*File name:* Spring\_para7\_5\_in\_J\_1854\_3\_rev.docx

*Project:* Revision narrative/fluid text for a selection from paragraph 7 in “Spring” (“The whole bank, which is from twenty to forty feet high. . . . The overhanging leaf sees here its prototype.”)

*Nature of document:* Journal entry (March 2, 1854), located in MA 1302.23, published in PE *Journal 8*

*Position in composition sequence:* 5

When Thoreau sent the first batch of copy for *Walden* to the printer in late February or early March, he was still working on his description of the sand foliage in his Journal.

**Diplomatic transcripts of parts of Journal pages containing selection**

The sand foliage is vital in its form

This is as if you were approaching the vitals of the globe

–reminding me what are called the

for this sandy overflow is something such a foliaceous mass as the

vitals of the animal body. I am not

sure that its arteries are ever hollow

they are rather meandering channels

[new page]

sharp

with remarkably distinct ^ edges–formed

instantaneously as by magic– How rapidly & per-

fectly it organizes itself– The material must be

sufficiently cohesive. I suspect that a certain

Mixed

portion of clay is necessary. ~~Cla~~ Sand & clay

being saturated with melted ice & snow–the most

liquid portion ~~th{ }~~ flows downward through

the mass forming for itself instantly a perfect

canal–using the best materials the mass–

affords for its banks– It digs & builds

it in a twinkling– The less fluid portions

clog the artery change its course and

form thick stems & leaves. The lobe

of lung brain or Λειβω Λ { } λοβος labium *vertical line in pencil*

principle a lobe ^ ~~of the~~ ear (labor–lapsus?) a *added in pencil over dash and* of

lip lap flap globe lobus globus the *cancelled in pencil*

On the outside all the life of the earth

is expressed in the

^ animal or vegetable–but make ~~this~~ a *caret written over* is

deep cut in it & you find it vital–

–you find in the very sands an anticipa-

tion of the vegetable leaf– No wonder

then that plants grow & spring in it– The

atoms have already learned the law– Let

a vegetable sap convey it upwards and

you have a vegetable leaf– No wonder

that the earth expresses itself outwardly in

leaves–which labors with the idea thus in-

wardly– The overhanging leaf sees here its

this

prototype– The earth is pregnant with ^ law–

**Layers of revision, in order proposed by Witherell** **(omission of material not included in selection indicated by ellipsis dots)**

*Initial inditing in ink:*

The sand foliage is vital in its form

–reminding me what are called the

vitals of the animal body.

. . .

On the outside all the life of the earth

is animal or vegetable–but make this

deep cut in it & you find it vital–

–you find in the very sands an anticipa-

tion of the vegetable leaf– No wonder

then that plants grow & spring in it– The

atoms have already learned the law– Let

a vegetable sap convey it upwards and

you have a vegetable leaf– No wonder

that the earth expresses itself outwardly in

leaves–which labors with the idea thus in-

wardly– The overhanging leaf sees here its

prototype– The earth is pregnant with law–

*Ink revisions; I’ll need a better image to confirm this [r1]:*

The sand foliage is vital in its form

–reminding me what are called the

vitals of the animal body.

. . .

On the outside all the life of the earth

is expressed in the animal or vegetable–but make a

deep cut in it & you find it vital–

–you find in the very sands an anticipa-

tion of the vegetable leaf– No wonder

then that plants grow & spring in it– The

atoms have already learned the law– Let

a vegetable sap convey it upwards and

you have a vegetable leaf– No wonder

that the earth expresses itself outwardly in

leaves–which labors with the idea thus in-

wardly– The overhanging leaf sees here its

prototype– The earth is pregnant with law–

*Pencilled revisions (based on* Journal 4 *Later Revisions table because I can’t see the pencilled text in the image I have) [r2]:*

The sand foliage is vital in its form

This is as if you were approaching the vitals of the globe

–reminding me what are called the

for this sandy overflow is something such a foliaceous mass as the

vitals of the animal body.

. . .

On the outside all the life of the earth

is expressed in the animal or vegetable–but make a

deep cut in it & you find it vital–

–you find in the very sands an anticipa-

tion of the vegetable leaf– No wonder

then that plants grow & spring in it– The

atoms have already learned the law– Let

a vegetable sap convey it upwards and

you have a vegetable leaf– No wonder

that the earth expresses itself outwardly in

leaves–which labors with the idea thus in-

wardly– The overhanging leaf sees here its

prototype– The earth is pregnant with this law–

*Complications: The image I have isn’t clear enough to show whether Thoreau cancelled* The sand foliage is vital in its form–reminding me what are called the *If he did, the passage would read:*

This is as if you were approaching the vitals of the globe

for this sandy overflow is something such a foliaceous mass as the

vitals of the animal body.