

SEVENTEENTH LETTER.

Boston, June 12th, 1859.

Dear Hester,

I am glad to be able to write you that the Twenty-eighth Society still lives. The voices that we hear are great, though they by no means are to us what Mr. Parker's has been. On February 13 we had Mr. Ralph W. Emerson—a voice to charm. Mr. Parker always looked up to Mr. Emerson as a master. To him he dedicated his "Ten Sermons" "with admiration for his genius and with kindly affection for what in him is far nobler than genius." In March we had Geo. W. Curtis whose smooth, great periods were in contrast with the torrent of our minister.

Often do we hear from Mr. Parker—perhaps he has us too much in his mind. In a