Concord 21 July
Mass.tts } 1855

Dear Sir,

I am not
blind to the worth of
the wonderful gift of
"Leaves of Grass." I find
it the most extraordinary
piece of wit & wisdom
that America has yet
contributed. I am very

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happy in reading it,
as great power makes us
happy. It meets the
demand I am always
making of what seemed
the sterile & stingy Nature,
as if too much handiwork
or too much lymph
in the temperament
were making our
western wits fat & mean.
I give you joy of

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your free brave
thought. I have great
joy in it. I find incom-
parable things said
incomparably well, as
they must be. I find
the courage of treatment
which so delights us,
& which large perception
only can inspire.
I greet you at the be-
ginning of a great
career, which yet

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must have had a
long foreground somewhere
for such a start. I
rubbed my eyes a little
to see if this sunbeam
were no illusion; but
the solid sense of the book
is a sober certainty.
It has the best merits,
namely, of satisfying
& encouraging.
I did not know
until I, last night, saw

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The book advertised
in a newspaper,
"that I could trust the
name as real &
available for a Post-
office. I wish to be
my benefactor, & have
felt much like striking
my tasks, & visiting Newport
to pay you my respects.

R.W. Emerson.

Mr Walter Whitman.

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