

**SOME UNPUBLISHED LETTERS OF
HENRY D. AND SOPHIA E.
THOREAU; A CHAPTER IN THE
HISTORY OF A STILL-BORN BOOK**

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Some unpublished letters of Henry D. and Sophia E. Thoreau; a chapter in the history of a still-born book by Samuel Arthur Jones & Henry David Thoreau & Sophia E. Thoreau

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**SAMUEL ARTHUR JONES & HENRY
DAVID THOREAU & SOPHIA E. THOREAU**

**SOME UNPUBLISHED LETTERS OF
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THOREAU; A CHAPTER IN THE
HISTORY OF A STILL-BORN BOOK**



Henry D. Thoreau, age 44.

From an ambrotype by Dunshee, of New Bedford, Mass., taken in August, 1861. Thoreau died the following spring.

SOME UNPUBLISHED
LETTERS OF
HENRY D. AND SOPHIA E.
THOREAU

A CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY
OF A STILL-BORN BOOK

"He noblest lives and noblest dies who makes and keeps
his self-made laws."
The Kasidah of Hâjî Abdû El-Yezîd.

EDITED WITH A PREFATORY NOTE
BY
SAMUEL ARTHUR JONES



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From negatives by
ALFRED W. HOSMER,
Concord, Mass.

PREFATORY NOTE.

LEARNING that Thoreau had once a Western correspondent, and knowing that these of his letters had not been published, it occurred to the slightly irascible and somewhat eccentric ex-professor that it were worth while to make search therefor: possibly that correspondence might be recovered. Thoreau's correspondent was found without difficulty,—an aged and venerable man,—and to the great surprise of the ex-professor the holographs were transferred to his keeping, and are used by the present editor in preparing the text of this book.

Thoreau's letters are in themselves but a trifle, yet they give characteristic glimpses of him; those of his sister reveal a phase of his character that is not so widely known as it deserves, and in justice to a dead man should be.

The story of these simple letters is briefly as follows: George Ripley's review of *Walden; or, Life in the Woods*, led a distant reader to write to Ticknor and Company for a copy, the chief incitement being the liberal citations from the book itself. Upon receiving the volume it was almost literally devoured; a somewhat peculiar spiritual experience had prepared the way for it with that remote reader; he then found it sweet in the mouth, and after forty years it has not proven bitter in the belly.