1 1846-1847: paragraphs 4b to 11

Version A (Late September 1846 to September 1847)

XML:IDs

[hm924v1n232](https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/232)

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Transcribed by Elizabeth Witherell, 2020

Black text is in ink in the manuscript; gray text is in pencil. Originally-written material is in 14 point type; material added later is in 11 point type. Marginal notes and notes in square brackets have been supplied by the transcriber. Curly brackets indicate that the text is illegible or that a reading is uncertain. I have related passages to paragraphs in the fluid text.

Abbreviations: c = cancelled, p = pencil

[[hm924v1n232](https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/232) (recto)]

[¶4b] river–and he dropped down with- *vertical pencilled line from top to bottom of*

*page marks left margin*

out obstruction, from Sudbury, where P. 468 *in blue p in left margin by Sanborn*

he lived, to Fair Haven Pond, which P *altered from* p *in p*

for the most part

he found, unexpectedly, ~~was~~ covered ^ *comma added in p after* found

was *c in p*

with a firm field of ice. It was a a *followed by stray mark in p*

~~very~~ warm spring day, and he was very *c in p and perhaps also in ink*

surprised

~~astonished~~ to see such a body of ice

remaining– Not seeing any ducks

North or

he hid his boat on the ^ back-

side of an island in the pond, and

then concealed himself in the

bushes on the south side to await

them. The ice was melted out

3 or 4 rods from the shore, and *cluster of 16 pinholes in left margin*

there was a smooth and warm sheet

*horizontal and vertical marks in gray p*

of water, with a muddy bottom

such as the ducks love within, and

he thought it likely that some would

be along pretty soon. After he

had lain still there about an

hour he ~~suddenly~~ heard a slow

and seemingly very distant sound,

but singularly grand and im-

pressive, and unlike any thing he

had ever heard before, gradually

swelling and increasing as if it

would have a universal and *line in gray p under* niv *of* universal *and* ? *in gray p in left margin may be by Sanborn*

memorable ending–a sullen

rush and roar, which seemed P. 469 *in blue p in left margin by Sanborn*

to him, all at once, like the sound *lines in gray p extending ascenders of* ll *in* all *may be by Sanborn*

[[hm924v1n233](https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/233) (verso)]

P 469 *in blue p above* a vast *by Sanborn*

of a vast body of fowl coming in *vertical pencilled line from top to bottom of*

*page marks right margin*

to settle there–and seizing his *vertical marks in gray p*

in haste & excited but

gun he started up ~~with excitement~~ with excitement *c in p*

to his surprise

he ~~and~~ found ^ that the whole body and *c in p caret points to the left*

of the ice had started while he

lay there, and drifted in to the

shore, and the sound he had heard

was made by its edge grating

on the shore ~~and~~ at first gently and *c in p*

but

nibbling and crumbling off–~~and~~ and *c in p*

at length heaving up and scat-

tering its wrecks along the island *cluster of 16 pinholes in right margin*

to a considerable height before

came to a stand still

it ~~became still and silent again.~~ became . . . again *c in p*

{illegible pencilled text} V end of Sand foliage At length

[¶11] ~~But we must not let~~ the sun's rays But . . . easily *c in p*

P. 474 *in blue p to left of* But *by Sanborn*

~~the winter go so easily.~~ When

partially *vertical marks in gray p*

the ground is ~~completely~~ bare of completely *c in p*

snow and a few warm days have

here & there

dried its surface^, it is pleasant

first

to compare the ~~faint~~ tender signs faint *c in p*

of the infant year just peeping *vertical marks in gray p*

forth, with the stately beauty of

the withered vegetation which has

life-everlasting, golden-rods, pinweeds, and graceful wild grasses whose

winter is more stately than their summer even, as if not till then their beauty

was ripe

withstood the winter^—the various

sedges ~~mulleins &c~~

~~thistles~~ ^ and other strong-stemmed thistles *c in p*

plants, which have not ~~even~~ yet

all ~~their seeds~~ the their seeds *c in p*

sown ^ their seeds.– ~~and graceful~~ and *c in p, then* and . . . their *c in ink*

even ~~& {even}~~ & {even} *c in ink*

{~~wool grass~~} cotton grass cat tail ^ mulleins ~~&c &c~~ {wool grass} *c in p* &c &c *c in ink*

~~reeds and rushes whose winter is~~

~~2~~ hardhack & meadowsweet &c &c 2 *written over pencilled* 1 *and both c in ink*

~~more gay and stately than their~~ *pencilled line in margin marks last 4 lines for transposition*

[[hm924v1n234](https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/234) (rect0)]

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*vertical pencilled line from top to bottom of*

summer–as if not till then was *page marks left margin*

their beauty ripe.– Wild oats per

chance and life-everlasting whose

autumn has now arrived– Those un

exhausted granaries of winter, whose

seeds entertain the earliest birds.

I never tire of admiring their *large* /478/ *in gray p in left margin from* I

*to* They *by Sanborn*

arching drooping and sheaflike tops

They bring back the summer to our

winter memories–and are among

the forms which art loves to perpetu-

ate. They are an antique style–older

than Greek or Egyptian–a lighter

2

and more graceful Ionic–a richer

Corinthian–a simpler Doric–a more

1

various Composite. The beauty of the

drooping and sheaf-like head of the

rush all men have admired in all

ages–and it must have some such

near and unaccountable relation to

human life, as astronomy has to

those laws and figures which first

existed in the mind of man.

All the phenomena of winter are

suggestive of an inexpressible tender-

ness, and fragile delicacy– We are

accustomed to hear this king almost

tyrant described as rude and

boisterous–but with the gentleness

of a lover he adorns the tresses of summer.

[[hm924v1n235](https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/235) (verso)]

[¶5] At length the sun’s rays P 469 *in blue p before* At *by Sanborn*

*vertical pencilled line from top to bottom of*

have attained the right angle, *page marks right margin*

and warm winds blow up mist

and rain and melt the snow banks

–and the sun dispersing the mist

smiles on a checquered landscape of c *before* q *inserted in* checquered

russet and white–smoking with

incense–through which the traveller

picks his way from islet to islet

cheered by the music of a myiad myiad *altered in ink from* myiads

rills and rivulets whose veins

are filled with the blood of winter

which they are bearing off.–

*horizontal and vertical marks in gray p*

As I go back and forth over

the rail-road through the deep-

cut I have seen where the clayey

like lava

sand ^ had flowed down when it thawed

And as it streamed it assumed the

forms of vegetation, of vines and

stout pulpy leaves–unaccount-

ably interesting and beautiful–which

methinks I have seen imitated

some where in bronze–as if its

course wer so to speak a diagonal

between fluids & solids–and it were

hesitating whether to stream into a

river, or into vegetation–for

vegetation too is such a stream as

a river, only of slower current.