

Concord

26 March, 1858.

Dear Sir

You were kind
enough to say in a
note to me, long ago,
that you could still
command a copy of
the "Documentary His-
tory of New York," if
I knew a party proper
to receive so good a
gift. I have let the

The proposition lies
by, not wishing to
waste a rich oppor-
tunity on any
unfit receiver.

Lately, a friend of
mine comes occasion-
ally to my library
to explore the four
volumes, and finds
them to contain
much valuable

matter to his purpose.
His estimation is the
more valuable, that
he underestimated
them when he first
looked at them, a
good while since; &
he is a very curious
& very instructed scholar
in early American His-
tory, especially in all
that concerns the Indians.
Is it now too late to
ask that you will

give the offered
volumes a direction
in favor of my friend?
He is Henry D. Thoreau,
a land-surveyor in this
town, a good scholar,
and, though far less known
than he might be,
very well-known in this
region as the author of
a book called, "A Week on
the Concord & Merrimack
Rivers," and "Walden,
or Life in the Woods."
If you have still a
copy of the work to spare

I think you will not
easily find so worthy
a reviewer. If you
have not a copy re-
maining, Perhaps you
can tell me at what
cost I can procure
it. ^{the book is circulate} If the book be
sent through a book seller
box, ^{care of} Phillips, Sampson,
No. Boston, to my address,
I will cheerfully pay
the cost of transportation.
If not, I think I shall

I shall make up
my mind to give
Mr T. my own.

I congratulate
you on the interest
with which as I
judge from the journals
the public receives
the "Life of Jefferson",
which, I doubt
not, will go on
increasing. My own

readings in it as yet
have been very partial,
as it lies out of my
ordinary beat, & my
studies lately have
been more than
usually confined, but
my day of freedom
is always coming.
Mr Quincy the elder,
whom I saw soon after
I saw you, was keenly
curious to know all
that I could tell him

of what you had
told me, but I have
not seen him since.

With very kind regards,
Your obliged servant

R. W. Emerson

Henry S. Randall, Esq.

Copy of Letter by R. W. Emerson to
Henry S. Randall, Esq.

Concord,
26 March, 1858

Dear Sir:

You were kind enough to say in a note to me, long ago, that you could still command a copy of the "Documentary History of New York", if I knew a party proper to receive so good a gift. I have let the (the) proposition lie by, not wishing to waste a rich opportunity on any unfit receiver. Lately, a friend of mine comes occasionally to my library to explore the four volumes, and finds them to contain much valuable matter to his purpose. His estimation is the more valuable, that he under estimated them when he first looked at them, a good while since: & he is a very curious & very instructed scholar in early American History, especially in all that concerns the Indians. Is it now too late to (to) ask that you will give the offered volumes a direction in favor of my friend? He is Henry D. Thoreau, a Land-surveyor in this town, a good scholar, and, though far less known than he ought to be, very well-known in this region as the author of a book called, "A Week on the Concord & Merrimack Rivers," and "Walden, or Life in the Woods." If you have still a copy of the work to share I think you will not easily find so worthy a receiver. If you have not a copy remaining, perhaps you can tell me at what cost I can procure it. If the book is giveable & the book be

sent through a booksellers box, care of (to) Phillips, Sampson, & Co. Boston, to my address I will cheerfully pay the cost of transportation. If not, I think I shall (I shall) make up my mind to give Mr. T. my own.

I congratulate you on the interest with which as I judge from the journals the public receives the "Life of Jefferson", and which, I doubt not, will go on increasing. My own readings in it as yet have been very partial as it lies out of my ordinary beat, & my studies lately have been more than usually confined, but my day of freedom is always coming. Mr. Quincy the elder, whom I saw soon after I saw you, was kindly curious to know all that I could tell him of what you had told me; but I have not seen him since.

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