

To Sarah E. Webb

September 15, 1854

Concord Mass. Sep. 15th
'54

Sarah E. Webb,

Your note, which was directed to Concord *N.H.*, has just reached me. The address to which you refer has not been printed in a pamphlet form. It appeared in the *Liberator*, from which it was copied into the *Tribune*, & with omissions, into the *Anti-Slavery Standard*.¹ I am sorry that I have not a copy to send you. I have published "A Week on the Concord & Merrimack Rivers," as well as "Walden, or Life in the Woods," and some miscellaneous papers. The "Week" probably is not for sale at any bookstore. The greater part of the edition has returned to me.²

Respectfully

Henry D. Thoreau.

Correspondent: Sarah Eliza Webb (1825-1910) was the daughter of George and Eliza White Webb, of Meriden, Connecticut. Her father was an abolitionist. In 1864 the Webbs accepted into their family two mixed-race children, daughters of a Georgia plantation owner. Webb, who never married, helped to raise the girls and in 1895 or 1896 she moved to Zurich to live with the older of the two, who had become a physician. Webb died in Bad Duerrheim, Germany.

¹ Greeley reprinted "Slavery in Massachusetts" in the *New-York Daily Tribune* on August 2, as did the editors of the *National Anti-Slavery Standard* on August 12, under the headline "Words That Burn" (*Reform Papers* 1973, pp. 331-332).

² On October 25, 1853, James Munroe and Company, the publisher of *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*, sent a number of bound and unbound copies of the book to T; see pp. 177-178.

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

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Editor's Note

This letter is addressed "Sarah E. Webb / 206 Henry Street / Brooklyn L. I." and postmarked "{illegible}ord Mass. Sep 16".