

If you cannot come the 28th of Dec.¹ will the 2^d week in January either the 9th 10th 11th or 12th of the month suit you?^a— if not, perhaps you can select a day in the 4th week in Jan^y, avoiding Monday and Saturday—

Write as as soon as possible and make the day as early as you can—

Yours truly,
Andrew Whitney.

H D. Thoreau Esq
Concord

Correspondent: Andrew Whitney (1823-1894), son of Daniel and Eliza Sandford Whitney of Nantucket, was the local postmaster.

¹ T read his lecture “What Shall It Profit” at the Nantucket Lyceum on the date that had previously been established, December 28. A reviewer in the *Nantucket Inquirer* commented that the “lecture may have been desultory and marked by simplicity of manner; but not by paucity of ideas” (“T’s Lectures after *Walden*” 1996, p. 269).

Copy-text: ALS (CSmH, HM 954)

Published: *Cor* 1958, 352-353

Author’s Alteration
you?} ? inserted

From Ellery Channing

November 1854?

Dear H.

how would you like to go up to Holt’s pond to-day, or will you.

yrs
W. E. C.

Wednesday.

Correspondent: See p. 174.

Copy-text: ALS (MH-H, MS Am 278.5 [1B])

Published: *Cor* 1958, 653; “Channing’s Note to T” 1984, 3

Editor's Notes

The document also contains material from a Journal entry dated September 5, 1851, that T used in a lecture he was writing in November 1854, "What Shall It Profit." An essay version of this lecture, "Life without Principle," was published in the October 1863 issue of the *Atlantic Monthly* (see *Reform Papers* 1973, pp. 155-179).

PE supplies the date "November 1854?" following Bradley P. Dean's suggestion that T recycled Channing's note to him for his writing project. In addition, Dean notes that in a Journal entry for November 10, 1854, T records a boat excursion with Channing to Ball's Hill, which would have involved sailing around Holt's Point (see "Channing's Note to T" 1984, pp. 3-4). Presuming that this was the excursion Channing had in mind when he issued the invitation, he would have written his note to T on either November 1 or November 8, both Wednesdays in 1854.

To Charles Sumner

December 5, 1854

Concord Mass Dec 5th
1854

Mr Sumner,
Dear Sir,

Allow me to thank you once more for the Report of Sittgreaves,¹ the Patent Office 2^d Part,² and on Emigrant Ships.³

At this rate there will be one department in my library, and that not the smallest one, which I may call the Sumnerian—

Yours sincerely
Henry D. Thoreau.

Correspondent: See p. 76.

¹ *Report of an Expedition down the Zuni and Colorado Rivers*, written by Captain L. Sittgreaves.

² Volume 2 of the *Report of the Commissioner of Patents for the Year 1853* focused on agriculture. The intent of the report was to "promote, as far as practicable, the paramount interests of the farmers and planters of the United States in the improvement of their crops and live stock" (p. v). By the time of this letter T was well into his phenological studies, and the section on climatology,