

To Franklin Forbes

November 15, 1850

Concord Nov. 15th
1850

Dear Sir,

I Shall be happy to lecture before your Institution this winter, but it will be most convenient for me to do so on the 11th of December. If, however, I am confined to the month of January I will choose the first day of it- Will you please inform me as soon as convenient whether I can come any earlier.

Yrs respectfully
Henry D. Thoreau.

Correspondent: See p.84.

Copy-text: Facsimile of ALS (location of MS unknown)

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From Josiah Pierce

November 20, 1850

Portland. Nov. 20th 1850.

Dear Sir,

You may perhaps believe that I am writing to you from Ireland and not from Portland, making a blunder even in the date of the letter, when you read that this is for the purpose of apologizing for and correcting another error- I intended^a and ought to have designated the evening of January. 15th and not of January 8th or 10th, as that on which we hoped to hear a lecture from you⁻¹

With the wish that this newly appointed time, the fifteenth of January next, may be equally acceptable to you,

I am
With great respect.
Yours truly
J. Pierce. Jr

Correspondent: See p. 83.

¹ Pierce apparently refers to a letter he wrote T that is no longer extant, one written after his October 18, 1850, invitation to T to lecture "before the 'Portland Lyceum' on some Wednesday evening during the next winter". T lectured there on January 15, 1851 (see p. 82).

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

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Editor's Note

This letter is addressed "{MS cut}nry. D. Thoreau. Esq^r / Concord. / Mass." and postmarked "Portland Me. 20 Nov 5".

Author's Alteration
intended] meant

From Thomas Wentworth Higginson

December 3, 1850

Newburyport. Dec. 3. 1850.

My Dear Sir

I hear with pleasure that you are to lecture in Newburyport this week.¹ Myself & wife are now living in town again, & we shall be very glad to see you at our house, if you like it better than a poor hotel. And you shall go as early as you please on Saturday—which is the great point, I find, with guests, however unflattering to the hosts.

If I do not hear to the contrary I shall expect you, & will meet you at the cars.

Very sincerely yours
T. W. Higginson.

Correspondent: Thomas Wentworth Higginson (1823-1911) graduated from Harvard University in 1841 and from the Harvard Divinity School in 1847. That year he married Mary Elizabeth Channing (1820-1877), daughter of Dr. Walter Channing and Barbara Perkins Channing and sister of T's friend Ellery Channing; in 1879 he married Mary Thatcher (1844-1941), daughter of Peter and Margaret Potter Thatcher. Higginson had recently been the minister at the