

**LETTERS TO
VARIOUS PERSONS**

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Letters to various persons by Henry D. Thoreau

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HENRY D. THOREAU

**LETTERS TO
VARIOUS PERSONS**

LETTERS.

TO VARIOUS PERSONS.

BY

HENRY D. THOREAU,

AUTHOR OF "A WEEK ON THE CONCORD AND MERRIMACK RIVERS,"
"WALDEN," ETC., ETC.



BOSTON:
TICKNOR AND FIELDS.
1865.

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1865
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EDITOR'S NOTICE.



It may interest the reader of this book to know that nearly all these letters have been printed directly from the original autographs furnished by the persons to whom they were addressed. A few have been carefully copied, but without alteration, from the worn and torn originals. In some letters, passages have been omitted on account of private or personal references. Otherwise, the letters have been printed as they stood, with very few verbal corrections.

R. W. E.

12 May, 1865.



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LETTERS.



TO MISS THOREAU.

CONCORD, June 13, 1840.

DEAR H——: —

That letter to J——, for which you had an opportunity doubtless to substitute a more perfect communication, fell, as was natural, into the hands of his “transcendental brother,” who is his proxy in such cases, having been commissioned to acknowledge and receipt all bills that may be presented. But what’s in a name? Perhaps it does not matter whether it be John or Henry. Nor will those same six months have to be altered, I fear, to suit his case as well. But methinks they have not passed entirely without intercourse, provided we have been sincere though humble worshippers of the same virtue in the mean time. Certainly it is better that we should make ourselves quite sure of such a communion as this by the only course which is completely free from suspicion, — the coincidence of two earnest and aspiring lives, — than run the risk of a disappointment by relying wholly or chiefly on so meagre and uncertain a means as