

of *Members of the Social Circle in Concord, Second Series, from 1795 to 1840* [Cambridge, Mass.: privately printed, Riverside Press, 1888], p. 24). The Thoreau family lived in Deacon Parkman's house from 1837 to 1844, so T would have had access to his papers.

<sup>5</sup> Nathaniel Peabody Rogers (1794-1846) was the son of John and Betsey Mulliken Rogers of Plymouth, New Hampshire; see *A Week* 1980, p. 85. He graduated from Dartmouth in 1816 and married Mary Porter Farrand (1796-1890), daughter of Daniel and Mary Porter Farrand, in 1822. Rogers became a lawyer but left the law to edit the *Herald of Freedom*, an antislavery newspaper in Concord, New Hampshire. T praised Rogers for his work on the *Herald* in the last number of the *Dial* (April 1844), revised his comments about Rogers for inclusion in *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*, but then omitted them from the final version of the book.

<sup>6</sup> Bailey uses a common variation of 1 Cor. 4:6, "not to think of men above that which is written."

<sup>7</sup> T mentions this announcement in his March 22, 1849, letter to Thatcher; see p. 20.

*Copy-text:* Facsimile of ALS (ScU, Thomas Cooper Library, Joel Myerson Collection of Nineteenth-Century American Literature)

*Published:* "T Receives a Fan Letter" 1994, 10

### *From Josiah Pierce*

*October 18, 1850*

Portland. Oct. 18. 1850.

Dear Sir,

In behalf of its Managing Committee, I have the honor of inviting you to lecture before the "Portland Lyceum" on some Wednesday evening during the next winter—<sup>1</sup>

Your former animated and interesting discourse<sup>2</sup> is fresh in the memory of its members, and they are very anxious to have their minds again invigorated, enlivened and instructed by you— If you consent to our request, will you be pleased to designate the time of the winter when you would prefer to come here?

The Managers have been used to offer gentlemen who come here to lecture from a distance equivalent to your

own, only the sum of twenty-five dollars, not under the name of pecuniary compensation for the lectures but for travelling expenses—

An early and favorable reply will much oblige us.

With great respect.

Your obedient Servant.

Josiah. Pierce. Jr.

Henry. D. Thoreau. Esq.

*Correspondent:* Josiah Pierce (1827-1913), son of Josiah and Evelina Lewis Pierce, was born in Gorham, Maine. He graduated from Bowdoin in 1846 and practiced law in Portland. In 1855 he became the U.S. secretary of the legation in St. Petersburg and continued to live in St. Petersburg as a businessman after leaving the foreign service. In 1858 Pierce married Martha D. Lander (1833-1873), daughter of Edward and Eliza West Lander. In 1870, he moved to London, where he became a fellow of both the Royal Geographical Society and the Zoological Society.

<sup>1</sup> T delivered the eighth lecture of the Portland course on January 15, 1851; his topic was "An Excursion to Cape Cod." As the *Portland Transcript* reports, his presentation evoked lively commentary from the audience: one man described it as the "greatest piece of nonsense he ever listened to"; others found it "a rich treat" (John F. Jaques, "An Enthusiastic Newspaper Account of Thoreau's Second Lecture in Portland, Maine, January 15, 1851," *American Literature* 40 [November 1968]: 387-388).

<sup>2</sup> T had lectured in Portland on March 21, 1849; see p. 8, note 1.

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

*Published:* *Cor* 1958, 267

*From Franklin Forbes*

*November 14, 1850*

Clinton Nov 14, 1850

Henry D. Thoreau Esq

Dear Sir

As one of the Committee on Lectures of the Bigelow Mechanic Institute of this town,<sup>1</sup> I wish to ascertain if you