“Saw a skunk in the Corner road- which I followed 60 rods or more. Out now about 4 pm- partly because it is a dark foul day- It is slender black (and white0 animal with its back remarkably arched- standing high behind- and carrying its head low- runs- even when undisturbed- with a singular teter or undulation- like the walking of a Chinese lady. Very slow- I hardly have to run to keep up with it. It has a long tail which it regularly erects when I come too near & prepares to discharge its liquid. It is white at the end of the tail- & the hind head- & a line on the front of the face- the rest black- except the flesh colored nose (and I think feet). The back is more arched & the fore 7 hind feet nearer together than in my sketch. It tried repeatedly to get into the wall- & did not show much cunning. Finally it steered, apparently, for an old skunk or woodchuck hole under a wall 4 rods off- & got into it- or under the wall at least- for it was stopped up- And there I view at leisure close to. It has a remarkably long narrow pointed head & snout which enable it to make those deep narrow holes in the earth by which it probes for insects- Its eyes have an innocent child-like bluish black expression. It made a singular loud patting sound repeatedly on the frozen ground under the wall- undoubtedly with its fore feet- (I saw only the upper part of the animal0 which reminded me of what I have heard about stopping & stamping in order to stop the skunk. Probably it has to do with its getting its food- patting the earth to get the insects or worms- Though why it did so then I know not.”