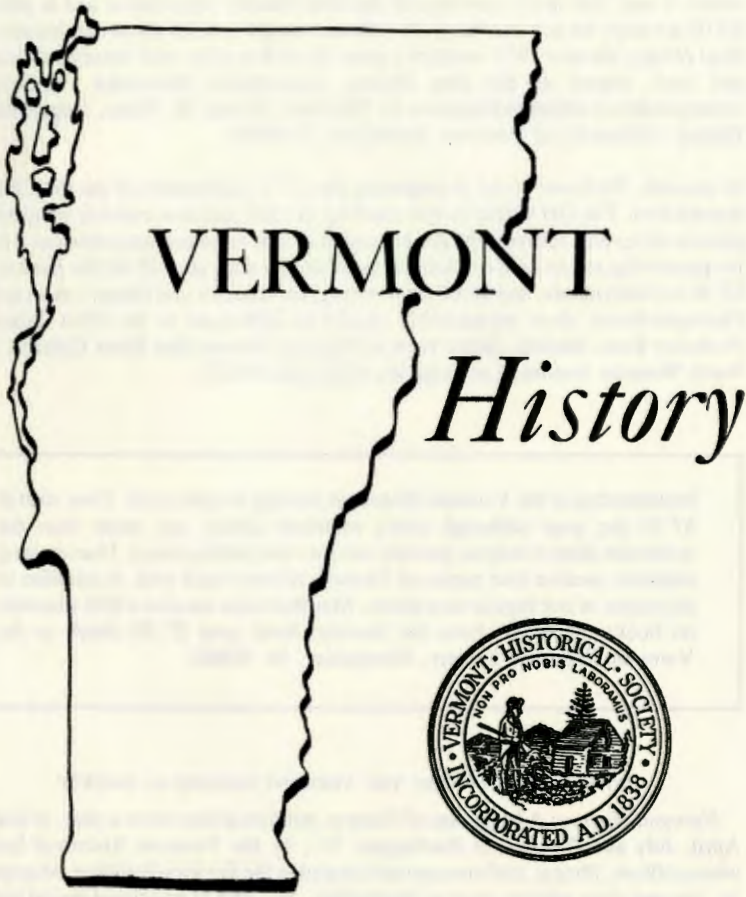


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“You and he, too, ought to prepare for death, and he ought certainly to settle that bond at once.”

Laying Up Treasures in Heaven and Collecting Debts On Earth: A Vermont Banker Asks for His Money, 1834

An Original Letter By THOMAS EMERSON

A prominent banker and businessman of Windsor, Vermont, Thomas Emerson held a bond against one Thomas Palmer, a dealer in furs of Detroit, Michigan, on which interest payments were overdue. Mr. Emerson wrote the following letter to Mr. Palmer's attorney in Detroit, Henry S. Cole, arguing that eternal salvation and payment of interest on the bond were clearly intermixed.

Windsor, Vt., August 1, 1834

Henry S. Cole, Esq., Attorney-at-Law:

My Dear Hal: — I am rejoiced to say to you that the Lord hath been among us here in Windsor; that a day of Pentacost is here, and that there has been an outpouring of the Holy Ghost, and I have been snatched as a brand from the burning. I am now “laying up all my treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal.” Oh, Hal! how I wish you and our old friend, Tom Palmer, might see the error of your ways. By the by, Mr. Palmer has not paid the interest on the bond for nearly two years; now I learn that the “pestilence is stalking at

noon-day” among you, and we know not how soon you may go. Mr. Palmer ought to settle that bond. You, and he too, ought to prepare for death, and he ought certainly to settle that bond at once. Oh, Hal, if God would only open your eyes, and Mr. Palmer, surely he will pay the interest on that bond now. I pray nightly and daily for you and Mr. Palmer; and trust he will pay the interest on his bond. That the Lord will guard and keep you, dear Hal, and my friend Palmer, is our constant prayer, but do make him pay the interest on the bond. I will take furs shingles, lumber, apples, fish, or anything else he has. God bless and preserve you both; but please do not let Mr. Palmer forget to pay the interest on the bond.

Your devoted friend,
Thomas Emerson

Mr. Emerson was persuasive; the bond was paid.

A transcript of the Emerson letter is in *Bibliography of Windsor Imprints*, compiled by Robert R. Maxham (2 volumes, in loose-leaf notebooks, covering the years 1789-1940) which is available in the Library of the Vermont Historical Society.

How Youngsters Should Be Saved From Evils Like Gambling:

“Playing marbles ‘for keeps’ is a pernicious practice. It has the element of gambling in it, and is, in fact, nothing else. We wonder if parents know how much their boys are fascinated with it. Candy cigars teach boys to smoke, slang phrases teach them to swear, and playing marbles ‘for keeps’ will certainly teach them to gamble.”

— item in Bennington (Vt.) *Banner*, April 20, 1882.

Don't Open Your Spouse's Mail:

“Mrs. John Keyes of St. Johnsbury was arrested last week for opening a letter addressed to her husband, who was then at Pierre, South Dakota. She replied to it in a scurrilous manner. She was bound over to U.S. circuit court soon to be held at Rutland. Bail was furnished.”

— from the Bethel (Vermont) *Courier*, February 27, 1896, page 3.