

## DR. SAMUEL CABOT III



You've heard what has been said about the richie-rich "Boston Brahmins," that the "Lowells talk only to the Cabots, / And the Cabots talk only to God." Well, here we find Dr. Samuel Cabot III, a Cabot who should be talking only to God — but what he is doing here instead is, he is exchanging bird notes with Henry Thoreau.


THE LOWELL FAMILY  
THE CABOT FAMILY



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1815

 September 20, Wednesday: Representatives of Austria, France, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia met in Paris to work out a new peace treaty. The allied powers agreed to compel France to return all works of art taken from them during the *florut* of [Napoléon Bonaparte](#). The allies required that France give up 2/3ds of the territory won between 1790 and 1792, plus Savoy, that it pay 600,000,000 francs in reparations and 200,000,000 francs for the construction of forts along its border to protect its neighbors, and that it pay for 150,000 allied soldiers to man various fortresses throughout France for 7 years.

[Samuel Cabot III](#) was born in Boston to Samuel Cabot, Jr. and Elizabeth Perkins, daughter of the “merchant king” Colonel Thomas Perkins. His father and his grandfather, Thomas Handasyd Perkins, were 2 of the wealthiest men in 19th-Century Boston. His brothers would include [James Elliot Cabot](#) and Edward Clarke Cabot. He would be fitted for college at the Boston Latin School.


THE CABOT FAMILY



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1832

 [Samuel Cabot III](#) matriculated at [Harvard College](#) at the age of 17, after having been prepared at the Boston Latin School. Students were officially not allowed to have guns in the dormitories, but he would often go duck hunting of a morning at Fresh Pond, and roast the bird on a string before his dorm-room fireplace.

[Cornelius Conway Felton](#) became [Harvard College](#)'s professor of Greek.

[Henry Whitney Bellows](#) and [William Silsbee](#) graduated. They would go on into the [Divinity School](#).

At the [Divinity School](#), the following gentlemen were completing their studies:

John Quimby Day  
Joseph Angier  
Charles Babbidge  
Reuben Bates of [Concord](#)  
Curtis Cutler  
Charles Andrews Farley  
Rufus A. Johnson  
Henry A. Miles (A.B. Brown University)  
Andrew Preston Peabody  
John Davis Sweet (A.B. Brown University)  
Josiah Kendall Waite  
Horatio Wood

JOHN G. PALFREY  
THEOLOGY SCHOOLS


NEW "HARVARD MEN"



DR. SAMUEL CABOT III

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1836

 [Samuel Cabot III](#) graduated from [Harvard College](#).

In the Class Book of 1836, [Robert Bartlett](#), who graduated with 1st Honors, would reconstruct the details of his life as follows:

Into what course of life I should have been led, had things taken their usual order with me, is doubtful. I might have been acquainted with the sea, which most of my ancestors had pursued before me. I, however, very early manifested such an aversion from all voluntary motion of my physical organization, such a stupidity in comprehending the uses and modes of all mechanical engines and operations, that it was considered a settled matter by those in authority over me that navigation or manufactures were not my forte. I was accordingly left in peace in the Plymouth high school and among my books, to both of which I had shown some attachment, until I gradually found myself fitting and fitted for college. This portion of my life was marked by no extraordinary events or accidents, but was by no means unimportant in its bearings upon the formation and development of my inner self. A rather peculiar train of (in themselves) trivial circumstances, during this time, seemed to add immense power to certain very unhappy propensities, which I had not then the sense to discern and which the earnest efforts of my later life have not yet corrected. In the high school at Plymouth grew within me, by a process which there is not the slightest difficulty in imagining, a mighty disposition *not duly to appreciate* (for every man's right and solemn duty to thus much I still maintain) but altogether to *overestimate* myself and to communicate my false judgments to every carping fool I came across. A strong inclination I had somewhere acquired to sneer at my fellow creatures found here ample materials for its indulgence and growth. I had, moreover, from the beginning, been possessed with an all ruling passion for dispute, and the picking up of certain extraordinary and ultra notions in religion and politics helped beyond measure to add to my sins in this particular. I have spoken of these odious tendencies in my early character, not because they were by any means the all-prevailing ones, or from an affectation of sincerity in confessing my own faults, but simply because they are of use toward explaining what, though I trust they are not the most important, are yet the most striking in my Cambridge history. In fact, I am doubtful whether to any tolerably acute observer of my life anything more than a knowledge of the peculiarities, as well as the consummate ignorance of the whole human race and especially of students, in which I entered college is necessary, in order to attain a complete idea of the principal external events and mental phenomena which have attended my four years' residence in the university. I at first met with difficulties enough to satisfy me of the existence of some pretty essential wrongs within, and considerably more than a year ago I set earnestly about a thorough religious reform, in which I have since been active. My life thenceforth has been more peaceful, happy and, I trust, better suited to the high use for which it



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was given me.

In leaving college my subjects of regret and of self-complacency are as follows: viz., I lament, first, the indulgence of a disposition fiercely to espouse and defend hastily formed opinions of men, and of religious and political subjects; second, in upholding in thought, word or deed a silly rebellion at the end of my sophomore year; third, the not beginning earlier to live for the fit object of life. I am happy to possess: first, diligent habits and a tolerable learning acquired in college; second, considerable benevolence and sympathy for and interest in my fellow men; third and chiefly, a deep reverence for and, I trust, an eternally inflexible faith in Jesus Christ as a Master and Saviour. To the defence of the primitive Christian faith from its open enemies and its more dangerous corrupters, and to the extension of its dominions in the hearts of men, I cheerfully devote myself as an object worthy a thousand lives like the present, and shall within a year or two commence those studies which will enable me to do more toward effecting it.

After his graduation from [Harvard College](#), [Robert Bartlett](#) would teach at the high school in Plymouth from which he had graduated, for a short time, but then in the following year he would register as a resident graduate at the university. In 1837 he would enter the theological school, and continue there until 1840. He would favor the thought of Emerson, and then of Swedenborg.

In this year a volume of [Harvard College](#) records was published.

As you might imagine, they had to do it up in Latin:

## HARVARD RECORDS

A group of undergraduates had begun to publish a magazine of their own writings in September 1835 and would continue this practice until June 1838. The undergraduate [David Greene Haskins](#) would publish several articles anonymously during his Junior and Senior years, but David Henry Thoreau would take no part in such activity.<sup>1</sup> At this point the group reissued the accumulating materials as a 2d book volume:<sup>2</sup>

## HARVARDIANA, VOL. II

[Harvard](#) French and Spanish instructor [Francis Sales](#) in this year put out a revised, emended, improved, and enlarged 7th American edition of Augustin Louis Josse (1763-1841)'s A GRAMMAR OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE, WITH PRACTICAL EXERCISES (1827; Boston: Munroe and Francis, 128 Washington-Street, corner of Water-Street. 1836, 7th American Edition; Boston: Munroe and Francis, etc. 1842, 10th American Edition:

1. In later life the Reverend Haskins, a relative of Waldo Emerson on his mother's side, would denigrate his classmate Thoreau for having neglected to contribute to this undergraduate literary effort. He would aver that Thoreau had neither been a good scholar nor a convivial classmate — in addition, he would cast Thoreau as a mere imitator of his cousin the Sage of Concord.



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Boston: James Munroe and Company). This 1836 edition would be found in [Henry Thoreau](#)'s personal library and is now, with a front free endpaper bearing the notation "D H. Thoreau," in the special collections of the Concord Free Public Library (having been donated by Sophia E. Thoreau in 1874).

### GRAMMAR OF SPANISH

Since [William Whiting](#) had graduated from [Harvard College](#) with the degree of Bachelor of Arts with the Class of 1833, in this year in the normal course of events he would receive in addition the customary degree of Master of Arts.

The publication of volumes V and VI of the Reverend Professor [Jared Sparks](#) of [Harvard](#)'s THE LIBRARY OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY.

### LIBRARY OF AM. BIOG. V

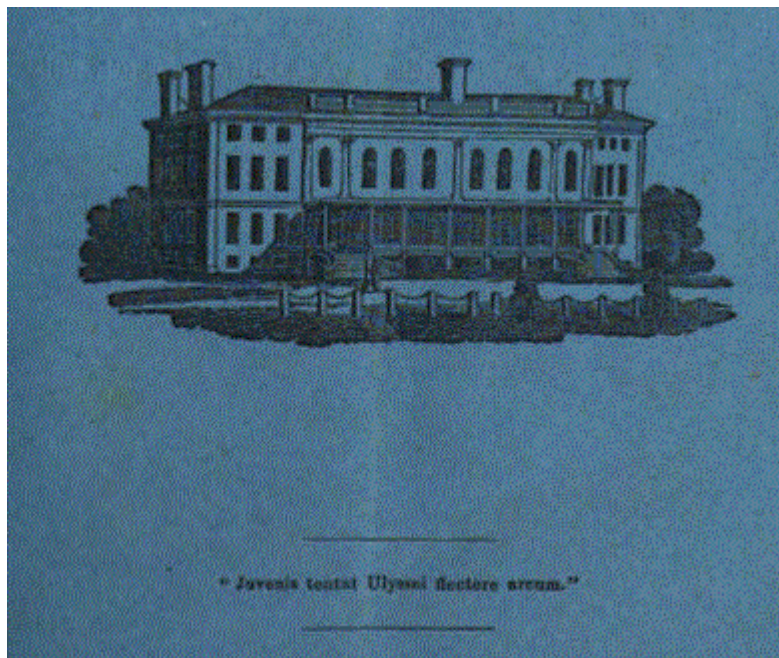
### LIBRARY OF AM. BIOG. VI

These volumes encompassed 4 contributions:

- LIFE OF [JOHN ELIOT](#) by the [Reverend Convers Francis](#).

### LIFE OF JOHN ELIOT

2. There would be three such volumes, labeled Volume I, Volume II, and Volume IV. There does not seem to have been a Volume III published in this book form (apparently it was produced only in monthly magazine form) and no electronic text as yet exists, for the Volume I that had been published. The initial editorial group for his magazine consisted of Charles Hayward, Samuel Tenney Hildreth, Charles Stearns Wheeler, and perhaps for a time Horatio Hale, and their editorial office was a small room on what has become Holyoke Street. Thoreau had volumes II and IV in his personal library, and would give them to F.H. Bigelow. The illustration used on the cover of the magazine represented University Hall:



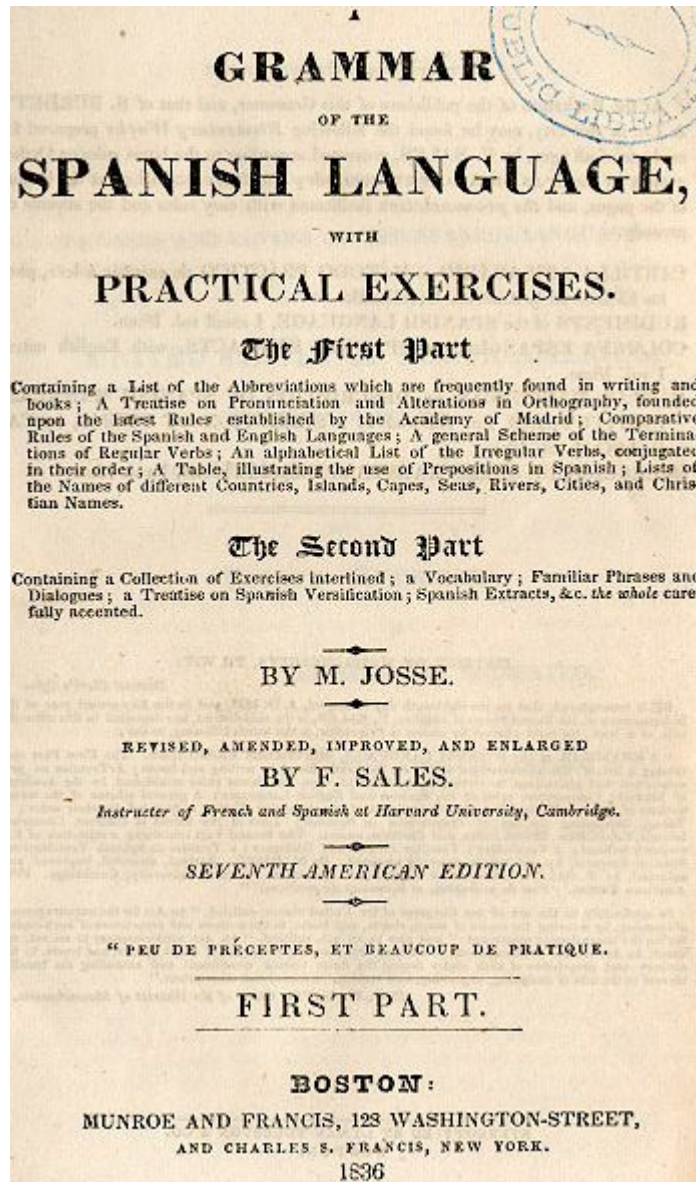
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- LIFE OF WILLIAM PINKNEY by Henry Wheaton

**LIFE OF WILLIAM PINKNEY**

- LIFE OF [WILLIAM ELLERY](#) by Edward T. Channing

**LIFE OF WILLIAM ELLERY**

- LIFE OF [COTTON MATHER](#) by William B.O. Peabody

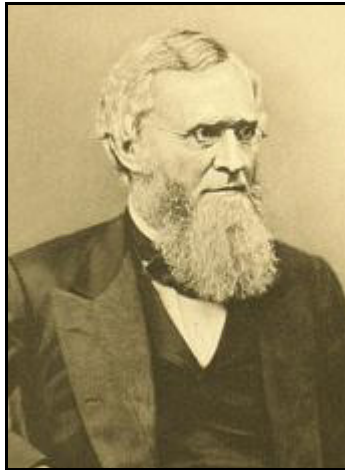
**LIFE OF COTTON MATHER**

**IT IS NO COINCIDENCE THAT IT IS MORTALS WHO CONSUME OUR HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS, FOR WHAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DO IS EVADE THE RESTRICTIONS OF THE HUMAN LIFESPAN. (IMMORTALS, WITH NOTHING TO LIVE FOR, TAKE NO HEED OF OUR STORIES.)**

1839

➡ Samuel Cabot III received the medical degree at Harvard's Medical School. He became Cabinet-keeper for the Boston Natural History Society. He would study medicine for an additional 2 years in Paris.

Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar graduated from Harvard's Law School<sup>3</sup> with receipt of the LL.B. degree. He would join the Boston law firm of Rufus Choate and Daniel Webster and eventually become the Attorney General of the United States of America.



(However, when nominated by President Ulysses S. Grant, as Attorney General, to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court, the US Senate would react against a reputation he had acquired, of displaying “supercilious contempt” for senators — and would refuse him confirmation by a vote of 33 over 24.)

3. Just in case you didn't know: Harvard Law School had been founded with money from the selling off of some slaves in the sugarcane fields of Antigua. (Please try not to let that bother you.)



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**1841**

July: [John Downes](#) left [Worcester](#) for several months to survey the boundary between Maine and [Canada](#) for the Northeast Boundary Commission. By this time he had been “long resident” in [Worcester](#). It was during this period of 3 or 4 years previous that he had met [Theophilus Brown](#). After Downes left [Worcester](#) he and Brown would correspond for more than 3 decades.<sup>4</sup>

[Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) returned from Paris to Boston.

4. THE LETTERS OF THEO. BROWN (3rd edition, 1898) has 19 letters from [Theophilus Brown](#) to [John Downes](#) between 1847 and 1878.



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1842

The initial American publication on ornithology, [Dr. William Samuel Waithman Ruschenberger's](#) [ORNITHOLOGY](#): THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS. THIRD-BOOK OF NATURAL HISTORY (Philadelphia and New York).

## AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY

This was part of a series of volumes covering, respectively, “Articulated Animals, Insects, My’riapods, Arach’nidans, Crusta’ceans, Cirr’hopods, Anne’lidians, and Zo’ophytes [*sic*], or radiated animals.” There would be numerous follow-on editions of such textbooks, under similar titles.

[Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) became physician for a group of academic explorers in Yucatán, a group that included [John Lloyd Stephens](#). An ornithologist, he would collect many birds of Yucatán, describing a number of them for the 1st time. Meanwhile he would practice surgery among the natives:

The cure discovered is the cutting of the contracted muscle, by means of which the eye falls immediately into its proper place. This muscle lies under the surface; and, as it is necessary to pass through a membrane of the eye, the cutting cannot be done with a broadaxe or a handsaw. In fact, it requires a knowledge of the anatomy of the eye, manual dexterity, fine instruments, and Mr. Catherwood and myself for assistants. Our patient remained perfectly quiet, with his little hands folded across his breast; but while the knife was cutting through the muscle he gave one groan, so piteous and heart-rending, that it sent into the next room all who were not immediately engaged. But before the sound of the groan had died away the operation was over, and the boy rose with his eye bleeding, but perfectly straight. A bandage was tied over it, and, with a few directions for its treatment, amid the congratulations and praises of all present, and wearing the same smile with which he had entered, the little fellow walked off to his mother.

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[John Lloyd Stephens](#)'s [INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL IN YUCATÁN](#) (Thoreau is known to have consulted another of Stephens's travel books but we have not found a record that he consulted this one; nevertheless I suppose he probably did, because he did correspond with [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#), who had been the expedition surgeon during the Stephens party's travels in Yucatán).



[James Pierson Beckwourth](#) left Pueblo, Colorado with a trading party of 15 and headed for southern [California](#), then a part of [Mexico](#).

During the summer [John Charles Frémont](#) and [Kit Carson](#) explored the Great Basin, along the Great Salt Lake into Oregon. Their agenda was to map and describe the 2d half of the Oregon Trail, from South Pass to the Columbia River. They found all the land in the Great Basin, centering on modern-day Nevada, to be in fact landlocked, a factoid which contributed greatly to our appreciation of the geography of the North American continent. They sighted Mount Rainier, Mount Saint Helens, and Mount Hood. One objective of this expedition had been to locate a fabulous “Buenaventura River,” which had been imagined as a major east-west conduit between the Great Lakes and the Pacific Ocean. Such a river was nowhere to be located. That winter the expedition became snowbound in the Sierra Nevadas and Carson's experience averted their starvation — sustenance became so hard to come by that their mules were nibbling at each other's tails “and the leather of the pack saddles.”

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**1844**

June 19, Wednesday: [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) got married with Hannah Lowell Jackson. The couple would produce a number of children, including Godfrey Lowell Cabot and [Lidia "Lilla" Cabot \(Perry\)](#). In addition to his employment at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Samuel Cabot III set up a medical and surgical practice in Boston, that he would maintain for the rest of his life. He became the curator for the Boston Society of Natural History. During the early years his personal collection of birds was somewhat larger than the collection of the Society.

Adrián Woll wrote Presidency of the Republic of [Texas Sam Houston](#):

1st Brigade of the North  
Commander in Chief

The time prefixed by the Supreme Government of the Republic for the duration of the armistice celebrated with the Commissioners of Texas on the 15th of Feby of the present year, having expired; His Excellency the President has been pleased to determine that hostilities are renewed and declared to exist from the 11th day of the present month, against the inhabitants of that Department; while I apprise you of this Resolution of his Excellency, I will also represent to you the fact that my Government is highly indignant at the perfidious conduct of those said inhabitants towards the Republic; which, ever generous to them, believed they were acting in good faith until the contrary became manifest by their disregard of the promises made in the same Treaty of Armistice as relates to the Commissioners according to Article 4 which were to have proceeded to the Capital of Mexico in order to arrange the terms whereby these propositions might be admitted.

His Excellency the President convinced that the Honor of the nation demands that such dishonorable conduct should be punished and that it should be understood that his motives for the delay in declaring the renewal of hostilities, has not proceeded from the want of the ability or of resources, but purely from motives of humanity desires me to make this intimation.



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**1848**

January 13, Thursday: [Lidia “Lilla” Cabot](#) was born in Boston, the initial child of [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) with Hannah Lowell Jackson Cabot.

The “Cahuenga Capitulation” ended fighting between the United States and [Mexico](#) in [California](#).



August 17, Sunday: ... [Mexico](#) was won with less exertion & less true valor than are required to do one season’s haying in New England– The former work was done by those who played truant and ran away from the latter. Those Mexican’s were mown down more easily than the summer’s crop of grass in many a farmer’s fields....



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1849

December 18, Tuesday: The governor of Massachusetts commuted the sentence of execution by [hanging](#) of Milton W. Streeter to life in prison.

[Henry Thoreau](#) was written to by [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#)<sup>5</sup> in Boston about the American goshawk that Jacob B. Farmer, one of Thoreau's Concord friends, had shot, that Thoreau was forwarding to the [Boston Society of Natural History](#).

### PROCEEDINGS, FOR 1849

{No MS — printed copy FL, 1894}

Thoreau on  
Normative Science

[December 18, 1849]

*"It was first described by Wilson; lately Audubon has identified it with the European goshawk, thereby committing a very flagrant blunder. It is usually a very rare species with us. The European bird is used in hawking; and doubtless ours would be equally game. If Mr. Farmer skins him now, he will have to take second cut; for his skin is already off and stuffed, -his remains dissected, measured, and deposited in alcohol."*



5. The Chinese yellow-bellied horny pheasant, [Cabot's tragopan \*Tragopan caboti\*](#), something of a [ruffed grouse](#) invented by [Walt Disney](#), was named in honor of [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#).



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The rooms of the BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY are in the brick building adjoining the Boston Theatre, in Mason Street. They are nine in number. One of them is occupied by the librarian, and each of the others by objects of interest in the different departments of natural history. All who desire have *free* access to the cabinet every Wednesday; and strangers in the city, who cannot conveniently visit it on that day, can obtain admission at any time by application to an officer of the society. The main room, which is entered from the first floor, contains skeletons of different animals from all parts of the world, from that of the huge mastodon to slender bones of the sprightly squirrel. In an anteroom cases filled with rare specimens of geology and mineralogy. Around the main room is a light iron balcony, giving access to the glass cases, which are likewise filled with things strange and wonderful from all parts of the known world. Here are skulls and mummies, and serpents, fossil remains and foot marks of those huge animals that walked, or birds that flew, before Adam arose from kindred earth. Ascending to the next story, we enter a room nearly filled with every variety of birds, from the albatross to the minute hummingbird, while in the centre are long cases filled with eggs of the different species, and many kinds of nests. One of the anterooms is filled with shells, seemingly in endless variety, specimens of moss, sponges, corals, and aquatic plants enliven the collection with their singular beauty. Another anteroom is filled with fishes. In yet another room various members of the serpent family are present. Here we may see the enormous boa, the fairy green snake, the agile black snake, the famed hooded snake of India, and the poisonous copper head of our own country. Here, also, is the *fascinating* rattlesnake, and such numbers of the creeping race that a crawling feeling comes over us, and we quit the room with a feeling of relief.

Many strangers leave the city without seeing the splendid cabinet of this society, and many residents are even aware of its existence. But whether resident or stranger, the visitor will be well repaid for the expenditure of time.

The library belonging to the Massachusetts Society of Natural History contains several thousand volumes and a number of valuable manuscripts. The society holds monthly meetings, and several of their proceedings have been published. The institution now owns the building which was formerly occupied by the Massachusetts Medical College; but the building has been remodelled, to adapt it to its present purposes. The whole estate cost about thirty thousand dollars, which was obtained by subscription from the liberal citizens of Boston.



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1850

February 18, Wednesday: [Caleb G. Forshey](#) reported in the [Boston Medical Surgical Journal](#) that “When death results from a cause, which can readily be removed, after death re-animation may be effected, and the machinery of life set in motion, by artificially inflating of the lungs.”

Samuel Cabot IV was born in Boston, the 2d child of [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) with Hannah Lowell Jackson Cabot.

Dr. Bradley P. Dean has noticed that on this day, a couple of months after Harvard Library had acquired a secondhand 1st edition copy of [Luke Howard](#)'s ESSAY ON THE MODIFICATIONS OF CLOUDS, [Thoreau](#) wrote suggestively that “One discovery in Meteorology, one significant observation is a good deal. I am grateful to the man who introduces order among the clouds.” Would that be an indication that he had just been reading this meteorological essay?



February 18, Wednesday: When Eystein the Bad ravaged the land of Drontheim “He then offered the people either his slave Thorer Faxe, or his dog, whose name was Sauer, to be their king. They preferred the dog, as they thought they would sooner get rid of him. Now the dog was, by witchcraft, gifted with 3 men’s wisdom; and when he barked, he spoke one word and barked two. A collar and chain of gold and silver were made for him, and his courtiers carried him in their hands when the weather or ways were foul. A throne was erected for him, and he sat upon a high place, as kings are used to sit. -- It is told that the occasion of his death was that the wolves one day broke into his fold, and his courtiers stirred him up to defend his cattle; but when he ran down from his mound, and attacked the wolves, they tore him to pieces.” Now I think if he had spoken two words & barked only one –he would have been wiser still –and never fallen into the clutches of the wolves.

By some traits in the saga concerning King Hakon the Good –I am reminded of the concessions which some politicians & religionists, who are all things to all men– make. Hakon was unpopular on account of his attempts to spread Christianity – and to conciliate his subjects he drank out of the horn which had been blessed in Odin’s name at a festival of sacrifice, but as he drank he made the sign of the cross over it. & one of his earls told the people that he was making the sign of Thor’s hammer over it. “On this” it is said “there was quietness for the evening. The next day, when the people sat down to table, the bonders pressed the king strongly to eat of horse-flesh; [this was an evidence of paganism] and as he would on no account do so, they wanted him to drink of the soup; and as he would not do this, they insisted he should at least taste the gravy; and on his refusal they were going to lay hands on him. Earl Sigurd came & made peace among them, by asking the king to hold his mouth over the handle of the kettle, upon which the fat smoke of the boiled horse-flesh had settled itself; and the king first laid a linen cloth over the handle, and then gaped over it, and returned to the throne; but neither party was satisfied with this” On another day the Earl “brought it so far that the king took some bits of horse-liver, and emptied all the goblets the bonders filled for him”; This Hakon had a daughter **Thora**.

Thorer Klakke was one “who had been long on viking expeditions”.

Thorer Hiort “was quicker on foot than any man.”

I have a common place book for facts and another for poetry – but I find it difficult always to preserve the vague distinction which I had in my mind – for the most interesting & beautiful facts are so much the more poetry and that is their success. They are **translated** from earth to heaven– I see that if my facts were sufficiently vital & significant – perhaps transmuted more into the substance of the human mind – I should need but one book of poetry to contain them all.

Pm to Fair Haven Hill: One discovery in Meteorology, one significant observation is a good deal. I am grateful to the man who introduces order among the clouds. Yet I look up into the heavens so fancy free, I am almost glad not to know any law for the winds.

I find the partridges [[Ruffed Grouse](#) [Bonasa umbellus](#)] among the fallen pine tops on Fair Haven these afternoons an hour before sundown ready to commence budding in the neighboring orchard.

The mosses on the rocks look green when the snow has melted– This must be one of the spring signs – when spring comes

It is impossible for the same person to see things from the poet’s point of view and that of the man of science. The poets second love may be science –not his first.– when use has worn off the bloom. I realize that men may be born to a condition of mind at which others arrive in middle age by the decay of their poetic faculties.

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I have my doubts about Brad's hypothesis. What's wrong with it is that he hadn't thought to look it up in the encyclopedias current at the time at which Thoreau was writing. At this point all of Howard's cloud terminology was already totally available as encyclopedia information! If Thoreau had needed a source for this cloud terminology, he could at any time simply look up the article "Clouds" in Volume 8 of Abraham Rees's THE CYCLOPÆDIA; OR, UNIVERSAL DICTIONARY OF ARTS, SCIENCES, AND LITERATURE, a widely available source. At that point, for 45 years nobody had needed to have recourse to any specially printed and catalogued scientific monograph!

December 27, Friday: [Henry Thoreau](#) was written to by [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) in Boston:



{No MS — printed copy FL, 1894}

[December 27, 1850]

*"with all the honores, privilegia, etc. ad gradum tuum pertinentia, without the formality of paying any entrance fee, or annual subscription. Your duties in return are to advance the interests of the Society by communications or otherwise, as shall seem good.*

[Thoreau](#) checked out again, from [Harvard Library](#), [Samuel de Champlain](#)'s *VOYAGES DE LA NOUVELLE FRANCE OCCIDENTALE, DICTE CANADA; FAITS POUR LE S<sup>R</sup> DE CHAMPLAIN XAINCTOGEAIS, CAPITAINE POUR LE ROY ET LA MARINE DU PONANT, & TOUTES LES DESCOUVERTES QU'IL A FAITES EN CE PAIS DEPUIS L'AN 1603; JUSQUES EN L'AN 1629...* (Paris: C. Collet, 1632).

### SAMUEL CHAMPLAIN

"There is no Frigate like a Book  
To take us Lands away"

— Emily Dickinson

Dr. Bradley P. Dean has recently recovered, from between the pages of a book in that library, the original holograph of a previously uncollected Thoreau letter addressed to the Librarian of Harvard University, [Dr. Thaddeus William Harris](#), [Harvard Library](#).<sup>6</sup>

6. The person we now call "Jacques Cartier" was being referred to at that time as "Quartier."



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Concord Dec 27<sup>th</sup>  
1850

Dear Sir,

I return herewith Quartier's and Champlain's Voyages. Will you please send me, by the bearer, the other (Collet's?) edition of Champlain's Voyages? I shall want it but a short time.

You will find the sentence to which I referred, when I saw you, near the bottom of the 86<sup>th</sup> page of the Quebec volume.

Possibly you have not observed the note V. at the bottom of the 107<sup>th</sup> page of the same volume; which may serve to explain the name R du gas in Champlain's map.

Yrs

H.D. Thoreau.

From [WALDEN; OR, LIFE IN THE WOODS](#), we know that [Walden Pond](#) froze about the 27th:

### FLINT'S POND



**WALDEN:** In 1845 Walden froze entirely over for the first time on the night of the 22nd of December, Flint's and other shallower ponds and the river having been frozen ten days or more; in '46, the 16th; in '49, about the 31st; and in '50, about the 27th of December; in '52, the 5th of January; in '53, the 31st of December. The snow had already covered the ground since the 25th of November, and surrounded me suddenly with the scenery of winter. I withdrew yet farther into my shell, and endeavored to keep a bright fire both within my house and within my breast. My employment out of doors now was to collect the dead wood in the forest, bringing it in my hands or on my shoulders, or sometimes trailing a dead pine tree under each arm to my shed. An old forest fence which had seen its best days was a great haul for me. I sacrificed it to Vulcan, for it was past serving the god Terminus.

Winter 1845-1846	December	22
Winter 1846-1847	December	16
Winter 1847-1848		
Winter 1848-1849		
Winter 1849-1850	December	31
Winter 1850-1851	December	27
Winter 1851-1852		
Winter 1852-1853	January	5
Winter 1853-1854	December	31
Winter 1854-1855		
Winter 1855-1856		

### TIMELINE OF WALDEN

HDT

WHAT?

INDEX

**DR. SAMUEL CABOT III**

**DR. SAMUEL CABOT III**





## DR. SAMUEL CABOT III

## DR. SAMUEL CABOT III

1852

January 25, Sunday: [Arthur Tracy Cabot](#) was born in Boston, the 3d child of [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) with Hannah Lowell Jackson Cabot.

At the Holy Trinity Church in Brighton in England, the [Reverend Frederick William Robertson](#), who had over the years grown disillusioned with the fruits of [evangelicalism](#), preached on “The Law of Christian Conscience” and suggested to his congregation that they might as well be forgiving toward those of sincere [Quaker](#) tradition, deluded as such persons might be: “The words, and garb, and customs of that sect of Christians called Quakers may be formal enough; founded, no doubt, as in the former case, upon a mistaken interpretation of a passage in the Bible. But they are at least harmless; and have long been associated with the simplicity, and benevolence, and Christian humbleness of this body of Christians — the followers of one who, three hundred years ago, set out upon the glorious enterprise of making all men friends. Now would it be Christian, or would it not rather be something more than unchristian — would it not be gross rudeness and coarse unfeelingness to treat such words, and habits, and customs, with anything but respect and reverence?”

The Reverend Flavel S. Mines preached at the opening of the new Trinity church in Pine Street in San Francisco.

CALIFORNIA



January 25, Sunday: The snow has been for some time more than a foot deep on a level, and some roads drifted quite full. and the cold for some weeks has been intense—as low as 20 & 21° in the early morning— A Canadian winter. Some say that we have not had so long a spell of cold weather since '31, when they say it was not seen to thaw for 6 weeks. But last night & today the weather has moderated. It is glorious to be abroad this afternoon. The snow melts on the surface. The warmth of the sun reminds me of summer— The dog runs before us on the R R cause way & appears to enjoy it as much as ourselves. C. remarks truly that most people do not distinguish between a pup & a dog—& treat both alike though the former may not yet have a tooth in his head.

ELLERY CHANNING

DOG

SOPHIA THOREAU

When Sophia told R Rice that Dr B said that Foster was an infidel—and was injuring the young men &c “Did he?” He observed. “Well he is a great man. He swims in pretty deep water, but it is’nt very extensive.” When she added Mr Frost says that Garrison had to apologize for printing Foster’s sermon—He said—“Did he? Well they may set as many back fires as they please, they won’t be of any use”.

She said the selectmen were going to ask 7 dolls instead of 5 for the Hall. But he said that he would build them a hall if they would engage to give him 5 dolls steadily—. To be sure it would not be quite so handsome as the present, but it should have the same kind of seats.

The Clay in the Deep Cut is melting & streaming down—glistening in the sun. It is I that melts. While the harp sounds on high— And the snow drifts on the west side look like clouds.

AEOLIAN HARP

We turned down the brook at Heywood’s meadow. It was worth the while to see how the water even in the marsh where the brook is almost stagnant sparkled in this atmosphere—for though warm it is remarkably clear. Water which in summer would look dark & perhaps turbid now sparkles like the lakes in November. This water is the more attractive since all around is deep snow. The brook here is full of cat tails *Typha latifolia* Reed Mace—I found on pulling open or breaking in my hand, as one would break bread the still nearly perfect spikes of this fine reed—that the flowers were red or crimson at their base where united to the stem. When I rubbed off thus what was at first but a thimble full of these dry flowerets, they suddenly took in air & flushed up like powder expanding like feathers & foam filling & overflowing my hand, to which they imparted a sensation of warmth quite remarkable. I was astonished to see how a small quantity was expanded and inflated on being released & given to the air— & I could not be tired with repeating the experiment I think a single one would more than fill a half peck measure if they lay as light as at first in the air. It is something magical to one who tries it for the first time like a puff of powder it flashes up You do not know at first where they all come from. It is the conjurer’ss trick in nature, equal to taking feathers enough to fill a bed out of a hat. When you had done—but still will scrape the almost bare stem—still they overflow your hand as before. See it again & try the combustibility of the pollen.

As the flowerets are opening & liberating themselves showing their red extremities, it has the effect of a **changeable** color

Ah then the brook beyond—its rippling waters & its sunny sands.— They made me forget that it was winter—where springs oozed out of the soft bank over the dead leaves & the green sphagnum they had melted the snow

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or the snow had melted as it fell perchance—and the rabbits had sprinkled the mud about on the snow. The sun reflected from the sandy gravelly bottom, sometimes a bright sunny streak no bigger than your finger reflected from a ripple as from a prism—and the sunlight reflected from a hundred points of the surface of the rippling brook—enabled me to realize summer. But the dog partly spoiled the transparency of the water by running in the brook. A pup that had never seen a summer brook.

I am struck & attracted by the parallelism of the twigs of the hornbeam, **fine** parallelism

Having gone  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile beyond the bridge—where C. calls this his Spanish Brook I looked back from the top of the hill on the S. into this deep dell. Where the white pines stood thick rising one above another reflecting the sunlight—so soft and warm by contrast with the snow—as never in summer—for the idea of warmth prevailed over the cold which the snow suggested—though I saw through & between them to a distant snow clad hill— & also to oaks red with their dry leaves. And maple limbs were mingled with the pines. I was on the verge of seeing something but I did not. If I had been alone & had had more leisure I might have seen something to report. Now we are on Fair Haven, still but a snow plain. Far down the river the shadows on Conantum are bluish— somewhat like the holes in the snow perchance.

The sun is half an hour high perhaps Standing near the outlet of the pond I look up & down the river with delight—it is so warm & the air is notwithstanding so clear. When I invert my head & look at the woods  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile down the stream they suddenly sink lower in the horizon and are removed full two miles off— Yet the air is so clear that I seem to see every stem & twig with beautiful distinctness— The fine tops of the trees are so relieved against the sky—that I never cease to admire the minute subdivisions. It is the same when I look up the stream. A bare hickory under Lees Cliff seen against the sky becomes an interesting even beautiful object to behold. I think where have I been staying all these days— I will surely come here again.

When I first paddled a boat on Walden it was completely surrounded by thick & lofty pine woods, and in some of its coves grape vines had run over the trees & formed bowers under which a boat could pass. The hills which form its shores are so steep & the woods on them were then so high, that as you looked down the pond from west to east—it looked like an amphitheater—for some kind of forest spectacle I have spent many an hour floating over its surface as the zephyr willed lying on my back across the seats of my boat, in a summer forenoon— & looking into the sky above dreaming awake—until I was aroused by my boat touching the sand and I arose to see what shore my fates had impelled me to— When idleness was the most attractive & productive industry. Many a forenoon have I stolen away thus—preferring thus to spend the most valued part of the day. For I was rich—if not in money, in sunny hours and summer-days & spent them lavishly. Nor do I regret that I did not spend more of them behind a counter or in the workshop or the teacher's desk, in which last two places I have spent so many of them.

About 2 o'clock Pm these days after a fair forenoon there is wont there is wont to blow up from the N W. a squally cloud spanning the heavens—but before it reaches the S E horizon— it has lifted above the N.W. & so it leaves the sky clear there for sunset— while it has sunk low & dark in the SE.

The men on the freight train who go over the whole length of the road bow to me as to an old acquaintance they pass me so often—and I think they take me for an “employee”— & am I not?

The flowing clay on the E side is still richer today. I know of nothing so purgative of winter fumes & indigestions And then there is heard the harp high over head—a new Orpheus modulating moulding the earth— & making the sands to follow its strains. Who is not young again. What more wonderful than that a simple string or wire stretched between two posts on which the breezes play— can so excite the race of man with its vibrations— producing sounds kindred with the song of bards— & the most admirable works of art.

Thaw with his gentle persuasion is more powerful than Thor. with his hammer. The one melts the other but breaks in pieces. In these fresh designs there is more than the freedom of Grecian art— more than acanthus leaves

It flows even over the snow.

The vibrations of that string will surely remind a man of all that is most glorious in his experience. Will more than realize to him the stories of the Delphic oracle. Will take him captive—make him mad.— The distant is brought near to him through hearing. He abides in the body still— his soul is not quite ravished away, but news from other spheres than he lives in reaches him. It is evident that his life does not pass on that level.



**DR. SAMUEL CABOT III**

**DR. SAMUEL CABOT III**

**1853**

[Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) became visiting surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital, taking over the duties of ailing surgeon John Collins Warren (he was one of the 1st American surgeons to perform the subcutaneous operation for [strabismus](#)).

The cure discovered is the cutting of the contracted muscle, by means of which the eye falls immediately into its proper place. This muscle lies under the surface; and, as it is necessary to pass through a membrane of the eye, the cutting cannot be done with a broadaxe or a handsaw. In fact, it requires a knowledge of the anatomy of the eye, manual dexterity, fine instruments, and Mr. Catherwood and myself for assistants. Our patient remained perfectly quiet, with his little hands folded across his breast; but while the knife was cutting through the muscle he gave one groan, so piteous and heart-rending, that it sent into the next room all who were not immediately engaged. But before the sound of the groan had died away the operation was over, and the boy rose with his eye bleeding, but perfectly straight. A bandage was tied over it, and, with a few directions for its treatment, amid the congratulations and praises of all present, and wearing the same smile with which he had entered, the little fellow walked off to his mother.



DR. SAMUEL CABOT III

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1854

February 9, Thursday: James Jackson Cabot was born in Boston, the 4th child of [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) with Hannah Lowell Jackson Cabot.

Because of tensions between France and Russia, [Giacomo Meyerbeer](#) and Eugène Scribe were forced to make minor changes in the text of their upcoming opera, *L'étoile du nord*.

[Henry Thoreau](#) went to Pine Hill at 9 AM. He read [Marcus Terentius Varro](#), [Lucius Junius Moderatus Columella's DE RE RUSTICA](#),

***REI RUSTICAE AUCTORES...***

and [William Howitt's](#) THE BOOK OF THE SEASONS; OR, THE CALENDAR OF NATURE.

There were a great many holidays at Plumfield, and one of the most delightful was the yearly apple-picking, — for then the Marches, Laurences, Brookes, and Bhaers turned out in full force, and made a day of it. Five years after Jo's wedding, one of these fruitful festivals occurred. — A mellow October day, when the air was full of an exhilarating freshness which made the spirits rise and the blood dance healthily in the veins. The old orchard wore its holiday attire; golden-rod and asters fringed the mossy walls; grasshoppers skipped briskly in the sere grass, and crickets chirped like fairy pipers at a feast. Squirrels were busy with their small harvesting; birds twittered their *adieux* from the alders in the lane; and every tree stood ready to send down its shower of red or yellow apples at the first shake. Everybody was there, — everybody laughed and sang, climbed up and tumbled down; everybody declared that there never had been such a perfect day or such a jolly set to enjoy it, — and every one gave themselves up to the simple pleasures of the hour as freely as if there were no such things as care or sorrow in the world.

Mr. March strolled placidly about, quoting Tusser, Cowley, and Columella to Mr. Laurence, while enjoying

“The gentle apple's winey juice.”

**COLUMELLA**



Feb. 9. High wind in the night and now, the rain being over. Does it not usually follow rain-storms at this season, to dry up the water? It has cleared off very pleasant and is still quite warm. 9 A.M. —To Pine Hill.

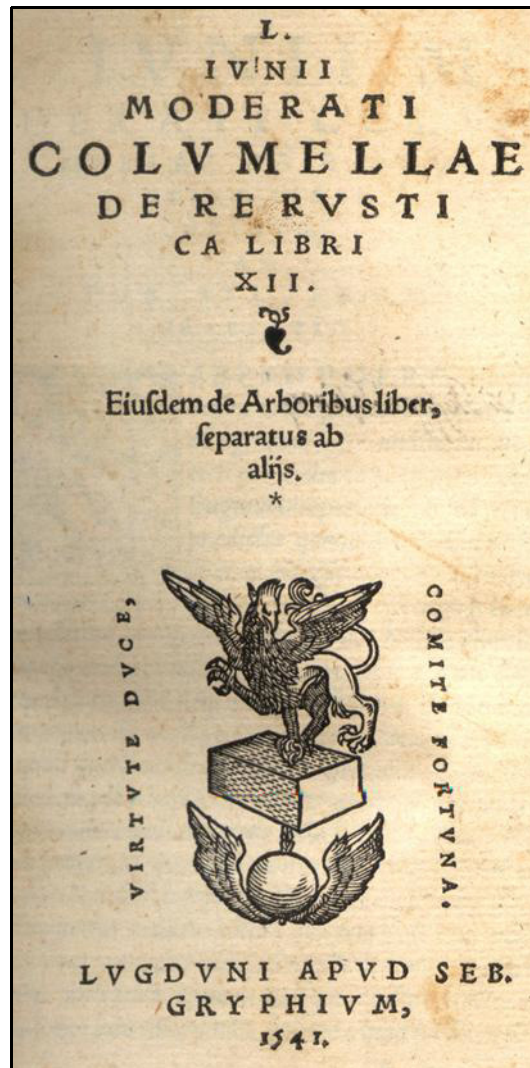
Some of these thaws succeed suddenly to intensely cold weather, and the sky that was tense like a bow that is bent is now relaxed. There is a peculiar softness and luminousness in the air this morning, perhaps the light being diffused by vapor.

It is such a warm, moist, or softened, sunlit air as we are wont to hear the first bluebird's warble in. And the brightness of the morning is increased tenfold by the sun reflected from broad sheets of rain and melted snow-water, and also, in a peculiar manner, from the snow on the sides of the Deep Cut. The crowing of cocks mid the voices of the school-children sound like spring. I hear the sound of the horses' feet on the bared ice as on pavements; and the sun is reflected from a hundred rippling sluices of snow-water finding its level in the fields. Are not both sound and light condensed or contracted by cold?

The jays are more lively than usual. That lichen with a white elastic thread for core is like a tuft of hair on the trees, sometimes springing from the centre of another, larger, flat lichen. There are show-fleas, quite active, on the half-melted snow on the middle of Walden. I do not hear Therien's axe far of late. The moment I came on

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his chopping-ground, the chickadees flew to me, as if glad to see me. They are a peculiarly honest and sociable little bird. I saw them go to his pail repeatedly and peck his bread and butter. They came and went a dozen times while I stood there. He said that a great flock of them came round him the other day while he was eating his dinner and lit on his clothes "just like flies." One roosted on his finger, and another pecked a piece of bread in his hand. They are considerable company for the woodchopper. I heard one wiry phe-be. They love to hop about wood freshly split. Apparently they do not leave his clearing all day. They were not scared when he threw, down wood within a few feet of them. When I looked to see how much of his bread and butter they had eaten, I did not perceive that any was gone. He could afford to dine a hundred.

I see some chestnut sprouts with leaves on them still. The hollows about Walden, still bottomed with snow, are filled with greenish water like its own. I do not find any willow catkins started, though many have lost their scales. I have brought home some alder and sweet-gale and put there in water. The black birch has a slender sharp bud, much like the shadbush. In Stow's meadow by railroad causeway, saw many dusky flesh-colored, transparent worms, about five eighths of an inch long, in and upon the snow, crawling about. These, too, must be food for birds.

I have seen two red squirrels and heard a third since the snow covered the ground. I have seen one gray one, but traces of many.

After "putabant" in [Varro](#), four pages back, comes "Itaque annum ita diviscrunt, ut nonis modo diebus urbanas res usurparent, reliquis VII ut rura colerent. (Therefore they so divided the year as to attend to town affairs on the ninth day only, that they might cultivate the fields on the other days)." Hence *nundinae* means a fair, and *oppidam nundinarium* (a ninth-day town) is a market town, and *forum numlinarium* is the market-place.

Columella, referring to [Varro](#), gives the same reason for the setting aside of the ninth day only, and adds: "Illis



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enim temporibus proceres civitatis in agris morabantur; et cum consilium publicum desiderabatur, a villis arcessebantur in senatum. Ex quo qui eos evocabant, Viatores nominati sunt. (For in those days the chief men of the state stayed on their farms; and when a public council was wanted they were sent for from their villas to the senate. Whence they who called them out were named Road-men.)” These were the times which all Romans loved to praise. But now, so far as the rulers of the State are concerned, the city for the most part, instead of being a ninth-day town, gets six days, while the country gets only one day and the nights at most. We go to market every day. The city is not a ninth-day place but an every-day place, and the country is only a night or Sunday place. In a Yankee’s estimation, it is perhaps the greatest satire on a New England country village to say that it has an air of quietness which reminds him of the Sabbath. He loves the bustle of a market, where things are bought and sold, and sometimes men among the rest. The boys swop jack-knives on Sunday, and their fathers, perchance, barter their own souls.

[Howitt](#) describes the harvest moon in August. Did I not put it in September? He speaks of “willow-holts on the banks of rivers.” Bailey defines “holt, — small wood or grove.” Does not our “holt” on the river answer to this? It is in this case a poke-logan.

NATHAN BAILEY

### THE BOOK OF THE SEASONS

My ink was frozen last month, and is now pale.

[Howitt](#) says that in Britain the law “is opposed to tracking game in a snow.” I feel some pity for the wild animals when I see how their tracks betray them in calm weather after a snow-storm, and consider what risks they, run of being exterminated.

Is not January alone pure winter? December belongs to the fall: is a wintry -November: February, to the spring: it is a snowy March.

The water was several inches deep in the road last evening, but it has run nearly dry by morning. The illustrious farmer Romans who lived simply on their land, to whom Columella refers, are Q. Cincinnatus, C. Fabricius, and Curius Dentatus.

### BAILEY’S DICTIONARY

April: What would eventually become the “New England Emigrant Aid Company” was chartered by the legislature of Massachusetts, initially under the name “The Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Society.” The men engaged in this, Eli Thayer, [Amos Adams Lawrence](#), [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#),<sup>7</sup> and others, would begin their work at once, arousing public interest and making arrangements to facilitate emigration to the [Kansas Territory](#).

### THE 2D GREAT AMERICAN DISUNION

The US circuit court for the district of Missouri was holding session in a small back room over a Main Street store in St. Louis. Preliminary skirmishing was taking place before Judge Robert M. Wells in the case of Dred Scott v Sandford.

In [Havana](#), a number of influential slave owners met with US Consul William H. Robertson to urge that he persuade [President Franklin Pierce](#) to send American troops to [Cuba](#) — in order to prevent slave [emancipation](#).

7. For 4 years Dr. Cabot would be involved in such activities as supplying emigrants to the Kansas Territory with rifles purchased by subscription.



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**1856**

January 26, Saturday: [Helen Jackson Cabot](#) was born in Boston, the 5th child of [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) with Hannah Lowell Jackson Cabot.

The Reverend [Moncure Daniel Conway](#) announced that on the following day, Sunday, January 27th, he intended to deliver a more important sermon than he had ever before attempted, and that this sermon would be entitled "The One Path, or, The Duties of the North and South." He alerted [Horace Greeley](#) of the New-York [Tribune](#) to this intention, and asked Senator Charles Sumner to spread the word for him in the halls of the Congress of the United States.<sup>8</sup>

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

**VOLUME II**

A story by [Louisa May Alcott](#) appeared in the Boston [Saturday Evening Gazette](#), entitled "The Sisters' Trial."

8. [Moncure Daniel Conway](#). THE ONE PATH: OR, THE DUTIES OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH. A DISCOURSE DELIVERED IN THE UNITARIAN CHURCH, WASHINGTON DC, JANUARY 26, 1856, BY MONCURE D. CONWAY, MINISTER OF THE CHURCH. Pamphlet. Buell & Blanchard, Printers, Washington DC.

**READ THE FULL TEXT**





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DR. SAMUEL CABOT III

1859

[Henry Thoreau](#) derived quotations for [CAPE COD](#) from the Reverend [Richard Hakluyt](#)'s THE PRINCIPALL NAVIGATIONS,

- RICHARD HAKLUYT'S, I
- RICHARD HAKLUYT'S, II
- RICHARD HAKLUYT'S, III
- RICHARD HAKLUYT'S, IV
- RICHARD HAKLUYT'S, V



Ramusio's NAVIGATIONI ET VIAGGI, Penhallow's HISTORY OF THE WARS ... WITH THE EASTERN INDIANS, the Reverend [Cotton Mather](#)'s *MAGNALIA CHRISTI AMERICANA*,

- MATHER'S MAGNALIA, I
- MATHER'S MAGNALIA, II

and [Pliny the Elder](#)'s NATURAL HISTORY.

- NATURAL HISTORY, I
- NATURAL HISTORY, II
- NATURAL HISTORY, III
- NATURAL HISTORY, IV
- NATURAL HISTORY, V
- NATURAL HISTORY, VI

In response to an appeal for support, he contributed \$5.<sup>00</sup> to a Harvard Library fund. This cash, like the widow's mite, exceeded his "income from all sources together for the last four months."<sup>9</sup>

Thoreau became a member of the Harvard Visiting Committee in Natural History, a committee including 6 physicians including such notables as [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#),<sup>10</sup> Theodore Lyman III, [James Elliot Cabot](#), and [Dr. Augustus Addison Gould](#). This committee was charged to annually evaluate the science curriculum of the college.<sup>11</sup>

THE SCIENCE OF 1859

9. Kenneth Walter Cameron, THE TRANSCENDENTALISTS AND MINERVA, II:488.

10. [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#), who had published a number of ornithological papers, had by this point abandoned that distraction in order to focus more carefully on his Boston medical patients.

11. REPORTS OF THE OVERSEERS, Volume I, 1859-1864, Academical Series I, in the Harvard Archives.



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**CAPE COD:** The Harbor of Provincetown—which, as well as the greater part of the Bay, and a wide expanse of ocean, we overlooked from our perch—is deservedly famous. It opens to the south, is free from rocks, and is never frozen over. It is said that the only ice seen in it drifts in sometimes from Barnstable or Plymouth. Dwight remarks that “The storms which prevail on the American coast generally come from the east; and there is no other harbor on a windward shore within two hundred miles.” J.D. Graham, who has made a very minute and thorough survey of this harbor and the adjacent waters, states that “its capacity, depth of water, excellent anchorage, and the complete shelter it affords from all winds, combine to render it one of the most valuable ship harbors on our coast.” It is the harbor of the Cape and of the fishermen of Massachusetts generally. It was known to navigators several years at least before the settlement of Plymouth. In Captain John Smith’s map of New England, dated 1614, it bears the name of Milford Haven, and Massachusetts Bay that of Stuard’s Bay. His Highness, Prince Charles, changed the name of Cape Cod to Cape James; but even princes have not always power to change a name for the worse, and as Cotton Mather said, Cape Cod is “a name which I suppose it will never lose till shoals of codfish be seen swimming on its highest hills.”

PEOPLE OF  
CAPE COD

DWIGHT

GRAHAM

JOHN SMITH

REVEREND COTTON MATHER

CHARLES I

May 9, Monday: Guy Chilton Cabot was born in Boston, the 6th child of [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) with Hannah Lowell Jackson Cabot.

[Henry Thoreau](#) surveyed for Cyrus Stow near Flint’s Pond in Lincoln.



[http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Thoreau\\_surveys/121b.htm](http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Thoreau_surveys/121b.htm)



May 9. Surveying for Stow near Flint’s Pond.

Hear the warbling vireo and oven-bird; yellow-throat vireo (?). One helping me says he scared up a whip-poor-will from the ground.

See black birch bloom fallen effete.

The first thunder this afternoon.



DR. SAMUEL CABOT III

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1861

February 26, Tuesday: The February Patent was issued, changing the Austrian constitution. It created two houses in the *Reichsrat* — a House of Lords and a House of Representatives. The latter would be elected by local assemblies rather than through any mechanism of universal suffrage.

By this point the Reverend [Issachar J. Roberts](#) 罗孝全 was moving about in the [Nanking](#) court attired in a yellow silk robe, crimson hood, and mandarin boots (these were said to be the castoff clothes of the *T'ien Wang* Heavenly King, [Hung Hsiu Ch'üan](#) 洪秀全). On this day he was commissioned as Director of Foreign Affairs.

[Godfrey Lowell Cabot](#) was born in Boston, the 7th child of [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) with Hannah Lowell Jackson Cabot.



[[THOREAU](#) MADE NO ENTRY IN HIS JOURNAL FOR FEBRUARY 26th]

[HDT](#)[WHAT?](#)[INDEX](#)

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1862

April: During this month and the following one [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) would serve as a volunteer surgeon at Camp Winfield Scott near Yorktown (then he would return north with a shipload of wounded soldiers).



[Nathaniel Hawthorne](#) and [William Davis Ticknor](#) traveled by train via [New-York](#) and Philadelphia to [Washington DC](#) and there met with General George B. McClellan, Horatio Bridge, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase, and President [Abraham Lincoln](#) (Hawthorne would describe this trip in an anonymous, expurgated essay published by [Ticknor & Fields](#) opposing the Civil War “by a Peaceable Man,” entitled “[Chiefly about War Matters](#)”).

[US CIVIL WAR](#)

Abolitionist lecturers had begun to dominate the annual lecture course of the Smithsonian Institution sponsored by the Washington Lecture Association, which was the leading lectern in [Washington](#), since December 1861, paving the way for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia and pushing the US President toward issuance of an [Emancipation](#) Proclamation. The lectures offered by Horace Greeley, Wendell Phillips, the Reverend George Barrell Cheever (1807-1890), and other abolitionists from this point offer a case study of radical antislavery Christian political activity and its clash with American science. The lectures had aroused among these establishment scientists great fears of mob violence and had roiled their Institution in popular disputes. Joseph Henry, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, believing that black people could live with white people only in a state of servitude, at this point closed the course by forbidding further lectures on partisan topics. In the following seasons he would invite only such safe scientific lecturers as [Arnold Henri Guyot](#).



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**1863**

A (white) [North Carolina](#) railroad executive optimistically assured his (white) stockholders that the value of their investment in slaves would be doubling as soon as there was a Southern triumph that brought this [Civil War](#) to a successful conclusion.

[Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#), an abolitionist who had volunteered as a surgeon for the US Army, was dispatched to inspect military hospitals along the Atlantic seaboard.

The [Unitarian](#) Reverend [Henry Whitney Bellows](#) delivered a sermon “Unconditioned Loyalty,” a pro-Union sermon, which would be printed up and widely circulated during the [Civil War](#).

US Army General Order No. 6, of 1861 regulating the uniform for Army chaplains was revised:

APPENDIX B

Paragraph 131.

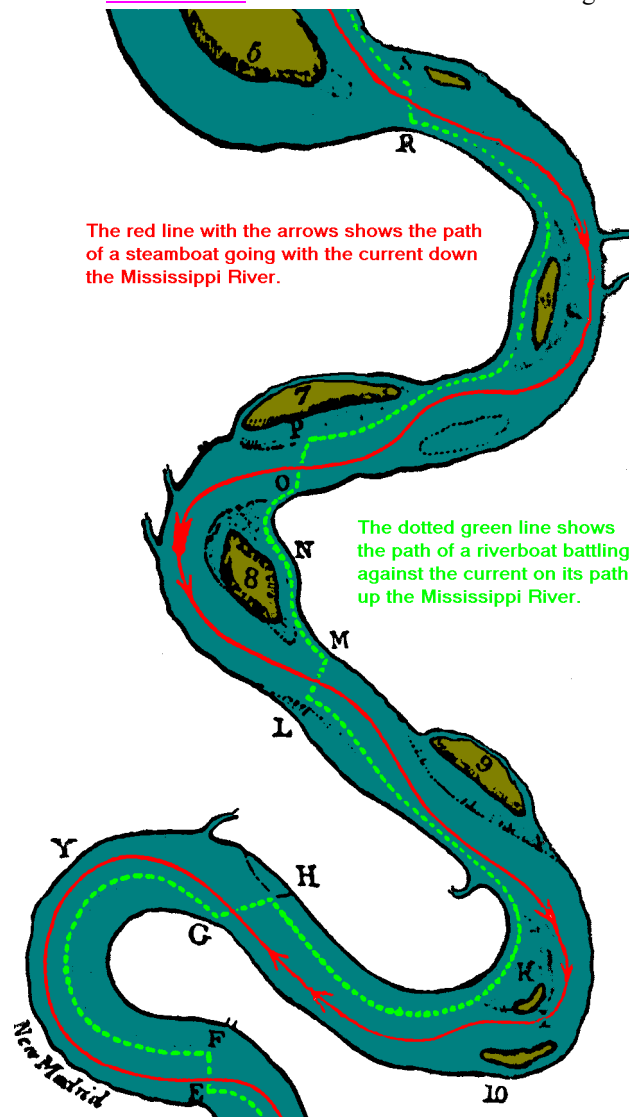
The uniform for Chaplains of the Army will be plain black frock coat with standing collar, and one row of nine black buttons; plain black pantaloons; black felt hat or army forage cap, without ornament. On occasions of ceremony, a plain chapeau de bras may be worn.

1865

[Osborn Perry Anderson](#) mustered out of the US Army in [Washington DC](#) at the close of the [Civil War](#). He became a member of the [National Equal Rights League](#) founded by the Reverend Henry Highland Garnet, [Frederick Douglass](#), and [John Mercer Langston](#) among others, an organization that eventually would be superseded by the “NAACP.”

[Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) and Hannah Lowell Jackson Cabot moved with their daughter [Lidia “Lilla” Cabot](#) to a farm in Canton, Massachusetts.

[Caleb G. Forshey](#) removed to [New Orleans](#) and resumed work as a civil engineer and surveyor.





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**1867**

[Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevski](#) got married with Anna Grigorievna Snitkina. The couple departed for western Europe, and would remain abroad 4 years. They would reside in Geneva for a time, then Florence, then Vienna, then Prague, and finally Dresden.

[Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#), his wife Hannah Lowell Jackson Cabot, and their daughter [Lidia "Lilla" Cabot](#) traveled in Europe.

1872

[Arthur Tracy Cabot](#) graduated from [Harvard College](#).

## NEW "HARVARD MEN"

[Harvard](#)'s governing board established a graduate department (the initial graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences would be [William Elwood Byerly](#), who would in the following year receive a PhD in mathematics on the basis of a paper dealing with the heat of the sun consisting, longhand, of 25 pages, and eventually would become the Perkins Professor at Harvard).

[Professor Asa Gray](#) issued HOW PLANTS BEHAVE.

BOTANIZING



John Muir's articles "[Yosemite Valley](#) in Flood" (April), "Twenty Hill Hollow" (July), and "Living Glaciers of [California](#)" (December) were published in [The Overland Monthly](#). In the summer of this year Professor Gray, [Harvard College](#)'s botanist, spent some time with him in Yosemite (Muir had for a decade been consumed by an interest in botany).



Muir met the artist William Keith, who would become a life-long friend. Muir made the 1st ascent of the north



**DR. SAMUEL CABOT III**

face of Mount Ritter (13,000 ft.).

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**DR. SAMUEL CABOT III**

**1875**

June 13, Sunday: James Jackson Cabot died at the age of 21 in Canton, Massachusetts after contracting an infection while dissecting at the [Harvard Medical School](#).

1876

[Arthur Tracy Cabot](#) received his M.D. from [Harvard College](#). For a year he would be a surgical intern at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

It was during this year that this most pleasant photo-op of the series of 5 still most impressive [Harvard](#) HNICS was created:<sup>12</sup>



([Mr. Felton](#) had expired in 1862, [Mr. Quincy](#) in 1864, [Mr. Everett](#) in 1865, [Mr. Sparks](#) in 1866, [Mr. Walker](#) in 1874 — it would appear from this information that for purposes of PhotoShop they had not been seated in the order of their deaths.)

12. By the way: Then as now, [Harvard](#) has been the College of Presidents. Then it was the college which had attempted education upon two Presidents, John Adams and John Quincy Adams, whereas in our later timeframe it would be the college which attempted education upon a brace of President Roosevelts (it would be left to Yale to perpetrate a brace of Bushs).

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## DR. SAMUEL CABOT III

## DR. SAMUEL CABOT III

November 24, Friday: Dr. Lewis Atterbury Stimson, attending surgeon at Presbyterian Hospital in New-York, amputated the leg of a patient because of a large tumor on the knee. There was nothing extraordinary about that sort of problem or that sort of solution, but this operation was the very 1st such to be performed in America with the use of the [antiseptic](#) techniques being pioneered on the other side of the pond by Dr. Joseph Lister (Dr. Stimson, a powerful personality, had met Louis Pasteur and was familiar with all the arguments pro and con about this new thingie, [antiseptis](#), and he had decided that he was going to be pro).

In this year, [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) of Boston was nearly 60 years of age. He would nevertheless be enthusiastic in his similar adoption of this novelty (in fact, he now has credit for the 1st couple of successful ovariectomies on the record of the Massachusetts General Hospital). His attitude about germs may have been influenced by the fact that his 21-year-old son James Jackson Cabot had recently, after dissecting a corpse during surgical training, contracted a blood infection and died.





**DR. SAMUEL CABOT III**

**DR. SAMUEL CABOT III**

**1885**

April 13, Monday: [Dr. Samuel Cabot III](#) died in Boston at the age of 69. His bird and egg collection would be preserved by the Boston Society of Natural History. The body would be deposited in the Walnut Hills cemetery of Brookline. His son [Arthur Tracy Cabot](#) had also become a surgeon and he and his brother Samuel Cabot IV would found at the Massachusetts General Hospital the Samuel Cabot Fund for Pathological Research.



DR. SAMUEL CABOT III

DR. SAMUEL CABOT III

1910

January: Ota Benga had gotten himself kicked out of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City after he threw a chair at a rich donor, and gotten himself kicked out of the Bronx Zoo after shooting arrows at its patrons, and had wound up at the facility of the Howard Colored Orphan Asylum in eastern Long Island. At this point the Reverend James H. Gordon, the superintendent, arranged for the pygmy to move to Lynchburg, Virginia, where he had already spent a semester at a Baptist institution, the Virginia Theological Seminary and College. The New York Times reports that "In Lynchburg, Ota Benga had his teeth capped and became known as Otto Bingo. He spent a lot of time in the woods hunting with bow and arrow and gathering plants and herbs. He did odd jobs, and worked in a tobacco factory. He became friendly with the poet Anne Spencer, who lived in Lynchburg, and through her met both W.E. Burghardt Du Bois and Booker T. Washington."



John Collins Bossidy (1860-1928), a clever and sociable Irish ophthalmologist bachelor attending a commemoration dinner at Harvard University, offered to the assembly a doggerel toast that would become justly notorious:



And this is good old Boston,  
The home of the bean and the cod,  
Where the Lowells talk only to the Cabots,  
And the Cabots talk only to God.

THE LOWELL FAMILY  
THE CABOT FAMILY

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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens" in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST





**DR. SAMUEL CABOT III**

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Prepared: May 23, 2018



DR. SAMUEL CABOT III

DR. SAMUEL CABOT III

# ARRGH AUTOMATED RESearch REPORT

## GENERATION HOTLINE



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.

Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in



**DR. SAMUEL CABOT III**

**DR. SAMUEL CABOT III**

the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.  
Place requests with <kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.