PROFESSOR ARNOLD HENRI GUYOT

“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY
CAPE COD: I have been surprised to discover from a steamer the shallowness of Massachusetts Bay itself. Off Billingsgate Point I could have touched the bottom with a pole, and I plainly saw it variously shaded with sea-weed, at five or six miles from the shore. This is "The Shoal-ground of the Cape," it is true, but elsewhere the Bay is not much deeper than a country pond. We are told that the deepest water in the English Channel between Shakespeare's Cliff and Cape Grinez, in France, is one hundred and eighty feet; and Guyot says that "the Baltic Sea has a depth of only one hundred and twenty feet between the coasts of Germany and those of Sweden," and "the Adriatic between Venice and Trieste has a depth of only one hundred and thirty feet." A pond in my native town, only half a mile long, is more than one hundred feet deep.

"WALKING": Where on the Globe can there be found an area of equal extent with that occupied by the bulk of our states, so fertile and so rich and varied in its productions, and at the same time so habitable by the European, as this is? Michaux who knew but part of them, says that "the species of large trees are much more numerous in North America than in Europe: in the United States there are more than 140 species that exceed thirty feet in height; in France there are but thirty that attain this size." Later botanists more than confirm his observations. Humboldt came to America to realize his youthful dreams of a tropical vegetation, and he beheld it in its greatest perfection in the primitive forests of the Amazon, the most gigantic wilderness on the earth, which he has so eloquently described. The geographer Guyot, himself a European, goes farther — farther than I am ready to follow him, yet not when he says, "As the plant is made for the animal, as the vegetable world is made for the animal world, America is made for the man of the Old World."

"The man of the Old World sets out upon his way. Leaving the highlands of Asia, he descends from station to station, towards Europe. Each of his steps is marked by a new civilization superior to the preceding, by a greater power of development. Arrived at the Atlantic, he pauses on the shore of this unknown Ocean, the bounds of which he knows not, and turns upon his foot prints for an instant." When he has exhausted the rich soil of Europe and reinvigorated himself — "Then recommences his adventurous career westward as in the earliest ages." — So far Guyot.
September 28, Monday: Arnold Henri Guyot was born as one of 12 children of David Pierre Guyot and Constance Favarger Guyot at Boudevilliers in the Swiss Canton of Neuchâtel (Swiss newborn boys are of course assigned this name Arnold in reference to the hero Arnold von Winkelried, of the 14th Century, in the same manner in which Jewish newborn boys were once assigned the name Jesus in reference to General Joshua, who conquered the city of Jericho).

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

2 day / Rose early & walked home in about one Hour & three quarters it was a pleasant walk & a very refreshing visit
Set the latter part of the evening at J Earl’s in a pleasant circles

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT
At about this point the family of Arnold Henri Guyot relocated from Boudevilliers, where the lad had been a student at La Chaux-de-Fonds, to Hauterive near Neuchâtel.

**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.**
Arnold Henri Guyot’s father David Pierre Guyot died.

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT
At the age of 14 Arnold Henri Guyot matriculated at the College of Neuchâtel, where he would study the classics, Latin, Greek, and philosophy.
At the age of 18 Arnold Henri Guyot relocated from Switzerland to Metzingen, where for three months he would study German. He then passed on to Carlsruhe, where he would make the acquaintance of Louis Agassiz, Alexander Karl Heinrich Braun, Karl Friedrich Schimper, and Ludwig Imhoff. He then passed on to Stuttgart and enrolled in the gymnasium to make himself more proficient in German.

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.
Arnold Henri Guyot returned to Neuchâtel, where under the influence of the Reverend Samuel Petit-pierre he would begin to prepare for the ministry.

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT
At the age of 22, Arnold Henri Guyot relocated from Neuchâtel to Berlin, where he would attend the lectures of Friedrich Daniel Ernst Schleiermacher, Johann August Wilhelm Neander, Eilhard Mitscherlich, Karl Ritter, Ernst Wilhelm Theodor Herrmann Hengstenberg, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, Heinrik Steffens, and Heinrich Wilhelm Dove. Alexander von Humboldt would familiarize him with the Berlin Botanical Garden.
Arnold Henri Guyot received his doctoral degree at the University of Berlin. His dissertation, in Latin, was on the “Natural Classification of Lakes.”
Roderick Murchison and Adam Sedgwick named the Devonian System. From this year until the great European revolution of 1848, Professor Arnold Henri Guyot would be teaching physical geography and history at the Academy of Neuchâtel. His interests were in glaciology, physical geography, meteorology, and cartography. His early studies on the flow of ice and the distribution of glacial erratics in the mountains of central Europe served to underpin the catastrophist theory of glaciation that had been advanced and championed by Professor Louis Agassiz.

Timothy Abbott Conrad accepted Agassiz’s catastrophist theory of glaciation as an explanation for various surface features in the United States, such as the Mississippi depression.
1840s, 1850s: In this timeframe several scientists were glimpsing chromosomes under the microscope, but not having the slightest clue what it was that they were looking at.

Laura Dassow Walls has pointed out in SEEING NEW WORLDS: THOREAU AND HUMBOLDTIAN SCIENCE that to enact the agenda of exploration and investigation being recommended by Alexander von Humboldt would require an army of workers — which on the continent of North America was indeed created, in the form of the tax-funded Corps of Topographical Engineers established by the federal government of the United States of America.

There were in the first half of the 19th Century a multitude of Congress-sponsored scientific expeditions and the control of our new federal government was extended in this manner over much of North America. Geological or natural history surveys funded by state governments had begun in North Carolina in 1823, and by the end of the 1830s such surveys had been initiated by 13 states. In addition the federal government had been funding or assisting with exploration since the expedition of Lewis and Clark, but throughout the 1840s and 1850s the great reconnaissance of the American West was being conducted by Army officers. Lieutenant John Charles Frémont led only three of these numerous expeditions across the western regions of the North American continent. Between 1840 and 1860, the US government published 60 enormously expensive multi-volume double-folio or oversize treatises on the American West, in addition to 15 treatises on global naval expeditions and uncounted reports of the Coast and Geodetic Survey. Very little of our incessant contemporary dialog about the “free enterprise system” dates back to that era, and the cost of all this seems to have amounted to from \( \frac{1}{4} \)th to \( \frac{1}{3} \)d of the annual federal budget without having in any way set off alarm bells in the minds of the ideologues of the right of the political spectrum!1 Since Humboldt was very much in touch with these activities, a number of the explorers, scientists, and artists of the period may safely be characterized as

1. NASA, eat your heart out.
“Humboldt’s Children”: personages such as Karl Bodmer, George Catlin, Frederic Edwin Church, John Charles Frémont, and Professor Thomas Nuttall. However, Louis Agassiz would also need to be characterized as having been a protégé of Humboldt, and Charles Darwin, Professor Asa Gray, and Arnold Henri Guyot. Humboldt corresponded with and was visited by American scientists such as vice-president of the Boston Society of Natural History Charles T. Jackson, academic scholars such as Harvard professor George Ticknor, and popular writers such as Washington Irving (to whom in this year we were offering the position of Secretary of the Navy).

Charles Frémont, and Professor Thomas Nuttall. However, Louis Agassiz would also need to be characterized as having been a protégé of Humboldt, and Charles Darwin, Professor Asa Gray, and Arnold Henri Guyot. Humboldt corresponded with and was visited by American scientists such as vice-president of the Boston Society of Natural History Charles T. Jackson, academic scholars such as Harvard professor George Ticknor, and popular writers such as Washington Irving (to whom in this year we were offering the position of Secretary of the Navy).


James Ellsworth De Kay became First Vice-President of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York. His Catalogue of the Animals Belonging to the State of N.Y. as Far as They Have Been Figured and Described (made May 7, 1839) appeared on pages 7-14 of the Fourth Annual Report of the Geological Survey of the State Made January 24, 1840 (484 pages, New York Assembly Document #50) and was reviewed in the American Journal of Science (Volume 40:73-85). (His “Report of the zoological dept” appeared on pages 15-36 of that same document.)
The Reverend Professor Edward Hitchcock was awarded the degree of LL.D. by Harvard University. His *Dyspepsy Forestalled and Resisted, or, Lectures on Diet, Regimen, and Employment*. Also, his textbook *Elementary Geology* (of which there would be 31 editions):
(You may be forgiven, I suppose, as modern types, for initially presuming that the colorized paleontological chart on the previous screen, revealing as it does the branchings of genera and species over immense eras of time, had something or other to do with “evolution of species” — in fact, however, it did not have anything at all to do with anything of that sort! Looking backward to the 1840s through our eyes, it is easy for us to be guilty of “presentism” — of, that is to say, supposing that the sorts of scientific understanding we now take for granted were being somehow prefigured or anticipated in the minds of yesteryear when they most definitely were not.)

WHAT I’M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF
Dr. Gould became a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

The Swiss federal constitution. Although Lucerne had played a major role in the old Swiss confederacy and had been proposed earlier in the 19th Century for the federal capital, Berne was chosen due to Lucerne’s opposition to this new constitution.

George William Curtis traveled through Switzerland and Holland.

Theodore Sedgwick Fay would function as the United States’s Chargé d’Affaires during the sittings of the German Parliament at Frankfort. There would occur what was referred to as the “Neuchâtel Affair,” having to

3. Most of the illustrations for this had been prepared by Louis François de Poursalès (1824-1880), who had followed Professor Agassiz from Switzerland and at this point was joining the US Coast Survey (eventually he would become custodian of Harvard University’s Museum of Comparative Zoology).
do with the peculiar relationship in which the Canton of Neuchâtel had stood in regard to Prussia, since it had in 1707 fallen by inheritance under Prussian control. In this year Prussia gave tacit consent for the canton to ally itself with the Swiss Confederation.

When the Academy of Neuchâtel closed due to the political unrest of this year’s European politics, Louis Agassiz suggested to Arnold Henri Guyot that he emigrate to the United States. He gave a series of lectures at the Lowell Institute in Boston titled “The Earth and Man” which would in the following year become the basis for a text of the same name.

In front of Nassau Hall at Princeton University now stands the Guyot boulder, a glacial erratic that would be
THE PEOPLE OF CAPE COD: PROFESSOR ARNOLD HENRI GUYOT

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN CAPE COD

sent by Guyot’s former students at the Academy of Neuchâtel.

THE SCIENCE OF 1848
John Shepard Keyes took a seat in the Massachusetts Senate, and as such, chanced into a priceless opportunity to revisit his alma mater, and enjoy his old “proffessors” as they squirmed under his newfound and entirely undeserved privilege.

The Legislature met in Jan'y 1849 and the vacancies in the Senate were filled up with Whigs at once. I remember that we had invited a large party of young and old that night and had a pleasant time when Esq Barrett then state treasurer came in bringing me notice of my election, and adding to the eclat of the occasion what had not been anticipated. I with the others took our seats the next day in that respectable body, and think I was younger than any one before or almost since At any rate I was a mere boy and among forty Whig senators in a very poor place. As the youngest I had the lowest seat with D.C. Baker of Lynn across the aisle he being next me in age, and we formed a lasting friendship. I was put on the Military Com. from my rank I suppose as first lieut to which I had risen, and on the Committee on Education. It was not a very distinguished Senate, but it had some very good fellows in it, and the House had more. I took with the rest a room at the Revere House, attended faithfully to my duties, had some sharp fights in the Committee on Education over incorporating a Catholic College for one and came to know C.W. Upham of Salem the chairman, J Lothrop Motley and Erastus Hopkins of Northampton house members of it very well. Besides the Middlesex lawyers, Lord of Salem Dawes of Pittsfield, Train of Framingham Devins of Greenfield and Bullock of Worcester were in the Legislature and we made a club at the Revere having a parlor, that had much work fun and politics well mixed with hot whiskey for the winter nights. I had but one hobby to fight the Fitchburg R.R. and in this I failed I had some prominence early in the session for Esquire Joe the State Treasurer died suddenly and as his townsman to make the announcement and arrange a legislative com funeral at Concord for him, which was duly attended. I made but little talk as was proper for so young a senator, but I knew everybody of prominence in politics and worked for certain friends in the disposal of the offices that came with the change of administration. I had rather assumed my fathers place in the county, and as I believed owed my early election to the knowledge the county had of him than to my merits. Indeed our names being so nearly alike many people voted for me thinking it him. We put Devins in as U.S. Marshal, P. Greeley as Collector and N.W. Coffin as Navy Agent, and divided the spoils as best we could. Of course Danil Webster Abbott Lawrence and R.C. Winthrop and such magnates really decided these matters, but as we boys had done the work of the campaign, and been well patted on the shoulder by them while engaged in it, we were still pleasantly allowed to do something about the selection of officers. It made a busy exciting winter. I usually staid in Boston 3 or 4 nights in a week, and this with attending court at Cambridge where I had some business kept me at work. I
recall but little of interest in the legislation of the year, and in the Senate with no opposition we had to be very gingerly about treading on each others toes. I would far rather have been in the House where there was more freedom and interest. The session ended however in a funny incident worth telling I had of course been put on as one of the senatorial overseers of Harvard College, and the exhibition coming the last day of the session when I didnt care to be in my seat for some reason I have forgotten I determined therefore to attend the Cambridge exercises and see how the college was getting on. It didnt occur to me that on the last day neither governor nor any of the dignitaries would be able to get away from the Legislature till on arriving I found myself the only member of the board present to examine the college. I had kept somewhat up with college having attended commencement mainly to see our class meetings, while Brooks & Ned. Hoar in 45 Friz Hoar G Bartlett, G Heywood had kept up the Concord line of graduates. My brother Joe had entered and thanks to Everett's folly and his own had a chequered course, and got rusticated for a year at Lunenburg with Babcock! His class finished this year and gave me an additional reason for examining the college. Snuffy old Sparks was the President, Everett having resigned, and on reaching University Hall I found the faculty I used so to dread in solemn waiting for the committee!!! Informing them of the reason why no others would probably attend, they began their reports of the condition of their several departments To those professors who used to dead me so often I put questions and comments in their own style and wasn't it nuts to me not seven years out of their clutches to get them into mine old Channing, Beck, and Benny Pierce caught a cross examination, they little imagined & I chuckled mightily over their squirming— soberly pocketing their written reports and gravely informing them I would make my report on the state of the University to the full committee, I led the way to the chapel on the arm of the President and sitting in the seat of honor, heard the exhibition parts, and gravely pencilling notes on my programme, I watched the boys and girls out of the corner of my eye, and hugely en-joyed the queer change of a few short years. I think it was one of the most complete revenges of times whirligig I ever met! As we started off in state again J.T. Austin ex Attorney Gen^1 arrived and after conferring with me, helped to eat the dinner in Commons Hall, but well served, and relieved me of the reports and the response in behalf of the overseers.!
Joseph Boyden Keyes of Concord, another son of John Keyes, graduated from Harvard College (and would become a lawyer).

Charles Louis Flint graduated from Harvard. Although he had not planned to teach, just prior to graduation he received an offer from a grammar school.

Harvard Professor of Greek Literature Cornelius Conway Felton prepared an English-language edition of Professor Arnold Henri Guyot’s lectures, as EARTH AND MAN, LECTURES ON COMPARATIVE PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY IN ITS RELATION TO THE HISTORY OF MANKIND.
Winter: Winter Lecture Season of ’50/51 at the Odeon Hall in Boston:

12th Season of The Lowell Institute

12 announced Reverend Professor Francis Bowen, A.M.
Political Economy . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 12 given

12 announced Professor L. Agassiz.
Functions of Life in Lower Animals . . . . . . 12 given

12 announced Reverend George W. Blagden, D.D.
Evidences of Revealed Religion . . . . . . . 12 given

12 announced Professor Arnold Guyot, Ph.D.
Physical Geography . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 12 given
The 2d part of John Wells Foster’s survey findings authorized for publication by the federal Congress, REPORT ON THE GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY OF A PORTION OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR LAND DISTRICT IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN: PART TWO, THE IRON REGION.

At the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Cincinnati, Professor Louis Agassiz would rise from his seat to pronounce this to be “one of the grandest generalizations ever made in American geology.”

A copy of this report by Foster would be discovered in the personal library of Henry Thoreau.


This would be in the library of Waldo Emerson and would be referred to by Thoreau in CAPE COD.

CAPE COD: I have been surprised to discover from a steamer the shallowness of Massachusetts Bay itself. Off Billingsgate Point I could have touched the bottom with a pole, and I plainly saw it variously shaded with sea-weed, at five or six miles from the shore. This is “The Shoal-ground of the Cape,” it is true, but elsewhere the Bay is not much deeper than a country pond. We are told that the deepest water in the English Channel between Shakespeare’s Cliff and Cape Grinez, in France, is one hundred and eighty feet; and Guyot says that “the Baltic Sea has a depth of only one hundred and twenty feet between the coasts of Germany and those of Sweden,” and “the Adriatic between Venice and Trieste has a depth of only one hundred and thirty feet.” A pond in my native town, only half a mile long, is more than one hundred feet deep.

In addition Thoreau quoted from this volume at several points in his “Canadian Notebook.”

January 10, Friday: Richard Wagner completed his essay “Oper und Drama.”

THE PEOPLE OF CAPE COD: PROFESSOR ARNOLD HENRI GUYOT

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN CAPE COD
January 10: The snow shows how much of the mts in the horizon are covered with forest— I can also see planer as I stand on a hill what proportion of the township is in forest. Got some excellent frozen thawed apples off of Anursnack— Soft & luscious as a custard—and free from worms & rot. Saw a partridge (Ruffed Grouse Bonasa umbellus) budding—but they did not appear to have pecked the apples. There was a remarkable sunset a mother of pearl sky seen over the Price farm. Some small clouds as well as the edges of large ones most brilliantly painted with mother of pearl tints through & through. I never saw the like before. Who can foretel the sunset—what it will be? The near and bare hills covered with snow look like mountains—but the mts in the horizon do not look higher than hills.

I frequently see a hole in the snow where a partridge has squatted the mark or form of her tail very distinct. The chivalric & heroic spirit which once belonged to the chevalier or rider only seems now to reside in the walker— To represent the chivalric spirit we have no longer a knight—but a walker errant— I speak not of Pedestrianism, or of walking a thousand miles in a thousand successive hours— The Adam who daily takes a turn in his garden methinks I would not accept of the gift of life If I were required to spend as large a portion of it sitting bent up or with my legs crossed as the shoemakers and tailors do. As well be tied head & heels together & cast into the sea— Making acquaintance with my extremities I have met with but one or two persons in the course of my life who understood the art taking walks daily—not exercize—the legs or body merely—not barely to recruit the spirits but positively to exercise both body & spirit—and to succeed to the highest & worthiest ends by the abandonment of all specifics ends.— who had a genius, so to speak, for sauntering— And this word saunter by the way is happily derived “from idle people who roved about the country [in the middle ages] and asked charity under pretence of going à la sainte terre,” to the holy land—till perchance the children exclaimed There goes a sainte terra a holy lander— They who never go to the holy land in their walks as they pretend, are indeed mere idlers & vagabonds—

Two leaves missing

than usually jealous of my freedom I feel that my connexions with & obligations to society are at present very slight & transient. Those slight labors which afford me a livelihood & by which I am serviceable to my contemporaries are as yet a pleasure to me and I am not often reminded that they are a necessity. So far I am successful—and only he is successful in his business who makes that pursuit which affords him the highest pleasure sustain him. But I foresee that if my wants should be much increased the labor required to supply them would become a drudgery— If I should sell both my forenoons & afternoons to society neglecting my peculiar calling there would be nothin left worth living for. I trust that I shall never thus sell my birth-right for a mess of pottage

E. Andrew Michaux says that “the species of large trees are much more numerous in North America than in Europe: in the U S there are more than 140 species that exceed 30 feet in height——; in France there are but 30 that attain this size, of which 18 enter into the composition of the forests, & seven only are employed in building.” The perfect resemblance of the Chestnut Beech & hornbeams in Europe & the U S rendered a separate figure unnecessary. He says the white oak “is the only oak on which a few of the dried leaves persist till the circulation is renewed in the spring.”

Had often heard his father say that “the fruit of the common European walnut, in its natural state, is harder than that of the American species just mentioned [the Pacanenut Hickory] and inferior to it in size & quality.” The arts teach us a thousand lessons. Not a yard of cloth can be woven without the most thorough fidelity in the weaver. The ship must be made absolutely tight before it is launched. It is an important difference between two characters that the one is satisfied with a happy but level success but, the other as constantly elevates his aim. Though my life is low, if my spirit looks upward habitually at an elevated angle—it is, as it were redeemed— When the desire to be better than we are is really sincere we are instantly elevated, and so far better already.

I lose my friends of course as much by my own ill treatment & ill valuing of them (prophaning of them) as by their cheapening of themselves—till at last when I am prepared to them justice I am permitted to deal only with the memories of themselves—their ideals still surviving in me—no longer with their actual selves—

We exclude ourselves— As the child said of the stream in which he bathed head or foot V Confucius It is something to know when you are addressed by divinity and not by a common traveller.

I went down cellar just now to get an armful of wood—and passing the brick piers with my wood & candle—I heard methought a common place suggestion—but when as it were by accident—I reverently attended to the hint—I found that it was the voice of a God who had followed me down cellar to speak to me. How many communications may we not lose through inattention?
I would fain keep a journal which should contain those thoughts & impressions which I am most liable to forget that I have had. Which would have, in one sense the greatest remoteness—in another the greatest nearness, to me.

'Tis healthy to be sick sometimes,

I do not know but the reason why I love some Latin verses more than whol English poems—is simply in the elegant terseness & conciseness of the language—an advantage which the individual appears to have shared with his nation.

When we can no longer ramble in the fields of Nature, we ramble in the fields of thought & literature. The old become readers— Our heads retain their strength when our legs have become weak.

English literature from the days of the minstrels to the Lake Poets Chaucer & Spencer & Shakspeare & Milton included breathes no quite fresh & in this sense wild strain. It is an essentially tame & civilized literature reflecting Greece and Rome. Her wilderness is a greenwood her wild man a Robinhood. There is plenty of genial love of nature in her poets but

Her chronicles inform us when her wild animals, but not when the wild man in her became extinct.

There was need of America.

I cannot think of any poetry which adequately expresses this yearning for the wild. the wilde.

Ovid says

Nilus in extremum fugit perterritus orbem,
Oculuitque caput, quod adhuc latet.—

Nilus terrified fled to the extremity of the globe,
And hid his head, which is still concealed—

And we moderns must repeat—quod adhuc latet.

Phaeton’s Epitaph

Hic situs est Phaëton, currûs auriga paterni;
Quem si non tenuit, magnis tamen excidit ausis.

His sister Lampetie—

subitâ radice retenta est.

All the sisters were changed to trees while They were in vain beseeching Their mother not to break their branches
cortex in verba novissima venit.

His brother Cycnus lamenting the death of Phaeton—killed by Joves lightning—& the metamorphosis of his sisters—was changed into a Swan—

Nec se caeloque, Iovique
Credit, ut injustè missi memor ignis ab illo.

Reason why the swan does not fly—

Nor trusts himself to the heavens

Nor to Jove, as if remembering the fire unjustly sent by him

i.e. against Phaeton.

5. 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>212</td>
<td>The Professions</td>
<td>'Tis healthy to be sick sometimes.</td>
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</table>
precibusque minas regaliter addit.

II-397

Jove –
royally adds threats to prayers.

Callisto –
Miles erat Phoebes
i.e. a huntress

– – (neque enim coelestia tingi
Ora decet lachrymis) II-621
For it it is not becoming that the faces
of the celestials be tinged with tears

How much more fertile a Nature has Grecian Mythology its root in than English Literature! The nature which
inspired mythology still flourishes– Mythology is the crop which the old world bore before its soil was
exhausted– The west is preparing to add its fables to those of the east. A more fertile nature than the Mississippi
valley. None of your four hour nights for me me– The wise man will take a fool’s allowance– The corn would
not come to much if the nights were but four hours long
The soil in which those fables grew is deep and inexhaustible.
Lead cast by the Balearian sling.

Volat illud, et incandescit eundo;
Et quos non habuit, sub nubibus invenit, ignes. II-728
That flies & grows hot with going,
And fires which it had not finds under the clouds.

The old world with its vast deserts –& its arid & elevated steppes & table lands contrasted with the new world
with its humid & fertile valleys & savannahs & prairies –& its boundless primitive forests– Is like the
exhausted Ind corn lands contrasted with the peat meadows, America requires some of the sand of the old world
to be carted onto her rich but as yet unassimilated meadows.
I went some months ago to see a panorama of the Rhine It was like a dream of the Middle ages– I floated down
its historic stream in something more than imagination under bridges built by the Romans and repaired by later
heroes past cities & castles whose very names were music to me made my ears tingle –& each of which was the
subject of a legend. There seemed to come up from its waters & its vine-clad hills & vallys a hushed music as
of crusaders departing for the Holy Land– There were Ehrenbreitstein & Rolandseck & Coblentz which I knew
only in history. I floated along through the moonlight of history under the spell of enchantment It was as if I
remembered a glorious dream as if I had been transported to a heroic age & breathed an atmospher of
chivalry Those times appeared far more poetic & heroic than these.
Soon after I went to see the panorama of the Mississippi and as I fitly worke d my way upward in the light of
today –& saw the steamboats wooding up –& loooked up the Ohio & the Missouri & saw its unpeopled cliffs
–& counted the rising cities –& saw the Indians removing west across the stream & heard the legends of
Dubuque & of Wenona’s Cliff –still thinking more of the future than of the past or present –I saw that this was
a Rhine stream of a dif kind that the foundations

{One leaf missing}

all this West–which our thoughts traverse so often & so freely. We have never doubted that their prosperity was
our prosperity– It is the home of the younger-sons As among the Scandinavians the younger sons took to the
seas for their inheritance and became the Vikings or Kings of the Bays & colonized Ice land & Greenland &
probably discovered the continent of America
Guyot says –“the Baltic Sea has a depth of only 120 feet between the coasts of Germany and those of Sweden;” p 82
“The Adriatic, between Venice & Trieste, has a depth of only 130 feet.”
“Between France & England, the greatest depth does not exceed 300 feet;”
He says
The most extensive forest “the most gigantic wilderness” on the earth is in the basin of the Amazon & extends almost unbroken more than 1500 miles
South America the kingdom of palms no where a greater no’ of species “This is a sign of the preponderating development of leaves over every other part of the vegetable growth; of that expansion of foliage, of that leafiness, peculiar to warm & moist climates. America has no plants with slender shrunken leaves, like those of Africa and New Holland. The Erics, or heather, so common, so varied, so characteristic of the flora of the Cape of Good Hope, is a form unknown to the New World. There is nothing resembling those Metrosideri of Africa, those dry Myrtles (Eucalyptus) and willow-leaved acacias, whose flowers shine with the liveliest colors, but their narrow foliage, turned edgewise to the vertical sun, casts no shadow.”
my own
The white man derives his nourishment from the earth from the roots & grains The potatoe & wheat & corn & rice & sugar –which often grow in fertile & pestilential river bottoms fatal to the life of the cultivator The Indian has but a slender hold on the earth– He derives his nourishment in great part but indirectly from her through the animals he hunts
–“compared with the Old World, the New World is the humid side of our planet, the oceanic, Vegetative world, the passive element awaiting the excitement of a livelier impulse from without.” [Guyot]
[One leaf missing]
“For the American, this task is to work the virgin soil,”–
“Agriculture here already assumes proportions unknown everywhere else.” [Guyot]
May 23, Sunday morning: Henry Thoreau read “Walking, or The Wild” at Plymouth. Evidently he lectured twice on this day (he also explored local ponds).

“Walking”: Where on the Globe can there be found an area of equal extent with that occupied by the bulk of our states, so fertile and so rich and varied in its productions, and at the same time so habitable by the European, as this is? Michaux who knew but part of them, says that “the species of large trees are much more numerous in North America than in Europe: in the United States there are more than 140 species that exceed thirty feet in height; in France there are but thirty that attain this size.” Later botanists more than confirm his observations. Humboldt came to America to realize his youthful dreams of a tropical vegetation, and he beheld it in its greatest perfection in the primitive forests of the Amazon, the most gigantic wilderness on the earth, which he has so eloquently described. The geographer Guyot, himself a European, goes farther — farther than I am ready to follow him, yet not when he says, “As the plant is made for the animal, as the vegetable world is made for the animal world, America is made for the man of the Old World.”

“The man of the Old World sets out upon his way. Leaving the highlands of Asia, he descends from station to station, towards Europe. Each of his steps is marked by a new civilization superior to the preceding, by a greater power of development. Arrived at the Atlantic, he pauses on the shore of this unknown Ocean, the bounds of which he knows not, and turns upon his foot prints for an instant.” When he has exhausted the rich soil of Europe and reinvigorated himself — “Then recommences his adventurous career westward as in the earliest ages.” — So far Guyot.

6. At some point Thoreau wrote in pencil on this reading draft, just below and to the right of the title “Walking, or The Wild,” the shattering remark “I regard this as a sort of introduction to all that I may write hereafter.” Bradley P. Dean infers that Thoreau must have written this pencilled sentence sometime during the fall of 1854, in the weeks after Walden was published.
“Walking”: In short, all good things are wild and free. There is something in a strain of music, whether produced by an instrument or by the human voice — take the sound of a bugle in a summer night, for instance, — which by its wildness, to speak without satire, reminds me of the cries emitted by wild beasts in their native forests. It is so much of their wildness as I can understand. Give me for my friends and neighbors wild men, not tame ones. The wildness of the savage is but a faint symbol of the awful ferity with which good men and lovers meet.

I love even to see the domestic animals reassert their native rights — any evidence that they have not wholly lost their original wild habits and vigor; as when my neighbor’s cow breaks out of her pasture early in the Spring and boldly swims the river, a cold grey tide, twenty-five or thirty rods wide, swollen by the melted snow. It is the Buffalo crossing the Mississippi. This exploit confers some dignity on the herd in my eyes — already dignified. The seeds of instinct are preserved under the thick hides of cattle and horses, like seeds in the bowels of the earth, an indefinite period.

Any sportiveness in cattle is unexpected. I saw one day a herd of a dozen bullocks and cows running about and frisking in unwieldly sport, like huge rats, even like kittens. They shook their heads, raised their tails, and rushed up and down a hill, and I perceived by their horns, as well as by their activity, their relation to the deer tribe. But, alas! a sudden loud Whoa! would have damped their ardor at once, reduced them from venison to beef, and stiffened their sides and sinews like the locomotive. Who but the Evil One has cried Who! to mankind? Indeed, the life of cattle, like that of many men, is but a sort of locomotiveness, they move a side at a time, and Man by his machinery is meeting the horse and ox half way. Whatever part the whip has touched is thenceforth palsied. Who would ever think of a side of any of the supple cat tribe, as we speak of a side of beef?
Arnold Henri Guyot was appointed Professor of Geology and Physical Geography at the College of New Jersey. You can see, in Guyot Hall at Princeton University, the field toilet kit he used to carry on his mountain explorations.

The Reverend Professor Edward Hitchcock, likewise a geologist, left off being President of Amherst College, retaining his teaching role. During his presidency he had personally conducted the worship in the college church.
Arnold Henri Guyot began systematic instruction in Geology. He originated what is now the Department of Geological and Geophysical Sciences at the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University). He would become the first incumbent of the Blair Professorship of Geology, which is the 2nd oldest endowed chair at Princeton. At Princeton there are still 46 cloth wall hangings that he used for illustrative materials in his classroom.
Arnold Henri Guyot founded at Princeton University what is now the Princeton Museum of Natural History, and would continue to contribute specimens to it until his death. In Guyot Hall also are his handwritten labels of the glacial erratic stones he collected in the 1840s in Switzerland (the specimens themselves have disappeared). While Professor Louis Agassiz of Harvard College, a fair-weather Unitarian, in Essay on Classification advocated a theory of multiple creations that contradicted both evolution and the story of Noah’s ark, calling for a virtual infinitude of miracles, Guyot, an evangelical Presbyterian, insisted that God had made only three-count’em-three intrusions into the natural order, specially creating matter – then life – then humans. The Presbyterian geologist John William Dawson followed his mentor Charles Lyell in positing successive creations in various “centres” but stopped short of insisting that “all groups of individual animals, which naturalists may call species, have been separate products of creation.” Professor Agassiz would on more than one occasion frustrate his scientific colleagues by refusing to speculate on how any species might have come into existence. Agassiz’s Harvard colleague Jeffries Wyman would once demand of him, “When a mammal was created, did the oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, and carbon of the air, and the lime, soda, phosphorus, potash, water, etc., from the earth come together and on the instant combine into a completely formed horse, lion, elephant, or other animal?” — observing that if the answer to such a question were yes, then “it will be easily seen that the answer is entirely opposed by the observed analogies of nature.” The ichthyologist Theodore N. Gill, likewise complaining about the “vague and evasive” responses which these non-evolutionists were providing, demanded that they answer the following questions: “Did elemental atoms flash into living tissues? Was there vacant space one moment and an elephant apparent the next? Or did a laborious God mould out of gathered earth a body to then endue with life?”
March 11, Tuesday: The USS *Constellation* left Portsmouth, New Hampshire under the command of Commodore Henry K. Thatcher, heading for the Mediterranean.

The Governor of Massachusetts, John Albion Andrew, proclaimed “Thursday, the third day of April next, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth, as a day of public HUMILIATION, FASTING, AND PRAYER.”
“Henry D. Thoreau by S.E. Thoreau” sent in to Ticknor & Fields in Boston both “Walking” and the corrected proofs for “AUTUMNAL TINTS”, under a cover note in Sophia Elizabeth Thoreau’s handwriting.
Concord Mar. 11th 1862
Messrs Ticknor & Fields,
I send with this the paper on Walking & also the proofs of Autumnal Tints.
The former paper will bear dividing into two portions very well, the natural joint being, I think at the end of page 44. At any rate the two parcels being separately tied up, will indicate it—
I do not quite like to have the Autumnal Tints described as in two parts, for it appears as if the author had made a permanent distinction between them; Would it not be better to say at the end of the first portion “To be continued in the next number”? As for the leaf, I had not thought how it should be engraved, but left it to you. Your note suggests that perhaps it is to be done at my expense. What is the custom? and what would be the cost of a steel engraving? I think that an ordinary wood engraving would be much better than nothing.
Yours truly
Henry D. Thoreau
by S.E. Thoreau.

General McClellan was relieved of command.

A later letter from Theophilus Brown to Friend Daniel Ricketson, on January 19, 1868, described a conversation of this period: H.G.O. Blake had asked Henry how the future seemed, and

"Just as uninteresting as ever, was his characteristic answer.... He said it was just as good to be sick as to be well, — just as good to have a poor time as a good time."

Also, sometime during this period, occurred the conversation in which Henry was asked a question about the next world, and replied “One world at a time.” Thoreau’s nonchalant response has reminded me of a play by Paul Claudel, Tidings Brought to Mary, in which the question of paying attention to another world besides this one is dismissed with the remark “There are two, but I say there is only one and that is enough.”

April: 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”).

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 DC, 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.
March 3, Tuesday: President Abraham Lincoln signed a Federal Draft Act obligating all males between the ages of 20 and 45 to register for conscription (or, alternatively, fork over the sum of $300 so that someone else could be persuaded serve their nation on their behalf).

The federal Congress declared a Joint Resolution.

Joint Resolution respecting the Compensation of the Judges and so forth, under the Treaty with Great Britain and other Persons employed in the Suppression of the Slave Trade (STATUTES AT LARGE, XII. 829).

There was fighting at Fort McAllister Island.

The United States Congress chartered the National Academy of Sciences, a society of scholars “dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare,” was established by an Act of Congress, which empowered it to create its own organization and bylaws and called upon it to serve as an official adviser to the federal government on any question of science or technology. Among the Academy’s fifty founding members were four scientists associated with Princeton University: besides Arnold Henri Guyot, there were Stephen Alexander, Joseph Henry, and John Torrey. In this year Guyot became able to make sense of the labyrinth of mountains forming the Appalachian Summit.

The Appalachian System rises from the point of its lowest depression around New York and in New Jersey both toward the North and toward the South, and reaches its maximum of elevation on its two extremities. The Southern section is, however, by far the most elevated, both as regards the highest peaks and the general elevation of the whole country. Unlike any other portion of the Appalachian System, the whole of that vast area of over 170 miles long and over 600 miles square, is divided by traverse chains, running on the whole, North-west and South-east, into a series of closed basins, surrounded by high ridges and lofty peaks. Each of these basins is drained by a main river which gathers the waters of the numerous mountain torrents, and carries them through deep gorges across the western chain into the Great Valley where they join the Tennessee river. The Big Yellow Mts. separate the basin of the Watauga from that of the Nolechucky. The high group of the Black Mts. from which rises the highest peak this side of the Rocky Mts., separates by several of its spurs the Nolechucky from the wide valley of the French Broad River. The New Found Mts. and Pisgah Ridge separate the high valley of the Big Pigeon from that of the French Broad, - The rough very elevated and continuous chain of the Balsam Mts. The average altitude of which is seldom below 6,000, and which reaches over 6,400 ft., separates the Big Pigeon valley from that of the Tuckaseegee, a tributary of the Little Tennessee; - and the Cowee chain of Mts. (from 4,000 to 5,000 ft.) divides the valley of the Tuckaseegee from that of the Little Tennessee. These two basins unite at the foot of the Great Smoky Mts. and their combined waters find a single outlet in the wild gorges of the Little Tennessee. The double chain of the
Nantihala Ridge (from 5,000 to 5,500 ft.) and the Valley Town Mts., between which flows in deep gorges the wild torrent of the Nantihala, separates the basin of the Little Tennessee from the large open valleys and plains of the Hiwassee. The Frog Mts. with their continuation the Cohota Mts. separate the basin of the Occoa and Hiwassee from the outside of the mountain region, and are the last traverse chains which close that series of interior basins. These transverse chains are by no means inconsiderable obstacles to the intercourse between the various valleys - they are just as high, nay, higher on the whole than the Blue Ridge itself, and they bear besides the highest summits of this vast Mountain tract.
Johnson’s New Universal Cyclopaedia, which Caleb G. Forshey had helped Professor F.A.P. Barnard, D. D., LL. D. and Professor Arnold Henri Guyot to edit, was at this point published in 4 volumes by Alvin J. Johnson & Company.
Guyot Hall at Princeton University was funded.
Arnold Henri Guyot died. Harry H. Hess would designate the great flat-topped seamounts that characterize many parts of the ocean floor as “guyots” in honor of his contributions to geology.
Guyot Hall at Princeton University was completed. Its gargoyle-like ornaments of various species had been fashioned in the studio of Gutzon Borglum, the Mount Rushmore sculptor. The ground floor was assigned to the Natural History Museum, which had previously been housed in Nassau Hall in what is now the Faculty Room; it would now be able to expand rapidly.

Charles Doolittle Walcott discovered the fossils of soft-bodied animals in the Burgess Shale formation of the Canadian Rockies. He proceeded to publish several papers in which he described these strange animals, that lived more than 500,000,000 years ago, as primitive ancestors of our modern groups.

Abbé Breuil discovered Neanderthal skeletons in France that had been carefully buried (between this year and 1921, excavations at La Ferrassie in France would be yielding the remains of several Neanderthals in what archaeologists would consider as graves).

Arthur Smith Woodward pointed out to the British Association for the Advancement of Science that the dinosaurs had been victims of “excess growth,” not to mention tooth loss, offering such matters as evidence in favor of his hobby horse — a supposed “racial senility” pushing the dinosaurs toward extinction.
Arnold Henri Guyot’s *The Earth and Man* was reprinted by the Arno Press.
Professor Richard J. Schneider’s “Walking, Guyot and Geographic Determinism” appeared in his THOREAU’S SENSE OF PLACE anthology.\(^8\) (We notice that the cover art for this volume is Newell Converse Wyeth’s painting “Walden Pond Revisited.”) Also in this THOREAU’S SENSE OF PLACE was Barbara “Barney” Nelson’s essay “Rustling Thoreau’s Cattle” in which she teases apart the ideas of wildness and civilization (the contributors to this volume also include Laura Dassow Walls, William Rossi, Ted Olson, James A. Papa, Jr., David M. Robinson, Isaiah Smithson, Peter Blakemore, J. Scott Bryson, James G. Mcgrath, Bernard W. Quetchenbach, Rochelle Johnson, Greg Garrard, Cheng Aimin (Cheng’s doctoral dissertation at Nanjing University in China had been entitled NATURE IN THOREAU), Nancy Craig Simmons, Robert Sattelmeyer, Stephen Germic, and Susan M. Lucas). Here are some excerpts from Nelson’s analysis of Thoreau’s essay “Walking”:

His walk represents a pilgrimage into the transcendental world of nature, a way to see deeply into human problems by looking for answers in a larger system. Nature gives Thoreau a soaring hope that perhaps people can develop a “philosophy and poetry and religion” to equal the American continent’s inspiring grandeur, and live up to the ideals of democracy. In nature, Thoreau sees a model for pure democracy. Metaphorically, through swamps, he asks the reader to appreciate the natural diversity of our world and learn to see beauty in the deep black muck of the uncultivated and the uncontrived. In short, the “wildness” which Thoreau struggles to define is not the wildness of a protected preserve but something that cannot be bred out, beat out, preached out, educated out, or domesticated out of any place, plant, or animal.... He makes it clear that civilization can hide it, oppression can stifle it, education and religion can subdue it, but scratch the surface deep enough to draw blood and wildness springs eternal. Thoreau’s original “Walking” essay is crucial for valuing our natural world and understanding our most problematic human issues. Thoreau said “In wildness is the preservation of the world.” He did not say wilderness, and he did not say it needed our help.

Here are some other things that have been said about this volume:

Recent Thoreau studies have shifted to an emphasis on the green Thoreau, on Thoreau the environmentalist, rooted firmly in particular places and interacting with particular objects. In the wake of Buell’s *ENVIRONMENTAL IMAGINATION*, the nineteen essayists in this challenging volume address the central questions in Thoreau studies today: how “green,” how immersed in a sense of place, was Thoreau really, and how has this sense of place affected the tradition of nature writing in America? The contributors to this stimulating collection address the ways in which Thoreau and his successors attempt to cope with the basic epistemological split between perceiver and place inherent in writing about nature; related discussions involve the kinds of discourse most effective for writing about place. They focus on the impact on Thoreau and his successors of culturally constructed assumptions deriving from science, politics, race, gender, history, and literary conventions. Finally, they explore the implications surrounding a writer’s appropriation or even exploitation of places and objects.

Richard Schneider is professor of English and Slife Professor in the Humanities at Wartburg College. He is the author of *HENRY DAVID THOREAU* in the Twayne United States Authors series and the editor of *APPROACHES TO TEACHING THOREAU’S “WALDEN”*.

"Schneider’s collection of 189 essays on Thoreau’s environmental writing enhances the argument, set forth by Buell, that Thoreau articulated the various and occasionally contradictory ways Americans would think about the natural world ...This is a challenging and insightful set of essays." —PJ. Ferlazzo, *CHOICE MAGAZINE*

"This unique, scholarly collection of essays painstakingly examines the writing of Thoreau, comparing him with other environmental writers and stressing literary scholarship within environmental studies ... (a) lofty collection." —Joyce Sparrow, *LIBRARY JOURNAL*

"This is a book at once diverse and thoughtfully coordinated from which, to my pleasure and humility, I’ve learned much about things I supposed I had already understood." —from the foreword by Lawrence Buell

“My GERMAN HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY
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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: January 5, 2015
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 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.

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