3 1852.3.15 dTR

Transcribed by Beth 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 not related passages to paragraphs in the fluid text.

Thoreau initially dated this entry "March 15th" and I've used that date because the entry has that date in the Princeton Edition of *Journal 4*, where an edited version appears. Thoreau later cancelled the date in pencil without supplying another one. In the Journal, this entry occurs between one dated March 12 and one dated March 14. PE notes that the date is out of sequence and may be incorrect.

The passage follows several pages of Thoreau's notes on Linnaeus' *Philosophia Botanica*. Because Thoreau didn't provide a new date, I'm inclined to think the walk to Walden he describes took place on March 12, but it could have been on March 13.

I've added two vertical lines that are probably in pencil. The available image of the MS is poor; there may be more material in pencil.

. . .

~~March 15~~~~th~~ cancelled in pencil

R R to Walden 3 Pm. I see the populus (apparently)

not grandidentata

tremuloides ^ at the end of the RR causeway showing

the down of its ament. Bigelow makes it flower

in April–the Grand.–in May.

I see the sand flowing in the Cut & hear

the harp at the same time– Who shall say

that the primitive forces are not still at work?

Nature has not lost her pristine vigor– Neither

has he who sees this.– To see the first dust

fly is a pleasant sight. I saw it on the East side of

the Deep Cut.

[new page]

These heaps of sand foliage remind

me of the laciniated–lobed–& imbricated *vertical mark in pencil*

thallusses of some lichens–somewhat linear

laciniate– It cannot make much odds

what the sand is–for I have seen it in

the soil of our garden– They come out

from the interior of the earth like bowels

–a rupture in the spring–& bury the

snow– The crust of the snow is completly *vertical mark in pencil*

concealed with the sand. for 1/8 of a mile.

– They also remind me sometimes of

masses of rock weed on the rocks.

At any moment the creative stream

will be seen flowing in a restricted

channel–or artery–but it is forming

new lobes & at last in the ditch it

forms sands as at the mouths of rivers

in which the outlines of the different

lobes are ~~to be traced in~~ almost lost

~~in~~ are dissipated into mere shaded outlines

on the flat floor.