

1-29-1853

Letter from Thomas Wentworth Higginson,  
Worcester, Massachusetts, to Anne Whitney, 1853  
January 29

Thomas Wentworth Higginson

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Worcester. Jan. 29. 1852.

My dear Miss Whitney

Mr. S. Langfellow has  
been with me, this week, to make  
final arrangements for our book "Delecta";  
this explains my delay in answering your  
note. The sonnets did not appear: they  
must either have shipped out, or never  
shipped in. But the hymn we received  
with great pleasure; it is rich &  
thoughtful from beginning to end, &  
though it seems rather obscure at the  
first reading it is only from want of  
condensation; not the least fault  
though still a fault. In a perfect  
poem, I suppose, the first reading is  
decisive & all future ones are void.  
Still it is so rare to see a manuscript  
poem which has too much in it, that

It will give me great pleasure to hear from you again, on any point,  
or to meet you



regain to have yours in our book - ~~for~~  
especially as we offer it like in the  
way of original verses, though many  
choice traits.

I was glad to find that Mrs.  
Layfellow, a person of rare taste,  
I who had never seen your other verses,  
set the same value upon this Hymn  
that I do. We also agreed in thinking  
that the poem which you wished to  
omit ("I am borne onward") was  
one of those least easy to be spared.

The book will be printed in  
March & issued in April. Forgive me  
if I say that it will probably be im-  
possible to send you proof; yet I  
can sympathize with all your concerns  
on that score, from personal experience.  
But I have found no remedy at present,  
& am now limited to typographical trials.  
So I am willing to help you to become so.  
Thanking you again, I am yours truly  
T. W. Higginson.