2 1848: paragraphs 4b to 11

Journal entries (Winter/Spring 1848), included in HM 924 in Volume 8 and Version F

Volume 8, XML:ID

[hm924v8n1299](https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/1299)

and

Version F, XML:IDs

[hm924v6n1008](https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/1008)

[hm924v6n1009](https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/1009)

[hm924v6n1010](https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/1010)

[hm924v6n1011](https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/1011)

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.

Abbreviations: c = cancelled, p = pencil

[[hm924v8n1299](https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/1299) (verso)]

This phenomena must have been rare~~ly~~ ~~observed~~ before railroads were built

2 since it is not often even now that you meet with a freshly exposed bank of the

right materials

Few phenomena give me more

delight in the spring of the year than

to observe the forms which ~~thaug~~ thawing

1 assume on flowing down

clay and sand ^ ~~on~~ the sides of a

deep cut on the rail road through

pass on my way to the village

which I ~~walk~~. & so

as it contains most moisture ~~is most~~ contains *written over* has most *altered*

The clay especially ^ assumes as infinite *from* more most *altered from* more

5

variety of forms– solidly frozen & ~~is~~ long in thawing

[[hm924v6n1008](https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/1008) (recto)]

{r} *in upper right corner*

There lie the sand and clay all winter P. 470 *in blue p by Sanborn following* winter

on this shelving surface an inert mass

4 but when the spring sun comes to thaw

the ice which binds them they begin to

of

a distance ~~which is 40 or~~ 50 feet ~~high~~

slope

flow down the ~~bank~~ ^ like lava–

like

~~These~~ little streams & ripples ~~of~~ lava ~~like~~

interweave with vines–

~~forming~~ ~~clay~~ over flow & interlace one another like

~~producing~~ a sort of Hybrid product–obeying half way the law of currents & half way the law of

as it were ~~a~~ vegetation.

6 ^ ~~some~~ mythological vegetation or like the

forms which I (seem to) have seen imitated

~~clusters of graceful sprays overlaying each other a foot or more in depth~~

in bronze– ~~What affects me is the~~

I am affected as it were by the presentness of the eternal presentness *altered?*

~~presence of the law~~–between that inert law that *altered from* the

mass and this luxuriant vegetation what this *altered from* the

but God that God who is reputed

10 interval is there? ^ Here is ~~an ar~~tist at

to have built this world 6000 years ago still at his work.–freshly this spring

day sporting on this bank ~~and contriving new designs~~

work.–~~as it were not at work but a-playing.~~

no sooner than it

~~designing~~– –It ^ begins to flow ~~& immediately~~

it takes the forms of vines–or of the feet

& excrement of all kinds 8 *written over* 7

8 & claws of animals–^or of the human brain

clusters of graceful sprays sometimes overlying each other

the material a foot or more in depth.

or lungs or bowels^– Now ~~it~~ ^ is bluish

destined perchance to be the subject of admiration to future geologists

clay now clay mixed with reddish sand–now

-colored

7 pure iron ^ sand–and sand and clay of every

degree of fineness and every shade of color–

The whole bank for a quarter of a mile

of the cut

is {some} {on} on both sides ^ is sometimes over-

9′ laid with a mass of plump & sappy 9′ *written over* 9

foliage the produce of one spring day

~~verdure~~ of this kind–^ ~~I am startled~~

It would not be so remarkable if it did not spring into existence thus

suddenly & as it were by magic–while to the eye it has all the perfectness

~~probably because it grows so fast–it~~

which belongs to the slowly ~~of~~ formed works of nature & art.

~~is produced in one spring day.~~

rounded lobe earth

Each ~~The~~ ^ lobe of these ^ leaves–perchance of all l *and* o *of lobe reformed in p*

13 leaves–is a thick–now loitering drop

~~like the ball of the finger~~ larger or smaller

[[hm924v6n1009](https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/1009) (verso)]

the ball of the ~~human~~ finger is a drop congealed and

so perchance ^ the fingers & toes flow P. 471 *in blue p by Sanborn following* flow

to their extent frm the thawing mass of the

body & then are congealed for a night. 14″ *written over* 2 *[see* 14′*, below]*

14″ ~~The ball of the finger is a drop congealed.~~ The . . . congealed *c in ink*

– ^ ~~Whither~~ may the sun of a new spring lead

who knows what the human body would expand and flow out

to under a more genial sky?

~~them on– These roots of ours~~– As In the

~~13~~ as the sun’s rays fall on them 13 *c in ink*

mornings ^ these resting streams start again

14′ and branch & branch again into a myriad 14′ *written over* 1 *[see* 14″*, above]*

others– ~~Here it is coarse red sand & even~~ it *altered from* is

Here . . . clay– *c in p*

~~pebbles–there fine cla adhesive clay~~– there *altered from* then

–And where the flowing mass reaches where *altered from* when

the drain at the front of the bank on either

side it spreads out flatter in to

sands like those found at the mouths

9 of rivers–the separate streams losing

their semicilindrical form–and gradually

growing more and more flat–and running

together as it is more moist till they

form an almost flat sand–variously

& beautifully shaded–& in which you can

original

still trace the ^ forms of vegetation till at

length in the water itself they become

mere

the ^ ripple marks on the bottome

The lobes are the fingers of the leaf

as many lobes as it has in so many di-

14 rections it inclines to flow–mor genial

heat or other influence in its springs

might have caused it flow farther.

–Thus it seemed as if this one hill Thus *written over* So

17 side contained an epitome of all the

operations in nature.

[[hm924v6n1010](https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/1010) (recto)]

too we may ask

so ^ ~~the stream is but a leaf~~ What

is the river with all its branches–but

unless

a leaf divested of its pulp–~~but~~ its

pulp is intervening earth–forests & fields

16 & towns & cities– What is the river but 16 *altered from* 11

a tree an oak or pine–& its leaves perchance

are ponds & lakes & meadows innumerable

as the springs which feed it.

as

I perceive that there is the same power

that made me my brain my lungs my

11 bowels my fingers & toes working in other

clay this very day– I am in the studio studio *altered from* study

who is even now at work–or rather at

play–forming fresh designs.

of an artist.

This cut is about a quarter of a P 472 *in blue p by Sanborn*

running north & south *following* of

mile long^–& 30 or 40 feet deep–and

commencing

in several places clay occurs ~~which rises~~

~~about~~ about below ~~original~~

~~to within~~ a dozen feet ~~of~~ the surface.– ~~of~~

3

~~the~~ Where there is sand only the slope is

more

greater & ^ uniform–but the clay being

now

more adhesive ~~inclines~~ ^ to stands out ~~longer~~

threatening masses

from the sand as in ~~boulders~~–which

are continually washing & coming down.

The material

Flowing downward it of course runs together

and forms masses and conglomerations but if

as it ~~does~~ in trees

15 flowed upward ^ ~~it~~ ^ it would dispersed itself

finely

more ^–& grow more freely–& unimpeded P 474 *in blue p by Sanborn below*

open & airy. open

clusters of graceful sprays overlying each other

Here you may see how blood vessels are formed–first there pushes forward from

But there lies the blood vessel forming & the lungs *[this sentence continues on*

12 a little silvery stream glancing like lightning, and swallowed *the next page]*

up in the sands– It seemed so artful

[[hm924v6n1011](https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/1011) (verso)]

the thawing mass a stream~~ed~~ of softened clay or sand with a drop-like

point like the lobe of a finger feeling its way–till with more heat and the

and is in most haste–rushing from above

moisture the water which is the blood in this finger ^ separates itself

9

In the next ~~10~~ miles which completed

{wer} *ink of* {wer} *matches that of* completed

from the solid parts and forms for itself a channel or artery within–and as the sun dries

the uper side it falls in & reveals a little silvery stream glancing like lightning

the extent of the voyage for the day

and anon swallowed up in the sand–coursing through this whole system of

We rowed across several small

So are rivers but arteries whose uper halves have fallen in halves *written over* half

lakes–poled up numerous rapids P. 474 *in blue p by Sanborn*

and they are left open ~~ditches~~ channels *following* rapids

& thoroughfares, and carried over 4

Those parts which are most inclined to flow–whose particles perchance are

the soundest in their efforts to obey the law to which the most solid

portages– I will give the names

and inert also yield–form for themselves channels through the latter.

and distances for the benefit of future

What is man but a mass of thawing–dissolving clay? we had *careted between* lake *and* a

tourists In the siliacious matter which is deposited you see the boney

system & in the still finer sand & ~~earth~~ mould the flesh.

1st after leaving Ambejisjis lake ^ a *caret cancels dash*

a quarter of a mile of rapids to the Portage

or carry of 90 rods around Ambejisjis

Falls. — From the Maine Woods *in blue p*

*by Sanborn written vertically in*

Then a mile & a half through Passama- *left margin*

gamet lake, which is narrow & river like to

the falls of the same name–Ambejisjis Stream

coming in on the right

— *Maine Woods draft continues to bottom of page*

*vertical line in pencil continues to bottom of page*