

pamphlets: Emerson's *The Method of Nature: An Oration* and Alcott's *The Doctrine and Discipline of Human Culture*. The third item is Elizabeth Peabody's forty-three-page *Method of Spiritual Culture: Being an Explanatory Preface to the Second Edition of "Record of a School,"* which T mentions next.

⁴ Elizabeth Palmer Peabody (1804-1894) was Alcott's assistant at the Temple School from 1834 to 1836. She opened a bookstore in Boston in 1840.

Copy-text: ALS (NNPM, MA 2711)

Published: *Cor* 1958, 51-53

Editor's Notes

This letter is addressed "Isaiah T. Williams / Buffalo / N.Y.," post-marked "CONCORD MAS OCT 8", and endorsed "Buffalo N.Y. / H. D. Thoreau / Concord Mass. / Oct 8 1841-".

PE supplies the month "October" from the contents of the letter and the postmark; T apparently wrote "Sept." by mistake.

creedless] PE; creedles{*text obscured by sealing wax*}

again,] PE; possibly -. in MS

possess] PE; {*text obscured by sealing wax*}ossess

Author's Alterations

echo] *followed by cancelled* to them

Lake] lake

To Rufus Wilmot Griswold

October 9, 1841

Concord Oct. 9th 1841.

Dear Sir,

I am sorry that I can only place at your disposal three small poems printed in the "Dial"—that called "Sympathy" in no. 1.—"Sic Vita" in no. 5—and "Friendship" in no. 6. If you see fit to reprint these will you please to correct the following errors?¹

In the second stanza of "Sympathy"^a

for posts read ports.

" " 5th " " breeze " haze.

"e " " *the eyes* " *our eyes*

"e " " worked " works.
 " 13th " " dearest " truest.
 " 4th " " "Friendship"
 for our read one.
 " 10th " " warden " warder.

I was born in Concord, Massachusetts, in 1817, and was graduated at Harvard University, in 1837.

Yrs respectfully
 Henry D. Thoreau.

Correspondent: Rufus Wilmot Griswold (1815-1857), a journalist, editor, and writer, was planning an anthology of American writing that he would publish as *The Poets and Poetry of America* (Philadelphia: Carey and Hart, 1842). Griswold worked for Horace Greeley before becoming the assistant editor of *Graham's Magazine*.

¹ Griswold solicited poems from Emerson for his anthology, but Emerson prompted T to submit some of his own work instead. Although Emerson wrote Griswold recommending T, none of the poems mentioned in the letter were included in his anthology. All three appeared in the *Dial*: "Sympathy" in *Dial* 1 (July 1840): 71-72; "Sic Vita" in *Dial* 2 (July 1841): 81-82; and "Friendship" in *Dial* 2 (October 1841): 204-205. See *Collected Poems* 1964, pp. 64-66 ("Lately, alas, I knew a gentle boy"), pp. 81-82 ("I am a parcel of vain strivings tied"), and pp. 71-73 ("Let such pure hate still underprop").

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

Published: *Cor* 1958, 54-55

Editor's Note

This letter is addressed "Rufus W. Griswold, / Care of Mr. Fields, / at Ticknor's bookstore, / Boston / Mass." and postmarked "CONCORD MAS. OCT 9".

"] repositioned in PE

"] added in PE

Author's Alteration

"Sympathy"] preceded by cancelled the