PEOPLE MENTIONED IN CAPE COD:

BARON GEORGES JEAN-LÉOPOLD-NICOLAS-FRÉDÉRIC CUvier

(Georges Léopold Chrétien Frédéric Dagobert,

OR Georges Jean-Léopold-Nicolas-Frédéric,

Baron Cuvier, who had been

born as Johann Leopold Nicolaus Friedrich Kuefer)¹

“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY

¹. As the name changes suggest, born a nobody, he raised himself by his own bootstraps.
CAPE COD: It has been a constant traveller’s tale and perhaps slander, now for thousands of years, the Latins and Greeks have repeated it, that this or that nation feeds its cattle, or horses, or sheep, on fish, as may be seen in Œlian and Pliny, but in the Journal of Nearchus, who was Alexander’s admiral, and made a voyage from the Indus to the Euphrates three hundred and twenty six years before Christ, it is said that the inhabitants of a portion of the intermediate coast, whom he called Ichthyophagi or Fish-eaters, not only ate fishes raw and also dried and pounded in a whale’s vertebra for a mortar and made into a paste, but gave them to their cattle, there being no grass on the coast; and several modern travellers, - Braybosa, Niebuhr, and others make the same report. Therefore in balancing the evidence I am still in doubt about the Provincetown cows. As for other domestic animals, Captain King in his continuation of Captain Cook’s Journal in 1779, says of the dogs of Kamtschatka, “Their food in the winter consists entirely of the head, entrails, and backbones of salmon, which are put aside and dried for that purpose; and with this diet they are fed but sparingly.” (Cook’s Journal, Vol. VII. p. 315.)

As we are treating of fishy matters, let me insert what Pliny says, that “the commanders of the fleets of Alexander the Great have related that the Gedrosi, who dwell on the banks of the river Arabis, are in the habit of making the doors of their houses with the jaw-bones of fishes, and raftering the roofs with their bones.” Strabo tells the same of the Ichthyophagi. “Hardouin remarks, that the Basques of his day were in the habit of fencing their gardens with the ribs of the whale, which sometimes exceeded twenty feet in length; and Cuvier says, that at the present time the jaw-bone of the whale is used in Norway for the purpose of making beams or posts for buildings.” (Bohn’s ed. trans. of Pliny, Vol. II. p. 361. Herodotus says the inhabitants on Lake Prasias in Thrace (living on piles), “give fish for fodder to their horses and beasts of burden.”
August 23, Wednesday: Georges Cuvier was born in Montbéliard, France.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT
Charles Wilkins was elected a fellow of the Royal Society.

Juan-Bautista Bru mounted the initial relatively accurate fossil reconstruction of an extinct animal from South America (Georges Cuvier classified this as having been a giant sloth).
The People of Cape Cod: Georges Cuvier

1797

Georges Cuvier’s *Tableau élémentaire de l’histoire naturelle des animaux* (Elementary Survey of the Natural History of Animals).

John Frere described and illustrated handaxes from Hoxne that would turn out to be some 400,000 years old.

The Science of 1797

Life is lived forward but understood backward?
— No, that’s giving too much to the historian’s stories.
Life isn’t to be understood either forward or backward.
The People of Cape Cod: Georges Cuvier

1800

Georges Cuvier’s *Leçons d’anatomie comparée* (Lessons in Comparative Anatomy).

The future is most readily predicted in retrospect

“Stack of the Artist of Kouroo” Project

Georges Cuvier
December 11, Saturday: While attending a lecture on worms by the Baron Georges Jean-Léopold-Nicolas-Frédéric Cuvier, Jean-Baptiste de Monet de Lamarck achieved a realization that the pot category of worms would need to be subdivided into at least two separate categories, one for the annelid worms and the other for the parasitic internal worms, and this insight would, by 1820, caused him entirely to abandon his preposterous theology of a progressive ladder of life, in favor of a contingent bush or branching tree of life. –In other words, Stephen Jay Gould points out, Lamarck has been faulted for centuries for adhering to a theory which, when faced with evidence, he had entirely abandoned.
The Baron Georges Jean-Léopold-Nicolas-Frédéric Cuvier suggested that fossils found in the area around Paris were “thousands of centuries” old (this casual observation of course pushed the age of the earth well beyond its commonly accepted limits). Cuvier’s paper explaining that the fossil animals he studied bore no resemblance to anything still living, in effect, served as an unambiguous endorsement of the reality of extinction.

The 1st of James Parkinson’s 3 volumes about the ORGANIC REMAINS OF A FORMER WORLD (in this volume he described fossils as the remains of Noah’s Flood, but in the following several years he would recognize fossils as the remains of a world before people, and he would acknowledge as much in his 3d volume, to appear in 1811).

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT
Jean-Baptiste de Monet de Lamarck proposed in *PHILOSOPHIE ZOOLOGIQUE* that animals might acquire new characteristics during their lives and pass those characteristics on to their offspring, a conceit for which he was openly ridiculed by the Baron Georges Jean-Léopold-Nicolas-Frédéric Cuvier, and which eventually he would abandon.2
Saartje Baartman, known to publicity as the “Hottentot Venus,” was brought to Piccadilly Circus by a white man named Hendrik Cezar and placed upon display. He was a Boer with a body type characteristic of that group, she was a Khoikhoi with a body type characteristic of that group. After a successful tour of the provinces, she was brought to Paris to be examined, and painted in the nude, by the Baron Georges Jean-Léopold-Nicolas-Frédéric Cuvier.
THE PEOPLE OF CAPE COD: GEORGES CUVIER
The cartoonists of the day paid particular attention to her huge butt, relatively safe to draw pictures of, but the paying spectators were paying attention particularly to her genitals, for the shocking pink lips of her vagina hung down to an extraordinary length. She would die in Europe in 1817 of complications of alcoholism and the small pox, giving the Baron his opportunity to dissect her private parts and write a lengthy report for the *Mémoires du Museum d’Histoire Naturelle*.

WHAT I’M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF
Mary Anning’s big brother Joseph discovered the skull of the world’s 1st recognized fossil ichthyosaur (during the following year his little sister would collect this skull).

The Baron Georges Jean-Léopold-Nicolas-Frédéric Cuvier identified the “biblical flood” victim, described by Johann Jakob Scheuchzer in 1731, as a giant salamander.

The USS Constitution went on a two-year cruise to Europe and would then go into the Washington Navy Yard for repairs. Aboard it, Doctor George Parkman was headed for France (while on the continent he would meet the Marquis de Lafayette, Count von Rumford, and the Baron Georges Cuvier). Meanwhile, John White Webster would be studying medicine at Guys Hospital in London, where John Keats was a fellow student.3

3. Keats would graduate as a certified apothecary. Frequent sore throats would lead his physician to prescribe mercury, which at the time had a very general use. The restaurant in Guy’s Hospital –until recently named in Keats’s honor– has been transformed into a McDonalds.
The Baron Georges Jean-Léopold-Nicolas-Frédéric Cuvier's *Recherches sur les ossements fossiles de quadrupèdes* correctly identified pterosaurs as flying reptiles. (His conclusions would of course for many years be largely ignored.)
The Baron Georges Jean-Léopold-Nicolas-Frédéric Cuvier's *A Essay on the Theory of the Earth.*

**The Science of 1813**
CAPE COD: It has been a constant traveller’s tale and perhaps slander, now for thousands of years, the Latins and Greeks have repeated it, that this or that nation feeds its cattle, or horses, or sheep, on fish, as may be seen in Ælian and Pliny, but in the Journal of Nearchus, who was Alexander’s admiral, and made a voyage from the Indus to the Euphrates three hundred and twenty six years before Christ, it is said that the inhabitants of a portion of the intermediate coast, whom he called Ichthyophagi or Fish-eaters, not only ate fishes raw and also dried and pounded in a whale’s vertebra for a mortar and made into a paste, but gave them to their cattle, there being no grass on the coast; and several modern travellers, - Braybosa, Niebuhr, and others make the same report. Therefore in balancing the evidence I am still in doubt about the Provincetown cows. As for other domestic animals, Captain King in his continuation of Captain Cook’s Journal in 1779, says of the dogs of Kamtschatka, “Their food in the winter consists entirely of the head, entrails, and backbones of salmon, which are put aside and dried for that purpose; and with this diet they are fed but sparingly.” (Cook’s Journal, Vol. VII. p. 315.)

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Charles Lyell, armed with introductions to Georges Cuvier, Humboldt, and other men of science, went to France.
The external genitalia of a deceased “female Hottentot” (that is, of Saartje Baartman, a woman taken from one of the Khoikhoi tribes of South Africa) had been written up, scientifically of course, and were the talk of Paris. During her lifetime she had been, nude of course, the highlight of a high-society ball. It was droll, the way the pink lips of her vagina hung down out of her dark pubic hair, contrasting sharply with her dusky skin. After her death, white male Parisians were able to dissect the “specimen’s oversized genitals.” (Want to see genitalia old enough to be those of your great-great-great-grandmother? They are preserved in the Museum of Man in Paris.) In France, also, Jean-Baptiste de Monet de Lamarck died alone, blind, and impoverished. For an obituary, the Baron Georges Jean-Léopold-Nicolas-Frédéric Cuvier would damn him with faint praise. The name of this naturalist had become associated with a theory of the progressive development of types, or “Lamarckism” that, utterly independent of any scientific evidence, proved to be exceedingly useful in support of various political ideologies such as racism, Communism, etc. The essence of this recurrent pseudo-scientific dogma is that striving to be man, the worm mounts through all the spires of form:

“Waldo Emerson’s profound racism abated over time, but it never disappeared, always hovering in the background and clouding his democratic vision. Like all too many of his fellow intellectuals, throughout his life and works Emerson remained convinced that the characteristics that made the United States, for all its flaws, the great nation of the world were largely the product of its Saxon heritage and history. Here, alas, Ralph Waldo Emerson’s democratic imagination largely failed him.”

— Peter Field
THE PEOPLE OF CAPE COD:

THEORY WOULD PROVE SO USEFUL THAT OVER AND OVER LABORATORY EVIDENCE WOULD SIMPLY BE MANUFACTURED, OR DECLARED TO EXIST SOMEWHERE, TO PROVE ITS VALIDITY. THE PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY AND ZOOLOGY AT HARVARD COLLEGE, LOUIS AGASSIZ, CHARLES DARWIN’S CHIEF OPPONENT IN AMERICA, WOULD BE ATTRACTED TO THIS THEORY BECAUSE HE NEEDED A SCIENTISTIC LEGITIMATION FOR BELIEF IN THE SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL ESSENSES OF THE VARIOUS RACES OF HUMANKIND AND THE INEVITABLE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF RACE, THE OVERRIDING NECESSITY OF SOCIAL ORDER, AND THE PRESERVATION OF HARVARD AS A BASTION OF WHITE RIGHTEOUSNESS:

However, Stephen Jay Gould has found reason to doubt this standard story about the French biologist. What Professor Gould has discovered is that Lamarck had on December 11, 1802, while attending a lecture on worms by Cuvier, achieved a realization that the pot category of worms would need to be subdivided into at least two separate categories, one for the annelid worms and the other for the parasitic internal worms, and that this insight had, by 1820, caused Lamarck to entirely abandon his theology of a progressive ladder of life, in favor of a contingent bush or branching tree of life. In other words, Lamarck has been faulted for a theory.
which, faced with evidence, he had entirely abandoned.

THE SCIENCE OF 1829
Patrick Matthew’s *On Naval Timber and Arboriculture* contained an appendix in which he described what Charles Darwin would later designate as “natural selection” (Darwin would belatedly be made aware of Matthew’s hypothesis, and in a reprint of *On the Origin of Species* would carefully acknowledge this).

William Buckland conducted experiments with tortoises and crocodiles, to compare their footprints with fossil tracks found in Scotland.

THE PEOPLE OF CAPE COD:

GEORGES CUvier

This would be in Waldo Emerson’s library, and Henry Thoreau would make use of it for Cape Cod: “Cuvier says, that at the present time the jaw-bone of the whale is used in Norway for the purpose of making beams or posts for buildings.”

EXPLANATION OF THE ENGRAVINGS.

Figure 1.

A human skeleton incrusted in the travertine of Guadeloupe. It is on the right side, the skull and left leg raised.

a The left zygoma.
b The lower jaw.
c Anterior portion of the omoplate.
d The shoulder-bone.
e Part of the cubitus.
f Part of the radius.
gg Some of the wrist and finger-bones.
h Left os innominatum mutilated.
i The thigh-bone.
j The leg.
k The peroneum.
mm The spine.
ooo The ribs.
ppp Shells incrusted in the rock.

N. B.—There is a skeleton of the same kind at the British Museum.

According to The Observer, “At a quarter past twelve o’clock, the Royal carriage in which their Majesties were seated, without attendants, reached the village of Hounslow. The postillions passed on at a rapid rate till they entered the town of Brentford; where the people, who had assembled in great numbers, expressed by groans, hisses, and exclamations, their disapprobation of his Majesty’s conduct with respect to the Administration. The Duke of Wellington had entered the Palace in full uniform about a quarter of an hour before the Majesties, and had been assailed by the people with groans and hisses. The Duke, after remaining more than three hours with his Majesty, left about a quarter-past four, amidst groans and hisses even more vehement than when he arrived. Lord Frederick Fitzclarence was received with the same disapprobation, and loud cries of ‘Reform’.”

In Providence, Rhode Island, Friend Stephen Wanton Gould wrote in his journal:

1st day 13 of 5 M 1832 / Enoch & Lydia went to Scituate Meeting
- The charge of our Meeting at the Institution of course fell on my wife & I - both were solid & silent. - My diary has been unusually neglected partly arising from an apprehension that there is but little use in keeping it up - there is a constant sameness in events or occurrences of my life. - or at any rate there is not much of Interest to record, & yet I do not feel easy wholly to omit it. - While I am far from being exempt from trials - there is much in my life which I have cause to be humbly thankful for to Him whose hand of love & power has thro’ the various turnings & courses which I have experienced has indeed been visible & often extended for my help. -

Religious Society of Friends
Gregor Mendel began a 2-year program of study at the University of Vienna. He would take a variety of courses and study with, or attend the lectures of, among others, Professor of Plant Physiology Franz Unger whose *BOTANISCHE BRIEFE* would in 1852 argue for the evolution of (i.e. non-fixity) of species, Andreas von Ettinghausen, whose course on experimental method and physical apparatus likely drew on his 1826 writings on combinatorial analysis and 1842 writings on the organization of experiments, and Christian Johann Doppler, a well-regarded lecturer on experimental physics.

Hofmeister described alternation of generations in higher plants.

Over the following four years Charles Darwin would be issuing 4 volumes of monographs on cirripedes (marine invertebrates including barnacles). His thorough research would be recognized with the Royal Medal.

Henry Thoreau read in Zoölogy and in Botany:
- William Bartram and John Bartram
- Peter Kalm, a disciple of Carolus Linnaeus
- the Baron Cuvier, teacher of Louis Agassiz
- Loudon, apostle of the Linnaean “artificial” system of *botanical* classification
- Stoever, the biographer of Carolus Linnaeus
- Pultenay, a Linnaean
- Carolus Linnaeus (in February 1852)
- Alphonse Louis Pierre Pyramus de Candolle, apostle of the Linnaean “artificial” system of *botanical* classification (later)
- Louis Agassiz and Augustus A. Gould’s revised edition of their 1848 *PRINCIPLES OF ZOÖLOGY: TOUCHING THE STRUCTURE, DEVELOPMENT, DISTRIBUTION AND NATURAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE RACES OF ANIMALS, LIVING AND EXTINCT; WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS. FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES. PT. I. COMPARATIVE PHYSIOLOGY*
CAPE COD: The Greeks would not have called the ocean ἀτρύγητος, or unfruitful, though it does not produce wheat, if they had viewed it by the light of modern science, for naturalists now assert that "the sea, and not the land, is the principal seat of life," though not of vegetable life. Darwin affirms that "our most thickly inhabited forests appear almost as deserts when we come to compare them with the corresponding regions of the ocean." Agassiz and Gould tell us that "the sea teems with animals of all classes, far beyond the extreme limit of flowering plants"; but they add, that "experiments of dredging in very deep water have also taught us that the abyss of the ocean is nearly a desert"; "so that modern investigations," to quote the words of Desor, "merely go to confirm the great idea which was vaguely anticipated by the ancient poets and philosophers, that the Ocean is the origin of all things." Yet marine animals and plants hold a lower rank in the scale of being than land animals and plants. "There is no instance known," says Desor, "of an animal becoming aquatic in its perfect state, after having lived in its lower stage on dry land," but as in the case of the tadpole, "the progress invariably points towards the dry land." In short, the dry land itself came through and out of the water on its way to the heavens, for, "in going back through the geological ages, we come to an epoch when, according to all appearances, the dry land did not exist, and when the surface of our globe was entirely covered with water." We looked on the sea, then, once more, not as ἀτρύγητος, or unfruitful, but as it has been more truly called, the "laboratory of continents."
August 1, Friday: We learn from a couple of incidental mentions in the journal, that at this point Henry Thoreau was in the process of studying the 16 volumes of the Baron Cuvier’s *The Animal Kingdom*,4 Louis Agassiz and Augustus A. Gould’s *Principles of Zoology*, and Peter Kalm’s *Travels into North America*. He stopped by the Boston Society of Natural History to return 2 books, one of them Volume I of the *Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, new series, and check out the *Memoirs of* 4. In 1827 the initial five volumes were printed, the 1st four as *The Class Mammalia / Arranged by the Baron Cuvier, with specific descriptions by Edward Griffith, Charles Hamilton Smith and Edward Pidgion* and the 5th as *Synopsis of the species of the class Mammalia, as arranged with reference to their organization by Cuvier and other naturalists: with specific characters, synonyma, &c. &c.* In 1829 volumes 6, 7, and 8 appeared as *The Class Aves / Arranged by the Baron Cuvier, with specific descriptions by Edward Griffith and Edward Pidgion, the additional species inserted in the text of Cuvier by John Edward Gray*. In 1830 the 11th volume appeared out of sequence, as *The fossil remains of the animal kingdom / by Edward Pidgion*. In 1831 the 9th volume appeared as *The class Reptilia / arranged by the Baron Cuvier, with specific descriptions by Edward Griffith and Edward Pidgion*. In 1832 the 14th and 15th volumes appeared out of sequence, as *The class Insecta / arranged by the Baron Cuvier, with supplementary additions to each order by Edward Griffith and Edward Pidgion, and notices of new genera and species by George Gray*. In 1833 the 13th volume appeared out of sequence, as *The classes Annelida, Crustacea, and Arachnida / arranged by the Baron Cuvier, with supplementary additions to each order by Edward Griffith and Edward Pidgion*. In 1834 the 10th volume appeared as *The class Pisces / arranged by the Baron Cuvier, with supplementary additions by Edward Griffith and Charles Hamilton Smith* and the 12th volume appeared as *The Mollusca and Radiata / arranged by the Baron Cuvier, with supplementary additions to each order by Edward Griffith and Edward Pidgion*. The final, 16th, volume of the set, of which I am unable at present to provide electronic copy, was unnumbered and undated and bore the title *A classified index and synopsis of the animal kingdom arranged in conformity with its organization, by the Baron Cuvier ..., with supplementary additions to each order, by Edward Griffith ... and others* (this final volume included “A tabular view of the classification of animals adopted by the Baron Cuvier; with specific examples”).
THE PEOPLE OF CAPE COD:

WALDEN: The customs of some savage nations might, perchance be profitably imitated by us, for they at least go through the semblance of casting their slough annually; they have the idea of the thing, whether they have the reality or not. Would it not be well if we were to celebrate such a "busk," or "feast of first fruits," as Bartram describes to have been the custom of the Mucclasse Indians? "When a town celebrates the busk," says he, "having previously provided themselves with new clothes, new pots, pans, and other household utensils and furniture, they collect all their worn out clothes and other despicable things, sweep and cleanse their houses, squares, and the whole town, of their filth, which with all the remaining grain and other old provisions they cast together into one common heap, and consume it with fire. After having taken medicine, and fasted for three days, all the fire in town is extinguished. During this fast they abstain from the gratification of every appetite and passion whatever. A general amnesty is proclaimed; all malefactors may return to their town." 

"On the fourth morning, the high priest, by rubbing dry wood together, produces new fire in the public square, from whence every habitation in the town is supplied with the new and pure flame."

They then feast on the new corn and fruits and dance and sing for three days, "and the four following days they receive visits and rejoice with their friends from neighboring towns who have in like manner purified and prepared themselves."

The Mexicans also practised a similar purification at the end of every fifty-two years, in the belief that it was time for the world to come to an end.

I have scarcely heard of a truer sacrament, that is, as the dictionary defines it, "outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace," than this, and I have no doubt that they were originally inspired directly from Heaven to do thus, though they have no biblical record of the revelation.
left at 9 AM Aug. 1st

After Kingston—came Plympton Halifax & Hanson all level with frequent cedar swamps especially the last—also in Weymouth.

Desor & Cabot think the jelly-fish (oceania tubulosa are buds from a polyp of Genus Lyncoryne.) Desor accounting for suspended moisture or fogs over sand banks (or shoals) says the heat being abstracted by radiation the moisture is condensed in form of fog.

Lieut Walsh lost his lead & wire when 34,200 or more than 6 statute miles had run out perpendicularly.

I could make a list of things ill-managed—We Yankees do not deserve our fame. viz:

I went to a menagerie the other day. The proprietors had taken wonderful pains to collect rare and interesting animals from all parts of the world. And then placed by them—a few stupid and ignorant fellows who knew little or nothing about the animals & were unwilling even to communicate the little they knew. You catch a rare creature interesting to all mankind & then place the first biped that comes along with but a grain more reason in him to exhibit & describe the former—At the expense of Millions this rare quadruped from the sun is obtained, and then Jack Halyard or Tom Coach Whip is hired to explain it. Why all this pains taken to catch in Africa—and no pains taken to exhibit in America? Not a cage was labelled—There was nobody to tell us how or where the animals were caught—or what they were—Probably the proprietors themselves do not know—or what their habits are—But hardly had we been ushered into the presence of this choice this admirable collection—than a ring was formed for Master Jack & the poney. Were they animals then who had caught and exhibited these—and who had come to see these? Would it not be worth the while to learn something? to have some information imparted?

The absurdity of importing the behemoth & then instead of somebody appearing tell which it is—to have to
while away the time—though your curiosity is growing desperate—to learn one fact about the creature—to have Jack and the poney introduced!!!

Why I expected to see some descendant of Cuviers there to improve this opportunity for a lecture on Nat. Hist. That is what they should do make this an—occasion for communicating some solid information—that would be fun alive that would be a sunny day—a sun day in one’s existence not a secular day of shetland ponies—not jack and his poney & a tintimmara of musical instruments—and a man with his head in the lions mouth. I go not there to see a man hug a lion—or fondle a tiger—but to learn how he is related to the wild beast—There’ll be All-foil days enough without our creating any intentionally. The presumption is that men wish to behave like reasonable creatures—that they do not need and are not seeking relaxation—that they are not dissipated. Let it be a travelling zoological garden—with a travelling professor to accompany it—At present foolishly the professor goes alone with his poor painted illustrations of animated—While the menagerie takes another road without its professor only its keepers. I see June & co or Van Amberg & Co—are engaged in a pecuniary speculation in which certain wild beasts are used as the counters Cuvier & co are engaged in giving a course of lectures on Nat. History. Now why could they not put head & means together for the benefit of mankind—and still get their living. The present institution is imperfect precisely because its object is to enrich Van amburg & co—and their low aim unfit them for rendering any more valuable service—but no doubt the most valuable course would also be the most valuable in a pecuniary sense—

No doubt a low self interest is a better motive force to these enterprises than no interest at all but a high self interest—which consists with the greatest advantage of all would be a better still.

Item 2nd Why have we not a decent pocket map of the State of Mass? There is the large map why is it not cut into half a dozen sheets & folded into a small cover for the pocket? Are there no travellers to use it? Well to tell the truth there are but few, & that’s the reason why. Men go by railroad—and state maps hanging in bar rooms are small enough—The state has been admirably surveyed at a great cost—and yet Dearborne’s Pocket map is the best one—we have!
August 11, Monday: Henry Thoreau and Bronson Alcott took the train to Cambridge and passed the forenoon in Harvard Library. Bronson looked at the section of English poetry of the Elizabethan age but couldn’t find any book he wanted to check out. Henry returned the books he had checked out on August 1st and checked out Volume I of the Second Series of the Collections of the New York Historical Society, which contains Excerpts from the New World, or, A Description of the West Indies. By John de Laet, Director of the Dutch West India Company, &c. Translated tr. from the original Dutch, by the editor [George Folsom]).

In addition, he checked out the first three volumes of Peter Kalm’s Travels into North America; Containing its Natural History, and a Circumstantial Account of its Plantations and Agriculture in General ... (English version of 1770; Thoreau had evidently already been reading Kalm in volumes obtained from the library of the Boston Society of Natural History).


*There is no Frigate like a Book  
To take us Lands away*  
— Emily Dickinson

5. He would place his notes from this reading in his Canadian Notebook and in his Indian Notebook #5.
(I should mention at some point, and therefore will insert the material arbitrarily at this point in the Kouroo Contexture, that Thoreau had in his personal library one of the editions of a very expansive Latin/English lexicon that was being published regularly over the years by Harper & Brothers of New-York, *A Copious and Critical Latin-English Lexicon: Founded on the Larger Latin-German Lexicon of Dr. William Freund; with Additions and Corrections from the Lexicons of Gesner, Faccioliati, Scheller, Georges, Etc.*, by Professor Ethan Allen Andrews. We do not know which edition it was that Thoreau owned, but it is the 1851 edition that is presently offered online by Google Books: <http://books.google.com/books?id=xXhfAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_summary_r&cad=0#PPT10,M1>.)

Thoreau commented in *Walden* that old Marcus Porcius Cato the Censor’s *De Re Rustica* was his “Cultivator.” Compare this antique text that he at this point borrows from Alcott’s library, therefore, with a “Pictorial Cultivator” magazine being produced monthly for the farmers of Thoreau’s own era:

**Walden**: Old Cato, whose “De Re Rusticâ” is my “Cultivator,” says, and the only translation I have seen makes sheer nonsense of the passage, “When you think of getting a farm, turn it thus in your mind, not to buy greedily; nor spare your pains to look at it, and do not think it enough to go round it once. The oftener you go there the more it will please you, if it is good.” I think I shall not buy greedily, but go round and round it as long as I live, and be buried in it first, that it may please me the more at last.
A COPIOUS AND CRITICAL

LATIN-ENGLISH LEXICON,

FOUND ON THE LARGEGER LATIN-GERMAN LEXICON OF DR. WILLIAM FREUND;

WITH ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS FROM THE LEXICONS OF GRASER, FACCIOLAUS, SCHRILLER, GERGER, ETC.

BY E. A. ANDREWS, LL.D.

NEW YORK:
HARPER & BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS,
57 CLIFF STREET.
1851.
Marcus Porcius Cato (the Elder)
(the Censor) 234-149 BCE
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.”
Thoreau also went to the Society of Natural History, and looked at Louis Agassiz and Augustus A. Gould’s Principles of Zoology in its new edition.

(He also looked through the 16 volumes of the Baron Cuvier’s The Animal Kingdom.)

August 19, Tuesday: Clematis Virginiana –Calamint –Lycopus Europeus water horehound This is a world where there are flowers. Now at 5 AM the fog which in the west looks like a wreath of hard rolled cotton batting –is rapidly dispersing. The echo of the railroad whistle is heard the horizon round –the gravel train is starting out. The farmers are cradling oats in some places. For some days past I have noticed a red maple or two about the pond though we have had no frost. The grass is very wet with dew this morning. The way in which men cling to old institutions after the life has departed out of them & out of themselves reminds me of those monkies which cling by their tails –aye whose tails contract about the limbs –even the dead limbs of the forest and they hang suspended beyond the hunters reach long after they are dead It is of no use to argue with such men They have not an apprehensive intellect but merely as it were a prehensile tail. Their
intellect possesses merely the quality of a prehensile tail. The tail itself contracts around the dead limb even after they themselves are dead—and not till corruption takes place do they fall. The black howling monkey, or Caraya—according to Azara it is extremely dif. to get at them for “When mortally wounded they coil the tail round a branch, and hang by it with the head downwards for days after death, and until, in fact, decomposition begins to take effect.”—The commenting Naturalist says “a singular peculiarity of this organ is to contract at its extremity of its own accord as soon as it is extended to its full length.” I relinquish argument, I wait for decomposition to take place, for the subject is dead. as I value the hide for museums. They say “though you’ve got my soul, you shan’t have my carcass.”

PM to Marlboro Road via Clamshell Hill –Jenny Dugan’s –Round Pond Canoe Birch road (Dea Dakins) & White Pond.–

How many things concur to keep a man at home, to prevent his yielding to his inclination to wander. If I would extend my walk a hundred miles I must carry a tent on my back for shelter at night or in the rain, or at least I must carry a thick coat to be prepared for a change in the weather. So that it requires some resolution as well as energy and foresight to undertake the simplest journey. Man does not travel as easily as the birds migrate—He is not everywhere at home like flies. When I think how many things I can conveniently carry, I am wont to think it most convenient to stay at home. My home then to a certain extent is the place where I keep my thick-coat & my tent & some books which I can not carry. Where next I can depend upon meeting some friends—And where finally I even I have established myself in business— But this last in my case is the least important qualification of a home.

The poet must be continually watching the moods of his mind as the astronomer watches the aspects of the heavens. What might we not expect from a long life faithfully spent in this wise—the humblest observer would see some stars shoot.– A faithful description as by a disinterested person of the thoughts which visited a certain mind in 3 score years & 10 as when one reports the number & character of the vehicles which pass a particular point. As travellers go round the world and report natural objects & phenomena—so faithfully let another stay at home & report the phenomena of his own life. Catalogue stars—that those thoughts whose orbits are as rarely calculated as comets It matters not whether they visit my mind or yours—whether the meteor falls in my field or in yours—only that it came from heaven. (I am not concerned to express that kind of truth which nature has expressed. Who knows but I may suggest some things to her. Time was when she was indebted to such suggestions from another quarter—as her present advancement shows. I deal with the truths that recommend themselves to me please me—not those merely which any system has voted to accept.) A meteorological journal of the mind— You shall observe what occurs in your latitude, I in mine.

Some institutions—most institutions, indeed, have had a divine origin. But of most that we see prevailing in society nothing but the form, the shell, is left—the life is extinct—and there is nothing divine in them. Then the reformer arises inspired to reinstitute life—and what ever he does or causes to be done is a reestablishment of that
same or a similar divineness. But some who never knew the significance of these instincts –are by a sort of false
instinct found clinging to the shells. Those who have no knowledge of the divine appoint themselves defenders
of the divine –as champions of the church &c I have been astonished to observe how long some audiences can
endure to hear a man speak on a subject which he knows nothing about –as religion for instance –when one who
has no ear for music might with the same propriety take up the time of a musical assembly with putting through
his opinions on music. This young man who is the main pillar of some divine institution –does he know what
he has undertaken. If the saints were to come again on earth would they be likely to stay at his house –would
they meet with his approbation even? Ne sutor ultra crepidam. They who merely have a talent for affairs –are
forward to express their opinions–
A Roman soldier sits there to decide upon the righteousness of Christ– The world does not long endure such
blunders –though they are made every day. The weak-brained & pusilanimous farmers would fain abide by the
the institutions of their fathers. their argument is they have not long to live, and for that little space let them not
be disturbed in their slumbers –blessed are the peace makers –let this cup pass from me &c

How vain it is to sit down to write when you have not stood up to live! Methinks that the moment my legs begin
to move my thoughts begin to flow –as if I had given vent to the stream at the lower end & consequently new
fountains flowed into it at the upper. A thousand rills which have their rise in the sources of thought –burst forth &
fertilise my brain. you need to increase the draught below –as the owners of meadows on C. river say of the
Billerica Dam. Only while we are in action is the circulation perfect. The writing which consists with habitual
sitting is mechanical wooden dull to read.
The grass in the high pastures is almost as dry as hay– The seasons do not cease a moment to revolve and
therefore nature rests no longer at her culminating point than at any other. If you are not out at the right instant
the summer may go by & you not see it. How much of the year is spring & fall –how little can be called summer!
The grass is no sooner grown than it begins to wither– How much nature herself suffers from drought! It seems
quite as much as she can do to produce these crops
The most inattentive walker can see how the science of geology took its rise. The inland hills & promontories
betray the action of water on their rounded sides as plainly as if the work were completed yesterday. He sees it
with but half an eye as he walks & forgets his thought again. Also the level plains & more recent meadows &
marine shells found on the tops of hills– The Geologist painfully & elaborately follows out these suggestions
–& hence his fine spun theories.
The gold finch [American Goldfinch Carduleis tristis] –though solitary is now one of the commonest birds
in the air.
What if a man were earnestly & wisely to set about recollecting & preserving the thoughts which he has had!
How many perchance are now irrecoverable!– Calling in his neighbors to aid him,
I do not like to hear the name of particular states given to birds & flowers which are found in all equally–
Maryland yellow throat [Common Yellowthroat Geothlypis trichas] &c &c The Canadenses & virginicas
may be suffered to pass for the most part for there is historical reason at least for them Canada is the peculiar
country of some & the northern limit of many more plants And Virginia which was originally the name for all
the Atlantic shore has some right to stand for the south.
The fruit of the sweet gale by nut-meadow brook is of a yellowish green now & has not yet its greasy feel.
The little red streaked & dotted excrescences on –the shrub oaks I find as yet no name for.
Now for the pretty red capsules or pods of the Hypericum Canadense
White golden rod is budded along the Marlboro Road
Chicadees [Black-capped Chicadee Parus Atricapillus] & jays [Blue Jay Cyanocitta cristata] never fail– The cricket’s is a note which does not attract you to itself. It is not easy to find one
I fear that the character of my knowledge is from year to year becoming more distinct & scientific– That in
exchange for views as wide as heaven’s cope I am being narrowed down to the field of the microscope– I see
details not wholes nor the shadow of the whole. I count some parts, & say ‘I know’. The cricket’s chrip now
fills the air in dry fields near pine woods.
Gathered our first watermelon today. By the Marl. Road I notice the richly veined leaves of the Neottia
pubescens or veined Neottia Rattle-snake plantain. I like this last name very well though it might not be easy to
convince a quibbler or prosor of its fitness. We want some name to express the mystic wildness of its rich leaves.
Such work as men imitate in their embroidery –unaccountably agreeable to the eye –as if it answered its end
only when it met the eye of man –a reticulated leaf –visible only on one side –little strings which make one
pause in the woods –take captive the eye.

There was one original name well given Buster Kendal. The fragrance of the clethra fills the air by water sides.
In the hollows where in winter is a pond the grass is short thick & green still–and here & there are tufts pulled up as if by the mouth of cows.
Small rough sunflower by side of road between Canoe birch & white pond. Helianthus divaricatus.
Lespedeza capitata, shrubby Lespedeza White pond road & Marl road
“Polystachya, Hairy” Corner Road beyond Hub’s Bridge.6

“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY

6. The poet W.H. Auden has in 1962 brought forward a snippet from this day’s entry as:

**THE VIKING BOOK OF APHORISMS, A PERSONAL SELECTION BY W.H. AUDEN...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pg</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Aphorism Selected by Auden out of Thoreau</th>
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<tr>
<td>277</td>
<td>Writers and Readers</td>
<td>How vain it is to sit down to write when you have not stood up to live.</td>
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</table>
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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

Prepared: September 7, 2014
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 Contecture (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 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.