lee's Cliff I saw what I took to
be some scraggs or knotty stubbs of a dead
limb lying on the bank beneath a
white oak--close by me--Yet while
I looked directly at them I could not but
admire their close resemblance to partridges.
I had come along with a rapid whirr
& suddenly halted right against them
--only 2 rods distant--and as my eyes
watered a little from skating against
the wind--I was not convinced that they
were birds till I had pulled out my
glass & deliberately examined them. They
sat & stood 3 of them perfectly still
with their heads erect--some darker feathers
like ears methinks--increasing their
resemblance to scrabies--as where a
small limb is broken off {drawing}. I was
much surprised at the remarkable
stillness they preserved instinctively rely-
ing on the resemblance to the ground for

\(^1\)line connects this to caret following "Sherman's"
their protection--ie--withered grass--dry oak
leaves--dead scrags & broken twigs. I thought
at first that it was a dead oak
limb with a few stub ends or scrubbs
sticking up--and for some time after
I had noted the resemblance to birds standing
only 2 rods off I could not be sure
of their character on account of their
their necks & every muscle tense with anxiety
perfect motionlessness & it was not
till I brought my glass to bear on them
steadily glaring on me & saw their eyes distinctly that I was
convincing. At length--on some signal I did not perceive--they went
as if shot off
with a whirr over the bushes.

It was quite an adventure getting over
the bridgeways or causeways--for on
every shore there was either water or
thin ice which would not bear--Some--
times I managed to get on to the timbers
of a bridge--the end of a projecting "tie" (?) Thus over the bridges & the gulf of
and off the same way--straddling over
about them onto thick
the open water the edge of the ice--
or else I swung myself onto the
cause ways by the willows--or crawled
catching at a tree which stood in the water
along a pole or rail--or got in.
At the bend above The Pantry there

105 Caret cancelled; line connects this to caret following "distinctly".
106 Caret cancelled; line connects this to caret following "distinctly".
was sort of canal or crack quite
across the river & meadow--excepting
As I passed the mouth of Larned Brook--off Wayland H. I pulled out my glass
& saw that it was 12 1/2 o'clock
a slight bridge of ice-- In each town
I found one or 2 trappers come forth
As a regular thing they turned out after dinner--buttoning up their
to shoot muskrats. -- All along the
great coats--
river their cabins had been torn to
pieces by them-- in one place I
men
saw 2 ^ sitting over the hole where they
had just demolished one--one with
a pistol ready pointed to the water
where he expected the rat to come up
--the other with a gun. In this 12 miles
of the river there would be 2 or 3 at least
pretty sure to turn out such a day--& take
to the ice for muskrats. I saw again
an abundance of sweet gale seed on the
ice--frozen in--near Pelham's Pond. This seed
is thus dispersed regularly on a large scale. It
lies as it was washed^ along the edge of
an overflow (drawing) Beside a dilapidated
muskrat's house lay the wretched carcass
on the ice
of its former occupant--^stripped of its
black, even without its skin, with veins of red.
hide^ Returning I saw a large hawk
flapping & sailing low^ over the meadow.
//

You were often liable to be thrown^ when
skating fast by the shallow puddles on the ice formed
in the mid of the day--& not easy to be distinguished. These
detained you feet while your unimpeded body fell forward

^possibly altered from "washes"
^"low" written over "over"
^possibly altered from another word
Feb 1st 55

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

A 4 Pm--I find that the river

// rose last evening to within 8 1/2 inches

of the rise of Ap 23d\textsuperscript{23d} '52--& then began
to fall. It has now fallen about 4
inches--Accordingly, the river falling all
day,-- No water has burst out through the
ice next the shore--& it is now one
uninterrupted level white blanket of
snow quite to the shore on every side--
This then is established--that the river falling

4 inches during the day--though it has been
as warm as yesterday, there has been no
overflow along the shore. Ap the thin re-
cent ice of the night which connects the
main body with the shore bends & breaks
especially in the morning
with the rising of the mass ^ under the
influence of the sun & wind--And the water
establishes itself at a new level.

\textsuperscript{23d} written over "24th"
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——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 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 —
is setting, the solitary majesty of Crete,— mother of
a religion, it is said, that lived 2000 years.—"Onward &c
Onward, and many specks bubble up
along the blue AEgean;" These must
have been the muskrat houses in the Great
Meadows. "Every one"———"I have no doubt
"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 milkiness in the sound, like the

dashes cancelled
Altered from "that"
Pencil line connects this to caret following "years."
soft action of piano keys--A little like
the cry of a pigeon wood pecker--a-week
a-week &c. A congealed gurgling--frog-like. As I passed the ice forced up
by the water on one side--suddenly settled
on another with a crash--& quite a lake
behind me
was formed above the ice--& my successor
successor 2 hours after--to his wonder &
alarm saw my tracks disappear in one side
of it & come out on the other--at my seat
from time to time
^is the springy horizontal bough of some
fallen tree which is frozen in to the ice--some
& retained some life for a year after in the water
Old maple that has blowed over--covered with
    lying flat I quench
the great shaggy perforate parmelia. my thirst where it
is melted about it--blowing aside the snow fleas
The great arundo in the sudbury meadows
was all level with the ice-- There was a
great bay of ice stretching up the Pantry
I looked up a broad glaring bay of ice at the last place--which seemed to reach
& up Larned Brook^. Some dead maple
to the base of Nobscot & almost to the horizon--
or oak saplings laid side by side made my
bridges--by which I got on to the ice along
It was a problem to get off--& another to get on, dry shod.
the watery shore-- &--^ You are commonly re-
paid for a longer excursion than usual &
being out doors all day--by seeing some
    yesterday as
rarer bird for the season, as ^to day
a great hawk.

Feb ^2nd

Quite Clear--& Colder-- Yet it could not
refrain from snowing 1/2 inch more in the
night--whitening the ground now as well
as the ice.

^11^cancelled "successive" altered to "successor" and then cancelled; may need
TN; in AL now
^12^crossed out false start before "2nd"
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--either ice blown into that position (--which in this case is not likely--since there is a great deal too much for that surface) 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.--the first say 4 or 5 inches to the outside--the last 2 or 3. They are generally
not quite regular but one of the
fore feet a little in advance of the other
and so with one of the hind feet. There is an
interval of about 16 inches bet each
Some times they are in a curve or crescent {drawing}--all touching
4 tracks--

I saw what must
have been either a muskrats or minks track
I think, since it came out of the water--
the tracks roundish--4 toes much rayed

about 4 or 5 inches apart in the trail--
with only a trifle more bet the fore & hind
legs--and the mark of the tail in suc-
cessive curves as it struck the ice--thus
{drawing}\textsuperscript{118}

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

Snowed again 1/2 inch more in the eve-
ning--after which at 10 o'clock ^ I
skated on the river & meadows--

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

\textsuperscript{117}Horizontal line separates this paragraph from next; "I saw" written on same line as "tracks", and "Some . . . touching" interlined above
\textsuperscript{118}Horizontal line separates this paragraph from next; "Another" written on same line as drawing
Possibly altered from “owl”
Possibly altered from another word
Tuesday the 30th—viz—Thursday noon
--Thursday eve--Friday eve--& now Sat. morn--
This will deserve to be called the winter
of Skating-- The heavens thus spit
on the ice as if they had a spite
against it-- I even suspect that
the account of the matter may be--
that when an atmosphere containing
more moisture than usual is wafted
over this chain of broad ice--
especially
lakes (^the rest of the country being bare
of snow) its moisture is suddenly con-
densed & frozen--and there is a
spitting of snow. This last flurry
lasted an hour or more--& then
it grew colder & windy.

P. m.

Skating thro Snow--
Skated up the river with T-- n--
in spite of the snow--& wind. It had
cleared up but the snow was only
a level strong 3/4 of an inch deep--
(seemingly an inch) but for the
most part blown into drifts
3 to 10 feet wide & much deeper
(with bare intervals) under a
strong N westerly wind. It was
a novel experience this skating
through snow--sometimes a mile
without a bare spot--this bluster-
ing day. In many places a crack
ran across our course\(^{121}\) where
the water had oozed out &
the driving snow catching in it had
formed a $$\text{thick batter with}$$
a stiffish crust in which we were
tripped up--& measured our lengths
on the ice. The few thin places
were concealed & we avoided them
by our knowledge of the localities.
Though we sometimes saw the air bubbles of the mid channel through the thin
\(^{\text{Sometimes a thicker drift too threw}}\)
\(^\text{ice--for the water going down the current is increasing & eating its way}
\(^\text{us--or a sudden unevenness in the}
\(^\text{through the ice.}
\(^\text{concealed ice--but on the whole}
\(^\text{the snow was but a slight obstruction.}
\(^\text{We skated with much more facility}
\(^\text{than I had anticipated, & I would}
\(^\text{not have missed the experience}
\(^\text{for a good deal-- The water falling}
\(^\text{rapidly--has left a part of the ice}
\(^\text{in shelves attached to the shore}
\(^\text{& to the alders & other trees & bushes}
\(^\text{(with a spongey or brittle mass of crystals suspended}

\(^{121}\)Possibly altered from “coarse”
from its undersides 5 or 6 inches deep—or double that of the ice—looking like
15 or 18 inches above the general level.

lace work on the side--& showing all kinds of angular geom. figures

Sometimes we had to face a head wind

when you look down on it turned bottom up--as if

& driving—or blowing snow which concealed

the water had sunk away faster than it could freeze solidly--

the prospect a few--rods a head--&

I think that in my ice-flakes of the 2nd ult the thin crust

made a tedious progress-- We

of the horizontal ice was blown off & had left these exposed.

got up the Pantry Meadow above

the old Wm. Wheeler House & came

down this meadow again with the

wind & snow dust—spreading our

coat tails—like birds—though

somewhat at the risk of our necks

if we had struck a foul place. I

found that I could sail on a

trimming with my skirts

tack pretty well^. Sometimes we had

which the snow had concealed before

to jump suddenly over some obstacle ^ to

save our necks—It was worth the

while for one to look back against

the sun and wind & see the other

60 rods off coming—floating

down like a graceful demon

in the midst of the broad meadow

all covered & lit with the curling

between which you saw the ice in dark waving streaks

snow-steam ^ like a mighty

river Orellana

^braided of a myriad steaming

currents—Like the demon of

the storm driving his flocks &
before him
herds--In the midst of this tide
of curling snow steam--he sweeps
& surges this way & that & comes
on like the spirit of the whirlwind.
At Lees' Cliff we made a fire--
kindling with white pine\textsuperscript{123} cones, after
& twigs, oak leaves--"else we had lost it. &
These saved us, for there is a resinous drop at the point of each scale. there\textsuperscript{124} we forgot that we were out
doors in a blustering winter day--
The drifts will probably harden
by to-morrow & make such skating im-
possible. I was curious to see how
my tracks looked--what figure I cast--
& skated back a little to look at it--
that little way--it was like this somewhat
{drawing}
some what like the shallow snow drifts.\textsuperscript{125}
Looking toward the sun & wind you
saw a broad river half a mile or more
in width its whole surface lit & alive
in form
with flowing streams of snow "like the
along
stream which curls up from a river's surface
in the one at sunrise--& in midst
of this moving world sailed down
the skater majestically--as if on the surface
of water while the stream curled as high
as his knees--
Several
broad bays open on to this

\textsuperscript{123}"pine" written over "pines"
\textsuperscript{124}Possibly altered from another word
\textsuperscript{125}Caption for drawing
some of them like the Pantry &
more
Larned Brook 2 or 3 miles deep.

You scarcely see a bird such a
day as this

Flash go your dry leaves like powder--
& leave a few bare & smoking twigs--Then

you sedulously feed a little flame--until
takes hold of the solid wood & What an uncertain & negative
the fire ^ establishes itself--How uncertain
thing
"when it finds nothing to suit its appe-
what a positive &
tite after the first flash--" How in-
thing
expugnable ^ when it begins to devour
the solid wood with a relish burn-
ing with its own wind. You must study
as long at last how to put it out, as
you did how to kindle it.--Close
up under some upright rock--when
you scorch the yellow sulphur lichens.
Then cast on some creeping juniper
or hemlock boughs
wreathes^to hear them crackle--realizing
scripture.

Some little boys 10 years old are as hand-
some skaters as I know-- They sweep along
with a graceful floating motion leaning
now to this side then to that--(like a
marsh-hawk beating the bush.)

I get my impulse in skating not by striking
out much & shoving--& a certain forward im-
pluse or snapping of the body like a whip-lash.

*poss. "where*
I still recur in my mind to that skate of the 31st-- I was thus enabled to get a bird's eye view of the river to survey its length & breadth within a few-- hours--connect one part on the shore with another in my mind & realize what from end to end was going on upon it--"to know the whole as I ordinarily knew a few miles of it only-- I connected the Chestnut tree house--near the shore in Wayland.

There is good skating from the mouth to Saxonville--measuring in a straight line some 22 miles--by the river say 30 now Concord midway. Nutting's Pelham's Pond--with ^ the Pond in Billerica. It is all the way of one character--a meadow river--or dead water stream-- Musket-cook--the abode of muskrats--pickerel &c--Crossed within these dozen miles each way--or 30 in all--by some 20 bridges--low wooden bridges--publici pontes connected with the main land by willowy causeways. Thus the long shallow lakes divided into reaches. These long causeways all under water & ice now only the bridges from time to time peeping out ^ like a dry eyelid-- You must look close to find them in many cases. --mere islands are they to the traveller in the waste of water & ice. Only 2 villages lying near the river--Concord & Wayland & one at each end of this 30 miles.
Haycocks commonly stand only in the Sudbury meadow— You must beware when you cross the deep dark channel— distinguish between the sunken willow rows where the current is seen eating its way thro’ distinguishing it from the meadowy sea— else you may be in over head before you know used it. I made some bits of wood with a groove in them for crossing the causeways & gravelly places— that I need not scratch my skate-irons.

Minott says that the White rabbit does not make a hole— (sits under a bunch of dry ferns & the like— & but that the grey one does— They and the fox love to come out & lie in the sun.

Feb 4th—

Clear & Cold— & windy— much colder than for some time

Saw this P. m. a very distinct otter track by the Rock— at the junction of the 2 rivers— The separate foot tracks were quite round more than 2 inches in diameter showing the 5 toes distinctly in the which was snow— a little— bout 1/2 inch deep. In one place where it had crossed last night to Merricks pasture its trail about 6 inches wide & of furrows in the snow
was on one side of its foot tracks—thus
{drawing} and there was about 9 inches bet
the fore & hind feet. Close by
the Great Aspen I saw where
it had entered or come out of
the water under a shelf of ice left adhering
to a maple—There it apparently played
& slid on the level ice making a broad
trail as if a shovel had been shoved along
foot
just 8 inches wide without a ^ track
in it for 4 feet or more. And again
was
the trail only 2 inches wide—& bet-
ween the foot tracks—which were side by side
& 22 inches apart {drawing} It
had left much dung on the ice soft yellow
bowl like—like a gum that has been chewed
in consistency. About the edge of the hole
where the snow was all rubbed off was
something white which looked & smelt exactly like
Minot tells of one shot once while eating an eel.
bits of the skin of pouts or eels.
Vance saw one this winter in this town by a brook eating a fish.
The water has now fallen nearly 21/2 feet
& those ice shelves I noticed yesterday—when
you go into a swamp and all along the
shore amid the alders birches & maples
look just like ample pic-nic tables ready
else
set 2 feet high—with often a leaf down or ^ a
table cloth hanging. Just like camp tables—

17 Possibly altered from "&" or another word
around the tent poles--now covered with snowy napkins.

I notice my old skate tracks like this

{drawing}

It is better skating today than yesterday--this is the 6th day of some kind of skating.

Feb 5th 55

\^Cold weather--no sleighing--mere whitening.\%

It was quite cold last evening--& I saw the scuttle window reflecting the lamp from a

when I went up to bed--"as if" we lived inside of a cave--

myriad brilliant points--"but this morning it has moderated considerably & is snowing.

Already 1 inch of snow has fallen.

NB Ac. to Webster in Welsh A hare is "furze or gorse-cat"

v. skate. That is the meaning of the W. name.

Also "Chuk, A word used in calling swine. It is the original name of that animal, which our ancestors brought with them from Persia, where it is still in use. Pers. chuk" &c

---"Sans. sugara. Our ancestors while in England adopted the Welsh hwc, hog; but chuck\(^{129}\) is retained in our popular name of wood chuck, that is, wood hog."

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

Day before yesterday the fine snow blowing over the meadow in parallel streams between which the darker ice was seen

\(^{128}\)Line connects this to caret following "bed".

\(^{127}\)"if" inserted

\(^{129}\)Underlining possibly intended for only one word, either "but" or "chuck"
looked just like the steam curling along
   In the midst of this mid leg deep at least you surged
   along
   the surface of a river. It was surprising
   how in the midst of all this stationary
   & drifting snow the skate found a
   smooth & level surface over which
   it glided so securely--with a muffled
   rumble-- The ice for the last week
   has reached quite up into the village--
   so that you could get onto it just in
   the rear of the Bank & set sail on skates
   for any part of the Concord River valley.

   Found Therien cutting down the
   2 largest chestnuts in the woodlot behind
   where my house was. On the but of one
   about 2 feet in diameter I counted 75
   rings. T-- soon after broke his axe in cutting
   through a knot in this tree which he
   was cutting up for posts. He broke out a
   piece 1/2 an inch deep. This he says often
   happens-- Perhaps there is some frost in his axe.
   Several choppers have broken their axes--today.

   Feb 6th

   The coldest morning this winter--our thermome--
   Others we hear at 6 Am stood at 18 E--
   at Gorham N.H. 30 E--
   loiterers in the street & the wheels of wood wagons
   actually shriek
   squeak as they have not for a long time. Frost
   work--keeps its place on the window within 3 feet
   of the snow. A 4 Pm the thermometer is at
   10 E at 6 it is at 14 E.
I was walking at 5 & found it stinging cold--It stung the face-- When I look out at the chimneys I see that the cold & hungry air snaps up the smoke at once-- The smoke is clear & light colored & does not get far into the air before it is dissipated^ (?) The setting sun no sooner leaves our west windows than a solid but beautiful crystalliza-
except perhaps a triangularish bare spot at one corner of February the meal ^ are half out.) A solid sparkling field in the midst of each pane--with broad flowing sheaves surrounding it. It has been as well as a very mild ^ open winter up to this. At 9 o'clock P. m. thermometer at 16" They say it did not rise above 6" today-- Feb 7th The Coldest night for a long long time was last-- Sheets froze stiff about the faces. Cat mewed to have the door opened--but was at first disinclined to go out. When she came in at 9--she smelt of meadow hay^--had cuddled in some barn^. The ground cracked in the night as if a powder mill had blown up & the timbers of the house also-- My pail of water was frozen in the morning so
Must leave many buttons unbuttoned--owing to numb fingers
iron was like fire in the hands
that I could not break it-- ^Thermometer
at about 7 1/2 Am gone into the bulb--19^-
The cold has stopped the clock in the street
at least--^ Every bearded man ^ is a gray-beard
Bread--meat--milk--cheese &c &c
See the inside of your cellar door all covered & sparkling with frost like Golconda
all frozen--^ Pity the poor who have not
a large woodpile. The latches are white with
& every nail-head in entries &c has a white cap
frost. ^The chopper hesitates to go to the woods.
Yet I see S. Wetherbee stumping past 3/4 of a
mile for his morning’s dram-- Neighbor Smiths
thermometer stood at 26^-- early this morning--

But this day is at length more moderate
than yesterday.

R Rice says that alewives used to go
that you may go up Larned Brk & so into the Pond by a ditch
into Pelham Pond--^ His Brother James
skated from Sudbury to Billerica & by
canal to Charleston & back. He used
to see where the Otter had slid at
Ware (Weir?) Hill, a rod down the
a thousand
steep bank--as if many hundred times--
it was so smooth
After a thick snow had been falling
in the river & formed a slosh on the surface
he could tell whether otter had been at work
--by the holes in this slosh or snowy water where
they had put up their heads while fishing
--The surface would be all dotted with
them. He had known musquash to make

a canal & keep the water from
foot freezing a wide. Thinks otter make
their track by drawing themselves along
by the fore feet obliterating the track
But may not the tail suffice to do this in
light snow?
of their feet-- Had seen a fox
catching mice in a meadow. He would
jump up & come down on a tussuck
& then look round over the edge to see if
he had scared any mice out of it.
2 frog hawks (white rump--& slaty wings--rather
small hawk) have their nest regularly at his
place in Sudbury-- He once saw one the male
he thinks--come along from the meadow with
a frog in his claws. As he flew up toward ^ the
wood where the other was setting--he uttered
a peculiar cry & the other darting out
he let the frog drop 2 or 3 rods through
the air which the other caught--.
He spoke of the Dunge Hole meaning
that deep hollow & swamp by the road from
the Wheeler’s to White Pond. This prob. the same
that is referred to in the Town Records.
Showed me a bunching up of the twigs
of a larch from his swamp--perfectly
thick 2 feet in diameter--40 feet up
a tree. This principle extends ap. to all
the evergreens. You could not begin to see
through this though all the leaves of course
are off. Though the cold has been moderate
today compared with yesterday--it has got
more into the houses & barns & the farmers
ie yesterday the 6th
complain more of it while attending to their
This will be remembered as the cold Tuesday. The old folks still refer to
cattle. the cold Friday--when they sat before great fires of wood 4 ft long
with a fence of blankets behind them & water froze on the mantel piece.
Feb 8th. But they say this is as cold as that was.

Commenced snowing last eve. about 7 o'clock
--a fine dry snow--and this morning it
is about 6 inches deep--& still snows a little.
Continues to snow finely all day--
Feb 9th
Snowed harder in the night & blewed
considerably. It is somewhat drifted
this morning. A very fine & dry snow
about a foot deep on a level.
It stands on the top of our pump
about 10 inches deep almost a perfect
hemisphere or half of an ellipse (drawing)
It snows finely all day--making about
2ce as much as we have had on the
ground before this winter. Tree sparrows
2 or 3 only at once come into the
yard--the first I have distinguished this
winter. I notice that the snow drifts
on the windows--as you see the
light through then are stratified--showing
undulating equidistant strata--ap.
parently as more or less dense--(may be
more or less coarse & damp.) Alternately
darker & lighter strata. I was sure
this storm would bring snow birds
into the yard that I went to the window
“to look for them & there they were. Also
a downy woodpecker--(perhaps a hairy)
flitted high across the street to an elm
in front of the house & commenced
his head going like a hammer
assiduously tapping." The snow is so light
& dry that it rises like spray or foam
before the legs of the horses. They
dash it before them upward like water.
It is a handsome sight--a span
of horses at a little distance dashing
especially coming toward you
tho’ it--"it falls like suds
around their legs. [drawing] Who do birds come
in to the yards in storms almost alone?
Are they driven out of the fields & woods
for their subsistence--or is it that all
places are wild to them in the storm?
It is very dark in cellars the windows being covered with snow--
Pm Up river to Hub's
swamp & wood.
The river & meadow
are concealed under a foot of snow--
It would be dangerous for a stranger to travel accross the country now
I cannot tell when I am on it." The
snow is so dry that though I go
through drifts up to my middle—it
falls off at once & does not adhere to
& damp my clothes at all. All over
this swamp I find that the ice upheld
by the trees & shrubs—stands some 2
feet above the ground—the water having
entirely run out beneath, & as I go
along the path not seeing any ice
in snow a foot deep, it suddenly
sinks with a crash for a rod around
me—snow and all—and stooping I
look under this level through a dry
cellar from 1 to 2 feet deep—in some
places pretty dark—extending ove the
greater part of the swamp—with
a perfectly level ceiling composed of ice
1 to 2 inches thick surmounted by a foot
of snow—& from the under side of
the ice there depends from 4 to 6 inches
a dense mass of crystals—So that
it is a most sparkling grotto.
You could have crawled round under
the ice & snow all over the swamp
—quite dry—I saw where the rabbits &c
had entered there. In another swamp
where the trees were larger & further
apart—only about 1 half the ice
Possibly altered from "trails"

could be held up in this manner—in tables

so that it was very difficult walking—

I should think this ice by its strain & fall would injure the young trees & bushes.

In the first place—as I was walking

many are barked by it.—And so it melts & wastes away tumbling down from time to time

along the path—the first I knew

with a crash—

down went the whole body of the snow

for a rod about—& I saw into a

dark cavern yawning about me.

Those crystals were very handsome—and

tinkled when touched, like bits of tin.

The snow is so dry that but little lodges on the trees.

I saw a similar phenomenon Feb 4th on a smaller scale— I saw very few tracks today—

It must be very hard for our small wild animals to get along while the snow is so light— Not only the legs but the whole body's sinks in it & leaves its trail— They must drag themselves bodily through it.

Saw F. linarias.

Elsewhere we hear the snow has been much deeper than here

Feb 10th Pm to Walden—

A fine clear day— There is a glare of light from the fresh unstained surface of the snow so that it pains the eyes to travel toward the sun.

I go across Walden. My shadow is very blue—It is especially blue when
there is a bright sun light on pure white snow-- It suggests that there may be something divine--something celestial in me.

Silas Hosmer tells me that a ^ deer was killed in Northboro this winter.

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

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

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

Feb 11th Pm to I. Dugan's via Tommy Wheeler's--

The atmosphere is very blue tinging the distant pine-woods. The dog scared
up some partridges out of the soft
snow under the apple-trees in the 4th Tommy
Wheeler orchard.

Smith's thermometer early this morn--at 22°-- ours
at 8 Am 10°--

Feb 12th

All trees covered this morning with a hoar
// frost very handsome looking toward the
sun--the ghosts of trees. Is not this
what was so blue in the atmosphere

yesterday p.m?

Pm to Walden

A very pleasant & warm afternoon--
There is a softening of the air & snow--
The eaves run fast on the S side of houses--
and as usual in this state of the air--
the cawing of crows at a distance & the
crowing of cocks falls on the ear
with a peculiar softness & sweetness;--they
come distinct & echoing musically through
the pure air. What are those crows

about which I see from the RR--
causeway in the middle of a field where
no grass appears to rise above the snow--
ap. feeding? I observe no mouse tracks
in the fields & meadows--the snow is

so light & deep that they have run wholly
underneath--& I see in the fields here & there a little hole in the crust where they have come to the surface. In trillium woods I see, as usual, where a squirrel has scratched along from tree to tree. His tracks cease at the foot of a pine up which he has ascended within these few hours--He may be concealed now amid the thickest foliage. It is very pleasant to stand now in a high pine wood--where the sun shines in amid the pines & hemlocks & maples--as in a warm apartment. I see at Warren's Crossing where within las night perhaps some partridges rested in this light dry deep snow. They must have been almost completely buried--They have left their traces at the bottom. They are such holes as would be made by crowding their bodies in backwards slanting-wise--while perhaps their heads were left out. The dog scared them out of similar holes yesterday in the open orchard. I watched for a long time 2 chicadee-like birds--only I thought a good deal larger--which kept ascending the pitch-pines spirally from the bottom like the nuthatch. They had the markings & the common faint note of the chicadee.
yet they looked so large & confined themselves so
to the trunk that I cannot but feel still some
doubt about them. They had black chins--as well as
top of head--tail black above--back slate
--sides dirty white or creamy--breast &c white.

Set a trap in the woods for wild mice
I saw where they had run over the snow
making a slight impression thus.
{drawing} The tracks some 5 inches apart
frequently with a very distinct mark of the tail--
These tracks commonly came together soon
& made one beaten trail--where 2 or
3 had passed--or one several times--
As if they had hopped along 2 3 or 4 in company
The whole trail would be 5 or 6 inches
wide. {drawing}
%puting one stroke for 4%
Under the birches, where
the snow is covered with birch seeds &
scales, I see the fine tracks undoubted
ly of linarias. The track of one of these
birds on the light surface looks like a chain
or the ova of toads {drawing}--Where a
large flock has been feeding
the whole surface is scored over by them.

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

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

14" written over "10"
15" written over "14"
Caption in pencil
Possibly altered from "ap" or "up"
They appear to have dived or burrowed into it then passed along a foot or more underneath and squatted there perhaps with their heads out and have invariably left much dung at the end of this hole. I scared one from its hole only half a rod in front of me now at 11 Am. These holes seen side wise look thus [drawing]

It is evidently a hardy bird—and in the above respects too is like the rabbit which squats under a brake or bush in the snow—I see the traces of the latter in hollows in the snow in such places—- their forms.

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

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

Hurts is an old English word used in heraldry—where according to Bailey it is "certain balls resembling hurtleberries."
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
20 or 30
many as 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
& 6 inches wide
snow & furrowed it for a foot or 2 ^ then
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}\footnote{\textit{part of drawing cancelled}}
These distinct impressions
made by their wings, on\footnote{\textit{prob written over "so"}}
the pure snow, so com-
mon on All hands--
though the bird that made it is gone
& there is no trace beyond--affect me
like some mystic oriental symbol--the
winged globe or what not--As if made
by a spirit. In some places you would
would see a furrow & hollow in the
snow where there was no track for
rods around, as if a large snow ball
or a cannon ball had struck it--where
apparently the birds had not paused
in their flight. It is evidently a regular
thing with them thus to to lodge in the
snow-- Their tracks when perfectly distinct
are seen to be almost in one straight
line thus--trailing the middle toe--
(drawing) About 5 inches apat--
In one place I saw where one had evidently
trailed the tips of the wings making 2 distinct
lines 5 or 6 inches apat, one on each side the
foot tracks. Probably made by a male.
In the same place were many great tracks
of the white rabit-- The earliest made while
the snow was very soft wer very large &
shapeless somewhat like the marks made
by snow falling from the trees-- More
recent ones had settled & broke the slight
crust around them--leaving a large inden-
tation. The distinct tract was
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\[15\] 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)\[14\]
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°-

\[15\]"it" written over "is"
\[14\]"possibly not ")"--could be written over, to avoid the "l" in "colder" below
Aunt Louisa says that her cousin Nahum Jones, son to that Nathan Jones whom her Mother & sisters visited with her down east, carried a cat to the West Indies, sold his vessel there, & though the same vessel did not return, & he came back in another vessel without the cat-- to Gouldsboro the cat got home some how unaccountably about the same time that he did.

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

I said to Therien--You did 'nt live at Smiths last summer--Where did you live?--at Bakers? Yes, said he--

Well is that a good place-- O. Yes. Is that a better place than Smiths? O--a change of pasture makes a fatter calf.

Feb 15

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

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

Feb 16th
Still rains a little this morning. Water
at the mill dam higher than ever since
the new block was built% &.
Ground half
bare--but frozen & icy yet.
Pm to Cliff via Spanish Brook--
A thick fog--without rain-- Sounds
sweet & musical through this air--
as crows cocks--& striking on the rails
at a distance. In the woods by the
cut--in this soft air under the pines

draped with mist--my voice & whistling
are peculiarly distinct & echoed back to me
as if the fog were a ceiling--which made
this hollow an apartment.¹ Sounds are
not dissipated & lost in the immensity
of the heavens above you--but your
voice being confined by the fog ² is
distinct & you hear yourself speak.
It is a good lichen day-- Every crust is
colored & swollen with fruit--& C-- is
constantly using his knife--& filling his pockets
with specimens. I have caught a mouse
where were tracks like those of Feb. 12
at last--^but it is eaten half up--
All the flesh is eaten out & part of the skin--one fore foot eaten off--but the
entrails left ap. by its fellow?--^ No wonder we do not
The rest of the trap is not moved or sprung
find their dead bodies in the woods.
& there is no track of a large animal or bird in the snow-- It may have been a weasel
The sand is flowing fast--in forms
of vegetation in the deep cut. The fog
is so thick we cannot see the engine
till it is almost upon us--& then its
own steam hugging the earth--greatly
increases the mist. As usual it
is still more dense over the ice
at the pond.

   goes on melting [---] till there is only a little ice snow
   left on N. of hills in woods on the 10--of Mar
   & then is whitened again.
// The ground is more than half bare--es-
pecially in open fields and level evergreen
woods-- It is pleasant to see there the

¹"apartment." written over "apartment--"
bright evergreens of the forest floor--un-dimmed by the snow-- The winter green--the
great leaved pyrola--the shin leaf--the rattle-
\[\text{snake plantain} \& \text{the Lycopodiums}--\text{I see where}\]
probably rabbits have nibbled off the leaves of
\[\text{It is pleasant to see elsewhere in fields} \& \text{on banks so many green radical}\]
the winter green--^ Are those little scratches
leaves only half killed by the winter
\[\text{across pallescent lichens which C. notices}\]
made by squirrels. I find in the leavings
of the partridges numer ends of twigs--they are
white with them--some 1/2 inch long &
stout in proportion--perhaps they are apple?
twigs-- The bark (& bud if there was any) have
been entirely digested leaving the bare white hard
wood of the twig-- Some of the ends of apple
twigs looked as if they had been bitten off.
It is surprising what a quantity of this wood
they swallow with their^2 buds-- What a
hardy bird--born amid the dry leaves--
of the same color with them--that grown
up lodges in the snow--& lives on
buds & twigs! Where apple buds are
just freshly bitten off they do not seem
to have taken so much twig with them--
The drooping oak leaves show more
\[\text{red amid the pines this wet}\]
day--agreeably so--& I feel as if I stood
a little nearer to the heart of nature.
The mouse is so much torn that I cannot get the length of the **body** & its markings exactly. Prob an " of head to **base** of ears 1 inch body 3 ? tail 3 1/2

Brown or reddish brown above--White beneath--**fur** above & beneath slate,^ tail also darker above light beneath--feet long white--hind legs longest *say* 1 1/4 inches"--fore 3/4, 3/4

hind foot more than 4 1/2 inch long--5 toes on hind feet with rudiment of thumb--without claw 4 on front--"with little white protuberances on the almost bare soles of all--ears *large* ^ thin slaty colored-- 5/8 inch long on outside. Upper jaw 1/4+ inch longer than lower--tail *flattened* round, hairy, gradually tapering--dimly ringed. Longest moustachios 1 3/8 dry inches--incisors varnish or ^ maple-wood color V Feb 20

From Emmons account--I should think it the Arvicola Emmonsi of De Kay--or Deer Mouse-- which is thought a connecting link bet the Arvicola & Gerbillus. --The Gerbillus is the only other described much like it--& that is a "yellowish cream color" beneath.

Where snow is left on banks I see the galleries of mice? or moles?^ unroofed-- The mouse I caught had come up through the snow by the side of a shrub oak run along wood & entered again--*i.e.* before I set the trap.

Feb 17

It is still cloudy & a very fine rain. The river // very high 1 inch higher than the eve of Jan 31st

The bridge of Sam. Barrett's caved in--also

^possibly inserted; if so, perhaps "?" following "mice" added too
Possibly "back" altered from "Back"

This is the letter "l", not the numeral "1"

Possibly altered from "to"

'Possibly "if" written over "it"

Possibly "week"

the Swamp Bridge on Back road. Muskrats driven out. Heard this morn at the new Stone bridge from the hill that singular spring-like one year note of a bird which I heard once before about this time (under F. H. Hill--) The jays were uttering their unusual notes--& this made me think of a woodpecker-- It reminds me of the pine warbler--vetter vetter vetter vetter vetter--except that it is much louder--& I should say had the sound of l rather than t veller &c perhaps-- Can it be a jay?--or a pig. woodpecker?-- Is it not the earliest spring ward note of a bird? In the damp misty air.

Was waked up last night by the tolling of a bell about 11 o clock-- as if a child had hold of the rope "dressed & went abroad in the wet" to see if it was a fire-- It seems the town clock was out of order & the striking part ran down & struck steadily for 15 minutes. If it had not been so near the end of the neck it might have struck a good part of the night.

Pm A riparial excursion--over further RR bridge return by Flints bridge-- At 2 Pm the water at the Sam Wheeler Bridge is 3 inches above stright truss or 2 inches higher than at 9 Am. The ice is not generally broken
over the channel of this stream—but
is lifted up & also for a good distance
over the meadows—but for a broad
space of over the meadows on each side
the freshet stands over the ice which
is flat on the bottom. It rains
but a trifle this afternoon but the
snow which is left is still melting—

The water is just beginning to be over the road
beyond this stone bridge—The road beyond
the opposite or Wood’s Bridge is already
impassable to foot travellers—

I see no muskrats in the Assabet from
the Tommy Wheeler bank—perhaps they
provided themselves holes at the last freshet—

It is running over both side of Derby's
bridge for a dozen rods (each side)
as over a dam—The ice in the middle
of this stream is for the most part
broken up—Great cakes of ice
are wedged against the RR bridge
there & still threaten its existence.
They are about 20 feet in diameter
& some 20 inches thick of greenish
ice—more or less tilted up &
if not 2 more
commonly another of equal size
forced directly underneath the first
by the current-- They stretch quite across
the river--& being partly tilted up against
the spiles of the bridge exert a tremen-
dous power upon it-- They form a
dam between & over which the water falls--
so that it is fully ten inches higher
on the upper side of the bridge than on
the lower--2 maples a little above
the bridge--one a large one--have
been leveled & carried off by the ice.
The track repairers have been at work
here all day protecting the
bridge-- They have a man on the
ice with a rope round his body--the
other end in their hands--who is cracking
off the corners of the cakes with
a crow bar-- One great cake
as much as a dozen rods long is
slowly whirling round just above the
bridge & from time to time one end
is born against the ice which lies against
the bridge. The workmen say that
they had cleared the stream here before
dinner--& all this has collected since.
(Now 3 Pm). If Derby's bridge should
yield to the ice which lies against it
this--would surely be swept off--
They say that 3 (?) years ago the whole of the E end of the bridge was moved
some 6 inches, rails & all.13
Waded through water in the road for 8 or

13"some . . . all" written vertically in right margin
10 rods, beyond Lorings little bridge--

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

Such a meter is the more to be relied
on, in proportion as a river is free from
obstructions--such as ice--causeways--
bridges &c-- Everywhere now in the
a green
fields you see ^ water standing over ice14
in the hollows. Sometimes it is a very delicate
would this water look green on any white ground? No, I think not for it
is corn-yellow on meadows in spring
tint of green. ^ The highway surveyor is
on the alert to see what damage
the freshet has done-- As they could
not dig in the frozen ground, they
have upset a cartload of p. pine
boughs into the hole at the swamp
bridge.

Feb 18th
8 Am Water 4 3/4 inches above truss--nearly
It may have risen 1 inch higher during the day--then went down
2 inches higher than yesterday at 2 Pm^-- Surface of
ground & snow slightly frozen--no flowing now--
At 9 Am sun comes out. rather warm--
sunlight peculiarly yellow & spring-suggesting.
Mts in horizon dark blue. the wooded parts--with
snow below & between--
Pm to Grt Mead's & around Beck
stow's. A clear bright day, though
with passing clouds--(the clouds darker
by contrast with the bright sky--) the
first since the evening of the 14th ult--
Now for the first time decidedly there
is something spring-suggesting in the air &
light—Though not particularly warm
the light of the sun (now travelling so
much higher)—on the russet fields
--the ground being nearly all bare--& on the
sand--& the pines, is suddenly yellower.
It is the earliest day-breaking of the
year—We now begin to look decidedly
forward & put the winter behind us.
We begin to form definite plans for the
spring & summer
approaching year. I look over
a particolored landscape of russet fields
& white snow patches—as in former spring
days—Some of the frost has come out
& it is very wet & muddy crossing
As filthy waking as any in the year—You have the
plowed fields. The legions of light
experience of wading birds that get their living on the flats when the tide has
have poured into the plain in over-
gone down & leave their tracks there—but you are cheered by the
whelming numbers, & the winter darkness
sight of some radical greenness.
will not recover the ground it has lost.
I listen ever for something spring-like
in the notes of birds—some peculiar
tinkling notes.

Now and through the winter I am attracted
by the reddish patches on the landscape where
there is a dense growth of young white
birches—the bark of the young shoots.

Neither the main stream nor
meadows are decidedly broken up by
the thaw & rise--only there are great open places in the meadows--where you observe the ripple of water still in the mornings--the cold is so much relaxed--& the ice that belonged is superimposed in great cakes upon the still firmly frozen parts. On the Great Fields I see an acre of a straw-colored feathery grass in tufts 2 feet high. These too reflect the yellower light.

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

A man came to our house at noon and got something to eat--who set out this morning to go from Waltham to
Noah Wheeler’s in

"Nine Acre Corner-- He got as far as
Lees bridge on the edge of Lincoln--
or within 3/4 of a mile of Wheelers--& could
not get over the river on account of the
freshet So he was obliged to round through
Concord village--he might have
come by the RR a little nearer--& I directed
him over the RR bridge--the first by which
he could cross dry-shod down the stream.
& up stream he would have been obliged
had
to go to Saxonville-- Thus he would have
to go 8 miles round--instead of
& in the whole about double the usual distance from Waltham.
3/4 of a mile direct"--It was probably
over the road also at Nut Meadow Brook.
The river thus opposes a serious obstacle
to travellers--from Nw to S. E. to N. W. for
some 20 miles of its course at least--
No doubt hundreds have been put to great inconvenience
above & below Concord. "Even travellers
by it within a day or 2.
in wagons are stopped at many of these
causeways. If they were raised 2 feet
the trouble would be in great part
the danger wholly obviated. There should
at least be provided a ferry for foot
passengers at each such causeway--at
the expense16 of the town--& the traveller
could blow a horn to call the ferry-man
You ill17 see a man carrying a child over a causeway
over-- on his back--
After a thaw old {ha
tracks in the
snow--from basso--become alto18

16"expense" possibly "Expence"
17Combined "You" and "will"--may want to emend
18"basso" and "alto" possibly underlined in pencil
relievo—the snow which was originally solidified compressed & hardened beneath the feet—also perhaps by the influence of the sun & maybe rain now becoming being the last to melt become protuberant. the highest part & most lasting—That part of the snow compressed & solidified under the feet remains nearly at the same level—The track becomes a raised almost icy type. How enduring these trails! How nature clings to these types. The track even of small animals like a skunk will outlast a considerable thaw.

Why do laborers so commonly turn out their feet more than other the class still called gentlemen—ap. pushing themselves along by the sides of their feet? I think you can tell the track of a clown from that of a gentleman¹. though he should wear the gentleman's boots. ¹Feb 19⁰ Rufus Hosmer says that in the year 1820 (?) there was so smooth & strong an icy crust on a very deep snow—that you could skate everywhere over the fields & for the most part over the fences. Sam Potter's father moving into town—turned off into the fields ²—³ with a 4 (?) horse team as soon as he

¹Possibly altered from "gentlemen"
had crossed Woods bridge & went directly
across to Dea Hubbard’s. When the
Wood’s Bridge was carried off upstream
it was landed against Hubbard’s land.
Showed me where his grandfather Nathan Hosmer who lived in the old house still standing
on Conantum was drowned when crossing the river on the ice from town just below the
bridge since built.

Many will complain of my lectures--
that they are transcendental--can’t under-
stand them--would you have us return
to the savage state? &c &c A criticism
ture enough, it may be, from their
point of view. But the fact is, the
earnest lecturer can speak only to his
like--and the adapting of himself to
his audience is a mere compliment
which he pays them. If you wish to know
how I think you must endeavor to put
yourself in my place-- If you wish me
to speak as if I were in your place that
is another affair.

I think it was about a week ago that
I saw some dead honeybees on the snow.
The water is about a foot deep on
the Jimmy Miles road. E. Conant thinks
that the Joe Miles Causeway is rather
worse than Hubbard’s in respect to water--
Rice & some others always say Cassey
for Causeway-- Conant was cutting
which had blown down
up an old Pear tree by his old house

Possibly altered from “known"
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. WHICH

The whole upper parts are brown, except the
ears,\(^2\) 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 ↔ along the sides forming

\(^2\)"ears," written over "ears--"
the boundary between the brown & the white
from side of the mout to the tip of the tail--above brown beneath white very
very sharply defined-- The brown of the
sides extends down by a triangular point
to the last joint or foot of the forelegs--
or you may say the white of the belly extends upward on the sides
same or
& to the heels of the hind ones. The ears are large--
broad & roundish
5/8 inch long--ash or slate colored--thin &
bare except at the base-- The reddish brown &
the white are the striking colors. It is
in the attitude of hopping-- Its thighs of its
drawn up & concealed in the fur & its
long hind feet in the same plane with
its buttocks--while the short fore feet ap-
pear like hands. Fur dark slate, under both brown & white hair
The droppings black say 1/6 inch long. cylindrical.
Some of the whiskers are dark, some whitish.
or downward.
It has a rather large head, ap. curving forward.~
A very slight & delicate tinge of yellowish beneath bet. the fore legs. v. Mar 12th~
It is undoubtedly the Amicola Emmonsii
of de Kay.
It is a very pretty & neat little animal for
a mouse--with its wholesome reddish brown sides--
distinctly bounding in
its pure white belly--neat white feet--
which suggest circumspection & timidity--ready to earth itself on the least sound
of danger
large slate colored~ ears~--long tail & numerous
whiskers-- This was caught in a dry & ele-
vated situation, amid shrub oaks. It ap.
like the other, came up through a hole in the
snow at the foot of a shrub oak--Q. ilicifolia.
which belongs to the king of beasts & to the deer
This tawny or reddish brown color~--singular
that it should extend to this minute beast
also. vn. p. but 2 V. Mar. 10th~
A strong wind drying the earth which
// has been so very wet-- The sand begins

\[22\] Altered; possibly from "the" or "The"
\[21\] "Mar 12th" LR: added in ink; perhaps "A . . . legs." LR, too; may need to move from AL table to LR table
\[20\] Stray mark under word
\[19\] "V. Mar. 10th" LR: added in ink

236
to be dry in spots on the R. R. causeway--
The northerly wind blows me along--& when I get
to the cut I hear it roaring in the woods
all reminding me of March--March. The
It is decided March weather & I see from my window the bright blue water here
& there between the ice on the meadow.
sides of the cut are all bare of snow--& the
sand foliage is dried up.  

The quadrupeds which I know that
we have in Concord are V. Emmons p 5

Of Order Carnivora-- Fam. Vespertilionidae / have we more of the 3
in the State?
" Soricidae Have we any?
Talpidae Condylura longicaudata
star-nose Mole

Have we not another of the 3 moles?
Ursidae-- Procyon lotor, The Raccoon
Canidae Vulpes fulvus Mustelia martes Pine Marten
Mus-telidae ^ Putorius Vison. The Mink

" Vulgaris reddish weasel
" Noveboracensis Ermine "
Lutra Canadensis Otter
Mephitis Americana

Rodentia Rodentia
Fiber Zibethicus
Castoridae
Leporidae Lepus Americanus

" Virginianus
Musidae Arvicola hirsutus Mead. Mouse
in altered to Muridae ^ 59 probably--his Albo-rufescens only a var. ac to Aud. & Bach.
" Emmonsii--mus leucopus%
Mus Musculus Com. Mouse
Mus rattus? black rat

" Decumanus Wharf rat
Brown

Arctomys monax

26" & the . . up." possibly added
27"V. . . . 5" possibly added
28This is probably a false start
Order--    Family  Genus
Arctomys Monax Woodchuck
Sciurus leucotis little Gray squirrel
  " Hudsonius
  " Striatus
Pteromys Volucella

Have we the Gerbillus Cana-
densis?- Jumping mouse?

Ac. to this we have at least 21 & perhaps
2629 quadrupeds--5 & possibly 6 families
order
of the ^ Carnivora & 3 families of the order Rodentia
None of30 the order Ruminantia

Nearly half of our quadrupeds belong to
about31 the Muridae or Rat family--1/4 of them
to the Mustelidae or Weasel Family.

Some, though numerous, are rarely seen--
as the wild mice & moles-- Others are
very rare like the otter & raccoon

The striped squirrel is the smallest
quadruped that we commonly notice in
our walks in the woods & we do not
realize--especially in summer--
when their tracks are not visible--that
the aisles of the wood are threaded by
countless wild mice--and no more
that the meadows are swarming in many
places with meadow mice & moles.

The cat brings in a mole from time
to time & we see where they have heaved

---

29Possibly pencilled "6" written over ink "5"
30"of" written over "or"
31"about" and "^" cancelled in pencil
up the soil in the meadow-- We see
the tracks of mice on the snow in the
woods--or once in a year one glances
by like a flash through the grass or
ice at our feet--& that is for the
most part all that we see of them.
All

Though ^ the muskrat cabins will
be covered by an early rise of the river in the
fall--you will yet see the greater part of
them above the ice in midwinter however
high the water may be.

I frequently detect the track of a foreigner
by the print of the nails in his shoes--both
in snow & earth--of an india rubber--by its being
less sharply edged & most surely often by the
fine diamond roughening of the sole. How much
we infer from the dandy's narrow heel
tap--while we pity his unsteady tread--
& from the lady's narrow slipper--suggesting
corns not to say consumption-- The track
of the farmers cowhides--whose carpet
tearing tacks in the heel--frequently rake
the ground several inches before his foot
finds a resting place--suggests weight
& impetus.

Feb 21st a male
Another arvicola Emmonsii--whole length

6 inches--tail 3 inches-- This is very little reddish
on the sides--but general aspect above dark brown--though not iron-grey yet reminding me yet not the less like the hue of beasts in a menagerie of that--^ This may be a last years Mouse-- Aud. & Bach. say that when "it sheds its hair late in spring"--"it assumes a bluish gray tint, a little lighter than that of the common mouse."

A clear air, with a Northwesterly March-like wind--as yesterday-- What is the peculiarity in the air--that both the invalid in the chamber & the traveller on the highway--say these are perfect The wind is rapidly drying up earth & elevated sands already beg. to look whitish March days". How much light there is in the sky & on the surface of the russet earth--! It is reflected in a flood from all cleansed surfaces--which rain & snow have washed--from the rail-road rails & the mica in the rocks-- & The silvery latebrae33 of insects there^ & I never saw the white houses of the village more brightly white.^ When I have entered the wooded hollow on the East of the Deep Cut it is novel & pleasant // to hear the sound of the dry leaves & twigs which have so long been damp & silent "crackling again under my feet.-- more warm & lighter than ever though there is still considerable snow along wall sides & about--^ to see the holes & galleries recently made by the mice (?) in the fine withered the upper aralia hollow there grass of such places--^ I see the peculiar softened blue sky of spring over the tops of the pines--^ when I am sheltered from the wind I feel the warmer sun

32 Possibly "where"  
33 latebricole v. OED  
34 Possibly "some"; if so, change key words in AL
of the season reflected from the withered
this
grass & twigs on the side of \~ elevated
hollow-- A warmth begins\(^5\) to be reflected
from the partially dried ground here & there in
in sheltered places
the sun \(^*\) very cheering to invalides who have
who think they may weather it till summer now
weak lungs-- "Nature is more genial to them
When the leaves on the forest floor
are dried & begin to rustle under such
a wind sun & wind as these--the news
is told to how many myriads of grubs
that under-lie them! When I perceive
this dryness under my feet I feel as if
I had got a new sense, or rather I realize
what was incredible to me before--that
there is a new life in Nature beginning
to awake--that her halls are being swept
It is whispered through all the aisles of the forest that another Spring is
approaching--
& prepared for a new occupant--\(^*\) We now \(\text{tate}\)
the wood mouse listens at the mouth of his burrow--\& the chicadee passes the news
along
\(\text{tate}\) notice the snow on the mts because on
the remote rim of the horizon its whiteness
the russet & darker hues of
contrasts with \(^*\) our bare fields. I looked
at the Peterboro mts with my glass from
F. H. Hill. I think that there can be no
in the edge of the horizon
more arctic scene than these mts \(^*\) completely
with the sun shining on them
crusted over with snow \(^*\) seen through a telescope
over bare russet fields & dark forests--
with\(^*\) perhaps a house on some remote
bare\(^*\)
bere ridge, seen against them.

\(^{35}\)Preceded by interlined cancelled word--may be false start
\(^{36}\)Possibly altered from "hill"
\(^{37}\)T was correcting his spelling
A silver edging or ear like handle to this bassin of the world—
They look like great loaves incrusted
with pure white sugar—and I think
that this must have been the origin of
the name sugar loaf sometimes given
to mts--& not on account of their form.
We look thus from russet fields into
a landscape still sleeping under the
We have already forgotten snow & think only of frosted cake
mantle of winter.—The snow on the
mts has, in this case, a singular smooth
& crusty appearance—& by contrast
you see even single evergreens rising
here & there above it—and where a
promontory casts a shadow along the
mts’ side. I saw what looked like
of misty bluish water
a large bluish lake — on the side of
the further Peterboro mt—its edges
or shore very distinctly defined—This I
concluded was the shadow of another
part of the mt. & it suggested that
in like manner what on the surface of
the moon is taken for water—may be
Could not distinguish Monadnock till the sun shone
shadows. on it.
I saw a train go by which had
in front, dirt
latched on a dozen ^ cars somewhere
up country—laden ap. with some kind
or clay?
of earth—& these with their loads were
thickly & evenly crusted with unspotted
a part of that sugary crust I had viewed with my glass
snow—^which contrasted singularly with
which it had hitched on their side

of the other cars--& the 20

at least

miles ^ of bare ground over which they had

It affected me as when a traveller comes into the house

rolled. with snow on his coat--when I did not know it was snowing.

How plain wholesome & earthy are the colors

of quadrupeds generally--! The commonest

I should say is the tawny or various shades of

brown--answering to the russet which is the prevail-
ing color of the earth's surface--perhaps--& to the

yellow of the sands beneath. The darker brown

mingled with this answers to the darker colored

soil of the surface. The white of the Polar

bear--ermine weasel &c answer to the snow--

-- The spots of the pards perchance to the earth

spotted with flowers or tinted leaves of autumn.

The black perhaps to night--& muddy bottoms

& dark waters-- There are few or no bluish animals.

Can it be true, as is said, that geese

prob. yesterday

Boston

have gone over Massachusetts? It is in the newspapers

Henry Hosmer tells me (Mar. 17th) that he saw several flocks about this time! 38

Feb 22

Pm to J. Farmer's

Remarkably warm & pleasant weather--

perfect spring. I even listen for the 1st blue bird--

I see a seething of in the air % & over clean

russet fields. The westerly wind is rather

raw--but in sheltered places it is deliciously

warm-- The water has so far gone down

that I get over the Hunt Bridge cause-

way--by going half a dozen rods on the wall

31"Henry . . . time!" LR in ink
in one place. This water must have moved
2 or 300 cartloads of sand to the side
of the road-- This damage would be avoided
by raising the road.

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


apple

suddenly to an ^ tree near which he was working

o

run r^und & round & up it—when a squirrel

jumped

sitting on the end of a branch drop off & the

weasel jumping had him before he touched

the ground. He had no doubt that when

the weasel ran round the tree he was on

the track of the squirrel—

F. said he had many of the black rat

but none or very few of the wharf rats on

his premises. He had seen mice nests 20

feet up trees.

3 or 4 weeks ago he traced a mink by his

tracks on the snow to where he had got a frog //

from the bottom of a ditch—dug him out.

Says that where many minnows are kept in a spring—they will kill 4 or 500 at once &
pile them up on the bank.

Showed me his spring—head of one of the sources

of Dodge’s Brook—which by his mark is not

1/4 of an inch higher now when there is so

much water on the surface—than it was

great

in the midst of the ^ drought last summer—

This does not freeze-over for 20 rods—a pool in it some dozen or more rods

from source—where his cattle drink he never saw frozen—

But the important peculiarity of it is

that when in a dry spell this stream

is dry 15 or 20 rods from this source—

it may suddenly fill again before

any rain comes.

He had seen a partrige\(^2\) drum standing

on a wall—said it stood very upright

and produced the sound by striking its

wings together behind its back—as a

cock often does—but did not strike

\(^2\)Altered from "he h"

"partride" in ink; corrected in pencil to read "partridge"
the wall nor its body-- This he is sure
of--& declares that he is mistaken
who affirms the contrary, though it
were Audubon himself. Wilson says he
"begins to strike with his stiffened wings" while
standing on a log--but does not say what
he strikes--though one would infer it was either
the log or his body. Peabody says he beats
his body with his wings.

The sun goes down tonight under clouds--
a round red orb--& I am surprised to
see that its light falling on my book
& the wall--is a beautiful purple--like
the poke-stem--or perhaps some kinds of wine."
You see fresh upright green radical leaves
of some plants--the dock--prob water d. for one
in and about water--now the snow is gone there--
as if they had grown all winter.
P. pine cones must be taken from
the tree at the right season else they will
not open or blossom in a chamber-- I have one
which was gnawed off by squirrels ap. of full
size--but which does not open. Why should
they thus open in the chamber or elseswhere. I sup-
pose that under the influence of heat or dryness
the upper side of each scale expands while
the lower contracts--or perhaps only the one expands
or the other contracts. I notice that the upper side
is a lighter almost cinnamon color--the lower a
dark (pitchy (?)) red.

"or . . . wine." possibly added
Feb 23d

Clear—but a very cold north wind.

I see great cakes of ice a rod or more
> 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


white

Mr Loring says that he & his son Geo. fired at^swans
in Texas on the water--& though G. shot 2 ^ the 6 &
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
The names of localities on the Sudbury River
the South or Main Branch of Concord or
Musket Aquid River—beginning at the mouth
of the Assabet—are The Rock at mouth—
Merrick’s Pasture—Lee’s Hill—Bridges—
Hubbard shore—Clamshell Hill & fishing place
—Nut meadow Brook—Hollowell Place &
Bridge—Fair Haven Hill & Cliffs—Conantum
opposite. F. H. Pond. & Cliff—& Baker Farm— Pole—
Brook—Lee’s & Bridge—Farrar’s or Otter Swamp
—Bound Rock—Rice’s Hill & ‘s’ Isle—
The Pantry—Ware Hill—Sherman’s Bridge
& Round Hill—Great Sudbury Meadow—& Tall’s
Isle. Causeway—Bridges—Larned Brook—The
Chesnut House—Pelham Pond—The Rapids—
I saw yesterday in Hubbard’s sumach
meadow a bunch of dried grass—with a few
small leaves immixed—which had lain next
the ground under the snow—prob. the nest
of a mouse or mole.

Pm to Young Willow-row on Hunts B. road—
// Here is skating again—and there was some
yesterday—the meadows being frozen, where
they had opened, though the water is fast going
down— It is a thin ice of 1 to 2 inches—
one to 3 feet above the old—with yellowish
water between—However it is narrow dodging

"Hill" written over "hill"
"T left 1 inch or so blank space in MS & never came back to fill it in
between the great cakes of the ice which
has been broken up-- The whole of the
broad meadows is a rough irregular
checker-board of great cakes a rod square
or more--Arctic enough to look at.
The willow-row does not begin to
look bright yet-- The up 2 or 3 feet
are more red as usual at a distance--
the lower parts a rather dull green. Inspecting
a branch I find that the bark is shrunk
& wrinkled--& of course it will not peel--
Probably when it shines--it will be tense &
smooth--all its pores filled--
Staples said the other day that he
Phelps
heard Staples speak at the State House--
By thunder he never heard a man that
could speak like him--his words
came so easy--it was just like picking
up chips.

Minott says that Messer tells him he saw
a striped squirrel! Yesterday. "His cat
caught a mole lately--not a starnosed one
but one of those that heave up the meadow
She sometimes catches a little dark colored
mouse with a sharp nose.
Tells of a Fisk of Waltham--who some
30 years ago could go out with a
club only--& kill as many partridges
as he could conveniently bring home.
I suppose he knew where to find them buried
in the snow-- Both Minott & Farmer--think
they sometimes remained several days in the
snow--if the weather is bad for them--
Minott has seen twigs, he says of apple, in
their crops 3/4 of an inch long. Says he
has seen them drum many times standing
on a log or a wall. That they strike the
log or stone with their wings. He has fre-
quently caught them in a steel trap without
bait--covered with leaves & set in such--
also
places. Says that Quails ^ eat apple buds.

I notice that in the tracks hen's toes are
longer--& more slender than partridges--&
more or less turned or curved one side.
the
drawing The brightening of ^ willow--crop
osiers--that is a season in the spring--
showing that the dormant sap is awakened.
I now remember a few osiers which I have
seen early in past springs thus brilliantly
green and red/or yellow/ and it is as if all
the landscape & all nature shone. Though
the twigs were few which I saw I remember
it as a prominent phenomenon affecting
the face of nature--a gladdening of her
face. You will often fancy that they
look brighter--before the spring has come--& when
there has been no change in them.

Thermometer at 10°+ at 10 Pm.
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 last ice-- You are surprised to see them lying with perpendicular edges a foot thick 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 water, but ap being frozen to th dry bottom--was covered by the water,-- there & ap. in shallow places here
Possibly inserted over dash

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

“Possibly inserted over dash
older ice--as seen through the new black ice
sank
is perfectly white with those which
They may have been blown in--or the ice melted.
the bottom--" The nacre of these freshly
opened shells is very fair--azure--
a delicate salmon
or else " pink? or rosaceous--or violet--
I find one not open but frozen--and
several have one valve quite broken in two
in the rat's effort to wrench them open--
leaving the frozen fish half exposed. All
the rest show the marks of their teeth
i.e. sometimes at one end sometimes at another--
at one end or the other." You can see
distinctly also the marks of their teeth where
with a scraping cut
they have scraped off " the tough muscles
also sometimes all along the nacre next the edge
which fasten the fish to its shell." One shell
has ap. a little cadis case of iron-colored
sand on it. These shells look un-
commonly large thus exposed--at a distance
like leaves-- They lie thickly around" the
thinner
edge of each small circle of " black ice
in the midst of the white--showing
where was open water a day or 2 ago.
At the beginning & end of winter when the river is partly open--the ice serves
them instead of other stool.
"Some are reddish-brown in thick & hard
layers like iron ore outside--some
have roundish copper-colored spots on
the nacre within-- This shows that this
is still a good place for clams as it was
in Indian days.

""around" altered from "aroung"
examine with glass some fox-dung? from
a tussock of grass amid the ice on the meadow
It appeared to be composed—'1/3 of
clay—and the rest a slate-colored fur &
coarser white-hairs black tipped—too coarse
for the Deer-Mouse—was it that of
the rabbit? This mingled with small bones—
A mass as long as one's finger.

Feb 27th
Another cold clear day—but the
weather gradually moderating—

Feb 28th
Still cold & clear— Ever since the
23d inclusive a succession of clear
but very cold days—in which for
the most part it has not melted
 perceptibly during the day— My ink
has frozen & plants &c have frozen in
the house—though the thermometer has
not indicated nearly so great a cold
as before— Since the 25th it has
been very slowly moderating—

// The skating began again the 24th
after the great freshet had gone*
down some 2 feet or more—but
that part of the old ice which
was broken up by the freshet—

*Dash probably cancels false start
"Probably can construe as extra stroke in "n" rather than an "m"
floated from its place, either on to the
upland or meadow or onto the firm ice—made it remarkably
broken & devious—not to be used by night
-- The deep bays & sides of the meadows
have presented a very remarkable ap-
pearance—a stretching pack of great
often
cakes of ice sometimes 2 or more upon
each other & partly tilted up—a foot
thick & 1 to 2 or more rods broad—
The westering sun reflected from their
edges makes them shine finely—

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

Pm to further RR Bridge
& Ministerial swamp—
I see that same kind of icicle terracing
drawing about the piers of Wood’s Bridge
& others that I saw I think last

spring— but not now quite so perfect—as
if where the water had stood at suc-
cessive levels. %The lower edge now a foot
or 2 above water—%
Examined where the White maple & the apple tree were tipped over by the ice the other day at the RR Bridge. It struck them 7 or 8 feet from the ground --that being the height of the water--rubbed off the barke & then bent flat & broke them-- They were nearly about 10 inches in diameter--the maple partly dead before

I see where many trees have been wounded by the ice in former years. They have a hard time of it--When a cake half a dozen rods in diameter & nearly 2 feet thick is floated & blown against them.

Just S of Darbys Bridge lie many great cakes some one upon another which were stopped by the bridge & causeway & a great many have a crust of // the meadow of equal thickness--6 inch to 1 foot--frozen to their under surfaces-- Some of these are a rod in diameter--& when the ice melts the meadow where they are landed will present a singular appearance--I see many also freshly deposited on the Elfin burial ground--showing how that was formed. The greater part of those hummocks there
are probably if not certainly carried by the
ice--though I now see a few small but
thick pieces of meady 4 or 5 feet broad
without any ice--or appearance of its having
been attached to them-- This is a powerful
agent at work. Many great cakes
have lodged on a ridge of the meadow
west of the river here--& suggest how such
a ridge may be growing from year to year--
This North river is only partially open. //
I see where a bright gleam from a cake
of ice on the shore is reflected in the stream
with remarkable brightness--in a pointed
flamelike manner (drawing) Look either side--
you see it. Standing here--still above
the elfin burial ground--the outlines
of Haywards the millers houses in the distance
against the pine & oak woods come
dimly out--& by their color are in very
pleasing harmony with this wood--
I think it is a dull red house against
the usual mixture of red oak leaves &
dark pines-- There is such a harmony
as between the gray limbs of an over shadowing
elm & the lichen clad roof--
We crossed the river at Nut meadow
Brook-- The ice was nearly worn through

50Possibly altered from "north"
5 Something is written above in pencil, possibly initials "JM{ }"
all along there with wave-like regularity

{drawing} in oblong (round end) or thick crescent
or kidney-shaped holes--as if
worn by the summits of waves--
lke a riddle to sift a man
through-- These holes are hard to
detect in some lights except by shaking
the water-- I saw some cakes
of ice 10 feet across & 1 foot thick--
lodged with one end on the top of a
fence post & some 7 or 8 feet in the
air--the other on the bottom.

There is a fine pack of large cakes
away in the bay behind Hubbards Grove.
I notice looking at their edges that
the white or rotted part extends down-
ward in points or triangles alternating
with the round greenish parts thus

{drawing} Most however are
a thin white or maybe
snow ice with all beneath solid & green still.

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

I have a piece of a limb alder or

{52}Pencil drawing of arrow above drawing
maple? say 5/8 inch in diameter which has been
cut off by a worm boring spirally--but in one
horizontal plane--3 times round (drawing)53

I observed how a new ravine is formed
in a sand hill-- A new one was formed in
the last thaw at Clam Shell Hill thus.--
Much melted snow & rain being collected on the
ap.
top of the hill--some ^ found its way through the
ground frozen a foot thick a few feet from the edge
of the bank--& began with a small rill washing
down the slope the unfrozen sand beneath--as
the water continued to flow the sand on each
side continued to slide into it & be carried off leaving
the frozen crust above quite firm making a
cavern
bridge 5 or 6 feet wide over this &-- Now since
the thaw this bridge, I see, has melted & fallen
in leaving a ravine some 10 feet wide & much
longer--which now may go on increasing from
& thus the sand is
year to year without limit. ravished away.
I was there just after it began
Aud. & Bach. think a ravine may sometimes have been
produced by the gallery of a shrew-mole.54
March 1st 1855

10 A. m. to Derby's Bridge & ret by Sam Barretts--
to see ice cakes & meadow crust.
The last day for skating
It is a very pleasant & warm day the finest
yet--with considerable coolness in the air however--
The air is beautifully clear--& though I
love to trace at a distance the roofs & outlines
of sober colored farmhouses amid the woods

53Preceded by cancelled drawing
54"Aud. [. . .] mole." written vertically in left margin.
We go listening for blue birds but only hear crows--& chicadees. A fine seething air over the fair russet fields. The dusty banks of snow by the RR--reflect a wonderfully dazzling white from their pure crannies--being melted into an uneven sharp--wavy surface. This more dazzling white must be due to the higher sun. I see some thick cakes of ice where an ice-car has broken up--

In one I detect a large--bubble--about 4 inch in diam. a foot beneath the upper surface & 6 inches from the lower-- {drawing} In confirmation {drawing} of my theory the grain of the ice--as indicated by the linear bubbles within it, was converging beneath this bubble as the rays of light under a burning glass and what was the undersurface at that time was melted in a concave manner to within 1 1/2 inches of the bubble--as appeared by the curvature in the horizontal grain of the more recently formed ice beneath. I omit to draw the other horizontal grain. The situation of this bubble also suggests that ice perhaps increases more above than below the plane of its first freezing in the course of a winter--by the addition
of surface water & snow ice--

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

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

57Its possible T didn’t intend to cancel the "a"; vertical cancellation lines in addition to horizontal suggest he meant to begin cancellation at "w"; AL written to include "a" in cancellation
but prob. it was first lifted by ice.

of ice to buoy it—^ The edge of these meadow

crusts is singularly abrupt, as if cut with
Saw one piece, more than a rod long & 2 feet thick of black peaty soil brought from I
know not where
a turf cutter knife— Of course a great

surface is now covered with ice on each side
of the river under which there is no water—^ we go
constantly getting in with impunity. The spring sun
shining on the sloping (drawing) icy shores
makes numerous dazzling ice-blinks—still brighter
& prolonged with rectilinear sides in the reflection.

I am surprised to find the N. river more
frozen than the S, and we can cross it in
many places.

I think the meadow is lifted in this wise.
1st you have a considerable freshet in mid-
winter succeeded by severe cold before the water
has run off much—(Then as the water goes down
or rather all the water freezes where it is shallow
the ice for a certain width on each side
& the grass is frozen into it. V Mar. 11th
the meadow river meadows rests on the ground
which freezes to it.) Then comes another freshet
which rises a little higher than the former
gently
This ^ lifts up the river ice, & that meadow ice
on each side of it which still has water
under it, without breaking them, but
over flows the ice which is frozen to the
bottom. Then after some days of thaw
& wind the latter ice is broken up & rises
in cakes larger or smaller—^ with or

"or rather . . . Mar. 11th" poss LR in ink
without the meadow crust beneath it
and is floated off before the wind &
current till it grounds somewhere--
frequently on a or melts & so sinks--
frequently 3 cakes one upon another--
on some swell in the meadow--or
the edge of the upland. The ice is thus
with us a wonderful agent in changing
the aspect of the surface--of the river valley--
I think that there has been more meadow
than usual moved this year--because we had
so great a freshet in mid winter succeeded by severe
cold--& that by another still greater freshet
before the cold weather was past.
// Saw a butcher bird--as usual on top of
a tree--& distinguished from a jay by black wings
& tail & streak side of head.
I did well to walk in the forenoon
--the fresh & inspiring half of this bright day
at mid-afternoon
--for now ^ its brightness is dulled & a fine
white stratus is spread over the sky.
Is not "the #starry puff (lycoperdon stellatum)"
of the Journal of a Naturalist, which "remains
driving about the pastures59, little altered until
spring"--my 5-fingered fungus?
The same tells of goldfinches--fringilla
carduelis [Bewick calls it the "thistle-finch"]

59"p" has extra stroke
"scattering all over the turf the down of the thistle,
as they pick out the seed for their food." It is
singular that in this particular it should resemble
our goldfinch, a dif bird.

March 2nd

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

Saw yesterday one of those small slender winged
insects on the ice. A. Wright says that
about 40 years ago an acre of meadow
was carried off at one time by the ice
D. Clarke. tells me he saw a piece of meadow, on his part of the Grt Meadows,
on the Colburn place. I observe that
5 or 6 rods square which had been taken up in one piece & set down
where there is ploughed ground much of
again a little distance off.
it has been washed over the neighboring
grass ground to a great distance--
discoloring it.

The Great meadows, as all the rest,
are one great field of ice a foot
thick to their utmost verge--far up
sloping upward there
the hill sides & into the swamps--rolling
without water under it resting almost
every where on the ground--a great undu-
lating field of ice--rolling prairie-like
--the earth wearing this dry icy shield
or armor--which shines in the sun.
perhaps & in
Over brooks & ditches " & in many other
in some places the ice a foot thick ^ is shoved (?) or puffed
"up in the form of a pent roof
in some places 3 feet high & stretching
20 or 30 rods. There is certainly
more ice than can lie flat there as if
the adjacent ices had been moved toward each
other-- Yet this general motion is not likely-- & it is more probably the result of the
expansion of the ice under the sun--& of the warmth of the water ^ there. In many places the ice is dark & transparent &
you see plainly the bottom on which it
lies-- The various figures in the partially white rotted ice are very interesting--"bubbles
which look like coins of varies sizes over
lapping each other--{drawing} Parallel waving lines, with sometimes very slight intervals,
on the underide of sloping white ice--
marking the successive levels at
which the water has stood
{drawing} Also countless white cleavages
perpendicular or inclined--straight & zigzag meeting and crossing each
other at all possible angles &
making all kinds of geometrical figures
--checkering the whole surface--

"Underlining possibly pencil
like white frills or ruffles in the ice.

(At length the ice melts on the edge of
these cleavages into little gutters which catch
the snow--) There is the greatest
noise from the ice cracking about
10 Am--yesterday & to-day.

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

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

---possibly altered from "the"
---"was" written over "wa"
not concentrate the rays to a sufficiently small
focus.

Returning over Great Fields--found half
a dozen arrowheads--one with 3 scallops
in the base {drawing}""
If we have a consider
able freshet before
the ice melts much--
ap. much meadow crust will be moved
on the S branch. There is about 6/5 inches
of frost in the swamps" like a prolonged blast or whistling of the wind
// Heard 2 large hawks scream-- through a crevice in the sky--which like
Sat. Mar. 3d a cracked blue saucer overlaps the
woods. Such are the first rude
notes which prelude the Summer's quire--
learned of the whistling March-wind.

Pm To Conantum
This afternoon it is somewhat overcast

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

"Cancelled drawing either precedes or follows drawing; it's difficult to tell
in which order he drew, wrote, cancelled, and drew again; in AL as "followed by"
"Followed by cancelled false start
which half fill my hand—small triangular
black seeds with thin & delicate flesh—
colored wings—remind me of
fishes alewives perchance, their tails more
or less curved. [drawing] I do not show the
curve of the tail— I see in another
place under a pine—many cores of cones
which the squirrels have completely stripped
excepting the (about) 3 at the extremity which cover no seeds
of their scales—cutting them off regularly at
the seeds or close to the core—Leaving it
in this form [drawing] or more
regular
From some partially stript
I see that they begin at the
base—
base—
I see that they begin at the
stumps—where they
have sat—& under
the pines.
Most fallen P. P. cones show the marks of S. teeth—showing they were cut off.

Day before yesterday—There was good
skating & it was a beautiful warm day
for it. Yesterday—the ice began to be per-
ceptibly softened— To day it is too soft
for skating.

I might have said on the 2d that
though it is warm there is no trooble about
getting on to the river—for the water having
fallen about 6 feet on the S branch
the ice about a foot thick slopes up—
ward in many places half a dozen
rods or more on to the upland like
the side of an earthen milk pan

---

66 Cancelled caret not in AL table
67 Possibly altered from “leaving”, or vice versa
68 “From some . . . base.” written to left of drawing; “These . . . pines.”
written to right of drawing; “Most . . . off.” written below drawing. None of this
info. appears in AL table—possibly “Most . . . off.” is added
69 Possibly inserted
and you do not know when you have passed
the water line. (drawing)

I think

Also I noticed yesterday that

the ice, along the river edge at the

Grt-- Meadows, still clinging to the

alders & maples 3 or 4 feet from

the ground was remarkably transparent
like purest crystal
& solid or without bubbles''--not rotted--probably
because the rays of the sun passed through
it & there was no surface beneath to
reflect them back again--& so rot
the ice--of this I made my burning

glass

I think it was yesterday morning that

I first noticed a frost on the bare
russet grass-- This too is an early
spring phenomenon-- I am surprised to
see that-- The radical Johnswort

leaves which have been green all
winter & now wilted & blackened by it
& where a wood was cut off this
winter on a hill side all the rattlesnake
plantain his suffered in
like manner.

Again I observe the river breaking up
(from the bank) The thin & rotted ice
saturated with water is riddled with
oblong open places--whose prevailing
form is [drawing]\(^\text{70}\) Curving commonly
upstream--though not always--i.e.
Southerly here-- Has this anything to do with
the direction of the prevailing winds of winter?
--which makes the waves bend \(\rightarrow\) southerly.
Since the cold of a week ago--(they\(^\text{71}\)
may be of older date) I see many cracks
in the earth--especially in ploughed fields
which are cracked up into vast cakes in
some places--ap. on the same principle
that ice is-- Pine \textit{channel} fairly open.\(^\text{72}\)

\textbf{Sunday March 4th 1855}

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

\(^\text{70}\)arrow drawn above drawing
\(^\text{71}\)Possibly altered from "it"
\(^\text{72}\)"Pine . . . open" circled and marked for insertion following date line (to have its own line)
The ice is so much rotted & softened by the sun that it looks white like snow now as I look down on the meadows. There is considerable // snow on the N. side of hills in the woods-- At the Bee-Hill side--a striped squirrel, which quickly dives into his hole at %v Mar. 4 7th% of our approach-- May not this season of Spring-like weather bet the 1st decidedly spring like day & the 1st blue-bird--already 14 days long--be called the striped-squirrel spring? In which we go listening for the blue-bird but hear him not.

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

Mar. 5th '55 Pm to Beck Stows-- A strong--but warm S Westerly (?) wind. which has produced a remarkable // haze-- As I go along by sleepy hollow-- this strong warm wind--rustling the leaves on the hill sides--this blue haze & the russet earth seen through
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
small paths or galleries in the meadow leading
to this from the brook some rod or more distant.

// The small *gyrinus* is circling in the
brook. I see where much fur
of a rabbit which prob. a fox was carrying
has caught on a moss-rose twig as he
leaped a ditch. It is much worse
walking than it has been for 10 days
the continued warmth of the *sun* melting
the ice & snow by walls &c--& reaching the
unexpectedly after the surface had been dry.
deeper frost--^ Pastures which look dry
prove soft & full of water.

There is a peculiar *redness* in the western--
sky just after sunset-- There are many
great dark-slate-colored clouds
floating there--seen against more distant
& thin wispy bright vermillion (?) al--
in many places% most blood-red ones-- This often^ appears
as the lining of the former--

// It *rained* last *evening*--but not much
This the 1st rain or storm since Feb 18th
inclusive. i.e 15 days.

The weather began to be decidedly spring-like--
air full of light &c the 18th-- The 20th was
perfect march-- The 21st & 22nd were remarkably
fair & *clear* warm-- 23d to 28 inclusive
remarkably clear & cold-- Mar 1st & 2nd
remarkably clear & *serene* & *pleasant*
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 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 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 a light brown

7Underlining for "Mar." and "7" in pencil
7bleedthrough follows this word, to bottom of page
above--green next the earth. There were
ap-- many of their holes in the earth about
the stump-- They must have fed very ex--
tensively on this moss the past winter^--

// It is now difficult getting on & off Walden.

At Bristers spring there are beautiful
ap.
// dense green beds of moss which ^ has just
risen above the surface of the water--tender
& compact. I see many tadpoles
// of medium or full size in deep warm
ditches in Hubbards meadow-- They may--
probably be seen as soon as the ditches are
open, thus earlier than frogs-- At his
bridge over the brook it must have been
// a trout I saw glance, rather dark
as big as my finger.

// To day, as ^ several days ago, I
saw a clear drop of maple sap on
a broken red maple twig which tasted
very sweet.

The pyrola secunda is a perfect evergreen
It has lost none of its color or freshness--with
its thin ovate finely serrate leaves--revealed now
the snow is gone. It is more or less branched.
Picked up a very handsome wht-Pine
cone some 6 1/2 inches long x 2 3/8 near base
& 2 near apex. perfectly blossomed\textsuperscript{77}
It is a very rich & wholesome brown color-- of various shades as you turn it in your hand--a light ashy or grey brown, somewhat like unpainted wood, as you look or as if the lighter brown was covered with a grey lichen down on it^, seeing only those parts of the scales always exposed--with a few darker streaks or marks ^ & a drop of pitch at the point of each scale-- Within the scales are a dark brown above (ie as it hangs) & a light brown beneath--very distinctly being made beneath by the same darker brown--down the center & near the apex somewhat anchor wise--(drawing)

^Possibly cancelled word in parens
We were walking along the Sunny hill-side on the S of Fair. H. P. (on The 4th ult--) which the choppers have just laid bare. when we were in a sheltered & warmer place--we heard a rustling amid the dry leaves on the hill side & saw a striped squirrel--eyeing us from its resting place on the bare-ground-- It sat still till we were within a rod--then suddenly dived into its hole which was at its feet & disappeared. The first pleasant days of spring come out like a squirrel & go in again.

Mar. 8th 1855
P. m To Old Carlisle Road
Another fair day with easterly wind--
This morning I got my boat out of the cellar & turned it up in the yard to let the seams open before I caulk it.
The blue channel of the river now almost completely open (--i.e. excepting a little ice in the recesses of the shore & a good deal over the meadows) admonishes me to be swift.
I see where many young trees & bushes have been broken down by the ice after the last freshet-- Many of
Loring's young maples—e.g. The cornel & other bushes along the walls are broken
like young trees by snow-drifts—the ice sinking
or dragging
with them in its embrace—weighing ^ them
down. In many places where the
water rose so high—as to reach the
ends of the lower branches of white maples
& then were afterward frozen in—the
ice sinking with the ebb—breaks off
"V Mar 14th"^1
or strips down the branch— There ap-
pears to be a motion to the ice (even on
meadows away from the current+ and
at Walden shore) somewhat like that
of a glacier—by which it tips over the trees
&c standing in it without breaking up—
The result, one would say, of its swelling
under the influence of the sun.

Was surprised to see a cluster of those
(?) (?) large sedum (?) or leek buds on a rock in
Clarke's (?) Meadow bet. the oak & my house
that was.

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

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

^1"V Mar 14th" LR in ink
^2Cancelled in pencil
^3Cancelled in pencil
for it was raw in the wind,
in the woods ^ I heard the hasty, shuffling,

// as if frightened, note of a robin from
a dense birch-wood--a sort of tche-
& then prob. it dashed through the birches
tche tche tche tche^--& so they fetch the
year about. Just from the South
shore, perchance, it alighted not in the
village street--but in this remote birch wood.
This sound reminded me of rainy misty april days in past years.
Once or 2ce before this p. m. I thought I heard one & listened, but in vain.
I still see the bluish bloom on thimble-
berry vines quite fresh-- I walk these
days along the open brooks--looking for
tortoises--& trout &c-- They are full of
a rust-colored water--as if they flowed out
of an iron mine.

As the ice melts in the swamps I see the
green with a bluish bloom
horn-shaped buds of the skunk cabbage^ standing uninjured
"with their bloom--ready to feel the in-
fluence of the sun. The most prepared
for spring--to look at--of any plant.

// I see of late more & of the fuzzy caterpillars
both--black & reddish-brown.

Mar. 9th

A cloudy rain-threatening day--not windy
& rather warmer than yesterday.

Painted the bottom of my boat.

Pm to Andromeda Fonds.

Scare up a rabbit on the hill side by these
ponds-- & see where which was gnawing
a smooth sumach--see also where they
have gnawed--the red maple--sweet fern
--p. grandidentata—white oak and other oaks (taking off considerable twigs at 4 or 5 cuts) amelanchier, & sallow. but they seem to prefer the smooth sumach to any of these. With this variety of cheap diet they are not likely to starve. I get a few drops of the sweet red maple juice which has rabbit run down the main stem where a squirrel rabbit has nibbled off close a twig--
The rabbit indeed lives; but the sumach may be killed.

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

As on the 4th ult I clambered over those great white pine masts which lay in all directions one upon another on the hill-side S of F. H.aven--where the woods have been laid waste--I was struck, in favorable lights, with the jewel-like brilliancy of the sawed ends thickly bedewed with crystal drops of turpentine. --thickly as a shield--As if the Dryads? Oreads—? Pine-wood nymphs had seasonably wept there the fall of the tree—
The perfect sincerity of these terebinthine drops—^colorless as light—or like drops of dew heaven-distilled & trembling to their fall—is incredible when you remember how firm their consistency—

And is this that pitch which you cannot touch without being defiled?

Looking from the Cliffs, the sun being as before invisible, I saw far more light in the reflected sky in the neighborhood of the sun than I could see in the heavens from my position—and it occurred to me that the reason was that there was reflected to me from the river, the view I should have got if I had stood there on the water in a more favorable position.

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

I see the minute seeds of the Andromeda Calyculata scattered over the melting ice of the And. Ponds.

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

An over cast & dark night.
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 apon
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 *gyrines* at 2d Div. Brook--I saw no pe-
cularity 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.

The ^ squirrel should be drawn with a pine cone
Those reddening leaves of the--as the checkerberry--
lambkill & & which at the beg. of winter were greenish
are now a deeper red--when the snow goes off.
last
No more snow since \textit{night} but a
strong--cold northerly wind all day--with
occasional gleams of sunshine-- The whitening
of snow consequently has not disappeared.

Miss Minott says that Dr.
Spring told her that when the sap began
to come up into the trees--i.e. about
the mid of Feb. (she says) then the diseases
of the human body come out. The idea
is that man's body sympathizes with the
rest of Nature--& his pent up humors
burst forth like the sap from wounded
trees-- This with the man may be that
languor or other weakness--commonly
called spring-feelings.

Minott tells me that Henry Hosmer says he saw geese 2 or 3 days ago!
Jacob Farmer gave me today a
Pine Marten
part of the foot probably of an otter
2 or 3 days ago
which he found in a trap he had
under water baited with a pickerel
set in his brook for a mink--It is
cloved above with a glossy dark brown
(Perhaps a third without the talon)
hair, and contains but 2 toes armed with
fine & very sharp talons--much curved.
It had left thus much in the trap
& departed.
Aud. & Bach. call my deer mouse
"Mus Leucopus.--Rafinesque" call it "yellowish
brown above" & give these synonyms
"Mus Sylvaticus, Forster, Phil-- Trans. Vol 62, p 380
Field-Rat, Penn., Hist. Quad., Vol II., p 185.

Musculius Leucopus, Rafinesque, Amer. Month. Review
Oct. 1818, p. 444.
Mus Leucopus, Desmar. Mamm., esp. 493
Mus Sylvaticus, Harlan, Fauna, p. 151.
Mus Leucopus, Richardson, F.B.A., p 142
Arvicola Nuttalii, 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
on bushes, from 5 to 15 feet from the ground. They are in these cases constructed with nearly as much art and ingenuity as the nests of the Baltimore Oriole"—of some he has says "They are 7 inches in length & 4 in breadth, the circumference measuring 13 inches; they are of an oval shape and are outwardly composed of dried moss and a few slips of the inner bark of some wild grape-vine; other nests are more rounded, and are composed of dried leaves & moss." Thinks 2 pairs live in some very large ones—"The entrance in all the nests is from below, and about the size of the animal."

Female sometimes escapes with her young adhering to her teats. "nocturnal in its habits." Only sound he has heard from them "a low squeak" Not so carnivorous as "most of its kindred species". Troubles trappers by getting their bait. Lays up "stores of grain & grass seeds" acorns &c—

In the north wheat—in the south rice. eats out the heart of Ind. corn kernels

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

Thinks that neither this nor the mole does much injury to garden or farm but rather "the little pine-mouse (Arvicola Pinetorum,
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 Hosmer's 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
mentioned are resting within 10 or 20 rods.

one has sunk against the causeway bridge

being too wide to go through--I see one

piece of crust 12 feet x 6 turned completely
topsy-turvy with its ice beneath it. This has

prevented the ice from melting--& on examining

it I find that the ice did not settle
down onto the grass after the water went

NB.
down & then froze to it--for the

blades of grass penetrate 1 inch into the

ice, showing that the water being

shallow--the whole froze & the grass

was frozen in & thus--when the water

rose again was lifted up. The bared

places I have noticed as yet were not

in the low ground--but where the water

was comparatively shallow--commonly at

a distance from the river--%v 3 ps forward% n. p.

// A blue-bird day before yesterday in Stow.^

Saw a caked of recent ice very handsome--

ly marked as it decayed--with darker

marks for the original crystals centered

with the original white--It would

be a rare pattern for a carpet--because

it contains a variety of figures--agreeable

to the eye without regularity.

or ephemerae

Many of those dirty-white millers ^ in the

air.

As I sit at the base of Anursnack

the earth appears almost completely
bare--but from the top I see considerably
white ice here & there--this shows that what
is left is only the whitened & rotting ice which
being confined to the lowest hollows & meadows
is only observed from a height.

At this season--before grass springs to conceal
roundish
them--I notice those pretty little shells
on the tops of hills--one today on Anursnack--
I see pitch pine needles looking
as if white-washed--thickly covered on each
of the two slopes of the needle with narrow
white oyster-shell like latebrae or chrysalids of
an insect.

Mar 12 '55

6 1/2 Am to Andromeda Ponds
Lesser red polls still. %v forward% //
Elbridge Haden & Poland affirm that they
saw a brown thrasher sitting on the top of
an apple tree by the road near Hubbards &
singing after his fashion on the 5th ult--
I suggested the shrike, which they do not know
but they say it was a brown bird. ??
Haden saw a blue bird yesterday //
Pm to Great Meadow
Comes out pleasant after a raw forenoon
with a flurry of snow--already gone.
2 ducks in river--good size white beneath with
black heads as they go over--They first rise
%sheldrakes? or%
some distance down stream--& fly by on high
reconnoitering me--& I first see them on wing--
Then settle a quarter of a mile above by a
long slanting flight at last op. the swimming
elm below Flints-- I come on up the bank
with the sun in my face--start them again--
Again they fly down stream by me on high--
turn and come round back by me again
with outstretched heads--& go up to the
battle ground before they alight. Thus
the river is no sooner fairly open--than they
are back again--before I have got my
& long before the river has wore through F. H. P.
boat launched.^ I think I heard a quack or 2
Aud. & Bach. say that Forster & Harlan
refer the Mus Leucopus "to mus sylvaticus of Europe."
**wongly--for they differ in many respects "they
may always be distinguished from each other at
a glance by the following mark: in more
than 20 specimens we examined of Mus Sylvati-
cus [in Europe] we have always found a yellowish
line edged with dark-brown on the breast. In
many hundred specimens of Mus leucopus we
have without a single exception found this yellow
line entirely wanting, all of them being pure
white on the breast, as well as on the whole
under surface. We have no hesitation in pronouncing
the species distinct." Now I find that
I had described my specimen of Feb 20th--
before I had read Aud. & Bach. or heard of the Mus
sylvaticus--I thought Emmons does not--
as having "a very slight & delicate tinge of yellowish
beneath between the forelegs--" though Emmons
does not mention this color.
The other differences they mention certainly are
not of much importance--& prob. equally great ones

^"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-

6 1/2 Am to Hill. Still--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 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 con ferva--a
//
kind of green veil that conceals their bottom

"Possibly altered from "Th"
& invests the bubbles on the surface.

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

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

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

At eve the raw overcast day concludes.
Possibly altered from another word; "his"?

with 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 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
most powerful & our eyes are unused to them.

I observe the tracks of sparrows leading amid the other weeds to every little sprig of blue curls", which, its seemingly empty pitchers, rises above the snow-- There seems however to be a little seed left in them. enough

This then is the reason why these withered stems still stand--that they may raise these granaries above the snow for the use of the snow birds.

of Feb

That ice has destroyed almost the whole of Charles Hubbards young red maple swamp in front of the Hollowell place-- Full an as well as acre of thrifty young maples--"alders--b birches 4 to 7 feet high is completely destroyed--being pulled & broken broken near the ground down as the ice sank after the water went down-- It is all flat & looks at a little distance as if one had & done his work faithfully gone through with bush-whack-- They from 1/2 an inch to 1 inch thick--broken this wise (drawing) He has ap. concluded to clear it. Only the taller birches &c are left. "Perhaps best described in 1st voyage on river V. Mar 19th or 20%

I thought as I approached seeing some clumps still standing--all the rest flat on the ground--that without a doubt some one had been clearing the swamp--Though I stood within a rod of it. Just as a snow-drift breaks down young fruit trees. R Rice tells me that a great many young white pines in a swamp of his in Sudbury have been barked the bark rubbed down several inches completely bare by the ice. Then the river from time to time asserts its authority over its swamps to a great distance. The willows alders &c all along the river where the water was deeper are commonly broken higher up 3 or 4 feet from the ground. This Mar 19th v. Mar 20
Mar 15

Jacob farmer gave me today the foot
of an otter, also of a fisher—(to put
with my pine marten’s foot) He cut them
off of recent furs in Boston. He sells
about 100 mink skins in a year—
Thinks not more than 30 or 40 are
caught in Concord in a year. He says—{I think}
a mink’s skin is worth 2 dollars? They are sent
to Europe to be worn there—not for hats.
Foul weather all day—at first a fine snow
& finally rain—Now at 9 Pm a clear sky.
& so the storm which beg. eve of 13th ends—
As for the first half of this month
it began very pleasant & warm—{the latter
3d of Feb had been very clear & pleasant—
but colder—} the ice rotting river opening
& ice beginning to soften. then on the 4th it
Northerly, East—or SW
became windy—sometimes very cold & raw—
ocasionally rocking the house—the 9th
a little warmer storm threatening—the 10th
ground whitened with snow—& so it goes on
more or less raw till the snow of the 14th
Mr Rice tells me that when he was getting
mud out of the little swamp at the foot
of Bristers Hill last he heard
a squeaking & found that he was digging
near the nest of what he called a “field mouse”—
by his description prob-- the meadow mouse--
It was made of grass &c--& while he stood over
it--the mother not regarding him came &
carried off the young one by one in her mouth
--being gone some time in each case before she
returned--& finally she took the nest itself.

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

Mar 16th 55

Cloudy in the forenoon--sun comes out
& it is rather pleasant in the P.m.
Pm. to 1st Conantum End.

At the woodchuck's hole just beyond
the Cockspur thorn-- I see several diverging
& converging trails of undoubtedly a wood-
or several
chuck--which must have come out at least
as early as the 13th The track is about
1 3/4 inches wide by 2 long--the 5 toes very
distinct & much spread--& including the
scrape of the snow before the foot^9 came to its
bearing--is somewhat hand-like. It is
simple & alternate thus [drawing] com-
monly--but sometimes much like
a rabbits--& again like a mink's somewhat

^9Probably a false start and not "1"
^9"the foot" altered from other words
thus [drawing] They had come out
   directly
& run about ^ from hole to hole
6 in all within a dozen rods or more
This appeared to have been all their travelling
--as if they had run round a visiting & waked
each other up the first thing-- At first
they soiled the snow with their sandy feet.
At one place they had been clearing⁹⁹ out today
the throats of 2 holes within a rod of each
other--scattering the mud like sand made¹⁰⁺
et by the melting snow over the pure
snow around--& I saw where between these
holes they had sat on a horizontal limb of
(which it had tried its teeth on) also on a rock
a shrub oak ^ about a foot from the ground^
plainly to warm & dry themselves in the sun--
I also saw where another had sunned itself on a stand at the foot
having muddied it all over--^ They could not
of a small pitch pine & tried its teeth on a dead limb of the pine.--
go in or out of these burrows without
being completely covered with sandy mud.
The path over the snow between these holes
was quite covered with it.
The impression [drawing] of the foot a little like
this--but not so much spread.
They have but 4 toes on
the fore feet with rudiment⁺⁺His first journey then
of a thumb.
appears to be to some neighboring
hole which he remembers a dozen
or fifteen rods off & perchance
he goes as straight or unerringly to it as
if he had not been asleep all winter--

⁹⁹"clearing" written over "cearing"
¹⁰⁺Altered from "melti"--doesn’t belong in AL table
⁺⁺⁺They . . .thumb." interlined to the left of drawing
Apparently after a little gossiping there
his first work is to clear out the
entrance to his burrow--ejecting the
leaves & sand which have there collected.
None have travelled beyond these holes--except
that one track leads into the swamp--

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

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

As I stand here some 60 rods from the river
open
at about 3 1/2 Pm--looking at the ^ river
toward which my shadow points at right angle
with its current--that part which my shadow
extended would strike is a pale dull slate
color--but that part a dozen rods
Southerly from this is--a distinct blue which
goes on increasing in depth Southerly--till
looking at an angle of 45° from the first
line it is of a glorious deep indigo
blue-- For some reason I must look much
further north to see it blue.
River not yet worn through Fair H. Pond
You are pretty sure to see the tracks of
squirrels red ones--about the base of walnuts
which they have ascended--& where they have probed
the snow for a nut.
I think that a great many birds-nests are
broken up in summer by weasels minks &
skunks.
Returning scared up 2 large ducks just above
the bridge One very large white beneath breast
& neck--black head & wings & aft-- The other
much smaller & dark. Ap. male & female. They lit
more than 100 miles south of the bridge & I
viewed them with glass The larger--sailed about
on the watch while the smaller dark one
%\%\% I think there are but
3 ducks ever seen here anything like
these the--Golden Eye or Whistler--the Goosander
%Is it not female goosander?% or Sheldrake--& the Red breasted Merganser^102--
This male I suspect was too large for the 1st
& from its size--& its great superiority in size
to its companion--I think it the Goosander or shel-
drake. It did not scoot over the water
as I think the red-breasted Merganser%??% does--
Sat. Mar 17th
H. Hosmer says he has seen black-ducks
Edmund Hosmer's meadow--i.e the Hunt House^103 meadow--
is covered with great pieces of meadow--the
largest thick & dense cranberry meadow--
It is piled 3 or 4 feet high for several rods.

^102"Red breasted Merganser" cancelled in pencil
^103Preceded by false start.
Higher up on the North branch I see
where the trees, especially the swamp white
oaks—have been chafed smooth & white by the
ice (at that time) from the ground to
3 or 4 feet (6 in some cases) as if scraped
with a hoe—and the bushes all along the
shore—willows, alders &c &c blueberry
swamps in some places—have been more or
// less broken down— I hear the lesser redpolls
%the last% yet%^%— See now along the edge of
the river the ice being gone + many
// fresh heaps of clam shells which were opened
by the musquash when the water was higher—
about some tree where the ground rises—
And very many places you see where
they formed new burrows into the bank—
the sand being pushed out into the stream
about the entrance which is still below
water—& you feel the ground under—
mixed as you walk.
blossom
? White maple ^ buds look as if bursting—show a
rusty fusty space perhaps a 16th of an inch in width
over & above the regular 6 scales.
I see scraps of the evergreen ranunculus
along the river side—

Mar 18
more or less
Fair in the forenoon but ^ cloudy & windy
in the p. m.
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 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
in these places they may perchance ac-
complish 2 objects--i.e. catch passing
fish (suckers?) like a heron--& escape
the attention of man. Its utmost motion
was to plume itself once & turn its head about.
If it did not move its head it would look like
a decoy. Our river is quite low for the
season--& yet it is here without freshet or
easterly storm-- It seems to take this course
on its migrations without regard to the
state of the waters.

Meanwhile a small dark colored duck--
// all neck & wings---- a winged rolling
pin went over--perhaps a teal.
//
  For the last 2 or 3 days very wet & muddy
walking--owing to the melting of the snow;
also
which ^ has slightly swollen the small streams.

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

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

Mar 19th 55

A fine clear & warm day for
the season—Launched my boat  

Pm—paddled to F—H. P.  

Very pleasant & warm when the wind  
lulls & the water is perfectly smooth. I make  
the 13th voyage without gloves. The snow of  
Mar 14 is about gone & the landscape  
is once more russet. The thick ice of the  
meadows lies rotting on each side of  
the stream white & almost soft as snow—  
In many places it extends still over the  
shallower parts of the river. As I paddle  
or pole up the stream the muddy bottom  
looks dead & dark—& no greenness  
is observed but on a close scrutiny—  
The unsightly dead leaf stalks of  
the pontederia the stems of pol—cover  
it in irregular whorls covered with  
filth—the black stems of the polygo-  
nums here & there still rise above the  
surface—But on a closer scrutiny  
you detect here & there bits of the  
evergreen ranunculus—commonly float-  
ing—the cress—some reddish pads  
nuphar expanded close to the bottom  
& a few points of its closely rolled unexpand-  
ed leaves—also some radical greenness  
in the pontederia—& what is that  
fresh green oblong perhaps spatulate  

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

greeness to correspond with that on the

land. The muskrat house are for

the most part flatted down even below

the present level of the water (at least

5 feet+ below the truss) prob. by the water

& ice a month ago-- I see but 3 or 4

del repaired--One new one at least, however,
on a piece of meadow lately lodged.

It is to be inferred that they have not the

same need of them as in the fall. Already

Farrar is out with his boat--looking

for spring cranberries--% here comes the

slowly paddling the dark faced trapper Mel-

(%see him out here the 1st boating day next year also%)

vin with his dog & gun.% I see a poor

drowned gray rabbit floating--back

up as in life, but 3/4 submerged. +

may have be died % been washed I see

a hawk circling over a small maple
grove through this calm air--ready to
pounce on the first migrating sparrow that
may have arrived. As I paddle or push
along by the edge of the thick ice

which lines the shore--sometimes pushing
against it--I observe that it
is curiously worn by the water into this
form {drawing} the dotted line being the
water's edge. The
water has eaten into the edge of the ice,
(which may be 1 1/2 inches beneath the top)
just where its surface meets it,^ 4 or 5 inches
or more--leaving a sharp projecting eave
above--while the lower part 5 or 6 inches
thick--being preserved hard by the water p---
slopes off to a very sharp edge from
one to even 4 feet from the upper. The undu-
lations made by my boat and paddle--striking
under this eave--make a constant sound
as I pass. I am surprised to find that
the river has not yet worn through F-- H. Pond
//
Getting up a weed with the paddle close to the
shore under water--where 5 or 6 inches deep--
I found a fish-worm in the mud. Here
//
& there floating or on the edge of the
ice I see small pieces of Nuphar root
with a few rolled pointed leaf buds. prob
gnawed off by the muskrats. The greater
part of the Wood meadow this side Clam
shell has been lifted up & rotted again--
& it now sounds hollow & sinks under
my steps.
The wind has got round more to the east
now at 5 pm & is raw & disagreeable
& produces a bluish haze or mist at once
//
in the air. It is early for such a phenom-

smelled muskrats in 2 places & saw 2
Saw by their white droppings on the bottom where ducks had fed.
enon. I hear at last the--tchuck

// tchuck of a blackbird & looking up
see him flying high over the river--
S Westerly--the wrong way--in great haste
to reach somewhere--& when I reach my
landing" I hear my first blue-bird, some
where about cheney's trees by the river--I hear
him out of the blue deeps, but do not yet
see his blue body-- He comes with a warble.

Now first generally heard in the village.
Not a duck do I see-- It is perhaps too bright & serene a day for them
Mar 20

A flurry of snow--at 7 Am. I go to turn

my boat up-- 4 or 5 song sparrows are
flitting along amid the willows by the water
side. Prob. they came yesterday with the
blue birds. From distant trees & bushes I hear
tinkling
a faint ^ te te te te té--& at last a full
strain whose rhythm is whit whit whit,
deliberately sung or measuredly
teer tehe, tehear tehe,^ while the falling
snow is beginning to whiten the ground.

Not discouraged by such a reception. The blue-
bird too is in the air & I detect its blue back
for a moment upon a picket.

It is remarkable by what a gradation of
days which we call pleasant & warm--
beginning in the last of February--we
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 possibly not underlined
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—and 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. I see a black willow
breaks them lower down—setting 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
ove the stream
had previously been bent & 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
sometimes oak & elm chafed white to
the height of 3 or 4 feet—and the maples
also
birches &c being ^ divested of their lichens

18 Possibly not underlined
you see exactly the height at which the water stood when it froze. The lower twigs of swamp wht oaks over the water are as it were nibbled off by the ice. Were those rocks by the shore this side the leaning hemlocks placed there by the ice?

Some willow catkins whose limb was bent down & held in the ice are 3/8 of an inch long the down beyond the scale. I see // maple sap flowing & taste it sweet in many places where the branches have been stripped down-- In the meadow near the stone heaps I pace a space laid bare by the ice 14 rods x 1 to 4 nearly 1/4 of an acre only The crust raised is commonly 4 or 5 inches thick--or down to where the grass roots break--and it is taken principally from covered at the time of the freezing the higher parts of a meadow--^frequently longitudinal from a ^ swell. We notice the color // of the water especially at this season where v 16th ult it is recently revealed--^& in the fall-- because there is little color elsewhere-- When it is seen in contrast with the ice or snow or russet landscape. It shows best in a clear air contrasting with the russet shores. At my landing I hear the peculiar tche tche, or somewhat like that // tche tche,^ of the F hiemalis--in company from the cold wind with a few tree sparrows-- They take refuge,^ half a dozen in all, behind an arbor vitae
hedge & there plume themselves with puffed
up feathers.

Mar 21st
6 1/2 Am to swamp B. Brook
Clear, but A very cold westerly wind this morning--ground
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.

1Cancelled comma.
2Because "Clear, but" was added, start new paragraph with this line
There is no opening in Flints Pond except a very little around the boat house. The tree sparrow---flitting song-sparrowlike through the alders utters a sharp metallic *tcheep*. In the hollow behind Brittain’s Camp—I see 7 mouse holes—prob. *Mus leucopus*—around an old oak stump—all within a foot of it many & *mmm* of their droppings at each hole & where they have gnawed off the grass—*s* indistinct galleries in the grass extending 3 or 4 feet on every side. I see red maple sap—oozing out & wetting the young trees where there is no obvious wound. Crossed Goose pond on ice.

Mar 22nd

6 1/2 Am to Hill. Over-cast—& cold. Yet there is quite a concert of birds along the river—the song-sparrows are very lively & musical—the black-birds already sing *gurgle-e-e-e* from time to time—on the top of a willow or elm or maple—but oftener—a sharp—shril—whistle—or a *schuck*. I also hear a short regular robin song—though many are flitting about with hurried note the blue bird faintly warbles—with such ventriloquism that I thought him further off—He requires a warmer air—the jays scream—I hear the downy woodpeckers rapid tapping—*s*

my first distinct spring note (*phe-hw*) of the chicadee.
The river has skimmed over a rod in breadth along the sides. Saw a heavy-flapping bittern—
like bird flying N. E. "Can it be the stake-driver?? or a gull?"

A (prob. mead.) mouse nest in the low mead.

by stone bridge—where it must have been covered

with water a month ago—prob. mad in fall.

Low in the grass a little dome 4 inches in diameter—with no sign of entrance—it being very low on one side—Made of fine mead. grass.

Though there was a clear strip in the west only about 3 times the height of the mts—& much less in the east—

I saw the sun shining on the Peterboro mts while we had not had a rau from him— Did the rays at this hour (?) pass over the clouds which shaded us?? They may have passed farther north than the clouds reached for there seemed a lifting in the horizon there.

P. m. F. H. Pond via Conantum.10

Caught a lizard in salamander in the Spring hole in the brook behind Hubbards

3 1/4 inch long—tail alone 1 1/2+ a dozen or more marks as of ribs on side in water—

-- It was lying on the mud as if basking—

Under microscope all above very finely sprinkled black & light brown—hard to tell which the ground.

I have not yet identified it. It has no bright spots—being uniformly dark above—beneath bluish & sides of dull bluish or slate—beneath tail somewhat golden.

Iridescence dull golden last 5/8 inch of tail brighter colored partially

I have noticed crows in the meadows ever since they were first bare—the mid of last mont 3 weeks ago.

I hear a song spar on an alder top

\[10^9\]probably emend to "ray""  
\[10^9\]Could make right flush
2 wick

sing ozit ozit oze-e-e / tchirp tchirp tchirp tchirp
tchay / te tchip ter che ter tcchay. Also the
same shortened--and very much varied.

Heard one sing uninterrupted, i.e. without
a pause almost a minute. I crossed Fair.
// H. Pond including the river--on the ice &.
probably can for 3 or 4 days yet.
// C. says he has already seen a little dipper.

How long?

Going the steep side hill on the S of the
about 4 Pm
Pond ^ on the edge of the little patch
of wood which the choppers have not
yet levelled,--though they have felled
many an acre around it this winter--
rotten & cotton hollow
I observed a ^ hemlock stump about 2 feet
high & 6 inches in diameter--& instinctively ap-
right
proached with my ^ hand read to cover it. I
// found a flying squirrel in it--which as my
left hand covered a small hole at the bottom
ran directly into my right hand. It struggled
cotton
& bit not a little, but my woolen gloves
protected me & I felt its teeth only once or
twice. It also uttered 3 or 4 dry shrieks
at first--something like Cr-r-rack--
Cr-r-r-ack pr-r-r-ack-- I rolled
it up in my handcherchief & holding
the ends light--carried it home--
in my hand--some 3 miles. It struggled
more or less all the way--especially
when my feet made any unusual or louder
noise going through leaves or bushes-- I could
as they appeared
count its claws through the handkerchief &
when it got its head out a hole. It even bit
through the handkerchief.
as I remember chestnut ash or cream
Color above a inclining to fawn color?
slightly browned-- beneath white--the under
edge of its wings (?) tinged yellow--the upper
Aud. & Bach do not speak of any such stripe!
dark perhaps black--making a dark stripe--

It was a very cunning little animal-- remind-
ing me of a mouse in the room-- Its very large
& prominent black eyes gave it an inter-
eting innocent look. Its very neat flat fawn-
coiled distichous tail--was a great ornament--
Its "sails" were not very obvious when it was at
rest--merely giving it a flat appearance
beneath-- It would leap off & upward
into the air 2 or 3 feet from a table &
sprawling its "sails" & fall to the
floor in vain-- perhaps strike the side of
the room in its upward spring &--endeavor
to cling to it-- It would run up the window
by the sash-- but evidently found the furniture
& walls & floor to hard & smooth for it
& after some falls became quiet. In a
few moments it allowed me to stroke it
though far from confident.

I put it in a barrel & covered it for the
night-- It was quite busy all the
evening gnawing out--clinging for this
purpose & gnawing at the upper edge
of a round oak barrel--& then dropping
to rest from time to time--& had defaced
the barrel considerably by morning--&
would probably have escaped if I had not
placed a piece of iron against the
gnawed part-- I had left in the barrel
some bread--apple--shagbarks & cheese.
It ate some of the apple & one shagbark--
cutting it quite in two transversely.
In the morning it was quiet & 
squatted somewhat curled up
amid the straw with its tail passing under it & the
end curved over its head--very perttily--as if
to shield it from the light & keep it warm.
I always found it in this position by day when
I raised the lid

Mar 23d

Pm To F. H. Pond

Carried my flying squirrel back to the
woods in my handkerchief. I placed it
about 3 1/2 Pm--on the very stump I
had taken it from. It immediately ran
about a rod over the leaves & up a
slender maple sapling about 10 feet,
then after a moment's pause spran off
& skinned downward toward a large maple
9 feet distant
"whose trunk it struck 3 or 4 feet from
the ground-- This it rapidly ascended,
on the opposite side from me, nearly 30
feet & there clung\textsuperscript{112} to the main stem with
its head downward eyeing me. After 2 or 3 min-
utes pause--I saw that it was preparing for
another spring--by raising its head & looking
off--& away it went in admirable style
more like a bird than any quadruped
I had dreamed of--& far surpassing the
impression I had received from naturalists',
accounts-- I marked the spot it started
from & the place where it struck & measured
the height & distance carefully-- It sprang
off from the maple at the height of 28 1/2
feet \textsuperscript{\textit{from the ground}}\textsuperscript{113} & struck the
ground at the foot of a tree 50 1/2 feet dis-
tant, measured horizontally. Its flight
was not a \textit{regular} descent--it varied
from a directly line both horizontally
& vertically-- Indeed it skinned much
like a hawk & Part\textsuperscript{114} of its flight was
nearly horizontal--& it diverged from
a sight line 8 or 10 feet to the right--
making a curve in that direction. There
were 6 trees from 6 inches to a foot
one a hemlock
in diameter \textsuperscript{\textit{in a direct line between}}
the two termini, & there it skimmed partly
round--& passed through their thinner limbs
as I could perceive
did not touch a twig--& skimmed its way
like a hawk between & around the trees.
Though it was a windy day--this was on
a steep hill side away from the wind & covered
with wood--so it was not aided by that.
As the ground rose about 2 feet--its
progress the distance was to the absolute height
as 50 1/2 to 26 1/2--or it advanced about
2 feet for every 1 foot of descent. After its
vain attempts in the house, I was not
prepared for this exhibition-- It did not
fall heavily as in the house, but struck
the ground gently enough--& I cannot
believe that the mere extension of the
skin enabled it to skim so far-- It
must be still further aided by its
organization-- Perhaps it fills itself with
air first. Perhaps I had a fairer
view than common of its flight now at
Aud. & bach. say he saw it skim "about 50 yards" curving upwards
NB 3 1/2 Pm. at the end & alighting on the trunk of a tree.. This in a meadow
in which were scattered oaks & beeches. This near Philadelphia.
Kicking over the hemlock stump--which
Wesson says he has seen them fly 5 or 6 rods.
was a mere shell with holes below--& a poor
refuge--I was surprised to find a little nest
at the bottom open above just like a bird's
nest--a mere bird bed. It was composed
of leaves & few shreds of bark &
dead pine needles. As I remember, it was not more than 1 1/2 inches broad when at rest—
but when skimming through the air—I should say it was 4 inches broad. This is the impression I now have. Capt. J. Smith says it is said to fly 30 or 40 yards. Aud. & Bach. quote one Gideon B. Smith M. D. of Baltimore who has had much to do with these squirrels—and speaks of their curving upward at the end of their flight to alight on a tree trunk—of their "flying" into his windows.

In order to perform all these flights—to strike a tree at such a distance &c &c it is evident it is evident it must be able to steer—
I should say that mine steered as a hawk—that moves without flapping its wings—never being able however to get a new impetus—after the first spring.

C. saw geese tonight

Mar 24th 55

I think that the celandine started as early as the 10th of March—and has since been nibbled off by hens &c for it shows more green—but not longer—

Pm up Assabet—by boat

A cold & blustering P. m. after a flurry of snow which has not fairly whitened the ground.

I see a painted tortoise at the bottom moving slowly over the meadow. They do not
yet put their heads out—but merely begin

to venture forth into their calmer element.

It is almost as stationary—as inert as the
pads as yet—Passing up the Assabet by
the hemlocks where there has been a slide—
& some rocks have slid down into the river—I
think I see how rocks come to be found in
the midst of rivers. Rivers are continually
changing their channels—eating into one
bank & adding their sediment to the other—
So that frequently where there is a great bend
you see a high & steep bank or hill on one
side—which the river washes—& on the a
broad meadow on the other—As the river
eats into the hill—especially in freshets—it un-
dermines the rocks—large & small—& they
slide down alone or with the sand & soil into
to the waters edge—The river continues to eat into
the hill, carrying away all the lighter
parts the sand & soil, to add to its meadows
or islands somewhere—but leaves the
rocks where they rested—& thus in course of
time they occupy the middle of the stream—
& later still the mid of the meadow perchance
though it may be buried under the mud.
But this does not explain how so many
rocks lying in streams have been split
in the direction of the current—
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\118--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 \119 they are much lengthened & enlarged
now visibly loosend--\119 as you look endwise at
the catkins\119 The White maple buds too
show some further expansion methinks?

The last 4 days--including this\118--
\118 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-
el 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.

\119 letters "l" and "p" run together into one letter, one word
\118 T drew a line to connect the caret and the interlineation at line 14 to reposition the material; originally it was caret to follow "loosend--"; T cancelled that caret
\120 Possibly altered from "the"
It is too cold to think of those signs of spring—which I find recorded under this date last year. The earliest signs of spring in vegetation noticed thus far are the maple sap—the willow catkins (& poplars (?) grass on S. banks & perhaps cowslip in sheltered places not examined early) the celandine (?)—Alder catkins loosened—& also white maple buds loosened (?)

I am not sure that the osiers are decidedly brighter yet.

Mar. 25th '55

P. m. to Ministerial Lot—

Still cold & blustering—The ditches where I have seen salamanders last year before this are still frozen up. Was it not a sucker? I saw dart along the brook beyond Jennie’s? I see where the squirrels have fed extensively on the acorns now exposed in the melting of the snow—The ground is strewn with the freshly torn shells & nibbled meat in some places.

Mar. 26th '55

6 Am Still cold & blustering—wind SW. but clear—

I see a muskrat house just erected—2 feet or more above the water & sharp—and at the Hub. bath—a mink comes tetering along the ice by the side of the river—I am between him & the sun & he does not notice me—He runs daintily lifting his feet with a jerk as if his toes were sore. They seem to go a-hunting
at night--along the edge of the river
--perhaps I notice them more at this season when the shallow water freezes
at night & there is no vegetation along
the shore to conceal them.

The lark sings perched on the top of an apple-tree Seel-yah Seel-yah &
then perhaps Seel-yah-see-e & several other strains--quite sweet & plaintive--contrasting
with the cheerless season & the bleak-meadows--
Further off I hear one like ah-tick-seel-yah
Pm sail down to the Grt Meadows--
A strong wind with snow driving from the west--
& thickening the air. The farmers pause to
see me scud before it. At last I land & walk further down on the meadow
bank. I scare up several flocks of ducks--
There is but little water on the meadow & that far down & partly frozen--but a great many acres of the meadow lifted & crust have there been ^ broken up by the ice--& now make hundreds of slanting isles amid the shallow water--looking like waves of earth--& amid these the ducks are sailing & feeding. The nearest prob. sheldrakes--
are 2 ap mid. sized with black heads--
white breast & wings & ap. all above but the tail or tips of wings which are black.
A third with them is ap. all dark.

12Possibly altered from "the"
I do not know what to call them. You are much more sure to see ducks in a stormy afternoon like this--than in a bright & pleasant one-- Returning I see near the Island 2 ducks which have the marks (on one of them) of the wood duck (--i.e one or 2 longitudinal white stripes down the head & neck)---but when they go over I hear distinctly & for a long time the whistling fine & sharp golden eyes or\textsuperscript{125} Were they the // of their wings--\^ Are they "Whistlers"\textsuperscript{126} harlequin Ducks\textsuperscript{127} prob male & female wood duck\textsuperscript{128} For several weeks or since the ice has melted--I notice the paths made by the muskrats when the water was high in the winter leading from the river up the bank to a bed of grass above or below the surface-- When it runs under the surface I frequently slump into it--\& can trace it to the bed by the hollow sound when I stamp on the frozen ground. They have disfigured the banks very much in some places only the past winter. Clams have been carried into these galleries a rod or more under the earth. The galleries kept on the surface\textsuperscript{129} & terminated perhaps at some stump where the earth was a little raised--When the ice still remained thick over them after the water had gone down. I was surprised to find fish worms only // four inches beneath the surface in the

\textsuperscript{125}"golden eyes or" cancelled in pencil
\textsuperscript{126}"are they whistlers?" cancelled in pencil
\textsuperscript{127}"Were . . . Ducks" cancelled in pencil
\textsuperscript{128}Written over another word
\textsuperscript{129}Possibly altered from "surfaces"
meadow close against the frozen portion of the
A few may be also be found on the bottoms of brooks
& ditches in the water—where they are prob. food for the earliest fishes
crust.” Is that little flat moss like—or
Jungermannia-like plant on Cheney's shore the
//
Selaginella apus? It reminds me of the
finest lace work.

Mar 27th 6 1/2 Am to Island.
The ducks sleep these nights in the shallowest
water which does not freeze—and there may be
found early in the morning—I think that they
prefer that part of the shore which is permanently
covered.
Snow last evening—about 1 inch deep—and
now it fair & somewhat warmer—Again
I see the tracks of rabbits squirrels &c—It
would be a good time this forenoon to ex-
amine the tracks of woodchucks & see what they
are about.
P. m. to Hub’s Close & down brook.
Measured a black oak just sawed down—
23 inches in diameter on the ground—and 54
rings. It had grown twice as much on the
east side as on the west. The fringilla
Linaria still here. Saw a wood tortoise in
the brook. Am surprised to see the
cowslip so forward showing so much green in
E. Hub's swamp in the brook—where it is sheltered from
the wind. The already expanded leaves rise above the
water—If this is a spring growth—& it is the most

130Looks like T spelled it "Jungermnia"—can construe the "a"?
forward herb I have seen--not excepting the
as forward as the celandine.
// Saw my frog-hawk--(C. saw it about a week ago)
Prob. P fuscus or sharp-shinned though not well de-
cribed by Wilson. Slate-colored--beating the bush--blak tips
to wings & white rump. %No it is the hen-harrier (note)%
Mar 28--
Pm to Cliffs along river--
It is colder than yesterday--wind strong from
N. W. The mts are still covered with snow They
have not once been bare. I go looking for
meadow mice nests--but the ground is frozen
so hard, except in the meadow below the banks--
that I cannot come at them. That portion
of the meadow next the upland--which is now
thawed has already many earth worms in
I can dig a quantity of them--I suspect more than in Summer--
it. %Moles might already get their living there.
// A yel. spot tortoise in a still ditch--which has
a little ice also. It at first glance reminds
me of a bright freckled leaf--skunk cab-
scape perhaps-- They are generally quite still
at this season--or only slowly put their heads
// out (of their shells)-- I see where a skunk
ap. has been probing the sod--though it is thawed
but a few inches, & all around this spot frozen
hard still-- I dig up there a frozen & dead white
grub--the large potato grub-- This I think he
was after. The skunks nose has made small
or cane
round holes such as a small stick % would
make. The river has not yet quite wore
// its way through F-- H. Pond--but prob.
will tomorrow.
I run about these cold & blustering days
on the whole perhaps the worst to bear in
the year—(partly because they disappoint expectation)
looking almost in vain for some animal or
vegetable life stirring— The warmest springs
hardly allow me the glimpse of a frog's heel as he
settles himself in the mud—& I think I am lucky
if I see one winter-defying hawk or a hardy
duck or two at a distance on the water. As have
for the singing of birds—the few that come
to us—It is too cold for them to sing & for me
to hear— The blue bird's warble—comes feeble
& frozen to my ear— We still walk on frozen
ground—though in the garden I can thrust
a spade in about 6 inches.

Over a great many acres the meadows have
great
been cut up into squares & other figures by the
ice of February—as if ready to be removed—sometimes
separated by narrow & deep channels like muskrat
paths—but oftener the edges have been raised
ap.
& ^ stretched—and settling have not fallen into
their places exactly but lodged on their neighbors.
Even yet you see cakes of ice surmounted by
a shell of mead—crust—which has preserved it—
while all around is bare meadow.

Mar 29th

Pm. to Flints P.

Flints P. is entirely open

11Possibly altered from "For"—in AL table
Possibly altered from "in"

Possibly altered from "buds" or another word

may have been a day or 2-- There was only a

slight opening about the boathouse on the 21st

& the weather has been very cold ever since.

Walden is more than 1/2 open--Goose pond only

a little about the shores--& F. H Pond--only just

open over the channel of the river-- There is washed 32

up on the shore of Flint's some pretty little whorls

of the radical leaves of the L. Dortmann--with

its white root fibres 33--

As I stand on Heywood’s Peak looking over

more than

Walden--^half its surface already sparkling

blue water--I inhale with pleasure the

cold but wholesome air--like a draught

of cold water--contrasting it in my memory

with the wind of summer--which I do

not thus eagerly swallow. This which

is a chilling wind to my fellow is decidedly

refreshing to me & I swallow it with eager-

ness--as a panacea-- I feel an impulse

also already to jump into the half melted

pond. This cold wind is refreshing to my palate

as the warm air of summer is not me-

thinks-- I love to stand there & be blown

on as much as a horse in July. A field of

ice nearly half as big as the pond--has

drifted against the eastern shore & crumbled

up against it forming a shining white wall--

of its fragments

Mar 30 6 1/2 Am to Island

It is a little warmer than of late though

still the shallows are skimmed over--

// The pickerel begin to dart from
the shallowest parts not frozen-- I hear many
phe-be--notes from the chicadees as if they 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 against 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 perceptible 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 a few black-birds--robins--blue-birds
tree sparrows--Larks &c but the song-sparrow chiefly
is heard these days.

1"Possibly altered from "the"
He must have a great deal of life in him
to draw upon—who can pick up a subsistence
in November & March—Man comes out
of his winter quarters this month as lean
as a woodchuck. Not till late—
could the skunk find a place where the
ground was thawed on the surface—
Except for science—do not travel in
such a climate as this—in November & March.
I tried if a fish would take the bait
// today—but in vain I did not get a
nibble—where are they? I read that
a great many bass were taken in the Merri-
mack last week. Do not the suckers move
at the same time?

Mar 31st
I see through the window that it is a
// very fine day—the first really warm one.
I did not know the whole till I came
out at 3 pm
& walked to the Cliffs—
The slight haze of yesterday has become
// very thick—with a SW wind—concealing
the mts. I can see it in the air within
2 or 3 rods as I look against the
bushes—The fuzzy gnats are in the air
& blue birds whose warble is thawed
out—I am uncomfortably warm
gradually unbutton both my coats, &

wish that I had left the outside one

at home. I go listening for the croak

of the 1st frog--or peep of a hylodes-- It is suddenly

warm--and this amelioration of the weather

is incomparably the most important

fact in this vicinity. It is incredible

what a revolution in our feelings & in

the aspect of nature--this warmer air

alone has produced-- Yesterday the earth

was simple to barrenness & dead--bound

out-- Out o doors there was nothing but

the wind & the withered grass & the cold

though sparkling blue water--& you were

driven in upon yourself-- Now you would

think that there was a suddene awakening

in the very crust of the earth--as if flowers

were expanding & leaves putting forth--

but not so-- I listen in vain to hear

a frog or a new bird as yet;--only a the frozen

ground is melting a little deeper & the water

is trickling down the hills in some places.  

No--the change is mainly in us-- We

feel as if we had obtained a new lease

of life Some juniper (repens) berries

are blue now-- Looking from the Cliffs

I see that Walden is open today first. & F. H. P

will open by day after tomorrow no--v Ap. 4th

135 Period probably stray mark.
Ap 1st

The month comes in true to its reputation.
We wake--though late--to hear the sound & rather warm
// of a strong steady ^ rain on the roof--&
see the puddles shining in the road.
It lasts till the middle of the day & then
is succeeded by a cold NW wind.

This pattering rain & sabbath morning combined make us all sluggards.

When I look out the window I see that the grass on the bank on the S side of the house is already much greener than it was yesterday-- As it cannot have grown so suddenly--how shall I account for it?
I suspect that the reason is that the few green blades are not merely washed bright by the rain--but erect themselves to imbibe its influence while the and so are more prominent while the withered blades are beaten down & flattened by it.

It is remarkable how much to all superficial vegetation or greenness is a morning frost in march-- than a covering of snow or ice.

In hollows where the ice is still melting I see the grass considerably green about its edges--though further off it shows no sign of life.

Pm to Conantum bend.136

This rain will help take the frost
out of the ground. At the 1st Conant. Cliff

I am surprised to see how much the
Columbine leaves have grown in a sheltered
Cleft--also the cinque-foil137--dandelion?--
yarrow?--sorrel--saxifrage &c &c They
seem to improve the least warmer ray
to advance themselves--& they hold all they
get. One of the earliest-looking
plants in water is the golden saxifrage.

The last half of last month was
cold & windy--excepting the 19th--wind NW
--W & SW-- It at last ceased to be chilling
the 29 & 30--which were fine clear cool
but windy day-- On the 30th a slight haze-- --
then the 31st was suddenly warm with
a thick haze--thawing man & earth--& this
succeeded by today's rain.

See resting on the edge of the ice in F. H. Pond
a white duck--with black head & a dark one--
they take to the water when I appear on the hill
1/4 of a mile off & soon fly down the
river rather low over the water. Were they
not the same with those of the 16th ult?

Ap. 2nd

Not only the grass but the pines also were
greener yesterday for being wet. To day the
grass being dry the green blades are less

137 Vertical pencil line through line
conspicuous than yesterday—It would seem
then that this color is more vivid when
wet—and perhaps all green plants like
lichens are to some extent greener in moist
weather. Green is essentially vivid—or the color of life
& it is therefore most brilliant when a plant
is moist or most alive. A plant is said
to be green in opposition to being withered & dead.
the word, ac. to Webster, is from the
Saxon græne to grow & hence is the color
of herbage when growing.

High winds all night rocking the
house—opening doors &c—today also. It
is wintry cold also—& ice has formed nearly
an inch thick in my boat.

Pm Down the river bank—
The wind is still very strong and cold
from the NW—filling the air with dust—
which has slightly risen
and blowing the water ^ over the rocks
& bushes along the shore—where it
freezes in the shape of bulls' horns
about the osiers—making coarse
rakes with its dependant icicles when
the osiers are horizontal—also
turtle-shells over the rocks—It is just
such a wind & freezing as that of
March
last (18th I think) & if the mead
ow was flooded there would prob be as

128 Followed by downward facing caret indicating insertion of paragraph "Green... growing."
129 Followed by cancelled false start
much ice as then on the bushes— There
may be wind enough for this phenom-
non, in the winter, but then there is no open
water to be blown—

Ap 3d

It is somewhat warmer but still windy—
& P-- m. I go to sail—down to the Island & up
to Hubbards Causeway. Most would call it
cold today— I paddle without gloves— It is
a coolness—like that of Mar. 29th & 30th—
pleasant to breathe—& perhaps like that
prespaging decidedly warm weather— It is
an amelioration—as nature does nothing suddenly.
The shores are lined with frozen spray—
like foam with an abrupt edge—a foot
high often in the water side— Occasionally
where there twigs—there is a nest of those
short thick bull’s horn icicles—pointing
in every direction. I see many hens
feeding close to the rivers edge—like
the crows—(robin’s & black-birds later) & I
have no doubt they are attracted by a like
cause— The ground being first thawed there
not only worms but other insect & vege-
table life is accessible there sooner than
elsewhere. See several pairs of ducks—
mostly black.

10 Possibly altered from “shoot”
11”tt” cross for “tt” is in pencil
Possibly altered from "Pond"

Returning when off the hill was attracted by the noise of crows, which betrayed to me a very large hawk? large enough for an eagle--sitting on a maple beneath them-- Now & then they dived at him--& at last he sailed away low round the hill as if hunting. The hill side was alive with sparrows--red-wings--& the first // grackles I have seen-- I detected them or was that a crow-b-- bird? first by their more rasping note-- After a short stuttering--then a fine clear whistle.

Ap. 4th

A fine morning--still & bright with smooth water--and singing of song & tree sparrows // & some black-birds-- A nuthatch is heard on the elms & 2 ducks fly upward on the sunward over the river.

Pm. to Clematis Brook'--via Lee's A pleasant day growing warmer, a slight haze. Now the hedges & apple trees are alive with fox-colored sparrows-- all over the town--and their imperfect strains are occasionally heard. Their clear fox colored backs are very handsome-- I get quite near to them. Stood // quite near to what I called a hairy woodpecker--(but seeing the downy afterward, I am in doubt about it)
its body certainly as big as a robin-- It is
a question of size bet the 2 kinds-- The
near the end of
rows of white spots on the wings of the downy
remind me of the lacings on the skirts
of a soldier's coat. Talked with
Daniel Garfield near the old house on Conant-
un--he was going to see if his boat was
in order for fishing. Said he had been
a fishing\(^2\) as early as this & caught perch
often
&c with a worm-- He had ^ caught shiners
in Fair Haven P through the ice in
March--\(^3\) once a trout in deep water
which weighed 2 pounds
off Bakers Steep hill--"his lines having
been left in over night. He had also
often caught the little perch in White
pond in mid-winter for bait. Sees trout
& sucker running up brooks at this
season and earlier--\(^4\) thinks they go out
of them in the fall, but not out of the
river. Does not know where they go to.

I am surprised to the pond i.e F. H. P.
yet yet fully\(^5\) open--there is large
mass of ice in the Eastern bay--which
The rain of the 5th P. m. must have
\(^//\)
will hardly melt to-morrow-- finished it
It is a fine air--but more than
tempered by the snow in the north-west--
All the earth is bright. the very
pines glisten--& the water is a bright blue

\(^2\)Period probably ink drop
\(^3\)Possibly altered from "full of"
A gull is circling round F H Pond seen
white against the woods & hill sides--
looking as if it would dive for a fish every moment--
& occasionally resting on the ice-- The
water above Lees bridge is all alive
with ducks-- There are many flocks
of 8 or 10 together--their black heads &
white breasts seen above the water

// --more of them than I have seen before this sea-
son--& a gull with its whole body above the
water--perhaps standing where it was shallow--
Not only are the evergreens brighter--
but the pools--as that upland one
behind Lees--the ice as well as snow--
about their edges being now completely
melted--have a peculiarly warm--watery
& bright April look--as if ready to
be inhabited by frogs

I can now put a spad into the garden

// anywhere-- The rain of Ap 1st & the warmth
of today have taken out the frost there--
by I cannot put a spade into banks
by' the meadow where there is the
least slope to the north

Returning--from Mt Misery the pond
& river reach presented a fine warm
view-- The slight haze which on a
warmer day at this season softens

'Possibly altered from "on" or "to"
the rough surfaces which the winter has
left-- & fills the copses seemingly with
life-- (makes them appear to teem with life) --
mad the landscape remarkably fair.
It would not be called a warm --
but a pleasant day -- but the water
has crept partly over the meadows -- and
the broad border of button bushes &c &c off
Wheelers Cranberry Meadow -- low & nearly flat
though sloping regularly from an abrupt curving
edge on the river side several rods into
the meadow till it is submerged -- this
is isolated -- but at this distance & through
this air it is remarkably soft & elysian.
There is a remarkable variety in the
from this summit
view at present -- The sun feels as warm
is in June on my ear -- half a mile
high
off in front -- is this elysian water ^ over
which 2 wild ducks are winging their
rapid flight eastward through the
clear
bright air -- on each side & beyond the
earth is clad with a warm russet --
more pleasing perhaps than green --
& far beyond all in the N -- W. horizon
my eye rests on a range of snow-covered
mountains -- glistening in the sun.

Possibly altered from "low"
Possibly altered from "&c"
Ap 5th Fast day.

9. Am. to Sudbury line by boat--

A still & rather warm morning--with

a very thick haze concealing the sun

& threatening to turn to rain

It is a smooth april morning water--

& many sportsmen are out in their boats.

I see a pleasure-boat--on the smooth

surface away by the Rock--resting

lightly as a feather in the air--

Scare up a snipe close to the water's edges

& soon after a hen hawk from the

Clam shell oaks-- The last looks larger

on his perch than flying. The snipe too

then--like crows--robins--black-birds

& hen--is found near the water side--

where is the first spring (E.g. alders & wht--

maples--&c &c) and there too especially are

heard the song and tree sparrows. & pewees--

& even the hen-hawks at this season haunts

there for his prey. Inland the groves

are almost completely silent as yet.

The Concert of song & tree spars at willow

row is now very full--& their dif notes are

completely mingled. See a single white-

bellied swallow dashing over the river

He too is attracted here by the early

insects that begin to to be seen over
It is a sober moist day with a circle round the sun—which I can
the water. It being Fast day—we on the water
only see in the reflection in the water—
hear the loud & musical sound of bells ring—
ing for church in the surrounding towns.
The river appears to have risen still last night
& many spring-cranberries are washed together at last
owing to the rain of the 1st & now many
new seeds ap. of sedges are loosened & washed up—
Now that for the most part it is melted quite
to its edge—and there is no ice there—the water
has a warmer april look close under my eye.
Now is the first time this year to get spring cranberries
There is a strong muskrat scent from
many a shore. See a muskrat floating
In many places now the river wreck is chiefly composed of Juncus militaris—was it so
in fall?
which may have been drowned when the
river was so high in mid winter—for this is
the 2nd I have seen—with the rabbit
a yel-- spot
I saw yesterday & see today—a painted toise already out on the bank or a tuft
of grass—The muskrat hunter sits patiently
with cocked gun waiting for a muskrat
to put out his head amid the button
bushes—he gets half a dozen—in such
a cruise. Bushed our boat with hemlock
to get near some ducks—but another boat
above also bushed scared them. Heard
from one half flooded meadow that
low general hard stuttering tut tut tut
of frogs (?) The awakening of the meadow.
Hear the cry of the Peacock again.
By four Pm it began to rain gently--or mizzle. Saw this forenoon a great many of those little fuzzy gnats in the air

Ap. 6th

It clears up at 8 Pm--warm & pleasant leaving flitting clouds & a little wind.

& I go up the Assabet in my boat--

The black-birds have now begun to frequent the waters edge in the meadow--the ice being sufficiently out. The april waters--smooth (none yet)

and commonly high--before many flowers or any leafing--while the landscape is still russet & frogs are just awakening--is peculiar--

It began yesterday. A very few white-maple stames stand out already loosely enough to blow in the wind--& some alder catkins look almost ready to shed pollen. On the hill sides I smell the dried leaves & hear a few flies buzzing over them-- The banks of the river are alive with song sparrows & tree-sparrows--they now sing in advance of vegetation as the flowers will blossom--those slight tinkling--twittering sounds called the singing of birds--they have come to enliven the bare twigs before the buds show any signs of

// starting. I see a large wood tortoise just crawled out upon the bank with 3 oval low-bug like leeches on its sternum.

You can hear all day from time to time in any part of the village the sound of a gun fired at ducks. Yesterday I was wishing that I could find a dead duck floating
on the water, as I had found muskrats & a hare--& now I see something bright & reflect-
ing the light from the edge of the alders  
5 or 6 rods off-- Can it be a duck?-- I can hardly believe my eyes-- I am near enough to see its green head & neck-- I am delighted to find a perfect specimen of the *Mergus Merganser* or Goosander--undoubtedly shot yesterday by the Fast Day sportsmen--& I take a small flattend shot from its wing--flattend against the wing bone ap-- The wing is broken & it is shot through the head-- It is a perfectly fresh and very beautiful bird--& as I raise it, I get sight of its long slender vermilion bill (color of red sealing wax) & its clean bright orange legs & feet-- & then of its perfectly smooth & spotlessly pure white breast & belly tinged with a faint salmon--(or say* tinged with a delicate buff The chief wound was in a wing which was broken. I afterward took 3 small shot inclining to salmon--) This ac to Wilson* is one from it which was flattened against the bill's base* & perhaps? the quills shafts-- of the mergansers or Fisher Ducks of which there are 9 or 10 species & we have four--in Am. It is the largest of these 4--feeds almost entirely on fin & shell fish--called Water Pheasant Sheldrake--Fisherman Diver--Dun Diver-- sparkling Fowl--Harle &c as well as Goosander-- Go in April return in Nov. Jardine has found seven trout in one female.  
Nuttall says they breed in the Russian Empire

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*Cancelled in pencil  
*Possibly written over text  
*Possibly "were"  
*"bill's base" possibly altered from other words
are seen in Mississippi & Missouri in winter. He
found a young brood in Pennsylvania.
Yarrell--says they are called also Saw-bill &
Jack-saw--are sometimes sold in London market.
Nest ac. to Selby on ground--ac to others in a hollow
tree also-- Found on the Continent of Europe--
northern Asia--& even in Japan (?) Some breed in
the Orkneys & therabouts. %V n. p.%
My bird is 25 ^ inches long--& 35 in alar extent
from point of wing to end of primaries 11 inches.
It is a great diver--& does not mind the
cold. It appears admirably fitted
for diving & swimming. Its body is flat--
& its tail short ^ compact & wedge shaped
--its eyes peer out a slight slit or semi-
circle in the skin of the head--& its legs
& the toes shut up compactly
create the least friction when drawing them
forward--but their broad webs spread
them 3 1/2 inches when they take a stroke.
The web is extended 3/8 of an inch beyond
%V the 9th of April% the inner toe of each foot.%^%
very conspicuous ^ teeth-like serrations along
the edges of its bill & the also is roughened--
so that it may hold its prey securely.
The breast appeared quite ++ dry when
I raised it from the water.
The head & neck are as Wilson: says black
glossed with green--but the lower part
of the neck pure white--& these colors
bound on each other so abruptly that
one appears to be sewed on to the other.
It is a perfect wedge from the mid-
die 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 ^ 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
Possibly altered from "on"

long-- Sometimes carry their young on their
backs in the water. It is common in Sweden & ac

to the traveller Acerbi—in Lapland they give it
a hollow tree to build in & then steal its eggs--
The mother he adds carries her young to the
water in her bill. Y says it is well known

in Russia--& is found in Germany, Holland,
France, Switzerland, Provence, & Italy Has
been seen near the Caucasus (& is found in Japan
ac to one authority) Also in N Am. Hudson's
Bay Greenland—& Iceland.

Ap 7th

In my walk in the P. m. of today I saw from Conantum
say 50 rods distant--2 sheldrakes male
prob
& ^ female sailing on A Wheeler's Cranberry Meadow--
white of the
I saw only the ^ male at first but my glass
revealed the male. The male is easily seen
a great distance on the water--being a large
white mark-- But they will let you come
only within some 60 rods ordinarily. I observed
that they were uneasy at sight of15 me & began
to sail away in different directions. I could
plainly see the vermilion bill of the male
(but he appeared all white above)
& his orange legs when he flew--& the red-
or sorrel
dish brown ^ of the neck of the female & when
she lifted herself in the water (as it were
preparatory to flight) her white breast & belly
-- She had a greyish look on the sides. Soon
they approached each other again--& seemed
at first low down stream
to be conferring--& then they rose & went off
up stream
soon "a hundred feet over the pond the female
leading--the male following close behind--the
black at the end of his curved wings very
conspicuous. I suspect that about all
the conspicuous white ducks I see are goosanders.

I skinned my duck yesterday & stuffed
it today-- It is wonderful that a man having
undertaken such an enterprise ever persevered
in it to the end--& equally wonderful that
he succeeded-- To skin a bird--drawing back-
ward wrong side out over the legs & wings
down to the base of the mandibles--! Who
would expect to see a smooth feather again?

This skin was very tender on the breast. I should
have done better had I stuffed it at once
or turned it back before the skin became stiff--

Look out not to cut the ear & eye-lid--

But what a pot bellied thing is a stuffed
bird compared even with the fresh dead
one I found! It looks no longer like an
otter--like a swift diver but a mere wad-
dling duck. How perfectly the vent of a bird
is covered--! There is no mark externally.

11Possibly altered from "to"
At 6 this morn to Clam Shell-- The

skunk cab-- open yesterday at least XX The earliest

flower this season-- I suspect that the spathes
do not push up in the spring-- This is but

3 inches high-- I see them as high & higher in the
fall, & they seem only to acquire color now

out
& gape open. I see but one ^ & that sheds pollen

" abundantly-- See 3%0% or 40 goldfinches

in a dashing flock--in all respects (notes & all 17)
like lesser red-polls--On the trees by the causeway
& on the RR bank. There is a general twittering
& an occasional mew-- Then they alight on the

ground to feed--along with F hiemalis & fox
colored sparrows-- They are merely olivaceous above
dark about the base of the bill--but bright

lemon yellow in a semicircle on the breast--
& tail
black wings ^ with white bar on wings--& white
vanes to tail. I never saw them here so
early before-- Or probably on or 2 olivaceous

birds I have seen & heard of in 18 other years
What is cock croach? like black beetle (drawing)20 with
were this. Clear but a cold air.
a colored edge (blue?) ^ on pebbles--like cicindelas?
Pm to Hub's close & Lee's Cliff.
of grass on the surface
A mouse nest ^ in Stows Meadow E of RR^.

like those seen in the rye field some weeks
ago--but this in lower ground has a distinct
gallery running from it--& I think is the

nest of the meadow mouse-- The pool at
unbroken gray ice

Hubbard's Close which was full of ice ^ the 27

17"all" written over another word
18"in" written over "were"
19Possibly altered from another word
20"this size" written in center of bug
of march—is now warm looking water—with
the slime covered callitriche standing a foot
the lake grass
high in it—and already a narrow grass ^ has sprung
bent
up & lies ^ 9 or 10 inches flat on the water. //

This is very early—as well as sudden—In 10 days
there has been this change—How much had that
grass grown under the ice—I see many small skaters?1
as long as my finger
in it. Saw a trout ^ in the ditch dug from Brister’s
spring which having no hole over hanging bank
where it could hide—plunged into the mud like
a frog—and was concealed. The female flowers of
the hazel are just beginning to peep out. //

At Lees Cliff I find the radical
leaves of the early saxifrage—columbine—
&c is it the tower mustard—&c much eaten
ap. by prtridge & perhaps rabbits—Below They
must have their greens in the spring & earlier
obviously
than me—Below the rocks the most ^ forward

columbine //
radical leaves are the ^ tower-mustard (if that)

(lanceolate & petioled & remotely toothed)

Early crowfoot[22] [&] The buttercup ^ is a peculiarly sappy dark pickle green—decided
spring & none of your sapless evergreens[23]
& Catnep—& mullein^—The little thyme
which is evergreen
leaved arenaria I believe it is—& some other minute
leaves also already green the ground. The saxifrage
on the rocks will ap open in 2 days it[24] shows
some white. The grass is now conspicuously
green about open springs.[25] in dense tufts.

The frozen sod partly thawed in low grounds

21 "?" possibly inserted
22 Written vertically in left margin, with a connecting line drawn to this sentence.
23 "& none . . . evergreens" written vertically in right margin
24 Possibly altered from "is"
25 "poss "springs"
sinks under me as I walk.  

Ap 8 6 Am up Assabet--  
A fine clear morning. The ground white  
with frost--& all the meadows also & a  
low mist curling over the smooth water  
now in the sun light which gives the  
silver  
water a ^ plated look. The frost covers the  
willows & alders & other trees on the sides  
of the river 15 or 20 feet high-- Quite  
a wintry sight. At first I can hardly dis-  
tinguish Wh^ maple stamens from the frost  
spiculae-- I find some anthers effete & dark  
there are many in this condition  
& others still mealy with pollen--^ The Crimson  
{fern} stigmas also peeping forth. It evidently began  
// to shed pollen yesterday. XXX I find als at length  
// a single catkin of the alnus incana--with  
a few stamens near the peduncle discolored & shedding  
a little dust when shaken so this must have  
begun yesterday XXXX--I think--but it is not so forward  
as the maple-- Though I have looked widely I  
have not found the alder out before.  
// > I see some long cob-web lines covered with  
frost hanging +++++ from tree to tree 6 feet  
in one case, like the ropes which extend  
from mast to mast of a vessel. Hear & see  
// a pigeon woodpecke something like week up  
// week up. The robins now sing in  
full +++++ blast  
Very thin dark ice crystals over shallowest water--showing the  
flat pyramids.
Also song spars & tree spars--f. hiemalis are heard in the yard-- The fox-col sparrow is also there. The tree sparrows have been very musical for several mornings--somewhat canary-like.

As to which are the earliest flowers--I think it & ground bare or not--meadows wet or dry &c &c depends on the character of the season--also on the variety of soils & localities within your reach-- The columbine leaves in the clefts of Cliffs is one of the very earliest obvious growths--I noticed it the first of April-- The rad leaves of the dense buttercup now at Lees Cliff--a small flat ^ circle--are a very diff. color from those evergreen leaves seen when the snow first goe--off-- They ^ emphatically a green green--as if a sort of green fire were kindled under them in the sod. The buds not only of lilacs --but white birches &c. look swolen. When taking the brain out of my duck yesterday--I perceived that the brain was the marrow of the head. & it is probably only a less sentient brain that runs down the back-bone--the spinal marrow--Abiel Wheeler tried to plow in sandy soil yesterday but could not go beyond a certain depth because of frost. // Pm Up Assabet to G. Barrets meadow This forenoon it was still & the water smooth Now there is a strong cool wind from the east. Am surprised to see a round clam close // to the shore at mouth of Dakin's brook in one foot of water-- A school of small minnows //
Already a turtles track on sand close to water--
flutters across

// The great buff-edged butterfly goes over the river--
// afterward I see a small red one over the
// before the 6th)
shore. Though the river-- (excepting F. H. P. ^
has for a week been completely free of ice-- &
only a little thin crystalwise forms in the night
in the shallowest parts-- that thick ice of the
winter (February) on the meadows covered
by pieces of meadow crust is in many place
now that ice is a rather rare sight & plowing is beginning
// still nearly as thick as ever-- ^ It is remarkable
how long this frozen meadow crust lying on it
has preserved it-- Where the pice of meadow
is only 3 or 4 feet in diameter-- its edges now
project over the ice so that the whole looks
like a student's 4-cornered cap-- or that
which the President of Harvard wears. All that
mass on B's meadow appears to have been taken
from the upper part of the meadow near the road
about 30 rods off from where it now lies.

In ^ the ditches near which it was taken up I
see the coarse yellow-reddened & sometimes
// already greentipped pads of the Yellow lily partly
rolled
// at the bottom of the warm water--
The most of a spring growth perhaps in the water--
Also 2 or 3 good sized buds of a healthy green.
Hear at a distance in the sproutlands the
// croaks of frogs from some shallow pool

^2Altered from "S" or "3"
^2Possibly altered from "I s"
Saw 6 muskrats bodies just skinned on the fatty bank—2 large yellowish looking masses of I suppose musk on each side the lower part of the abdomen—Every part of the animal now emits a very strong scent of musk. A foot which I brought home (together with a head) scented me all over. The forefeet are small & white on the palm—while the hind ones are black. All the skin being stripped off except on the nose & feet—the forefeet look²⁸ like hand clothed in gauntlets of fur. This evening about 9 Pm I hear geese go over—now there in the S—now SE—now E—now NE low over the village—but not seen—The first I have heard.

Ap 9th

5 1/4 Am to red bridge just before sun-rise fine clear morning—but still cold enough // for gloves—-a slight frost—-and mist as yesterday curling over the smooth water— I see half a dozen crows on an elm within a dozen rods of the muskrats bodies as if eyeing them. I see thus often crows very early near the houses in the morning ^ which soon after sunrise take their way across the river to the woods again—It is a regular thing with them.

Hear the hoarse rasping chuck or chatter of crow black birds & distinguish their long broad tails

²⁸"look" written over "took"
Wilson says that the only note of the rusty grackle is a chuck—though he is told that at Hudson's Bay at the breeding time they sing with a fine note—utter. Here they do not only a chuck—but a fine shrill whistle. They cover the top of a tree now & their concert is of this character—get out—they all seem laboring together to attain to a clear strain—as it were wetting their whistles against their arrival at Hudson's bay—as if they were getting out. They begin as it were by disgorging or spitting it out, like so much tow, from a full throat and conclude with a clear fine shrill ear piercing whistle—Then away they go all of chattering together. Hear a // phoebe near the river. The golden willow // is methinks a little livelier green & begins to peel a little—but I am not sure the bark is any smoother yet. Long Heard a loud ^ dry tremulous shriek which reminded me of a king fisher—but which I found proceeded from a woodpecker which had just alighted on an elm—also its clear whistle or // chink afterward—It is probably the hairy woodpecker & I am not so certain I have seen it earlier this year—Wilson does not allow that the Downy one makes exactly such a sound—
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.

Some 20 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-sparrows—& blackbirds to 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
Ap 10th

Another fine clear morning--with, as usual a little frost.

6 Am to river-- I see afar ^ sailing on Hubbard's meadow--on the smooth water in the morning sun, conspicuous, 2 male

// shell drakes & ap 1 female-- They glide along a rod or 2 apart--in shallow water--alternately passing one another,-- & from time to time plunging their heads in the water, but the female (whom only the glass reveals) almost alone diving-- I think I saw one male drive the other back-- One male with the female, kept nearly together a rod or 2 ahead of the other Therien says James Baker sold his woodlot S of F. H., Pond--about 25 acres chiefly white pine for 120 dollars an acre--& that there was one hemlock whose top & branches alone yielded 2 1/2 cords. v next page The buds of the earliest gooseberry in garden // now first to show a little green on a close in-spection.

P. m. To F. H. P by boat--

A strong S Wind & overcast. There is the slightest perceptible green on the hill now----No doubt in a rain it would be pretty obvious--// Saw a tolerably fresh sucker floating-- 2 days have seen 2 halves ^ before which looked very ancient--as if they had died in the winter--

There are 3 or 4 small scollops in the Dorsal fin.

30vertical pencil line thorough this and the next lines, also horizontal pencil under line
31pencil line through line
32Possibly altered from "in"
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.
   sheds pollen
At Lee's the early sedge—one only—"XXX. The
   //
saxifrage there tomorrow XXX—One\textsuperscript{35} flower is partly
   //
expanded.

I measured the hemlock mentioned on the
\%circumference\% at but
last page—The diameter\textsuperscript{34} of the trunk \&
the but where it was\textsuperscript{35} 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
yellow
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\textsuperscript{36} partly expanded—& its
common peduncle had shot up an inch.

few

These ^ earliest flowers in these situations have
the same sort of interest with the arctic flora--
for they are remote & unobserved & often surrounded
with snow--& most have not begun to think of
flowers yet.

Early on the morning of the 8th I paddled up
the Assabet looking for the first flowers
of the white maple & alder-- I held on to the
low curving twigs of the maple where the
stream ran swiftly--the round clusters of
its bursting flower buds spotting the sky above
me--& on a close inspection found a few
which (as I have said) must have blossomed
the day before-- I also paddled slowly along
the river side looking closely at the alder
catkins & shaking the most loose--till at
length I came to a bush which had been
weighed down by the ice & whose stem curved
downward passing through the the water--
& on this was one looser & more yellowish
catkin--which (as I have said) on a close
examination showed some effete anthers near
the peduncle.

The morning of the 6th when I found the skunk-
cabbage out--It was so cold I suffered from
numbed fingers having left my gloves behind--
// Since April came in, however, you have needed
gloves only in the morning.
bared

Under some high bank sloping to the south on the edge of a meadow—where many springs issuing from the bank—melt the snow early—there you find the first skunk cabbage in bloom—

I see much yellow lily root afloat—which the musk-rats have dug up & nibbled.

Ap 11th

Rained in the night—awake to see the ground white with snow & it is still snowing the sleet driving from the north at an angle of certainly not more than 30 or 35 degrees with the horizon as I judge by its course across the window panes—By mid Pm the rain has so far prevailed that the ground is bare—As usual this—brings the tree-sparrows & F. hiemalis into the yard—again.

Ap 12

Still falls a little snow & rain this morning though the ground is not whitened— I hear a purple-finch nevertheless on an elm—steadily warbling— & uttering a sharp chip from time to time.

Pm to Cliffs & Hub's Close—

Fair with drifting clouds but cold & windy.

At the Spring brook I see some skink cabbage leaves already 4 or 5 inches high & partly unrolled.

From the Cliff Hill—the mts are again thickly

\[Possibly altered from another word\]
clad with snow--& the wind being NW its
coldness is accounted for-- I hear it fell
14 or 15 inches deep in Vermont. As I sit
in a sheltered place on the Cliffs I look over
the pond with my glass--but see no living thing.
Lee's meadow just inside the button bushes on the west of the pond, about a
mile distant
Soon after I saw a boat on the pond--& raising
my glass I saw one man paddling in the stern &
another in white pantaloons standing up in the bow--
ready to shoot-- Presently I saw the last raise his gun
take aim & fire into the bushes--though I heard
from
no sound ^ over the dashing waves, but merely saw
as in a picture
the smoke-- He then pointed. There was a strong
wind from the NW, while I was looking SW--
the gunner
He then pointed out the course while his
companion paddled & I saw him distinctly strike
& struck the game with in the water with a paddle & then
I distinctly saw him lift up a muskrat by the
tail. In a few moments very nearly the
same actions were repeated--though this time I did
not see the rat raised.
Then turning my glass down the stream--
I saw on the Miles' meadow shore about
half a mile distant--a man whom I
knew empty casting fat emptying his boat
of fat pine roots--which he had got
for spearing--while his dog was digging
at a woodchuck's hole--close by.
For a week past I have frequently seen
the tracks of woodchucks in the sand.

Golden Saxifrage out at Hub's Close--one

at least effete-- It may have been the 10th XX?

The grass has within 18 days shot up very perceptibly
in shallow

in ^ water & about springs-- In the last place it forms

dense moss like tufts in some cases--also some warm
& some hollows where the ice has recently melted
southward banks are considerably greened''''--but generally

there is no obvious greening'''' as yet-- It is at most

a mere radical greenness which you must seek

to find. 1 Cowslip will ap. open in 2 days at Hubs Close--

not on 16th but ap touched by frost--but prob some by 16th at 2nd Div. V 18th''''

Ap. 13th

Pm--to 2nd Division Cowslips.

A fair day--but a cool wind still from

the snow covered country in the NW.

It is however pleasant to sit in the sun

in sheltered places-- The small croaking

frogs are now generally heard in all

or pools

those stagnant ponds ^ in woods floored

with leaves--which are mainly dried up in the

summer-- At first perhaps you hear but

one or 2 dry croaks--but if you sit patiently

you may hear quite a concert of them

at last--er-wah er-wah er-wah--

with a nasal twang & twist--and''''

see them dimpling or rather the surface

here & there by their movements-- But

---

31Possibly altered from "in"
32vertical pencil line through line
33"not . . . 18th" looks like later revision in ink
34Possibly altered from "more" or another word
if you approach the pondside they suddenly
cease to dive to the bottom. We hear
them at J. P. Brown's Pond which is edged
with ice still on the north. The water
must be smooth--& the weather pretty warm--

There is still some icy snow under
// the north sides of woods in hollows--
I see the feathers ap. of a fox-col. sparrow
completely covering a stump--where some creature
has devoured it. At a great ant-
// hill--the common half red half black ants
are stirring--ap clearing out rubbish from
Great quantities of odoriferous sweet-gale seed are collected with the scum at
the outlet of Nut meadow--for they float.
their nest. The alnus incana blossoms
begin generally to show. The Serrulata will
// undoubtedly blossom tomorrow in some places XXX
or probably not till 15th XXX? Did I not take the incana for this in '54?
The pine on the Marlboro road which I saw
from my window--has been sawed down the
past window--I try to count its circles--count
61 from centre to sap--but there the pitch
conceals the rest--completely. I guessed there
were 15 more at least--The tree was
probably quite 80 yrs old. It was about
2 1/4 feet in diameter.
// The common hazel just out XXX It is
perhaps the prettiest flower of the shrubs
that have opened. A little bunch of (in this case)
half a dozen catkins 1 3/4 inches long

"The" written over "A"
"Possibly added"
trembling in the wind -- shedding
golden pollen on the hand-- & close by
as many minute, but clear crystalline crimson
stars at the end of a bare & seemingly dead
twig. For 2 or 3 days in my walks I had
given the hazel catkins a fillip with my finger
under their chins to see if they were in bloom--but
in vain-- but here on the warm south side
of a wood-- I find one fully out-- & completely
relaxed. They know when to trust themselves to the
weather.-- At the same time I hear through
the wood the sharp peep of the first hylodes I

Returning by the steep side-hill just south of
Holden's woodlot-- & some dozen or 14 rds west
of the open land-- I saw, amid the rattlesnake
Polygala paucifolia) some very beautiful
of a dull green (green turned dark)
oval leaves" -- (growing & looking like checkerberry
but more flaccid)
leaves above-- but beneath, & a great many
showed the underside-- a clear & brilliant
purple (or lake?--3) It" is about 3 or 4 inches
high with the oval & revolute leaves at
small
top & a few remote branched leaves on the
(3 sided) stem-- This pyrola is sometimes called
Flowering Wintergreen-- & indeed-- it is not
only an evergreen--but somewhat pyrola

without marks on throat or breasts

like to the eye. See a sparrow ^ running

peculiarly in the dry grass in the open

field beyond--& hear--its song--& then

// see its white feathers in tail--the Baywing

A small willow by the roadside beyond

// Wm Wheelers tomorrow XXX

Ap 14th

6 Am to Island-- An overcast--& moist

No sun all day

day--but truly April--^like such as began

methinks on Fast day--or the 5th-- You can--

not foretell how it will turn out. The

// river has been steadily rising since the 1st of April

though you would not think there had been rain

enough to cause it-- It now covers the meadows

It is perhaps because the warm rain has been melting the frost in the ground--this

pretty respectably.^I see half a dozen crow

may be the great cause of the regular spring rise.

black birds uttering their coarse rasping

char char--light like great rusty

springs on the top of an elm by the river-

side--& often at each char they open their

great tails. They also attain to a clear

whistle with some effort--but seem to

have some difficulty in their throats yet--

The P. Tremuloides by the Island shed pollen

// a very few catkins yet at least XX--for some

antheres are effete & black this morning--though

it is hardly curved down yet & is but 1 1/2 inches

long at most.
White maples are now generally in bloom. The musk tortoise--stirring on the bottom. Most of the stellaria has been winter killed--but I find a few flowers or a protected & still green sprig--prob not blossomed long.

A-- 8. Am. Took caterpillars eggs from the apple trees at the Texas house--& 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 call is heard--& many martins (with white-bel-- swallows) are & twittering skimming ^ above the water--perhaps catching the small fuzzy gnats with which the air is filled. The sound of church

"Possibly "I"
bells, at various distances--in Concord & the neighboring towns, sounds very sweet to us on the water--this still day-- It is the song of the villages heard with the song of the birds. The great meadows are covered, except a small island in their midst," but not a duck do we see there. On a low limb of a maple on the edge of the river 30 rods from the present shore we saw a fish // hawk eating a fish. 60 rods off we could see his white crest-- We landed & got nearer by stealing through the woods His legs looked long as he stood up on the limb with his back to us--& his body looked black against the sky & by con- trast with the white of his head. He had got the fish under his feet on the limb, & would bow his head snatch a mouthful & then look, hastily over his right shoulder in our direction--then snatch another mouth- ful & look over his left shoulder-- When we approached in the boat he launched off" & flapped heavily away-- We found at the bottom of in the water beneath where he sat numerous fragments of the fish he had been eating parts of the fins (___) entrails--gills &c
some was dropped on the bough. From one
fin which I examined, I judged that it
was either a sucker or a pout—There were
small leaches adhering to it. In the meanwhile—
as we were stealing through the woods—we
heard the pleasing note of the pine-warbler
bringing back warmer weather—we heard one
honk of a goose & looking up saw a
large narrow harrow of them steering N. E.
Half a mile further we saw another fish-
midway up
hawk upon a dead limb of a swamp white-
// oak over the water at the end of a small
island. We paddled directly toward him till
within 30 rods. A crow came scolding to
looking about as large comp. with the hawk, as a crow b. bird to a crow—
the tree & lit within 3 feet, but he paid
no attention to him. We had a very good view
of him as he sat sidewise to us—of his
eagle shaped head & beak. The white
feathers of his head which were erected somewhat
mad him look like a copple-crowned
hen—When he launched off he uttered
a clear whistling note—phe phe, phe phe,
phe phe, somewhat like that of
a tell-tale—but more round & less shrill
& rapid—perhaps his mate
50 rods off joined him. They flew
heavily, as we looked at them from behind,
more like a blue heron & bittern than
I was aware of--their long wings undu-
lating slowly to the tip--like the herons--&
the bodies seeming sharp like a gulls--&
unlike a hawk's. In the water beneath where
he was perched we found many frag-
// ments of a pout--bits of red gills--
entrails--fins--& some of the long flex-
ible black feelers--scattered for 4 or 5 feet.
This pout appeared to have been quite fresh
and was prob. caught alive-- We after-
ward started one of them from an oak
just above the boat-house
over the water a mile beyond--he skimm-
off very low over the water
several times striking it with
a loud sound heard plainly 60 rods
off at least--& we followed him with
(both) our eyes till we could only see
faintly his undulating wings against the
sky in the W. horizon. You could probably tell if any were
but under the trees on which they would perch.
// We had scared up ^ few ducks some ap. black
which quacked--& some small rolling pins
prob. teal.
// Returning--we had a fine view of a blue-
heron standing erect & open to view on
a meadow island--by the great swamp
S of the bridge--looking as broad as a
// boy on the side--& then some sheldrakes
sailing in the smooth water beyond-- These
soon sailed behind points of meadow--the
heron flew away--& one male shell-drake
flew past us low over the water reconnoitering
large--& brilliant black & white-- When
the heron takes to flight what\(^5\) a change
in size & appearance--it is *presto* change.
There go two great undulating wings
pinned together--but the body & neck must
have been left behind somewhere.

Before we rounded Balls' Hill--the
water now beautifully smooth--at 2 1/2
Pm--we saw 3 gulls sailing on the
glassy meadow at least 1/2 mile off by
the plainer because they were against the reflection of the hills.
the oak peninsula-- They looked larger
than afterward close at hand--as if
their whiteness was reflected & doubled.
As we advanced into the Great Meadows--
making the only ripples in its broad expanse
still
there being ^ not a ray of sunshine--only a
subdued light through\(^1\) the thinner crescent
in the north--the reflections of the
maples--of Ponkawasset & the poplar
A wall which ran down to the water on the hill side--without
Hill--& the whole township in the SW
out any remarkable curve in\(^5\) it--was exaggerated by the
were as perfect as I ever saw--the
reflection into the half of an ellipse.
meadow was expanded to a large
lake--the shore line being referred to
the sides of the hills reflected in it--

\(^5\)Possibly altered from "it" or "is"
\(^5\)Possibly altered from another word
\(^5\)Possibly altered from "it"
such
It was a scene worth many voyages to
see-- It was remarkable how much
light those white gulls--& also a bleached
absorbed &
post on a distant shore--reflected through
almost
that sombre atmosphere--conspicuous as
candles in the night-- When we got near
to the gulls they rose heavily & flapped away
answering a more distant one--with a
deliberate
remarkable--lazy, melancholy, squeak--
mewing or piping
ing scream--almost a squeal. It was a
little like the loon. Is this sound the
origin of the name Sea-mew? Notwith-
standing the smoothness of the water--we could
not easily see black ducks against the
reflection of the woods--but heard them
rise at a distance before we saw them.
The birds were still in the middle of the
day--but began to sing again by 4 1/2 Pm.--
prob. because of the clouds-- Saw & heard
do they not come with the smooth-waters of April?
// a Kingfisher--hurrying over the
meadow as if on urgent business--

That general--cut tut tut tut--or
snoring of frogs on the shallow meadow
heard first slightly the 5th-- There is a very
faint er er er now & then mixed with it.
Ap 16th

5 Am to Hill-- Clear & cool--a frost
whitens ground--yet a mist hangs over the
village-- There is a thin ice reaching a foot from
the water's edge--which the earliest rays will
melt. I scare up several snipes feeding on
the meadow's edge-- It is remarkable how they
conceal themselves when they alight on a bare spit
of the meadow-- I look with my glass to where one alighted
4 rods off--& at length detected its head rising
amid the cranberry vines--& withered grass blades
last
which ^ it closely resembled in color--with its eye
steadily fixed on me. The robins--&c--blackbirds--
songspars-- sing now on all hands just before
sunrise perhaps quite as generally as at any season
Going up the hill I examined the tree tops for
hawks-- What is that little hawk about
as big as a turtle dove on the top of one
of the whit oaks on top of the hill? It appears
to have a reddish breast--now it flies to the bare top
of a dead tree--now some crows join--& it pursues
one--diving at it repeatedly from above--down a
rod or more--as far as I can see toward the
hemlocks-- Returning that way I came unex-
pected close to this hawk perched near the top
of a large aspen by the river right over my
head-- He seemed neither to see or hear me.
new
At first I thought it a ^ woodpecker-- I had
a fair view of all its back and tail within
40 feet with my glass. Its back was I
rather
should say a ^ dark ash--spotted & so barred
Woodpecker-like (not well described in books) wings & back with large white spots -- prob-- on the inner vanes of the feathers--both 2ndaries & primaries & prob-- coverts. The tail conspicuously barred with black--3 times beyond the covering & feathers & once at least under them. Beneath with long & conspic. femoral feathers, unlike Spar. hawk. & undertail mainly a dirty white-- Head darker & bill dark-- It was busily pruning itself-- & sud-
denly pitched off downward. What I call prob. Sharp-shinned V. May 4th\footnote{prob. . . . 4th LR in ink} // a pig. hawk. ^ In the mean while heard the quivet through the wood-- & looking small saw through an opening a ^ compact flock // of pigeons flying low about. From the Hill top looked to the Great Meadows with glass-- They were very smooth--with a slight mist over them--but I could see very clearly the pale salmon of the E horizon reflected there & contrasting with an intermediate streak of skim milk blue--now just after sunrise. PM to Flints Pond. A perfectly clear & very warm day--a little warmer // than the 31st of March or any yet-- & I have for the first time not got far before ^ I regret that I wore my // great coat. Noticed the first wasp-- & many // cicindelae on a sandy place--have probably seen the latter before in the air--but this warmth brings them out in numbers-- The grey of Hubbards oaks looks drier & more like sum- & it is now drier walking The frost in most places wholly out mer--^ I got so near a grass bird as to see the narrow circle of white round the eye-- The spots on the E. guttatas in leafy-paved which dries up a still warm ^ ditch ^ are exceedingly bright
Stows cold pond hole is still full of ice though partly submerged--
the only pool in this state that I see--
now--does it last? At Callitriche pool--
(I see no flowers on it)--I see what looks
like minnows an inch long with a remarkably
forked tail-fin-- Prob. larvae of dragonflies. //
The water ranunculus was very forward here
The eyed-head conspicuous & something like a large dorsal fin
They dart about in this warm pool & rest at
different angels with the horizon. This pool dries
The very pools--the receptacles of all kinds of rubbish--now {---} soon after
the ice has melted so transparent & of glassy smoothness & full of animal &
vegetable life
up in Summer. The orange copper vanessa
are interesting & beautiful objects. //
mid-sized is out--& a great many of
the large buffedged are fluttering over the leaves
in wood paths--this warm pm--I am obliged
to carry my great coat on my arm--
A striped snake rustles down a dry open hill side //
where the withered grass is long. I could not
dig to the nest of the Deer-mouse in Britton's
Hollow--because of the frost--about 6 inches //
Yet though I have seen no ploughing in fields--the Surveyors plowed in the
road on the 14th ult
beneath the surface. "As far as I dug their galleries
occupied appeared at first to be lined with a
sort of membrane--which I found was the
bark or skin of roots of the right sizes5
their galleries taking the place of the decayed
wood--of the An oak stump.
At Flints sitting on the rock--we see a great
many--ducks--mostly shell drakes on the pond--
which will hardly abide us within half a
mile. With the glass I see by their reddish
heads that all of one party--the main-
body--are females-- You see little more

5Possibly "size" with "e" smudged
than their heads at a distance & not much
white but on their throats perchance-- When
they fly they look black & white but not
so large nor with that brilliant contrast
of black & white which the male exhibits--
In another direction is a male ♂ by himself
conspicuous--perhaps several. Anon alights
// near us a flock of Golden eyes--surely
with their great black (−looking) heads
& a white patch on its side
\^short stumpy bills(after looking at the mergansers--)
Much clear black--contrasting with much
clear white--{drawing} Their heads & bills look
ludicrously short & parrot like--after the
party
others-- Our presence & a boat ^ on
the pond at last drove nearly all the
ducks into the deep easterly cove--
We stole down on them carefully through
the woods--at last crawling on our bellies--
with great patience--till at last we found
as I measured afterward
our selves within seven or 8 rods ^ of the
great body of them & watched them for
or 30
\^20 ^ minutes with the glass through
a screen of catbriar & alders &c There
were 12 female sheldrakes close
within 2 rods of the shore where it was very shallow
together & nearest us^-- 2 or more constantly
moving about & keeping watched while
the rest were trying to sleep ^ to catch
a nap with their heads in their backs--
would
but from time to time one ^ wake up enough
to plume himself. It seemed as if
they must have been broken of their sleep--& were
trying to make it up--having an arduous
journey before--them--for we had seen them
all disturbed & on the wing within half
They were headed^ various ways
an hour. "Now & then they seemed to see
or hear or smell us--& uttered a low note
of alarm--something like the note of a tree--
or perhaps a little more wiry & like that of
very pigeons--
toad but ^ fainter--"but the sleepers hardly lifted
How fit that this note of alarm should be made to resemble the croaking
of their heads for it. ^
^of a frog--& so not betray them to the gunners!
They appeared to sink about mid-way in the
water--& their heads were all a rich red-
dish brown--their throats white-- Now & then
one of the watchmen would lift his head
& turn his bill directly upward showing his
white throat-- "There were some black--
or dusky ducks in company with them at first--
ap. about as large as they--but more alarmed--
Their throats looked straw colored--somewhat
like a bitterns & I saw their shovel bills. These
soon sailed further off
At last we arose^ & rushed to the shore--
within 3 rods of them--& they rose up with
a din--26 mergansers I think all
females--10 black ducks--(& 5 golden--
a little
eyes from ^ further off--also another still more
distant flock of one of these kinds^5
The black ducks alone uttered a sound, their
usual hoarse quack--
They all flew in loose array—but the 3 kinds in separate flocks.\(^{15}\) We were surprised to find ourselves looking on a company of birds devoted to slumber after the alarm & // activity we had just witnessed. which many water bugs—(gyrinus) were now dimpling, Returning at Goose Pond ^ we scared up 2 black ducks— The shore was strewn with much fresh eel grass—& the fine now short eriocaulon with its white roots—ap— all pulled up by them & drifted in.

// The spearer's light tonight—& after // dark the sound of geese honking all together very low over the houses—& ap. about to settle on the Lee meadow.


I am startled sometimes these mornings to hear the sound of\(^{10}\) doves alighting on the roof just over my head—they come down so harrd upon it, as if one had thrown a heavy stick on-to it—& I wonder it does not injure their organization. Their legs must be cushioned in their sockets to save them from the shock.

When we reached Britton's clearing on our return this Pm—at sunset— The mts after this our warmest day as yet—had got a peculiar soft mantle of blue haze—pale blue as a blue heron—ushering in the long series

---

\(^{15}\)Probably a false start
\(^{10}\)Possibly altered from "a"
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 //
\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
a
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
many
themselves at your approach---- are
outside. The 2nd sallow catkin (or any
willow) I have seen in blossom--there are
3 or 4 catkins on the twig partly open--
// I am about to clutch--but find already
curved close on intoxicated with its early sweet.
half opened catkin
a bee ^ each ^--one perhaps a honey bee--so
intend on its sweets or pollen--that they do not
Various kinds of bees--some of the honey bees have little yell masses of pollen?
on their thighs--some seem
dream of flying--so quickly & surely does
to be taking into their mouths.
the bee find the earliest flower--as if he
had slumbered all winter at the root of
the plant. No matter what pains you take
probably--undoubtedly--an insect will
have found the first flower before you.

Yesterday I saw several larger frogs out--

// perhaps some were small bullfrogs-- That
warmth brought them out on to the bank--
& they jumped in before me. The general stirring of frogs
// To day I see a rana palustris--I think
// the first--& a mid sized bull frog. I think
// I suspect that those first seen in Hub's

// close were the little croakers

I see by their droppings that many birds
perhaps robins--have lately roosted in that wine-
glass--apple-scrub on Conantum--an
excellent covert from the hawks--& there
are 3 old nests in it though it is only 6
or 8 feet in diameter-- I also see where
birds have roosted in a thick white pine--
in Lees wood-- It is easy to detect their
roosting places now because they are in
// flocks-- Saw a woodchuck--his deep
reddish brown rear--somewhat grizzled
about--looked like a ripe fruit mellowed
by winter. C. saw one some time ago--
They have several holes under Lee's
Cliff--I see where they have wore
bare & smooth sandy paths under the eaves
of the rock--& I suspect that they nibble the
The Arabis is half exterminated by some creature
ey early leaves there--^ They, or the partridges or rabbits--
there & at mid-Conant cliff--make sad havoc
with the earliest rad-- leaves & flowers which
I am watching--& in the village I have to con-
tend with the hens--who also love an early sallad.

Sat at the wall corner to see an
& tail
eagle's white head ^ against the red-hill-
side--but in vain. The distant wht pines
over the Spanish Brook--seem to flake into
tiers--the whole tree looks like an open
cone. A sudden warm day like yester-
day & this takes off some birds--and adds
others-- It is a crisis in their career-- The
fox-col--spars--seem to be gone & I suspect
that most of the tree spars & F. hiemalis
at least went yesterday. So the pleasanter
weather seems not an unmixed benefit.
The flowers of the common elm at Lee's
are now loose & dangling--ap well out
a or 2
days in advance of Cheney's--but I see
no pollen-- Walking und the Cliff--I
am struck by the already darker healthier
green of early weeds there--e.g. the little
thyme-flowering sandwort--before there is
any green to speak of elsewhere--

Did I not see the yel-- red-poll-- on an
apple tree with some robins--by chance in the
%Yes%
same place where I saw one last year? %^%Yet
I see no chestnut on head--but bright

---

[^]: Possibly altered from "^" or "a"
[^p]: "p" written over "T"
yellow breast & blackish further extremity. The
early aspen catkins are now some of them
2 1/2 inches long--& white dangling in the breeze
The earliest gooseberry leaves are fairly
unfolding now & show some green at a little dist.
Ap. 18
6 Am--see & hear tree spars--& hear hiemalis. %still%
Rained last evening--& warm-- White-bel-- swal's
&--martins twitter now at 9 Am.
Pm to Cliffs--& Walden--& Hub's Close.
The hill-side & especially low bank-sides are
now conspicuously green. Almost did
without a fire this A. m. Coming out
I find it very warm warmer than yesterday or
any day yet. It is a reminiscence of past sum-
mers-- It is perfectly still & almost sultry
with wet looking clouds hanging about--&
1st weather of this kind.
from time to time hiding the sun--& as I sit
on F. H. Hill side the sun actually burns my
cheek-- Yet I left some fire in the house--
not knowing behind a window, how warm it
was. The flooded meadows & river are smooth
& just enough in shadow for reflections--
The rush sparrows tinkle now at 3 Pm far
are peeping
in
over the bushes--& hylodes ^ a distant pool.
Robins are singing & peeping--& jays are
screaming. I see one or 2 smokes in the
horizon. I can still see the mts slightly
spotted with snow-- The frost is out enough
for plowing prob. in most open ground--
When I reach the top of the hill--I see sud-
east or South from Bear hill in Waltham to the river
denly--all the Southern ^ horizon full of a
mist--like a dust--already concealing the
Lincoln hills and producing distinct wreathes of
the rest of the horizon being clear
vapor--^ Evidently a sea turn--a wind from over
the sea--condensing the moisture in our warm
atmosphere--& putting another aspect on the
face of things--all this I see & say long before
I feel the change--while still sweltering on
for the heat was oppressive
the rocks--^ Nature cannot abide this sud-
den heat--but calls for her fan. In 10 min-
utes I hear a susurrus in the shrub oak
leaves^--at a distance & soon an agreeable
fresh air washes these warm rocks--&
some mist surrounds me.

A low blackberry on^ the rocks is now ex-
panding its leaves just after the gooseberry--
A little sallow--^ about 2 feet high--and
ap. intermediate bet-- tristis & the next--with red-
dish anthers not yet burst will bloom tomorrow--in
well-meadow path. The shad-bush flower buds
begining to expand look like leaf-buds bursting now
Male--sweet gale XX 1 cowslip fully
expanded--but no pollen--prob. is at 2nd Division.
Some fully open May 4th but no pollen till next morn in chamber?! Some are plowing". Am over taken by
a sudden sun shower after which a rain-bow
Am. [or];
Elm;^ tumbler & prob. at Cliffs XXX prob a day
2 before Cheney's.

---
^ Possibly altered from "in" or "is"
^ vertical pencil line through "on"
^ Semicolon prob just a comma; "Am." probably abbreviation for "American"
In the evening hear far & wide the ring
of toads--& a thunder shower--with its
lightning is seen & heard in the west.

Ap 19th

5 Am up Assabet-- Warm & still

& somewhat cloudy--am without great coat. The guns are firing & bells ringing
I hear a faint honk & looking up see
or rather within the breadth of a mile

At least 300 have past over C. this Spring^ (perhaps 2ce as many) for I have seen
32 geese in the form of a hay-hook--
or heard of a dozen flocks--& the 2 I counted had about 30 each--
only 2 in the hook--& they are at least

6 feet apart-- Prob. the whole line is 12

rods long. Many tortoises have their heads
out. The river has fallen a little. Going
up the Assabet 2 or 3 tortoises roll down
the steep bank--with a rustle--one tumbles
on its edge & rolls swiftly like a disk
cast by a boy with its black back to me.--

from 86 or 10 feet into the water--

I hear no concert of tree sparrows. Hear
%{White throated spar?}%
the tull-lull of myrtle69 bird in street--

the jingle of the chip bird.

This A. m. sit with open window.

Now plowing & planting will begin generally.
Pm to Walden

Some golden willows will now just peel

fairly--though on this one the buds have

Possibly altered from another word or number
horizontal pencil line under word
not started--(Another sudden change

to NE

in the wind--"& a freshness with some mist

from the sea at 3 1/2 p. m.) These osiers to

my eye have only a little more liquid green

than a month ago. A shad frog on the

dry grass-- The wild red cherry will beg to leaf

tomorrow-- From Heywoods Peak I

thought I saw the head of a loon in the

35 or 40 rods distant pond." Bringing my glass to bear, it seemed

sund very low in the water--all the

neck concealed--but I could not tell

which end was the bill. At length I dis-

covered that it was the whole body of a

little duck--asleep with its head in its back

exactly in the middle of the pond. It

had a moderate sized black head &

neck--a white breast--& seemed dark

brown above, with a white spot on the

side of the head--(not reaching to the outside

--from base of mandibles) and another, perhaps

on the end of the wing--with some black there.

It sat drifting round a little, but with

ever its breast toward the wind--& from

time to time, it raised its head & looked

round to see if it was safe-- I think it

was the smallest duck I ever saw--

Floating buoyantly asleep on the middle

of Walden Pond. Was it not a female
of the buffel-headed or spirit duck? I believed the wings looked blacker when it flew--
with some white beneath. It floated like a little casket--and at first I doubted a good while if it possessed life--until I saw it raise its head and look around.
It had chosen a place for its nap exactly equidistant between the 2 shores there--& with its breast to the wind swung round only as much as a vessel held by its anchors in the stream.
At length the cars scared it.
Goodwin had caught 25 pouts & one shiner
at the Walden meadow--but no perch.
Slip Elm in tumbler today--prob. tomorrow at Cliffs XXX
A partridge drums.
Rains all day--taking out the frost--& imprisoning me. You cannot set a post yet on ac. of frost.
5 Am to Cliffs-- Fair & still.
There is a fog over the river which shows at a distances more than near by--
Not much. The frost conceals the green of the gooseberry leaves just expanding.
The shallow puddles left by yesterday's rain in the fields are skimmed over.
Hear the first seringo-- The duskyish crown is divided by a lighter line
Above it is ashy-brown & drab--a streak of lemon yellow over the eye--some brownish drab or bay "making a spot on wings--white lines diverging from throat--reddish legs against sun--breast & beneath sides dashed--It has not the note of Nuttall's F Savannah--or methinks the blackness of Wilson's--Is it the passerina--which Nuttall %Yes--he calls it F. Savanarum p. 494 says they arrive about the mid. of May "occasionally" does not describe? At Cliffs--I hear at !! "On these occasions they perch in sheltered trees in pairs, and sing in an agreeable voice a dist--a wood thrush. It affects us as a somewhat like that of the Purple Finch, though less vigorously." Thinks they go north to breed. part of our unfallen selves. The P--Grandidentata there may open tomorrow XXX--The frost saves my feet a wetting probably--As I sit on the Cliffs the sound of the frost & frozen drops melting & falling on the leaves in the woods below--sounds like a gentle but steady rain all the country over--while the sun shines clear above all.

Aunt Maria has put into my hands to day for safe keeping 3 letters--from Peter Thoreau, dated Jersey--(the 1st July 1st 1801, the 2nd Ap. 22nd 1804--& the 3d. Ap. 11th 1806) & directed to his niece "Miss Elizabeth Thoreau Concord Near" Boston." &c also a "Vue de la Ville de St Helier &c" accompanying the 1st. She is not certain that any more were received from him.

The 1st is in answer to one from Elizabeth announcing the death of her father (my grand...

"Possibly altered from "Cliff"
"Possibly altered from "near"
father). He states that his mother died the 26th of June 1801—the day before he received E's letter—though not till after he had heard from another source of the death of his brother, which was not com-
municated to his mother. "She was in the 79th year of her age, & retained her memory to the last." -- -- -- "She lived with my two sisters, who took the greatest care of her." He says that he had written to E's father about the death of his oldest brother, (who died about a year before, but had had no answer—had written)—that he left his children, two sons & a daughter, in a good way, "the eldest son and daughter are both married, and have children, the youngest is about eighteen. I am still a widdower of 4 children, -- -- -- -- -- I have but two left, Betsy & Peter, James & Nancy are both at rest."

He adds that he sends a view "of our native town" &c.

The 2d of these letters is sent by Capt. John Harvey of Boston. He says that on the 4th of Feb. previous he sent her a copy of the last letter he had written, which was in answer to her 2nd, since he feared she had not received it.74 Says they are still at war with the French—That they received the day before a letter from her "Uncle & Aunt Le Cappelain of London." Complains of not receiving letters. "Your Aunts Betsy & Peter join with me" &c.

7Written 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.
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 children 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
time a dozen black ducks on the meadows

edge in a retired place--some on land and

50 rods off & without the glass they looked like crows feeding on the
some sailing--"Examining the ground after-
meadow's edge--with a a scarcely perceptible tinge of brown.

ward found that the whitish lichen thallus

(which formed a crust--a sort of scurfy

bald place

here & there in the meadow

where the water had just risen) was loosened
up & floating over the bare spaces mixed with

a few downy feathers-- I thought the

flat meadow islets showed traces of having

been probed by them-- All the button

bushes &c &c in and about the

water are now swarming with those

// minute fuzzy gnats about 1/8 of an

inch long--" The who shore resounds

with their hum whereever we approach

it--& they cover our boat & persons--

They are in countless myriads the whole

peet-weet

// length of the river--" A peep ^ on the

// shore.

There is some gossamer on the willows

// The river has risen considerably owing

& new drift is brought down
to yesterday's rain.~ The greater fullness

of the Assabet is perceptible at the junction

The N.Y. Tribune said on the 19th ult--

"The caterpillar-blossoms, and the slightest peep-
ing of green leaves among the poplars & willows,
and a tolerable springing of grass, are
the only vegetable proofs yet to be seen".

I should think they were just with our gooseberry.
Ap 22

5 1/2 Am to Assabet Stone Bridge--

Tree sparrows still. See a song sparrow getting its breakfast in the water on the meadow like a sandpiper. Red maple yesterday XXX--^ Balm of Gilead prob. to-morrow-- The Black currant is just begun to expand leaf--prob yesterday elsewhere--a little earlier than the red. "Though my hands are cold this morning I have not worn gloves for a few mornings past--a week or 10 days.

The grass is now become rapidly green by the sides of the road--promising dandelions & buttercups.

Pm to Lee's Cliff-- Fair--but windy--

Tree-sparrows about with their buntinish head & faint chirp. The leaves of the skunk cabbage unfolding in the meadows--make more show than any green yet-- The yel-- willow-catkins pushing out beg. to give the trees a misty downy appearance--dimming them. The bluish band on the breast of the king-fisher leaves the pure white beneath in the form of a heart {drawing}

The blossoms of the sweet gale are now on fire over the brooks--contortorted like cater-pillars. The fem. flowers also out like the hazel--with more stigmas--out at same time with the male. I first noticed my little

---

76false start before word
77vertical pencil line through "become"
77vertical pencil line through "skunk"
77vertical pencil line through "give"
mud turtles in the cellar out of their
one of them--some 8 days ago-- I suspect
those in the river begin to stir abut that time?
Antennaria prob yest. XX Skullcap--mead ditch.
Many yel-- redpolls on the willows now--they
jerk their tails constantly like phoebes--but
I hear only a faint chip. Could that have been
a female with them with an ash head & merely
? a yellow spot on each side of body--white beneath?
prob. a myrtle-bird--
& forked tail.* Red stemmed moss now--
Goosanders male & female-- They rise
& fly--the female leading-- They afterward
show that they can get out of sight about
as well by diving as by flying. At a dist--
you see only the male--alternately diving &
sailing--when the female may be all the while
by his side. Getting over the wall under
the mid. Conantum Cliff--I heard a
loud & piercingly sharp whistle of 2 notes
phe-phe--like--a peep somewhat--could it
have been a woodchuck? Heard afterward
under
Lees Cliff a similar fainter one--which
at one time appeared to come from a Pig.
woodpecker-- Cowbirds on an apple tree.
Crowfoot on Cliff--XXX Johnswort
& angelica
rad. leaves have grown several 80 inches ^ shows
Elder leaves have grown 1 1/2 inches--& Thim-
ble berry is forward under rocks-- Mead. sweet
in some places begs to open today--also barberry
under Cliffs & a moss-rose tomorrow--
Say—earliest gooseberry—then elder—thimble
berry & raspberry—low blackberry—(the last 2
under rocks)—then wild red cherry—then
black currant yesterday—then mead sweet (&
barberry under Cliff) today.—A moss-rose tomorrow
& hazel under cliffs tomorrow—

Ap 23d
River higher than before since winter. Whole
of Lee Meadow covered. Saw 2 pig—woodpeckers—
approach—& I think put their bills together & utter that
o-week—o-week—
The currant—& 2nd goose berry are bursting

Pm. to Cedar Swamp via Assabet—
Warm & pretty still—Even the river sides are
quiet at this hour (3 P. m.) as in summer—the
birds are neither seen nor heard—The anthers
of the larch are conspicuous—but I see no pollen.
White cedar—tomorrow XXX ^ See
a frog hawk—beating the bushes—regularly
What a peculiarly formed wing. It should be
called the kite. Its wings are very narrow
& pointed—& its form in front—is
a remarkable curve—& its body {drawing} is
not heavy & buzzard-like—It occasionally hovers
over some parts of the meadow or hedge
& circles back over it—Only rising
enough from time to time to clear the trees
& fences—Soon after I see hovering

---

vertical pencil line from here through line beginning "& hazel"
thimble berry" and "raspberry" marked for transposition.
"under cliffs tomorrow--" possibly added
"vertical pencil line through "goose"
over Sam Barretts--high sailing--a

more buzzardlike brown hawk--black-

barred beneath and on tail--with short broad

ragged wings--& perhaps a white mark on

under side of wings. The chickens utter

a note of alarm-- (Is it the Broad--

prob not v May 25?)

winged hawk-- F Pennsylvanicus?) But

why should the other be called F. Fuscus?

I think this is called the partridge-hawk--

The books are very unsatisfactory on these

2 hawks. Ap. barn swallows over the

river. & do I see bank swallows also?

C. says he has seen a yellow legs.

I have seen also for some weeks occasionally

a brown hawk with white rump--flying low--

which I have thought the frog-hawk in a

diff. stage of plumage--but cant it be at

prob-- female hen harrier%

this season--& is it not the marsh hawk--

Yet it is not so heavy nearly as the hen hawk.

Ap. 24th

Pm to Flints Pond.

Warm & quite a thick haze-- Cannot

see distant hills--nor use my glass to

advantage. The Equisetum arvense on

the causeway sheds its green pollen

which looks like lint on the hand abundantly

& may have done so when I first saw it upon

the 21st. Young caterpillars nests
are just hatched on the wild cherry--**some**
others just come out
are an **inch** in diameter-- The little
creatures have crawled at once to the extremity
of the twigs & commenced at once on the
green buds just about to burst--(eating) eating
holes into them-- They do not come forth till
the buds are about to burst. I see on the
P pines at Thrush alley that G C wren or
the other ashey olive above & whitish beneath--with
a white bar on wings--restlessly darting at **insects**
like a flycatcher--into the air after them-- It is
quite tame-- -- A very neat bird--but does not sing
now. I see a bee like a small
bumble bee go into a little hole under a leaf
in the road--which ap. it has made & come
out again back foremost. That fine
slaty blue butterfly bigger than the small
red, in wood paths. I see a cone-bearing
willow in dry woods which will beg-- to leaf to-
morrow. & ap to show cones. Pyrus arbutifolia
will beg to leaf tomorrow--its buds are red while
those of the shad bush are green--
I can find no red cedar in bloom--but it
will undoubtedly shed pollen tomorrow XXX
It is on the point of it. I am not sure that
the white cedar is any earlier-- The sprigs
of red cedar now full of the buff colored
staminate flowers like fruit are very

**Looks like T corrected his spelling--previous word is cancelled "inch"--no AL added to table
**Possibly "thrush" or "Thrush" altered from "thrush"
rich-- The next day they shed an abundance
of pollen in the house-- It is a clear buff
color--while that of the white cedar
is very different being a faint salmon--
It would be very pleasant to make a
collection of these powders--like dry
They would be the right kind of chemicals to have.
ground paints.\^ I see mm the black-
birch stumps where they have cut by F. Pond
the past winter completely covered with
a greasy looking\^\^ pinkish colored cream
--yet without any particular taste or
smell. What the sap has turned to
\^ The salix alba begs to leaf.
Have not seen the F. hiemalis for a week.

Ap 25th

A moist april morning. A small
or say May lst if they are bracts
// native willow lea\^\^fing\^\^ & showing catkins today
// also the black-cherry in some places--The
// common wild rose tomorrow-- Balm of
// Gilead will not shed pollen ap for a day
// or more. Shep. purse will bloom today XX
The first I have noticed which has sprung from
the ground this season--or of any age.
Say lilac begs to leaf with common\^\^ currant.
Pm to Beck Stow's.

Hear a faint cheep & at length detect
the white throated sparrow--the handsome
& well marked bird--the largest of

\^\^vertical pencil line through "looking"
\^\^vertical pencil line through "leafing"
\^\^vertical pencil line through "common"
the sparrows with a yellow spot on each side of the front. hopping along under the rubbish left by the woodchoppers-- I afterward Hear this faint cheep very rapidly repeated-- prob by making a faint sharp jingle, prob by field sparrows--this their common low note. the same. Many Sparrows have a similar faint metallic cheep--the tree spar-- & field-spar-- for instance. I first saw the white-throated sparrow at this date last year-- Hear the peculiar squeaking notes of a pig-- woodpecker-- 2 Black ducks circle-- around me 3 or 4 times wishing to alight in the swamp--but finally go to the river meadows-- I hear the whistling of their wings. (drawing) Their bills point downward thus in flying. The andromeda calycula is out in water--in the little swamp E. of Beck stows--some perhaps yesterday XXX. & C. says he saw many of blues yesterday XX & also that he saw 2 F. hiemalis yesterday. I have noticed 3 or 4 upper jaws of muskrats on the meadow lately--which added to the dead bodies floating make more than half a dozen perhaps drowned out last winter. After sunset paddled up to the Hub. bath. The bushes ringing with the evening song of song sparrows & robins--& the evening
sky reflected from the surface of
the rippled water like the lake grass
on pools-- A spearers fire seems
3 times as far off as it is.

Ap 26th.

A cloudy--still--damp & at length drizzling
day-- P. m. to Bayberry & Black--
// ash cellar-- Wheildon's Arbor vitae well
// out--may be for a week-- The S. abele
prob. today or yesterday--but I do not see
pollen-- The blossoms of the red maple
(some a yellowish green) are now
// most generally conspicuous & handsome
scarlet crescents over the swamps.
Going over Ponkwatasset-- hear a
G-- C. (?) wren the robins note &c--in
the tops of the high wood-- see myrtle
birds-- & half a dozen pigeons-- The
prate of the last-- is much like the
creaking of a tree-- They lift their wings
There are said to be many about now
// at the same moment as they sit. See
their warm colored breasts-- I see
pigeon woodpecker billing on an
// oak at a dist. Young apple leafing
say with the common rose-- also some early large
ones. Bay-berry not started much-- Fever
// bush out ap a day or 2 bet. Black-birch
cellar & Easterbrooks-- It shows plainly
now before the leaves have come out on *=
bushes--20 rods off-- See and hear
chewinks--all their strains--the same //
date with last year by accident-- Many male & female White-throated sparrows feeding
on the pasture with the song sparrow-- The male's white is buff in the female.

A brown thrasher--? seen at a little dist.--heard May 4th? //
We see & hear more birds than usual
this mizzling & still day--& the robin
sings with more vigor & promise than
later in the season.

Ap 27.
5 Am S Tristis path around Cliffs.
Cold & windy--but fair-- The earliest //
willow by RR. begins to leaf. & is out of bloom //
Few birds are heard this cold & windy morn-
ing-- Hear a partridge drum before 6 Am
prob. today
also a G. C. (?) Wren. Salix tristis ^ XXXX //
the female more forward than the male. Heard
a singular sort of screech somewhat like a hawk under the cliff--& soon some pigeons flew
out of a pine near me. The black & white //
creepers--running over the trunks or main
limbs of red maples & uttering their fainter" oven
bird like notes. The principal singer on this walk--both in wood & field away from town

---

5th, . . . 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
"fainter" written over "faint"
is the field sparrow. I hear the sweet
warble of a tree sparrow in the yard.
Cultivated cherry is beg. to leaf. The Balm-
of Gilead catkins are well loosened &
I have seen only females--say male the 25th 6th or 7
about 3 inches long--but I have seen only
fertile ones--

Ap 28

A 2nd cold but fair day. Good fires
are required today & yesterday.
Pm Sail to Ball's Hill

The chimney swallow--with the white bellied
& barn swallows over the river-- The
red maples now in bloom are quite hand-
some at a distance over the flooded meadow
beyond Peters-- The abundant wholesome
grey of the trunks & stems beneath--surmounted
by the red or scarlet crescents. Are not
they sheldrakes which I see at a distance
on an islet in the meadow? The wind
is strong from the NW.

Landed at Ball’s Hill to look for birds
under the shelter of the hill in the sun--
There were a great many myrtle birds
there--(they have been quite common
for a week) also yel-- red-polls--&

some song-spars--tree-spars--field spars

& one F hiemalis. In a cold and windy
day like this you can find more birds than
in a serene one--because they are collected
wooded
under the ^ hill sides in the sun. The myrtle //
birds flitted before us in great numbers--yet
quite tame--uttering commonly only a chip--but
sometimes a short trill or che che, che che, che che,
Do I hear the tull-lull in the P-- m? It is
a bird of many colors--slate--yellow--black--
& white--singularly spotted-- Those little
gnats of the 21st are still in the air
in the sun under this hill--but elsewhere
the cold strong wind has either drowned them
or chilled them to death. I saw where they had
taken refuge in a boat & covered its bottom
with large black patches.
I noticed on the 26 (and also today) that
since this last rise of the river which reached its
height the 23d--a great deal of the //
young flag already35 6 inches to a foot long
(Though I have hardly observed it growing yet)
has washed up all along the shores--and
as today I find a piece of flag-root with
it gnawed by a muskrat-- I think that
very extensively
they have been feeding ^ on the white & tender
part of the young blades-- They & not ducks
for it is about the bridges also as much
as anywhere. I think that they desert
the clams now for this vegetable food--
In one place a dead muskrat scents the shore—prob. another of those drowned. Saw the little heaps of dirt where out in the winter. worms had come out by river

Ap 29th

This morning it snows—but the ground is not yet whitened. This will prob. take the cold out of the air. Many chip-birds are feeding in the yard—and one baywing. The latter incessantly scratches like a hen all the while looking about for foes—The bay on its wings is not obvious except when it opens them—The white circle about the eye is visible afar—Now it makes a business of pluming itself—doubling its prettily upon itself—now touching the root of its tail—now thrusting its head under its wing—now between its wing & back above—& now between its legs & its belly—& now it drops flat on its breast & belly & spreads & shakes its wings—now stands up & repeatedly shakes its wings. It is either cleaning itself of dirt acquired in scratching & feeding—for its feet are black with mud—or it is oiling its feathers thus. It is rather better concealed by its color than the chip bird with its chestnut crown—& light breast. The chip bird scratches but slightly & rarely—it
finds what it wants on the surface--keeps its head
down more steadily--not looking about. I see the
bay-wing eat some worms--

For 2 or 3 days the S alba--"with its catkins (not yet
or bracts,? open) and its young leaves"--has made quite a a
show--before any other tree, a pyramid of tender
yellowish green in the russet landscape--

The water now rapidly going down on the
meadows a bright green grass is springing up. //
Pm by boat to Lupine Hill.

It Did not whiten the ground. Raw overcast
& threatening rain. A few of the cones within
reach on F. Monroe's larches shed pollen--say //
The crimson female flowers are now handsome but small.
then yesterday XX That lake grass--or perhaps
I should call it purple grass is now ap. in
perfection on the water--long & slender blades
(abut 1/8 of an inch wide & 6 to 12 inches long
the part exposed) lie side by side
straight
& parallel on the surface with a dimple
at the point where they emerge--some are a
very rich purple with ap. a bloom & very sug-
gestive of p?l?acidity--it is a true bloom at
any rate--the first blush of the spring caught
on these little standards elevated to
the light,-- By the water they are kept per-
fectly smooth & flat & straight as well
as parallel--& thus by their mass make
the greater impression on the eye.
somewhat fishy
It has a strong marshy, almost seaweed-like
scent when plucked. Seen through
a glass the surface is finely grooved.
// The scrolls of the interrupted fern are
already 4 or 5 inches high--
I see a woodchuck on the side of lupine
Hill 8 or 10 rods off--He runs to within 3 feet
of his hole then stops--with his head up--his
whole body makes an angle of 45° as I
I see his shining black eyes & ^ snout & his little erect ears
look sideways at it.--He is of a light brown
at this distance or sorrel
forward ^ (Hoary above--yellowish ^ beneath) gradually
darkening backward to the end of the tail,
general
which is dark brown. The whole aspect is grisly--the ends of most
As I advance The (yellowish brown) of his throat
or rather sorrel
of the hairs being white
& breast very like the sand of his burrow
over which it is slanted. No glaring distinctions
to catch the eye & betray him. As I advance
he draws a foot nearer--his hole--as
if to make sure his retreat while he satis--
Tired of holding up his head, he
flies his curiosity-- lowers it at last--yet waits my further advance.
// The snout of the little sternothaerus is the
most like a little black stick seen above
the water of any of the smaller tortoises.
I was almost perfectly deceived by it close
// at hand; but it moved. Choke cherry
// begins to leaf-- Dandelions out yest. at least
// Some Young alders beg to leaf-- V. ovata
// will open tomorrow X Mt ash beg-- to leaf
say yesterday-- Makes a show with leaves

100**"interrupted" cancelled in pencil**
101Written 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?"
102**vertical pencil line through "yesterday"**
alone before any tree--
Paddling slowly along I see 5 or 6
snipes within 4 or 5 rods feeding on the
meadow just laid bare--or in the shallow &
grassy water-- This dark damp cold day they
do not mind me-- View them with my glass--
How the ends of their wings curve upward
{drawing} They do not thrust their bills clear
down commonly--but wade & nibble at something
amid the grass ap\textsuperscript{137} on the surface of the
sometimes it seems to be the grass itself
water--"sometimes on the surface of the bare
meadow-- They are not now thrusting their bills
deep in the mud. They have dark ash or slate-
colored breasts. At length they take a little alarm
\textit{\& rise with a sort of rippling whistle or peep--\textsuperscript{\wedge}}
but faint & soft--& then alight within a
dozen rods-- I hear often at night a very
different harsh squeak from them at night
squeak
\& another ^ much like the nighthawks--\& also
the booming.


Hose chestnut begs to leaf\textsuperscript{138}.--\textit{one} of them. //
more
Another^\textsuperscript{\textit{\wedge}}--cloudy almost drizzling
day\textsuperscript{139}--in which as the last 3 I wear a
great coat. //
P. M. To Lee's Cliff.
Privet begins to leaf\textsuperscript{140}--(Vib. nudum & lentago //
yesterday). I observed yesterday that
the barn swallows confined themselves
to one place about 15 rods in diameter
in Willow Bay about the sharp rock--
They kept circling about & flying
up the stream (the wind easterly)
about 6 inches above the water--
(It was cloudy & almost raining)
"yet I could not perceive any insects
there. Those myriads of little fuzzy
gnats mentioned on the 21st & 28th
must afford an abundance of
Many new birds should have arrived about the 21st
food to insectivorous birds. The swallows
There were plenty of myrtle birds & yel. red-polls where the gnats were
were confined to this space when
I passed up & were still there when
I returned an hour & a half
later-- I saw them nowhere else.
They uttered only a slight twitter from
time to time & when" they turned out for
each other on meeting. Getting their
meal seemed to be made a social affair.
Pray how long will they continue to
circle thus without resting?
? The early willow by Hubb’s bridge has not
begun to leaf. This would make it a dif. species
from that by RR which has.
Hear a short rasping note somewhat Tweezer bird like, I think from a yel. red poll.
I hear from far the scream of a hawk
circling over the Holden woods & swamp.

//

\footnote{Possibly altered from "&c"}
This accounts for those 2 men with guns just entering it—What a dry shrill angry scream. I see the bird with my glass resting tall upon the topmost plume of a ^ white pine. Its back reflecting the light looks white in patches ^ & now it circles again—It is a red-tailed hawk—The tips of its wings are curved upward as it sails—How it scolds at the men beneath^—! it must have a nest there. Hark! there goes a gun or 2 (& down it tumbles from a rod ^ above so I thought but was mistaken the wood.) In the meanwhile I learn that there is a nest there—& the gunners killed one this morning—which. They are now getting the young except about head perhaps I should call it ^ brown at all reddish brown^—above^—& a dirty white beneath—wings above thickly barred with reddish or ^ & once barred near the end. 12 ^ feathers ^ black -- The legs ^& feet pale yellow—& very stout with strong sharp black claws. The head & neck were remarkably stout—& the beak short & curved from the base— Powerfull neck & legs.^ It measured 1 yard & 3/8+ from tip to tip—i.e. 4 2/12 feet.^ Some fer- rugious on the neck—ends of wings At any rate the pair were—screaming about their nest—nearly black— Have they begun to lay?^ 119 v forward // (Columbine just out XXX one anther sheds-- // The first 2 or 3 primaries being short the wings have a rounded outline— also broad & ragged.\footnote{were written over "are"} \footnote{Caret possibly belongs to "v forward" and not "At . . . nest."; if so, change wording in AL table}
// Also Turritis will tomorrow ap. XXX--many
prob. if they had not been eaten. Crowfoot
& saxifrage are now in prime at Lees
they yellow & whiten the ground. I see
// a great many little piles of dirt made
by the worms on Conantum--pastures.

The woodchuck--has not so much what
I should call a musky scent--but exactly
that peculiar rank scent which I perceive
The musky--at length becomes the reg. wild beast scent.
// in a menagerie.\^ Redwing black-
birds now fly in large flocks--covering
the tops of trees--willows--maples--
apples--or oaks--like a black fruit
& keep up an incessant gurgling &
whistling--all for some purpose--
what is it? White pines now
show the effects of last year's drought
in our yard & on the cliffs--the
needles faded & turning red--to
an alarming extent.

I now see\textsuperscript{110} many Juniper repens berries of
being still green beneath
a handsome light blue above\textsuperscript{\textdegree}, with
3 hoary pouting lips. The Garfields had
Saw the old & tracks of young--thinks they may be 1 month old.
// found a burrow of young foxes\textsuperscript{--how old?}

I see the black feathers of a black
bird by the\textsuperscript{111} Miles swamp side--& this single
bright scarlet one shows that it belonged to
a red-wing--which some hawk or quadruped

\textsuperscript{110}vertical pencil lines through this and the following lines
\textsuperscript{111}Possibly written over "Miles"
May 1st

Rained some\textsuperscript{12} 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\textsuperscript{13} 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\textsuperscript{14} springing up \& for 2 or 3 days at the bottom of the river \& on shore.

At Hill Shore--the anemone nemoralis tomorrow--see none\textsuperscript{15} 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^)\textsuperscript{16} more \& more intense as it advances. There is an unaccountable sweetness as of flowers\textsuperscript{16} in the air--a true may day--raw \& drizzling in the morning. The grackle still.

What various brilliant \& evanescent
colors on the surface of this agitated water—now as we are crossing willow bay looking toward the half concealed sun over the foam spotted flood! It reminds me of the sea.

// At Clam Shell the V. blanda XXX

I do not look for pollen. I find a clam shell 5 inches long wanting 1/16 & more & 2 inches thick. than 2 1/2 inches broad—^ What that little dusky colored lichen on the ground at // Clam Shell end ditch—^with a sort of triangular green fruit. (?) or Marchantia? The // Why have the white pines at a dist. that silvery (dewy?) look around their edges or thin? // maples of Potters swamp seen now parts? Is it owing to the wind showing the under sides of the needles? nearly half a mile off against the Methinks you do not see it in the winter. russet or reddish hill side—^ a very dull scarlet like Spanish brown—^ but one against a? green pine wood Thalictrum anemonoides at Conant // is much brighter. Cliff XXX—^did not look for pollen.

Went to Garfields for the hawk of yesterday. It was nailed to the barn and as a trophy in terrorem. "He gave it to me with an egg. He called it the female --& prob was right, it was so large—^ He tried in vain to shoot the male which I saw circling about just out of gunshot & screaming—^while he robbed the nest He climbed the tree when I was there The tallest white pine or other tree in its neighborhood over a swamp. yesterday P. m. & found 2 young // which he thought not more than

117“?” possibly “I” or “J” 118Possibly “their” 119Splotched—^possibly altered from another word
down, at least

a fortnight old--with only pin feathers--
no feathers
one addled egg-- Also 3 or 4 white bellied

or deer mouse--(mus leucopus) 

a perch--& a sucker--& a gray rabbits
I think these must have been dead fish they found

skin." He had seen squirrels &c in other

I found the remains of a partridge under the tree--
nests. These fishes were now stale. The

reason I did not see my hawks at Well

Meadow last year was that he found

& broke up their nest there containing

5 eggs.

The hawk measures exactly 22 1/2 inches in length
4 feet 4 1/2 inches in alar extent. & weighs 3 1/4 pounds.
The ends of closed wings almost 2 inches short
of end of tail. General color of wings above &
back an olivacious brown, thickly barred with
waving lines of very dark brown, their being a
much broader bar next to the tip of the 2ndaries
& tertiaries--& the first 5 primaries are nearly
black toward the ends-- A little white appears,
especially on the tertiaries. The wing coverts &
scapulars glossed with purple reflections.
The 12 tail feathers (which Macgillivray says
is the number in all birds of Prey--ie. the
Falconinae & Striginae) showing 5 3/4 inches
a clear brown red or rather fox color above,
with a narrow dark band within 1/2 inch of
the end, which is tipped with dirty white--
A slight inclination to dusky barrs near the
Lower tail coverts for nearly an inch white barred with fox colored 
end of one side feather--- Head and neck 
a paler inclining to ferruginous brown 
Beneath--breast & wing linings brown 
Feathers of 
& white--the first centered with large dark brown 
hastate spots-- & the wing linings streaked with 
feruginous. Wings white barred with dusky-- "vents 
Nutall 
& femorals" as says "pale ochreous". 
Tail white softened by the superior color 
I do not perceive that the abdomen is barred. 
Bill very blue black--with a short stout 
more than 
curved tip--curving from the cere and a 
extends not quite 1/4 of an inch beyond the lower mandible. & is proportionally
1/4 of a circle-- Whole visible, including cere,
stouter at tip than in any of Facininae, judging from plates of heads
1 1/8 inch long, & 1 inch deep at base. Cere 
yellowish green. Tarsus & toes very pale 
yellow--claws blue black-- As (Macgilliray)
says of Buteos claws flattened beneath, "that 
of the middle toe with an inner sharp edge."
as I gather.
(He says ^ that all the diurnal birds of prey of G-- B.
i.e. Facininae--have claws either flattened or 
except the Pandion 
concave beneath--the inner edge of the middle 
one being more or less sharp--but least so in 
or harrier
Circus") Tarsus feathered in front 1/3 the 
length 
way down. The toes for stand in 
this order-- The 1st (or hind) 2nd 4th 3d the 
1st being the shortest-- -- -- -- For stoutness 
thus 1--2--3--4-- Claws for stoutness follow 
the same order with the toes-- Utmost spread 
of toes & claws 4 1/2 inches. A considerable 
web. bet. 3d & 4th toes-- Toes with papillae 
not rigid beneath.

Possibly altered from another word
Possibly altered from another word
Possibly altered from another word
Written vertically in margin along length of page:
Milvus several
"In this respect-- Circus & Falco much the same; Aquila & Pernis ^ have ^ short 
webs--Haliaetus--Pandion. & Accipiter are free
A wing extends nearly 2 feet from the body & is 10 3/4 inches wide. When fully expanded it has a rounded outline & a ragged appearings owing to the separation 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 th not the 1st & 6th "slightly so on the outer".

There are but 8 primaries & then there are 2ndaries--but I am not sure whether there are 8 or 10. (Mac. says the primaries of the Falconinae are 10--the 2ndaries from 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 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 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.
Macgillivray des. the Buteo, as "body full, broad
& muscular anteriorly:"--"Wings long, broad, rounded,
the 3d or 4th quill longest, the first very short;" Of Haliaetus
he says "Wings very long, broad, rounded, the 4th & 5th quills
longest;" Aquila like last omitting the very-- Pandion
"Wings very long, comparatively narrow, rounded, with 30
quills, the 3d primary longest, the 2nd nearly equal, the 4th not
much shorter, the 1st longer than the 5th;"-- Falco "Wings very
long, pointed, the 2nd quill longest, the 1st almost as long;
primaries 10;" Accipiter "Wings very long, much rounded;
primary quills 10, 4th & 5th longest, 1st very short,--"
"Pernis "Wings very long, broad, rounded, the 3d quill longest,
the first about the length of the 6th;"-- Milvus "Wings
extremely long, broad, & pointed, the 4th quill longest -- -- --
-- -- 1st much shorter;"-- Circus "Wings long, much rounded;
primary quills 10, the 4th & 3d longest, the 1st about equal to
the 7th,--" These the genera--of G. Britain.

Says of Buteo--"In form & plumage they are very
intimately allied to the eagles & sea-eagles, as well
as in the form of the bill, which is, however, shorter
and less deep towards the end, and of the feet, which
differ, notwithstanding, in being proportionally less
robust, and in having the claws smaller. -- -- --
-- -- Usually fly low, & with less rapidity than
the falcons & hawks; sail in circles like the eagles
& some other species, and prey on heavy-flying
birds, small quadrupeds, reptiles, and even
insects."
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.
What I have called the frog hawk

is prob the male hen-harrier--Nuttall's Circus cyaneus--which he says is the same with the European--

V. Wilson

? (Mac. refers to C. Americanus?) & the larger

& says the quest. of identity is undecided.

brown bird with white rump is the female.

(Prob. my small brown hawk is the F fuscus--or

sharp shinned)

Mac. says the harrier occasionally eats dead

fish--and also will catch a chicken--not

a hen--Sometimes catches its prey in open flight--

Will hunt on the same beat--at the same hour

for many days--ac to Jardine-- (Mac. says

that the Golden eagle "seeks for live prey at a small

height over the surface.") Sail in circles. "The male,

after the first Autumnal moult, acquires in

a considerable degree the plumage of the adult--"

---"the change of plumage is effected in the au-
tumn of the year after it leaves the nest, and

not in the same year." The female used to

be regarded as a distinct species called the "Ring-tail.

Country people name it Blue Kite, Blue Hawk,

Ring-tail, Brown Kite, or Gled; and the High-

landers call it Breid-air-toin (rag-on-rump),

on ac. of the white tail coverts conspicuous in both

sexes."

May 2d Pm. by boat up Assabet.

Quince begs to leaf--& pear--perhaps some of last earlier.

of young trees say yesterday began

Aspen leaves an inch long suddenly-(not till

the 11th last year.). Leafing then is differently affected

by the season--from flowering--The leafing is ap.

compactly earlier this year than the flowering
The young aspens are the first of indigenous trees conspicuously leafed. Diervella say begs to leaf with Viburnums. Amelanchier—“yesterday” leafed. That small native willow now in flower or say yesterday XXX just before leafs--for the first seem to be bracts--2 to 7 or 8 feet high very slender & curving. Ap has 3 or petioled 4 lanceolate toothed bracts at base of catkin--male 3/4 & fem 1 inch long--scales black & silky haired--Ovary oblong oval stalked--downy--with a small yellowish gland not so long as its stalk--see leaf by & by Saw many Crow b. birds day bef. yesterday. Vigorous look the little spots of triangular sedge (?) springing up on the river banks 5-6 inches high yellowish below glaucous & hoary atop--straight & rigid. Many clamsells have round brassy colored spots as big as a fourpence--found one opened by rats last winter--almost entirely the color of tarnished brass within Open the Assabet spring--The anemone is well named--for see now the nemorosa--amid the fallen brush & leaves--trembling in the wind so fragile. Hellebore seems a little later than the cabbage. Was that a harrier seen at first skimming low then soaring & circling--with a broad whiteness on the wings beneath? May 3d Pm to Assabet Bath--with a jerk of the head. Small pewee--Hard-hack leafed 2 or if I have not named it may be 3 days in one place. Early pyrus leafed yest. or day before
The skull of a horse—(not a mare for I did not see the 2 small canine teeth in the upper jaw—nor in the under--) 6 molars on each side above & below--& 6 incisors to each jaw. I first observed the stillness of birds &c at noon—with the increasing warmth—on the 23d of April. Sitting on the bank near the stone heaps I see large suckers rise to catch flies insects some times leap—

A Butterfly 1 inch in alar extent—dark velvety brown with slate colored tips—on dry leaves. On the N of Groton Turnpike beyond Abel Hosmers—3 distinct terrace to river—1st annually over flows—say 25 or 30 rds wide—2d 7 or 8 feet higher & 40 or 60 wide—3d 40 feet

// higher still—Sweet fern—opened ap yest. XXX // Vac. Pennsylvanicum—begs to leaf yesterday. Young red. maple—leaf tomorrow—also some white birch. & perhaps Sugar maple.

Humphrey Buttrick—one of 8 who alone returned from Texas out of 24 says he can find wood—knows of several nests // cocks eggs now—has seen them setting with snow around them—(& that Melvin has seen // Partridges eggs some days ago.) He has seen crows building this year. Found in a Henhawk's nest once the legs of a cat. Has known of several Goshawk's nests (or what he calls some kind of eagle)
Garfield called it the Cape Eagle) one

in a shrub oak—with eggs. Last year his
dog caught 7 black ducks so far grown that
takes a pretty active\textsuperscript{13} dog to catch such
he got 60 cents a pair for them—\textsuperscript{4} He frequently finds
or hears of \textsuperscript{4} a nest this year—

Also finds wood-ducks nests— Has very often
seen partridges drum—close to him, has watched
one for an hour— They strike the body with their
wings. He shot a white-headed eagle from
Carlisle Bridge— it fell in the water & his dog
was glad to let it alone— He suggested that my fish hawks
found pouts in holes made by ice

May 4th—

A robin sings when I in the house cannot dis-
tinguish the earliest dawning—from the the full moon-
light. His song first advertises me of the day-
break—when I thought it was night—as I lay
looking out into the full moonlight— I heard
a robin begin his strain— & yielded the point to
him—believing that he was better acquainted
with the springs of the day than I— with the
signs of day—

\textsuperscript{5} Am to Hill— Many redwings

\& grackles feeding together on meadows—

They still fly in flocks— some dark ash; are
they fem. grackles? Hear a brown thrasher.

Yel. lily pads are just \textsuperscript{14} to show themselves on
the surface—the first noticeable on the water. \textit{All} kinds
of young maples & some limbs of large white beg. to leaf.

---

\textsuperscript{13}"t" cross in "active" in pencil
\textsuperscript{14}Possibly altered from "4"
\textsuperscript{14}Vertical pencil line through "beginning"
Red maple blossoms beg. to cover growth. Ostrya
will leaf tomorrow (The 2nd Amelanchier--sweet fern)
& early thorn beg to leaf today. Small white-barked
shrub--(andromeda?) on Island neck begs. to leaf
or say 7th--then slow
// tomorrow I think I hear a warb. vireo. certainly
the 10th

Birds--still see 3 or 4 crows together though

some at least are building. Jays do not
scream as early--Chicadee spring notes still--
Partridges setting--Have noticed no ducks for
black

some days--All the Blackbirds as plenty as
ever--4 in flocks--Have not noticed robins
in flocks for 2 or 3 days. See no gulls--
think I saw one to-day.
nor F Hiemalis--nor tree sparrows--now--Red tail
hawk young 14 days old--Snipes feeding in numbers
on the 29th Ap. Yel. redpolls in numbers May 1st--
Woodcocks setting--Purple finch sings steadily.

Myrtle birds numerous--sing their tea-lee tea lee--
& numerous
in morning--White throated sparrows here--No gold-

// finches for long time--The water is now generally off the meadows
P. M. to Beeches.

In cut woods a small thrush--with crown inclining
to rufuous--tail foxy & edges of wings dark ash
// clear white beneath--I think the Golden crowned?

See more White throated sparrows than any
other bird today in various parts of our walk--
generally feeding in numbers on the ground
dry
in open fields & meadows next to woods--Then flitting
through the woods--Hear only that sharp
lisping chip (?) from them. A partridge's grayish
tail feather--with a subterminal dark band.
Several larger thrushes on low limbs & on
ground--with a dark eye (not the white around
it of the wood thrush) & I think the nankeen
Sitting in Abel Brooks' Hollow--see a small hawk

go over high in the air--with a long tail--4 distinct
from wings-- It advanced by a sort of limping flight
yet rapidly--not circling--nor tacking--but
flapping briskly at intervals & then gliding straight
ahead with rapidity--controlling itself with its tail--

It seemed to be going a journey. Was it not

the Sharp shinned or F Fuscus? I think that
% falsely% what I have called the Sparrow hawk%& latterly

Fix. hawk--is also the sharp shinned. V Ap 26 & May 8 '54
% & July 58%

& Ap 16th 55--for the Fix. Hawks tail is white barred.

Found a black snakes skeleton--remarked the

globular protuberance on which the vertebrae revolve--&
recurred
the 4 (?!) sharp ^ teeth in the lower jaw--

Red cherry not generally leafing before yesterday--

Sand cherry--yesterday leafs-- See where a

skunk has probed last night & large black
large
dung--with ap. ^ ants' heads & earth or sand & stubble
or insects wings in it-- Prob. had been probing a large

ants hill. Was that a cerasus or prunus on

Pine hill--? thus from woodpile--(drawing) AB 2 rods west.
leaf
The beech ^ buds are very
reddish brown
handsome ^ now--some nearly an inch
& a half long & very slender not more than
1/6 of inch in diameter & regularly swelling
from each end--will open ap in 3 or 4 days.

The blossom buds are still larger--may
bloom in 8 days. Potentilla out X

What that plant in Baker's Pool with sessile spat--
ulate leaves toothed at end--now 4 or 5 inches high.

Noticed a perfectly regular circular concavity
in a sandy soil in a hollow in birch woods where
ap. a partridge had dusted herself--
Yesterday a great many spotted & wood tortoises
in the Sam. Wheeler--birch fence mead-- pool which
dries up-- One of the former--gradually settled

itself into the sod--by turning round & round & scratching

with its claws. A shower
May 5th
P. m. to Beck Stowa
Cold weather for several days. Canada

plum & cultivated cherry--& Missouri currant look
as if they would bloom tomorrow. The sugar
maples on the common--have just begun to show
their stamens peeping out of the bud--but that
by Dr Barrets has them 1 1/2 inches long or more.

The trees & shrubs which I observe
to make a show now with their green--with-
out regard to the time when they began--are
to put them in the order of their intensity & generalness

Gooseberry--both kinds
Raspberry
Mead sweet
Choke cherry shoots
Some young trembles
Very young apples
Red currant--& prob. black
Pyrus prob. arbutifolia
Young black cherry
Thimble berry
Prob. wild red cherry in some places
S alba--with bracts?
Some small native willows
Cultivated cherry--
Some Mt. 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 till1st 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 when17, 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 my18 resolve I detected

---

115pose revised to “Lt”
115Possibly altered from another word
115“when” altered from “then”, or “then” altered from “when”—no AL written yet
115Possibly altered from “they” or “the”
a new nest close to the top of the tallest
white pine in the samp—A crow circled cawing
about it within gun shot—then over me
surveying—and perching on an oak directly over my
head within 35 feet—cawed angrily—But
suddenly, as if having taken a new resolution, it
flitted away—and was joined by its mate & 2 more
they went off silently 1/4 of a mile or more
& lit in a pasture, as if they had nothing
to concern them in the wood.
May 6th
// The young Sugar maples leafing more
conspicuous now than any maples. Black
// oak buds are large & silvery. Peach leafed
yesterday—
Pm to Epigaea
// S. Alba opened yest XXX Gilead not leafing yet,
but perhaps tomorrow? A Robins nest with 2
eggs—betrayed by peeping. On the 30th of ap.
// a phoebe flew out from under the arched bridge
prob—building.
// Saw again—a slender vireo-like bird (seen yesterday—
near R. Brown's) head somewhat crested
behind made me think of small pewee—
catches insects somewhat like it—As
I remember—May be ashly white beneath—
dusky olive above with 2 whitish bars on wings
& dusky tail—Can it be the solitary vireo?

15 Possibly "swmp"
16 Possibly altered from another word
17 Vertical pencil line through "maples"
18 Vertical pencil line through "large"
19 Possibly altered from "I"
20 Possibly altered from another word
Eq. sylvaticum prob-- yest.\textsuperscript{165} XXX or day before
Strawberry X That low sedge-like plant
X under Clam Shell very common--
with brownish somewhat umbelled spikes--
prob. Luzula campestris? one of the wood rushes--
Viola lancolata--yesterday at least--X
High-black berry has begun to leaf say 2 days
Hear near near 2nd Div. the \textit{Er or Ew},
\textit{Ev. forest note}
ter ter twe Bright yellow head & shoulders
& beneath & dark legs & bill--catching insects
along base of Pitch pine plumes somewhat
creeper like--very active & restless--darting from
darted at & drove off a chicadee
tree to tree--^ I find I have thus described its
\textcolor{red}{\textit{colors} last year--at various times--viz-- Black}
\textcolor{red}{\textit{this often}}
\textit{throat} ^ with dark & light beneath-- /Again
Black streak from eyes--Slate col. back? forked
tail--white beneath? Another bird with \textcolor{red}{\textit{yel}} throat
near by perhaps female./ Again June 17 black
wings with white bars?--
\begin{itemize}
\item Is it Black throated Green--or Latham's?
\item the
\item \textcolor{red}{\textit{yel}. fronted--or Golden winged warbler?}
\item From Wilson I should think it the last which he thinks the same with Pennant & Latham's
\item \textcolor{red}{\textit{yel}-- front.}
\item The small juncus of 2nd div. shows a A field
\item of dark green with reddish top--the flower just
\item beginning to peep out--this the earliest plant
\item of this kind to make a show. More than a foot high
\item Epigaea in full bloom. Myrtle birds
\item very numerous just beyond 2nd division-- They
\item sing like an instrument teeet--teet te, t t t,
\end{itemize}
\textsuperscript{165}vertical pencil line through "yest."
or low—sometimes beginning like \( \text{pha-} \)
be—As I sat by road side one drew near
once or twice
perched within 10 feet & dived ^ with a curve
black
to catch the little ^ flies about my head coming
once within 3 feet, not minding me much. I
could not tell at first what attracted
it toward me— It saw them from 25 feet off.
There was a little swarm of small flies
with large shoulders
regularly fly-like^about my head.

Many white throated sparrows there.
Road full of cattle going^ up country.

Heard at a dist a ruby? crowned wren
so robin like & spirited. After saw one--
// within 10 or 15 feet-- Dark bill & legs--ap
dark olivacious ashy head--a little whitish
before & behind the full black eyes--ash breast
olive yellow on primaries with a white bar.
dark tail & ends of wings--white belly & vent
Did not notice vermillion spot on hindhead.
It darted off from apple tree for insects^ like
a pewee & returned to within 10 feet of me as if
? curious— I think this the only regulus I have
ever seen.
Near Jenny Dugans--perceive^ that unaccountable
// fugacious fragrance as of all flowers--bursting
forth in air--not near a meadow--which
perhaps I first perceived on May 1st— It
is the general fragrance of the year-- I am
almost afraid I shall trace it to some
particular plant. It surpasses all particular 
fragrances— I am not sitting near any flower that 
I can perceive. 2 or 3 rods this side of John. 
Hosmers Pitch pines beyond Clam Shell some 
white v. ovatas—some with a faint bluish tinge—
//
A beautiful sunset—the sun behind a gilt 
edged cloud—with a clear bright crimson space 
beneath. 

May 7

5 Am to Island. Finger cold—& windy. 
The sweet flags showed themselves\^[169] about with 
pads. Hear Maryland yel. throat. Many 
grackles still in flocks singing on trees 
male & female the latter a very dark or black 
ash but with silvery eye. I suspect the red- 
wings are building. Large white maples beg. 
to leaf yesterday at least\^[170] generally—one now shows 
considerably across the river. The aspen is earlier—
Vib. dentatum yest. leafed. Bass to-morr (some 
shoots sheltered now) A crow’s nest\^[171] near the 
top of a pitch pine about 20 feet high 
just completed—betrayed by the bird’s cawing 
& alarm—\^[\[a mistake\] & alarm—\^[a mistake]& alarm—\^[a mistake] & alarm—\^[a mistake] of the 5th one came and 
sat on a bare oak within 30—40 feet. 
both 
cawed reconnoitred & then ^ flew off to a distance 
One comes near to spy you first. 
while I discovered\^[172] & climbed to the nest 
within a dozen rods. It was about 16 

\^[169]vertical pencil line through "themselves"
\^[170]vertical pencil line through "least"
\^[171]Possibly altered from "discover"
laid across the forks--& white oak leas
& bark fibres laid copiously on them-- the cavity deep & more than half covered & long concealed with a roof of leaves--a ^ sloping approach or declivity left on one side

// the nest. Red currant out XX
Pm to Lee's Cliff.

// Via Hub's Bath. V. cucullata ap a day or 2.
// A lady bug--& Humblebee--the last prob some
// time. A lily wholly above water & yellow
on the 12th prox. I observed it sunk beneath the water
in Skull-Cap mead. ready to open.
Climbed to 2 crows nests or--maybe one
of them a squirrel's in Hub's grove--
see Rana fontinalis
// Do they not some times use a squirrels
// nest for a foundation? A Ruby crested
wren is ap. attracted & eyes me. It
as well as dirty
is wrenching & fatiguing ^ work to climb
a tall pine with nothing or maybe
only dead twigs & stubs to hold by. You
must proceed with great deliberation &
see well where you put your hands & your
// feet. Saw prob. a femal F. Fusca
sail swift & low close by me--and alight
on a rail fence-- It was a rich very dark
perhaps reddish slate brown-- I saw some
white under the head--no white on rump--
Wings thickly barred with dark beneath. It then flew & alighted on a maple
Did not fly so irregularly as the last
one I called by this' name. The early
// willow on the left beyond the bridge

172 corrected spelling; no need to add to AL table
173 Possibly altered from "the"
has beg. to leaf--but by no means yet the
one on the right. Scared up 2 gray squirrels
in the Holden wood which ran glibly up the
tallest trees on the opposite side to me
& leaped across from the extremity of the branches\footnote{Possibly altered from another word}
to the next trees & so on very fast ahead of me--

Remembering--aye aching with--my ex-
perience in climbing trees this Pm & morning
I could not but admire their exploits.-- To
see them travelling with so much swiftness
& ease that road over which I climbed
a few feet with such painful exertion--

A partridge flew up from within 3 or
4 feet of me with a loud whirr & betrayed
one cream colored egg in a little hollow
amid the leaves. Hear the tweezer bird--
It looks like a bluish slate above--with a
greenish? yellow back--& bright orange yel--
throat & breast--forked tail 2 white bars on
wings--whitish ven--another prob. female
paler bluish with fainter yellow--& a conspic-
uous black crescent on breast \[drawing\]. This
is undoubledly the Particolored warbler
\footnote{ie Brewers--Blue Yellow Back Sylvia}
Americana of Latham & Audubon--Pusilla of
Wilson. V June 18 54 & May 9th 53.

I believe the Yel. rump. warbler has a
note somewhat like the tweezer's.

Climbed a hemlock to a very large & complete
prob. gray squirrel's nest--18 inch diameter--a founda-
tion of twigs--on which a body of leaves--
some
& bark fibers lined with the last--and
the whole covered with many fresh green
hemlock twigs 1 foot or more long with
the leaves on--which had been gnawed off--
& many strewed the ground beneath having
fallen off-- Entrance one side.

A short dist. beyond this & the hawks-nest pine--

I observed a mid sized red oak standing
a little aslant on the side-hill & over
the swamp--with a pretty large hole in one
side about 15 feet from the ground
where ap. a limb on which a felled
tree lodged had been cut some years before
& so broke out a cavity--I thought that such
a hole was too good a one not to be
improved by some inhabitant of the wood--
Perhaps the gray squirrels I had just seen
had their nest there--or was not the entrance
big enough to admit a screech owl.

So I thought I would tap on it & put
my ear to the trunk-- & see if I could hear
anything stirring within it but I heard
nothing. Then I concluded to look into
it-- So I shinned up-- & when I reached
up one hand to the hole to pull myself
up by it the thought passed through
my mind perhaps something may take
hold of my fingers--but nothing did--

The first limb was nearly opposite

175Possibly altered from "at"
176Altered from "conclude" plus another word or letter
to the hole--& resting on this I looked in--
& to my great surprise there squatted
filling the hole which was about 6 inches
deep & 5 to 6 wide--a salmon-brown
not so big as a partridge
bird--"seemingly asleep within 3 inches of the
top & & close to my face. It was a minute
or two before I made it out to be an owl--
It was a salmon brown ^ above--the feathers
or fawn?
shafted with small blackish brown " somewhat
(drawing) hastate (?) marks-- greyish toward the ends of
the wings & tail as far as I could see.

A large white circular space about or behind
1/3 of an inch.
eye banded in rear by a pretty broad ^ & quite
conspicuous perpendicular dark brown stripe.

Egret say 1 1/4 or 1 1/2 inches long sharp triangular
reddish brown without mainly. It lay crowded
in that small space--with its tail somewhat
bent up--& one side of its head turned
dark
up with one egret--& its large ^ eye open
only by a long slit about 1/16 of an inch
wide--After visible breathing-- After
a little while I put in one hand an
stroked it repeatedly whereupon it
reclined its head a little lower & closed its
eye entirely. Though curious to know
what was under it I disturbed it
no farther at that time.
In the meantime the crows were making a great cawing amid & over the pine-tops beyond the swamp--& at intervals I heard the scream of a hawk, prob-- the surviving male henhawk, whom they were pestering (unless they had discovered the male screech owl) & a part of them came cawing about me. This was a very fit place--for hawks & owls to dwell in the thick wood just over a white spruce swamp--in which the glaucous kalmia grows-- The grey squirrels--partridges--hawks & owls all together-- It was prob these screech owls which I heard in moonlight nights hereabouts last fall. V. end of this day.

Birch leaves today--prob some yest. with white maple-- The Conantum thorn (cock spur?) leaves with earliest

That little red stemmed (?) moss has now yellow green oval fruit hanging densely in the sod.

Sweet briar shoots 2 inch long--this one of roses the earlier to leaf. Put it with early rose The r triflorus up 2 inches or more put it next after--raspberry for present

At Lees a carex well out yet rad. leaves 2 stamens 3 stigmas ap. one of those on p 554^-- A carex some what like C. caespitosa of Big just beginning in XXX some light colored meadows--dark purple ^ linear spikes somewhat 3 sided This makes large tussocks in meadows--the green leaves & debris standing 6 or 8 inches erect in tufts. Polyg. pubescens at Lees in 3 or 4 on large tussocks of dead many cut edged blades falling weeping on every side 18 to 20 inches long days-- Amelanchier botryapium on rocks partly open will prob shed pollen tomorrow XXX
The long narrow unfolded flower buds—are very pretty with the dark purplish leaves 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 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—as or like dry alder scales or cones—will shed pollen in a day or 2. Oftener one pedicelled anther or stamen than 2 together—in the very minute calyx if it is one—Young bass 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 & 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? bird—though the egg was not pure white— I do not remember that my bird was barred or mottled at all. %v the 12th%

Possibly altered from another word
Possibly "&"
Vertical pencil line through "bass'"
Possibly altered from "come"
Possibly inserted
Nuttall says

Little Screech Owl--Greenland to Florida--

chiefly prey on mice--also small birds, beetles, crickets, &c--nests in May & June. & lined with &c &c eggs

4 to 6--Several blue-birds black birds & song-sparrows in one--

In cloudy weather come out earlier--Wilson's thrush attacked one. note in autumn--"hō, hō hō hō hō

hō hō, proceeding from high & clear to a low
gutteral shake or trill."

Was not that an owl's feather which I

found 1/2 mile beyond downy more than 1/2

& with base & separate white points

beyond a dark band at the end?

But

Was not mine a bird of last year?--^ Macgillivray

says of owls that the young dif. very little from

the old "the older the individ. becomes, the more

simple is the coloring; the dark markings dimin--

ish in extent, and the finer mottlings are gradually

obliterated." Rhus toxicodendron under rocks leaves.

May 8

// 5 Am to Gilead--began to leaf yest.

Think I saw bank swallows--^184

not at all certain

// still finger cold.

// At noon begs. a cold drizzling rain.

a cold may storm wind Easterly

which continues at intervals through the

next day.-- Grackle here still-- Cult--

// cherry opened flower yest XXX. The rock
generally

maples (such sized as we ^ have) comes^185 on

faster & showes more now^186 than the red--

May 9th

? Pm to Anursnack-- The black currant

will not bloom for 5 or 6 days. A large

// red maple just^187 begun to leaf-- Its keys

1 1/2 inches long--by Assabet bridge.
Castilleja show red one but will not bloom under a week prob. The same of Erigeron C. alternifolia & Paniculata beg-- to leaf--

Scared up 3 quails in the stubble in G-- M Barretts orchard-- They go off partridge like--from within 2 rods, with a sharp whist-ling whirr. Heard methinks a white throat sparrow? sing very much like the beginning of a cat bird's song--could see no other bird--thought it a catbird at first. See several of these sparrows yet.

May 10

Can. Plum open petals today XX & leafs Domestic Plum only leafs. Sum. yel-bird

Pm to Beeches Young red maples are generally later than

Yound sugar do--hardly began before yest. & large white--are not so forward as young sugar-- Muhlenburg's Willow leafed 4 or 5 days--young-
yel-- birch leaf--say 2 days. In callitriche pool hear a bull-frog belch--or dump-- Is that a proserpinacea with finely divided leaves?
in this pool? Hear a tree toad or maybe a woodpecker tapping. A juncus in Hubb's Close 2 feet high & big as a crows quill. Round leafed cornel--leaf tomorrow XXX also pignut leaf today in some places-- The beach leaf buds are more back ap. than chestnut--but some
leaves are expanding with the flower buds--
which are now opened so as to show the separate
buds-- V. Pennsylvanicum--early blueberry in

bloom XXX prob. may shed pollens a yel. red-
poll still.

May 11

Am. To Island-- Only the lower limbs
of Bass begin to leaf yest-- A crow-black

// birds nest--about 8 feet up a White maple
loose
over water a large ^ nest without some
8 inches high--bet. a small twig & main
trunk--composed of coarse bark shreds
without mud
& dried last years grass ^--within deep
& size of robins nest--with 4 pale green
eggs streaked & blotched with black
young bird not begun to form.
// & brown. took one^. Hear & see Yel. throat

// vireo. See oatseed spawn--a mass
as big as fist on bottom--of brown jelly
composed of smaller globules each with a
fish-like tadpole color of a seed.

Pm to Andromeda polifolia

// Some young elms beg. to leaf. Butternut leafs

// ap. tomorrow-- Larger rock maples not
yet beg. to leaf--later considerably than
large white maples & somewhat than large

// red. Ap. Andromeda will not open before
just
the 15th or 16 & the buck bean now ^ budded
above the water not before the 20th

? Juniper repens will not open ap before the 14th or 15th
Canoe birch just sheds pollen\(^{153}\) XXX Very golden

handsome drooping ^ catkins sometimes 2

or 3 together some 5 1/4 inches long. The leaves

some

of ^ youn sprouts already 3/4 inch over--but of

the trees not started The 2nd Amelanchier just

sheds pollen XXX in a swamp-- I trod on

a large black-snake which as soon as

I stepped again went off swiftly down the

hill toward the swamp with head erect like

a racer-- Looking closely I found another

left behind partly concealed by the dry leaves.

They were lying amid the leaves in this open

wood E of Beck-stow's amid the sweet fern

& huckleberry bushes-- The remaining one ran-

out its tongue at me--& vibrated its tail

swiftly making quite a noise on the leaves--

then darted forward--\(^{144}\) passed round

an oak\(^{155}\) & whipped itself straight down

into a hole at its base 1 1/2 inches over--

After its head had entered its tail was

not long in following. You can hardly

walk in a thick pine wood now--especially

a swamp--but presently--you will have

a crow or 2 over your head, either silently

flitting over--to spy what you would be

at--& if its nest is in danger or angrily

cawing. It is most impressive when--looking

for their nest, you first detect the

\(^{153}\)"sheds pollen" possibly altered from "shed pollens"

\(^{144}\)"dash may be up stroke of "p"

\(^{155}\)"an oak" possibly altered from other words, include "s" and "c"
presence of the bird by its shadow--

Was not that a bay wing which I heard sing--Ah, twar twe twar, twit

// twit twit twit-twe? V. pedata sheds a great many out on the 13th pollen--the first I have chanced to see.

I hear some kind of owl partially hooting now at 4 pm I know not whether far off or near--

May 12

Cold enough for a fire this many a day-- 6 Am to Hill.

I hear the myrtle bird's te-e-e, te-e--,

%white throat sparrows% t t t, t t clear flute-like whistle.

& see 8 or 10 crow b. birds together.

Pm to Lee's Cliff.

C says he saw upland plover 2 or 3 nights ago. The sweet gale begs to leaf.

The I. I perceive the fragrance of the Salix alba now in bloom more than 1/8 of a mile distant-- They now adorn the causeways with their yellow blossoms & resound with the bumble

// hum of ^ bees &c &c I have found half a dozen robins' nests with eggs already--

1 in an elm 2 in a salix alba--1 in a salix nigra--1 in a pitch pine &c &c

I find the partridge nest of the
7th ult partially covered with dry oak leaves--&
2 more eggs only = 3 in all--cold. Prob-- the
bird is killed. As I approached the owls nest
I saw her run past the hole up into that
part of the hollow above it--& probably she
was there when I thought she had flown on
I looked in & at first did not know what I saw--
the 7th." One of the 3 remaining eggs was
hatched--& a little downy white young one
2 or 3 times as long as an egg lay helpless between
the 2 remaining eggs-- Also a dead white-
bellied mouse (mus leucopus) lay with them its
tail curled round one of the eggs. Wilson
says of his Red Owl--strix asio--with which
this ap. corresponds--& not with the mottled--
though my egg is not "pure white"--that "the
young are at first covered with a whitish down." //
heard an oven-bird--
Passing on into the Miles' Meadow--
was struck by the interesting tender green //
of the jut springing foliage--of the aspens
app%l%es cherries (more reddish) &c It is now
especially interesting while you can see
through it--and also the tender yellowish
bare green grass shooting up in the river
meadows (mm) & prevailing over the dark
& sere. Watched a black & white creeper
from Bittern cliff-- A very neat & active
bird--exploring the limbs on all sides--& looking
3 or 4 ways almost at once for insects.

197 vertical pencil line through "interesting"
198 "l" added in pencil
199 Possibly altered from "look"
Now & then it raises its head a little opens its bill & without closing it utters its faint seer seer seer seer. From beyond the orchard saw a large bird far over the Cliff hill--which with my glass I

/soon made out to be a fish-hawk advancing. Even at that dist. half a mile off I distinguished its gull like body--(piratelike fishing body fit to dive) & that its wings did not curved upward at the ends like a hen hawk's--(at least I couldn't see that they did) but rather hung down. It came long & undulating on steadily, bent on fishing--with ^ heavy ^ wings with an easy sauntering flight--over the river to the pond--& hovered over Pleasant meadow a long time--hovering from time to time in one spot--when more than a hundred feet high--then making a very short circle or 2 & hovering again--then sauntering off against the woodside-- At length he reappeared passed down-ward over the shrub oak-plain & alighted standing this time ap. lengthwise on the limb on an oak (of course now bare)^. Soon took to wing again & went to fishing down 100 feet high the stream. ^When just below Bittern Cliff I observed by its motions that it observed some-thing-- It made a broad circle of observation in its course--lowering itself somewhat steep then by one or 2 side wise flights it reached the water -- & as near as intervening trees would let me see skimmed over it & endeavored to clutch its pray in passing.-- It failed the
first time but prob. succeeded the 2nd. Then it leisurely winged its way to a tall bare tree on the east end of the Cliffs. & there we left it^-^- It had a very white belly & indeed appeared all white beneath its body-- I saw broad black lines between

The brown thrasher is a powerful the white crown & throat. singer--he is 1/4 of a mile off across the river where he sounded with 15 rods.

Hear the night warbler-- Slip. elm leaf

more forward than the common--say yest. Only young common yet. White ash begs to shed-pollen at Lee's yest. or possibly day before XXX-- but no leaves on the same-- Hear the first creak of a cricket beneath the rocks there--

So serene & composing-- Methinks it surpasses the song of all birds--sings from everlasting to everlasting. Ap a thousand little slender catch-flies shooting up on the top of the cliff. The red oak or--1 day there leafed a day or 2^ earlier than hickory--& the black near it not yet. Rhus radicans leafed

spär there a day or 2-- See one white throat ^ still.

The hearing of the cricket whets my eyes.

I see on or 2 long lighter & smoother streakes across the rippled pond from west to east-- which preserve their form remarkably--only are bent somewhat at last. The zephyr does not strike the surface from over the broad button bush row--till after a rod or so leaving a perfectly smooth border with a fine irregular shaded edge where the rippling begins. I now begin to distinguish where at a distance the amelanchier botryapium with its white against the russet is waving in the wind. Under Lee's C. about 1 rod east pale of the ash--am surprised to find some ^ yellow
the leaves & stem also not purplish but a yellowish & light green

// columbines--not a tinge of scarlet--with
  //+ the parts both flower & leaves more slender--& the leaves not so flat
leaves differently shaped from the common--
  but inclining to fold.
// One flower of the polygonum pubescens open
there--prob. may shed pollen tomorrow XXX200

Returning over Conantum I directed my glass
  toward the dead tree on Cliffs & was surprised
to see the Fish-hawk still sitting there about an
  hour after he first alighted--& now I found that
he was eating a fish which he had under
  his feet on the limb--201 & ate--as I have already
described. At this distance his whole head looked
  white with his breast.

  Just before sundown took our seats before
  sat perfectly still &
the owl's nest & ^ awaited her appearance--
  We sat about 1/2 an hour--& it was surprising
what various distinct sounds we heard
  from there deep in the wood--as if the vistas
  aisles
of the wood were so many ear trumpets--
  the cawing of crows--the peeping of hylas--in
  the swamp--& perhaps the croaking of

26? // a tree-toad--the oven bird--the yorrick
// of Wilson's thrush--a distant stake
  driver--the night warbler--& black &
white creeper--the lowing of cows--the
  late supper horn--the voices of boys--
the singing of girls--not all together
  but separately & distinctly & musically
from where the Partridge--& the
red tailed hawk & the screech owl
  sit on their--nests.

200"XXX" possibly added
201 Possibly "limb.--"
Clearer weather 1
Butterflies 1
Pratt's sweetbriar 1
Winged ants 1
Flowers 1 & 2
Walk with Pratt 1
Willow in morning 2
My little snapping turtles 3--10--26
To Climbing Fern 3
Galls 3--9--13
To F H. Pond by moonlight 3
Waterless viscid (?) 4
Owls 6--18
Berries 7
River fall & wreck 7
To Sam Barretts Pond 7
Drought--8--9
Saw dust in river 8
Birch lice (?) exuviae 8
Sam Barretts Pond 9
Cranberries 9
Pigeons 10
Blue Heron 10
Locusts 10
Birds 10--13
Distant thunder Shower 11
Water warm again 12
Aut. tints 13--24
Acorns 13
Cracks in ground 13
Fall 14
Marsh hawk 14

202 Material on this page is written in pencil in two columns in MS, with a vertical line in the middle of the page; the second column is not completely filled.
203 Possibly "fell"
To Baker farm by moonlight 15

Sounds in evening 15--6--7--8--9 &c

A-Graping\textsuperscript{204} 19--26

Clams 19

Garfield 21--4--6

Snap-turtles 21--3

Brant 22

Otter 22

Musquash 22--3

Bidens Cernua 23

Aster of Hub. swamp. 23

Pickerel 26

Fall rain 27 & new greenness

Failure of fungi-- 28

Birds (what heard) 28.

\textsuperscript{204}"Graping" written over "graping"