

*Copy-text:* PE lines 461.23-462.4 (I am ... Yours.), MSC by Amos Bronson Alcott (MH-H, MS Am 1130.12 [26], pp. 817-818); PE lines 462.5-23 (Conversations... 1856.), printed document (MH-H, MS Am 1130.12 [26], p. 807)

*Published:* *Companion* 1964, 213; "Letters of Alcott" 1980, 205-207

*Editor's Notes*

The copy-text is a composite of a manuscript copy and a printed document, both at MH-H. The manuscript copy was made by Alcott in his diary for September 4, 1856; as an introduction to this copy, Alcott wrote:

M<sup>r</sup>. Bradford takes the morning train for Concord, and I send by him a note with my Circular to Thoreau, also a copy of the same to Emerson. To Thoreau, I say,- (MH-H, MS Am 1130.12 [26], p. 817).

PE supplies the date "September 4, 1856" based on information in Alcott's diary.

*From Benjamin Bowen Wiley*

*September 4, 1856*

Providence R.I. Sep 4. 1856

Henry D. Thoreau Esq

Concord

Dear Sir

Having read your "week on the Concord" which you sent D W Vaughan<sup>1</sup> a short time since, I enclose \$1<sup>27</sup> for which will you please send me a copy of the same

I have your "Walden" which I have read several times. If you can send me any writings of yours besides the above works I will esteem it a favor and will immediately remit you the amount due

I consider that the moderate price I pay for excellent writings does not remove my obligation to their author and I most gladly take this occasion to tender you my warmest thanks for the pleasure and improvement you have afforded me

Yours very truly

B. B. Wiley

*Correspondent:* Benjamin Bowen Wiley (1831?-1903) was a banker in Providence. He moved to Chicago and became a real estate broker there; he later owned gold and silver mines. In 1888 he married a poet, Alice Denison (b. 1857), in San Francisco. Wiley exchanged letters with T after a visit to Concord, and he later helped Emerson gather manuscripts for *Letters to Various Persons*.

<sup>1</sup> In Providence, Wiley was associated with Daniel Wheaton Vaughan (1815-1888), son of Benjamin and Cynthia Wheaton Vaughan. Daniel Vaughan was a cashier at the Blackstone Canal Bank in Providence until about 1854. He later formed his own banking and brokerage firm, Daniel W. Vaughan and Co. Vaughan was active in the temperance movement. In 1843 he married Mary Elizabeth Jones (1816?-1888), daughter of James and Elizabeth Coleridge Jones.

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

*Published:* Cor 1958, 431-432

*To Benjamin Bowen Wiley*

*September 22, 1856*

Concord Sep 22<sup>d</sup> '56

Dear Sir

I would advise<sup>a</sup> not to take a revolver or other weapon of defence. It will affect the innocence of your enterprise.<sup>1</sup> If you chance to meet with a wolf or a dangerous snake, you will be luckier than I have been, or expect to be. When I went to the White Mts<sup>2</sup> I carried a gun to kill game with, but wisely<sup>a</sup> left it at Concord<sup>a</sup> N.H. As for a knapsack, I should say wear something water-tight & comfortable, with two or three pockets to keep things separate. Wear old shoes; carry no thin clothes. Do not forget needle and thread and pins, a compass, and the best pocket map of the country obtainable.

Yrs in haste  
Henry D. Thoreau

*Correspondent:* See p. 464.