

Concord Dec 31<sup>st</sup> '56

Mr Blake,

I think that it  
will not be worth the while for  
me to come to Worcester & lecture at  
all this year. It will be better to  
wait till I am - perhaps, unfortunately  
more in that line. My writing has  
not taken the shape of lectures, and  
therefore I should be obliged to read  
out 2 or 3 or 4 old lectures, the best  
of which I have read to some of  
your auditors before. I learned  
that one which I call "Walking  
on the Wild" to Amherst N.H. the  
evening of that cold Thursday, & I  
am bound another at Fitchburg  
Feb 3<sup>d</sup> - I am simply Thiers' hired  
man. This will probably be the  
extent of my lecturing hereabouts.

I must depend on meeting  
Mr Wasson some other time.

Perhaps it always costs me more  
than it comes to to lecture before  
a promiscuous audience. It is an

irreparable injury done to my modest  
ear - I become so indurated.

I solitude! Obscurity! Meanness!  
I never triumph so as when I have  
the least success in my neighbor's  
eyes. The lecturer gets 50 dollars  
a night - but what becomes of  
his wares? What corollation with  
it he hereafter to have got \$50000  
for living in this world? I should  
like not to exchange any of my life  
for money.

These, you may think, are reasons  
for not lecturing when you have so  
great opportunity - This even so perhaps -  
I could lecture on my own leave,  
I could - but who could hear me?  
If I were to try it on any large au-  
dience, I fear it would be no gain to  
them, & a positive loss to me. I should  
have behaved rudely toward my rustling  
friends.

I am surveying instead of lecturing  
at present. Let me have a  
skimming from your "pan of unwin-  
kled cream".

R. D. T.



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