

The Diary of Ebenezer Parkman 1754-1755

EDITED BY FRANCIS G. WALETT

This is a continuation of the diary of the Reverend Mr. Ebenezer Parkman of Westborough, Massachusetts. Earlier portions have appeared in the *Proceedings* as follows: 1719-1728, April, 1961; 1729-1738, October, 1961; 1739-1744, April, 1962; 1745-1746, October, 1962; 1747, April, 1963; 1748, October, 1963; 1749-1750, April, 1964; and 1751-1753, April, 1965.

JANUARY, 1754.

Through the Tender Mercy and Longsuffering of God I see the Morning of another New Year, and am at Brookfield. Esquire Howard had Sent a Message to me Yesterday, and this Morning came himself to invite me and my son Ebenezer who is with me, as well as Mr. Forbush¹ and his Wife, to a New Years Dinner. It prov'd a fine Day, which with good Company, and fine Eating, made it a chearful Time. Thanks be to God for his great Goodness in which He is rich unto all! May it be a truely happy New Year! Captain Wit² and I rode from Esquire Howards up to Mr. Abraham Smiths to talk with him about his place, with a view to my son Ebenezer's living there. At Eve return'd to Mr. Forbush's.

2. Am upon the Business of Mr. Smiths place. Mr. Forbush and Lieutenant Gilbert³ accompany us, as Mr. Smith shews us his Bounds. But the Snow being on the Ground we can't See the Soil. At Eve Mr. Benjamin Ruggles,⁴ preaching now a Days at New Braintree came to Mr. Forbushs. I preach'd an Eve Lecture at the Meeting House there on Luke 29, 10. Mr. Ruggles pray'd. N.B. This was the first Time Mr. Forbush got out since his Fall. May God make his word effectual for our saving Profit! Mr. Ruggles lodg'd with me at Mr. Forbushs.

3. It was an exceeding fine Day Yesterday, but to Day a Storm. Ebenezer and I rode to Lieutenant Abraham Hows; din'd at Mr. Smiths; at Eve was at Captain Witts.

4. Rain. Agree with Mr. Smith. Take a Deed of him and give him a Bond, to give him a Deed of my House, and nine acres and 1/2 of Land in Westborough. Late in the Day leave Brookfield and rode to Mr. Eatons⁵ in Leicester—were well refresh'd

¹ Parkman's son-in-law, the Reverend Eli Forbes.

² Ebenezer Witt.

³ Benjamin Gilbert of Brookfield.

⁴ Benjamin Ruggles (Yale 1721) had been the minister of Lakeville, 1725-1753. Because of an insufficient salary, Ruggles asked for and received his dismissal. He was called to the town of New Braintree where he served, 1754-1782. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, pp. 255-256, and Sibley, VII, 646-650.

⁵ The Reverend Joshua Eaton of Spencer.

there, and though it was wet at Evening proceeded to the Reverend Mr. Goddards⁶ and lodg'd there. Through the divine Favour am also in good Comforts of Body, altho my mind has been exceedingly agitated in my trading with Mr. Smith fearing whether it will be suitably improv'd by him and turn to his good. But whilst I am thus concern'd for him pay him a great Price for his and sell my own but at very low rate. His Wife also very backward to sign.

5. Wet, uncomfortable riding from Leicester, home. Call'd at Mr. Maccartys.⁷ Din'd at Mr. Cushings.⁸ Arriv'd in Safety, and found our Dwellings in Peace. D.G.

6. Rain. People came late to Meeting. Omitted reading a.m. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Rom. 6, 21. P.M. read Heb. 6. Deferr'd the Contribution because of the Rain.

7. I made a Visit to my old Neighbour and Friend Captain Maynard to acquaint him with what I had done with Mr. Abraham Smith and take his Advice. Seeing likewise when I parted with Mr. Smith and saw how lost his Wife was, I told him that if I could do better, and his Wife should grow no easier, I Should still desire to throw up; I therefore relating the matter to Captain Maynard, ask'd both him and his Son whether they would by my whole (old) place, in Case Smith would release the Bargain; but they declin'd it, but especially refused the House. Captain Wood⁹ of Hopkinton brought a Letter from Mr. Barret¹⁰ requesting me to assist there at a Fast by reason of the malignant Fever, which exceedingly rages and proves very mortal in Holliston, and begins to rage in Hopkinton. N.B. Ten lay dead in Holliston last Friday. Mrs. Prentice¹¹ was bury'd on Saturday last, but Mr. Prentice is recovering. For want of Help, So many being

⁶ David Goddard of Leicester.

⁷ The Reverend Thaddeus Maccarty of Worcester.

⁸ Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

⁹ John Wood.

¹⁰ The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

¹¹ Mary, the wife of the Reverend Joshua Prentiss of Holliston. This town was very hard hit in this epidemic, and Prentiss wrote an account of the sickness there. See Mass. Hist. Soc., *Collections*, 1st Ser., III, 18-20.

Sick and Dead, they draw some Corps to their Graves on Sleds.¹²
N.B. Mr. Griffin here.

8. A.M. visit Mrs. Fay once more, but now take Solemn Leave of her. P.M. marry'd Phinehas Maynard to Dorothy Rice.¹³ Exceeding fine Weather.

9. It rain'd hard; but I rode to Hopkinton found Messers. Stone and Smith with Mr. Barret. Mr. Fish came also. Mr. Barret pray'd a.m. and Mr. Stone preach'd on Rev. 6, 8. N.B. about 20 pray'd for. The rain prevail'd so that we all lodg'd there. At Eve Dr. Wilson among us; who tells us that in this Fever there is much of pleurisy and peripneumony.

10. Bright morning—visit Captain Wood and his Brother Lieutenant John Wood who has the fever. I pray'd with him. Mr. Fish¹⁴ went to a Fast to Day at Mill-river in Mendon. In my return home call'd at John Kelley's to get Loggs for some choice Floor Boards—din'd at Mr. Daniel Hardys. At Eve Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin here, and Mr. Daniel Forbush. They offer a Motion for a Fast here.

11. At Eve Deacon Forbush here. He observably breaks and wears away. Lieutenant Holloway here also.

12. Mr. Samuel Fays (junior) wife dy'd, and I hope in Christ. Mr. Griffin of Oxford here.

13. I read part of Judg. 6. I spent so much time in my Preparations for the Afternoon that I could not prepare for the forenoon only a brief Introduction of the Repitition of Sermon on Rom. 6, 21 from page 37 to 46, but from Jam. 1, 15 last Clause. To this I was induc'd the rather because of my last repetition Concerning the unprofitableness and Shamlessness of Sin, have appear'd to be acceptable and useful, and I heard it wish'd that there might be more: and again I was induced hereto also because

¹² Modern authorities regard this as another outbreak of diphtheria, which was a problem in various parts of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. See John Duffy, *Epidemics in Colonial America* (Baton Rouge, [1953]), pp. 125-126.

¹³ These were both Westborough people: Phinehas was the son of James Maynard, and Dorothy (or Dority) the daughter of Seth Rice.

¹⁴ The Reverend Elisha Fish of Upton.

of the Mortality in Neighbouring Towns. P.M. read Heb. 7, and preach'd on Rev. 10, 6 latter part on occasion of our Contributing for the Relief of Alpheus Newton and his Wife, lately burnt out;¹⁵ which Contribution was this afternoon, and may God accept the offering of his people and sanctifie His holy Dispensations.

14. Rain a.m. Clear'd up p.m. went to the Funeral of Mrs. Deliverance Fay, wife of Mr. Samuel Fay junior. Rode Alpheus Newtons Horse. After burying at Deacon Newtons and Mr. Francis Whipple with us, counting the Money gather'd yesterday, and it amounted to 44£ 15 shillings and 6*d* old Tenor.

15. Exceeding pleasant, warm and bright till Eve; but then Rain. I was at Eve reckoning with Mr. Ebenezer Rice at his House while Daniel Williams and his Squaw, who are come from Dudley to wigwam among us, came, at my sending for, to See me, but I saw them not.

16. Rain. Ebenezer comes over, in trouble for his little son, who is sick: and they fear'd of the Throat Distemper; but tis hop'd otherwise. Two of Mr. Baldwin's prentices (Jones and Wyman) here. They go to lodge at t'other House.

17. I receiv'd a Letter from Mr. John Parkman of Cowes in the Isle of Wight.

18. Much Company interrupting especially at Eve. Mr. Timothy Warrin in Defence of Samuel Bumpso, so far as to prevent his going to Jayl, if getting posts and Rails next March might Satisfie on an Execution and Note of last October the third follow'd by continual Ingratitude, negligence and unfaithfulness. One Mr. Moon of Lebanon here, tells me Dr. Eliot¹⁶ of Killingworth is dead.

19. [No entry.]

20. Read Judg. 6, from number 25. Preach'd all Day on 1 Cor. 15, 25. Read p.m. Heb. 8. N.B. had the Sorrowfull news of the Death of Reverend Mr. David Goddard of Leicester. He ex-

¹⁵ The Westborough Church Records, Jan. 13, 1754, reveal that Newton's house was burned down "in the Night between the 24th and 25th of December last."

¹⁶ This reference is puzzling, for the Reverend Jared Eliot of Killingworth, who also served as a physician, lived until 1763. Two of his sons who also practiced medicine there died in 1741 and 1747.

pir'd yesterday at his wife's House in Framingham, after a very short illness of a violent Fever which prevails in Framingham. He preach'd last Sabbath at Southboro, and was taken ill the next Day. N.B. I was desir'd by Deacon Forbush to think of a Fast here. After the Exercises I stop'd the Church and propos'd it. The Deacon aforesaid manifested his Desire again—but I could not without Difficulty obtain of the Brethren to Speak their Minds about it, and yet when I put it to Vote, it was voted unanimously as far as I could discern.

21. Mr. Ephraim Woods of Southborough here. Mr. James Ball—I paid him what I ow'd him. 12£ old Tenor. Mr. John Fay brot a Letter from Mr. Stone¹⁷ to desire my assistance at the Fast among them Thursday. At Eve Lieutenant Tainter brought wool and Cards which he had bought for us at Boston.

22. After a considerable Space of fine Moderate weather comes an Exceeding Cold Day—bright but high Winds and Sharp Air that can Scarcely be sustain'd. Mr. Benjamin Goddard came to desire me to go to the Funeral of his Brother (Reverend David) tomorrow, at Framingham.

23. Mr. Joseph Bruce here on occasion of his son in Law Child his Thigh broke. I sent a Line by him to Mr. Francis Whipple containing my Desire to have a Clause inserted in the Warrant for the next Town Meeting relating to their Arrears. I went to the Funeral of the Reverend Dr. David Goddard of Leicester; who was bury'd from his Wife's House in Framingham. The Reverend Mr. Read¹⁸ pray'd. He and the Reverend Messers. Stone, Bliss¹⁹ and Bridge,²⁰ with Dr. Ebenezer Hemingway²¹ were the other Bearers. Mr. Ebenezer Goddard lies very bad of the same Fever. News also came that Mr. Benjamin Goddard, who was with me yesterday, was taken sick as soon as he got home; and for the Time is very ill. May a gracious God fit us for His holy will! In the Eve the Mare I rode, Stray'd away from Colonel

¹⁷ Nathan Stone of Southborough.

¹⁸ Solomon Reed of Framingham.

¹⁹ Daniel Bliss of Concord.

²⁰ Matthew Bridge of Framingham.

²¹ Ebenezer Hemenway was a physician of Framingham. Clair A. H. Newton, *Ralph Hemenway . . . and his Descendants* (Naperville, Ill., 1932), I, 16.

Buckminsters²² where we turn'd in to warm us, and drew up some account of Mr. Goddards Death; which was committed to Mr. Bliss to carry Mr. Kneeland at Boston to publish.²³ I lodg'd at the Colonel's.

24. It snow'd in the Night and Morning, but I walk'd up to Dr. Hemingways who lent me his Horse to Southboro—found mine at Mr. Andrew Newtons, and proceeded to the Fast in Southborough, on occasion of the sickness. Mr. Stone pray'd first. I preach'd from Mat. 24, 44. Mr. Smith pray'd after sermon, then we sang part of Ps. 37. Mr. Bridge pray'd after singing—for we had but one Exercise. In returning home (Lieutenant Tainter my Company) comply'd with Lieutenant Nathan Brigham's earnest Desire to turn in and see his son Nathan, who lay very sick of the Fever, and pray'd with him.

25. At Evening which I much depended upon for Studying, came Mr. Benjamin Tainter and his Wife to make us a Visit, therein waiting upon her Father, Mr. Josiah Woods from Summers; and soon after came his Brother and they tarry'd and Supp'd here. Mr. Samuel Fay junior here this Eve also. Billy thrash'd with Ebenezer.

26. Lieutenant Ward din'd here. A fine Day. Hands at work helping Alpheus Newton frame. Billy thrashing with Ebenezer.

27. Read Judg. 7. A.M. on 1 Cor. 15, 25. P.M. read Heb. 9, and preach'd on 1 Cor. 15, 26. Appointed Wednesday next to be a Day of Solemn Fasting and Prayer on Consideration of the Malignant Sickness in Neighbouring Towns; we having also many Evils among ourselves—and that God would please to revive his Work here.

28. Dr. Perkins²⁴ of Framingham informs me that Mr. Benjamin Goddard,²⁵ who was with me last Tuesday, dy'd last Night. Alpheus Newton's House rais'd. Captain Eager ask'd

²² Colonel Joseph Buckminster, a leading citizen of Framingham.

²³ This news item appears not to have been published.

²⁴ Richard Perkins (Harvard 1748), a physician, was the son of the Reverend Daniel Perkins of Bridgewater and the brother-in-law of the Reverend Matthew Bridge of Framingham.

²⁵ Of Shrewsbury.

me to go up, and I did so. Some refreshment at Deacon Newtons²⁶ by Captain Eager. Mr. Hezekiah Rice came to request me to go to Mr. Goddards Funeral. N.B. some Discourse with Deacon Newton and Mr. Francis Whipple about my addressing the Town for the remains of my Sallery in the Year 1744. N.B. James Eager brings a Message from Mr. Jonathan Greene.

29. I visited Mrs. Dodge wife of Mr. Jabez Dodge. Also a Lad ([blank] Childs) at Mr. Hezekiah Pratts, he having broke his Thigh Bone. I went to the Funeral of Mr. Benjamin Goddard. Mr. Cushing not sent for. I reprov'd them for their Neglect. N.B. Colonel Nahum Wards private Talk with me about Mr. Cushing. N.B. Mr. Jeduthun Baldwin and [blank] Cutler from Brookfield.

30. This Day was observ'd as a Day of Humiliation and Prayer by this Parish.²⁷ I began with Prayer. No minister comes tho I had sent to most of those round about, it being a dark, stormy Day. Mr. Stone²⁸ came in Prayer Time. He preach'd on Ps. 39, 4. Mr. Cushing came also in prayer Time. In time of the last Prayer a. m. came Mr. Barret.²⁹ Neither did any other come. P.M. Mr. Barret pray'd. Mr. Cushing preach'd on Hos. 4, 7. Captain Brigham, Deacon Burnap³⁰ and Mr. Ephraim Wood Supp'd here. O that God would graciously accept our Offerings; pardon our sins, revive His Work and remove from His People His sore Judgments. Preserve us still in this Day of Evil, and prevent Spiritual Judgments falling upon us! May the Goodness of God to us lead us to repentance and prevent our abusing His Mercy.

31. I rode over to Mr. Jonathan Greens. In going by Captain James Eagers swamp I perceiv'd there was a great Number of men getting shingle for Abner Newton. I din't at Lieutenant Holloways. Mr. Green and his wife both gone from home.

²⁶ Josiah Newton of Westborough.

²⁷ This fast was held "on Account of a Malignant Mortal fever raging in many Neighbouring Towns." Westborough Church Records, Jan. 30, 1754.

²⁸ Nathan Stone of Southborough.

²⁹ The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

³⁰ Benjamin Burnap of Hopkinton.

Visited Mr. Martin. His wife and Daughter confin'd by illness. Call'd at Ensign Rice's who was gone to Boston. N.B. She desires me to talk with her Husband for Azuba.

FEBRUARY, 1754

1. Mr. Timothy Warrin here, on Sam Bumpso's Account. He brings Sam's Gun here; which I take and give up Sams Note to Mr. Warrin. Wrote to Mr. Cushing to Change next Lords Day and sent it to t'other House—but it did not go.

2. Mr. Claffin here, and tho I ow'd him but Twenty odd Shillings yet at his Request I gave him a Note of above four pounds (old Tenor).

3. Fowl Day. Read Judg. 8, and for sermon had prepar'd on Psalm 51, 11 in chief part for one Sermon, but considering our present threatned Circumstances with relation to the Fever, which now spreads much in Southborough and very mortally, I took and altered some old sermons on Ps. 119, 120, and deliver'd the substance of them a. and p.m. Read p.m. Heb. 10 to number 18. At Eve I was not well.

4. Had a poor night; and was ill all Day. Have symptoms of Distemper.

5. Feel but poorly, yet hope I am better. Ebenezer kill'd 5 Swine. One of 13 Score, a sow of nigh 11 Score, and three pigs of 5 or 6 score. Three of those swine he sent to Mr. James Allen of Boston, Tayler, per Lieutenant Maynard. At Eve came here Foster from Holliston and lodg'd here. Mr. Claffin went off last Night.

6. Mr. Foster puts his Horse into my Chair and rode with Lucy to t'other House. They return at Eve, and Mr. Foster leaves us. I sent Billey over to Mr. Jonathan Green with Sufficient silver to pay his Demands of Samuel Bumpso, viz. £6.11.0, old Tenor. I recover slowly. P.M. Mr. Ebenezer Maynard Treasurer here; and gave him Receipts agreeable to his Mind, respecting instead of what was given to Collector Grow.

7. I went down below to Day and din'd with the Family. Blessed be God! Lieutenant Tainter here. Settled my accounts

with him. Had I been well I should have endeavour'd to preach to Day at Mr. Grows. But in divine Providence am prevented but desire to have my Heart with my Brethren that Seek the Lord there. May God graciously assist them and accept their Offering!

8. Through divine Goodness grow better but am interrupted with divers Visitants. Colonel William Ward din'd here. P.M. Mr. Ammiel Weeks of Brookfield. Mr. Cornelius Biglow much engag'd in gathering and bringing Money and Notes. Snow. Mr. Hezekiah Maynard from Marlborough from Mr. Smiths¹ to desire my Help at a Fast there next Wednesday.

9. Mr. Biglow here again. I let him have Sam Bumpso's Gun for 7£ old Tenor, he promising that if either I, or Sam or Mr. Timothy Warrin repay him this Money, we may have it again.

10. Winds very high in the Night. I ventur'd to the Meeting tho Cold. A.M. read Judg. P.M. read Heb. 10, 19 to the End. Preach'd on Ps. 51, 11. Mrs. Beeman din'd here. Mr. Joslin and Mr. Ithamar Bellows Wife and Several Children in that Corner of the Town, Sick; and tis fear'd of the Distemper. My son Ebenezer not at Meeting, he having cutt himself lately.

11. Ebenezer here at Eve. He seems Somewhat Sick of the Bargain with Mr. Smith of Brookfield and yet does not appear Willing to throw it up. He hopes I will Send for no more Indian Corn from the Other House.

12. Another Very Cold Tuesday. Sent by Mr. Ephraim Sherman to Boston—for Mr. Fleets Paper as well as Mr. Kneelands.²

13. Went to the Fast at Marlborough tho it was very Cold. Overtook Lieutenant Tainter who was going likewise, and he return'd with me at Eve. Mr. Stone preach'd a.m. on 1 K. 8, 37 to 40. Mr. Gardner³ pray'd p.m. and I preach'd from Ps. 119, 59. May God hear in Heaven forgive and Bless his people for His Name's Sake! As we return'd at Eve in the Cold, we visited

¹ The Reverend Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

² Thomas Fleet published *The Boston Evening-Post*; Kneeland, *The Boston Gazette*.

³ The Reverend John Gardner of Stow.

Mr. Jacob Amsden,⁴ who Seems to have met with a great deal of Trouble and Affliction which may God Sanctifie to him for his Spiritual and Eternal Good!

14. Lucy rode with Ebenezers Wife to See Mrs. Martyn⁵ and Mrs. Molly her Daughter who, we hear, are not well yet. Lucy brings me at Evening a most bitter Letter from my Brother Martyn, full of Misrepresentations and hard Reflections. God grant him to See his Errors and retract them! But Darts foreseen may be better warded off. I confess I have been full of fears Time would come when our Peace would be broke up. I was early premonish'd what I might Expect from him; and have all along been watchfull and upon my Guard—and have been very far from Willingly giving the least Ground of Offence. Have always defended him when I have heard any Word to his Disparagement, and been ready always to give him a good Character; or oblige him in any Thing in the World that lay in my Power, or any of his: and would Still Serve him with my whole Heart. I therefore look upon this as a sore Frown of Heaven: and do beg of God to Sanctifie it to me; and Since it bodes exceeding ill with regard to the Interest of Religion among us, I would heartily mourn and grieve for it. May God avert the Omen! These Things came upon me a little the more heavily because I had in the Day preceeding receiv'd an undesirable Letter from Mr. Abraham Smith of Brookfield, in which he tells me he shall come down with his Family the beginning of next Week if he does not hear from me and it contains also some Threatenings. I went over presently to Ebenezer P.M. but he was gone to help Mr. Daniel Maynard drive to Marlborough the Cattle he had bought of my Son (the Oxen I gave him) for 75£ old Tenor—but Ebenezer Came over in the Evening. I visited old Mrs. Rogers who is sick.

15. Thomas and Lucy ride Ebenezer's Mare to Brookfield and they carry a Letter from me to Mr. Abraham Smith to prevent his coming and if he pleases throw up the Bargain: Ebenezer being much against going there, tho he was So much for it before:

⁴ Of Westborough.

⁵ Wife of the Reverend John Martyn of Northborough.

Says he would give Smith 50£ rather than not throw up. P.M. I borrow'd Lieutenant Forbush's Horse and visited Mr. Chamberlins, Ithamar Bellow's, and Mr. Joslins Family, because of their Sickness—and old Mr. Garfield who is very bad tis fear'd of a Malignant Fever. N.B. Mr. Chamberlin with me from House to House.

16. Having Sent a Letter by my Son Thomas yesterday to Mr. Cushing to desire him to Change, he came here and I rode there. N.B. was Shav'd by Dr. Smith⁶ at his House. A Somewhat Cold Time but I got up safely, and rested Comfortably, D.G.

17. I thought it very Seasonable to preach on Mat. 24, 44, a. and p.m. considering the Sickness had entered into the Town of Shrewsbury and Mr. Benjamin Goddard had dy'd there and others had been taken ill of it. But it happened likewise to be the Next Lords Day after the Funeral of the Honourable Edward Goddard⁷ Esquire (and but a little while since the Death of his aged Wife) at Framingham: but his son Edward and Family now desir'd Public Prayers. O that I myself might be ready for my own Decease! At Eve I return'd home.

18. Wrote some proposals and offers to my son Ebenezer which I sent by Lieutenant Tainter, having understood that both son and his wife were under Discouragement. Lieutenant Tainter has taken fruitless pains with Mr. Grout for an Horse for my Wife to ride to Boston upon. And altho I depended upon my son Ebenezer to go down with his Mother instead of Thomas who is gone to Brookfield; and that he might wait upon his Father Harrington respecting our Trading with Mr. Smith. Yet he also throws it by. Lieutenant Tainter therefore strikes in and proposes to go with my Wife in my Chair, with my own Mare. This therefore

19. They undertake, a.m. But p.m. was the most violent Storm of Wind and Rain, So that I was exceedingly concern'd

⁶ Joshua Smith of Shrewsbury.

⁷ Goddard, a prominent citizen, held numerous town offices, was a justice of the peace, and a member of the Council of the province. Temple, *Framingham*, p. 566.

about 'em. But they (as I heard afterwards) got safely to Colonel Buckminsters and lodg'd there.

20. Lieutenant Forbush brought me his Horse on which I rode to old Mr. Nathaniel Hudsons^s Funeral. He was in his 85th Year according to his Children's Reckoning. I went from the House of Mourning to visit old Mrs. Garfield who lies very bad of the Pleuretick Fever which has been of late very Mortal in Neighbouring Towns. Mr. Grove and Mr. Joseph Woods din'd with me, and Mr. John Brighams wife here all the afternoon.

21. My Son Thomas return'd from Brookfield last night to t'other House without Lucy, but with Mr. Abraham Smith. P.M. I went over to Mr. Smith and spent the afternoon there. I return'd home at Evening not a little troubled that after all my Endeavours to gratifie my son, both he and his wife are not willing to Venture to go to Brookfield, but however my son does gratefully acknowledge what I wrote to him by Lieutenant Tainter. My Thoughts are deeply engaged on these Matters. We talk'd of Recanting the Bargain with Mr. Smith, who seems willing if we might both of us be just as we were before we began—and I thought to take him but left it untill the next Morning. Finish'd a Letter to Mr. Martyn in Answer to his of the 12th.

22. A very fine Day. My Wife return'd from Boston while I was gone to the Funeral of old Mrs. Garfield, widow of the late Mr. Benjamin Garfield. N.B. Mr. Smith din'd with me. Tells me the meaning of his Talk yesterday (of our recanting upon Such Terms as to have both of us in the same State as we were when we began), was that I pay him what Damages he sustains if he does not go forward—which I refus'd to comply with but would willingly recant for both his and my sons sake, if he saw Cause. This he rejected, and went to Sudbury to see his Parents. My son Thomas rode to Marlboro with him.

23. Mr. Smith was to have return'd that he might go home to Brookfield but did not.

24. Read Judg. 12. Text Ps. 51, 11. P.M. read Heb. 11 from number 17, and Repeated Exposition (with Alterations) on Mat.

^s Of Marlborough.

9, 12, accommodating it to the Present Time of Sickness—for tho we are very much spar'd in this place thro Gods great Mercy, with regard to our Bodys, yet are we under sore spiritual sickness. May God grant us to be sensible of it and perswade us to repair to the Lord Jesus Christ for Healing!

25. Roger Bruce work'd here p.m. in Clearing. Mr. Abraham Smith came p.m. and his Father with him. They Spent the Eve here, and then return'd to lodge at t'other House. Dr. David Barnes,⁹ Schoolmaster came and lodg'd here.

26. Went over to my sons, the Smiths being there; and find 'em much against having their Line to run to the North so far as the Settle. They want a Notch behind the Barn to take in the low Ground Behind the Barn. We all din'd at my sons. P.M. we find we cannot agree about the Line there having been nothing Said in the written Bargain about this nor by Word of Mouth only that it Should go as far East as the West End of the Barn and I conceiv'd nothing but that he would Choose to go North; except that likewise I insisted that my Land should not be cut into bad forms and notches. We therefore broke wholly off—writ it and sign'd it. So old Mr. Smith took his Leave and went home, parting in peace. But his son stayed and when I was going away he ask'd me to walk down to the Barn which I comply'd with. And no sooner were we come to the East End of the Barn than Mr. Smith started a new Proposal for the Line of his 7 Acres—and to include the Barn for his Over plus—this I hearkened to; but not being well, and much worry'd would Say nothing to, to Night. Mr. Smith tarry'd and lodg'd there. In my way home visited Mr. Dodge and his wife and Neighbour Hezekiah Pratt and his new Wife. N.B. Roger Bruce Clear'd to Day, and lodges here.

27. A Stormy Night and Morning. Roger went off. My son and Mr. Smith came here. My son appear'd Willing to go to

⁹ (Harvard 1752). Barnes was ordained later this year at Norwell (Second Church in Scituate). Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 317. In Nov. 1753, Westborough was presented at the Court of General Sessions in Worcester for not having maintained a school for over a year. Feb. 5, 1754, the Westborough selectmen testified before the court that a school master had been hired. The town was dismissed after "paying costs."

Brookfield and offers to go if I can trade with Mr. Smith still. Provided I will give him a Deed of Such as comes to the proportion of a Thousand Pounds in our Bargain, and will let him have the use of my remaining part for Two Years free of Interest. Hereupon Mr. Smith and I reviv'd our Bargain and settled it, and wrote and sign'd it and he is to come down next Week with his goods. John Dunlop here and wants to let himself to me.

28. Ebenezer goes to Brookfield with Mr. Abraham Smith. Mrs. Parkman to t'other House, She not having been there ever since Peach Time till now. Such is her Encumbrance by the Children and Business of the Family. Mr. Bartlett¹⁰ of Sutton here and tells me that Mr. Edmund Greenleaf of Newbury dy'd about a fortnight agoe. May God please to teach me to number my Days so as that I may apply my Heart to Wisdom!

MARCH, 1754.

1. Roger Bruce, John Dunlop with two more Hands with him viz. Richard Kelly and Joseph Chaddock, come and Clean next to Captain Maynards Swamp. Thomas brot about 30 Rails with Ebenezers Team from the Ministerial Lot.

2. Thomas brings a Load of Goods from t'other House—storm of Snow.

3. Read Judg. 13. Preach'd on Jer. 31, 23, a. and p.m. Widow Woods din'd here.

4. I went over to t'other House, a.m. Ebenezer and I measur'd the Lines of the Piece of Land mark'd out for Mr. Smith. P.M. I pray'd with the Town at their Meeting and receiv'd at Eve another uncomfortable Letter from my Brother Martyn.¹ This Paper War with this Gentleman is the Grief of my Heart: it being the most peculiarly happy thing for ministers in the Same Town to be well united, and the most grievous when tis otherwise. Witness Woburn and Sutton nearer home.

¹⁰ Richard Bartlett.

¹ John Martyn of Northborough. The editor has not discovered in this diary, in local histories or in church records any clue relating to the cause of this dispute between Martyn and Parkman.

5. I visited Mr. Jonathan Bellows who is sick and din'd there. Went to Southborough to carry Mr. Stone a little money for the Newton Meadow, but Mr. Stone was gone to Boston—left 8£ old Tenor with his wife and return'd. Billy begins the Accidence² again. Mr. Abraham Smith and his Wife are come from Brookfield to t'other House.

6. Thomas waited on his Sister, Ebenezer's Wife, with my Chair and Mare, tho in heavy Roads, to her Father Harringtons at Watertown. Mr. Hutchinson³ preach'd my Lecture from John 12, 23, and may God Himself add a Blessing.

8. Snowy. Captain Timothy Brigham here. Brought the Journal of the House of Representatives.

9. Thomas return'd to t'other House last night and came here with Mr. Smith and Mr. Jeduthun Baldwin who is come from Brookfield with a Chair from Mr. Forbush to carry us his Mother. P.M. Captain Timothy Brigham returns here, and I pay him £5.5/ for Reverend Mr. Stone.

10. It was appointed last Sabbath to have the Communion to Day—But because of the Extremity of the Season, Snow, Rain etc. the Sacrament was put by. I read Judg. 14 and for a. and p.m. Exercises expounded and improv'd the Chapter and especially number 14. Deacon Forbush and Lieutenant Thomas Weeks of Weston din'd with us. Ebenezer is observ'd to be very down.

11. Precinct Met for Choice of Officers—No Prayer ask'd. Ebenezer comes at Eve—tells me that Mr. Abraham Smith notwithstanding all his Bargain with me and giving me a Deed of his Place, has actually mortgag'd it to Mr. Aaron Boardman of Boston. He is this Day gone on my sons Mare to See his Father at Sudbury and to return tonight.

12. I made a Visit to Mr. Smith to enquire into his Conduct. Colonel William Ward⁴ here with whom I advis'd respecting; Mr. Smiths Treatment of me. I rode to Mr. Bradishs to See his Wife,

² A book containing the rudiments of grammar. Probably one of the famous Latin grammars of Ezekiel Cheever.

³ Aaron Hutchinson of Grafton.

⁴ Ward of Southborough was a justice of the peace. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 460.

and to Mr. Ithamar Bellows. A fine Day overhead, but exceeding bad Road—snow, Mud etc. Billy brought over four Sheep and [blank] Lambs from t'other House. Mr. Jeduthun Baldwin here from Sudbury, returning to Brookfield. Told him I was very sorry that when Mr. Forbush⁵ and he knew of Mr. Smiths Mortgaging his Place to Mr. Boardman yet that they did not prevent his moving his Family hither, or Send one word of it.

13. Ebenezer rode (on Mr. Smiths Stallion) to his Father Harringtons at Watertown where his Wife has hitherto continued. And Billy is over at tother place taking Care of his Brothers Cattle. Mr. Edwards Whipple here at Eve. Acquaints me with Base Coin stirring; Some of it passed by Mr. John Dunlop, but chiefly by Abraham Rice of Brookfield, and Moses Pannell of Colrain, who are principally Suspected.

14. I visited in the South part of the Town. Din'd at Mr. Harringtons. Was at Mr. Bowmans, both Twitchells, but especially went to see Mr. Dunlop who is sick. Lieutenant Maynard and others are gone to Brookfield to Abner Rice's to detect the base Coiners. Receiv'd an affectionate Letter from Brother Samuel Parkman on the Death of Captain T. Davis.

15. Ebenezer return'd home at Eve with his Wife and Child in my Chair. My Wife visited Mrs. Smith at t'other House.

16. John Dunlop here (after his Journey to Brookfield) tells me the New Coiners are Two sons of the late Mr. Thomas Newton⁶ formerly of this Town; and they made the Money at Hunting Hills⁷ beyond Deerfield. Company are here every Day, and not a few—which is a great Interruption to me. Mr. Daniel Forbush here about making Satisfaction to Reverend Mr. Barret.

17. A bright Day, tho raw Cold North wind. Read Judg. 15. Preach'd a.m. on Judg. 14, 14. Administered the Lords Supper. Deacon Forbush and Mrs. Brigham (Gershoms Wife) din'd with us. P.M. repeated with Alteration Exposition on Mat. 8, 21, 22.

⁵ Parkman's son-in-law, the Reverend Eli Forbes of Brookfield.

⁶ Thomas Newton, Jr., had moved to Sunderland in 1742; he was in Deerfield in 1756. The editor has not determined the identity of the other Newton counterfeiter. Ermina N. Leonard, *Newton Genealogy* (DePere, Wisconsin, 1915), pp. 74-75.

⁷ The plantation called Huntstown became the town of Ashfield in 1765.

God grant we may be quickened to cast off all procrastinations and Delays and apply ourselves to the Work of God, as we are respectively called thereto!

18. I went over to Mr. Smith and talk with him—and inasmuch as he pretends that Mr. Boardman of Boston is ready to take off the Mortgage, he must go to him forthwith and do it, otherwise it will be too late for this Year. I think it also a great Wrong and hardship that Mr. Smiths Horse is kept in my Barn since our Hay is So Short and it is difficult for me to go for Supply otherwise. Visited at Mr. Whipples, both Houses. Mr. Edwards Whipple talks of helping me get Timber for a Kitchin. Ebenezer and his wife and Child here at Eve. Thunder and Lightning. They lodge here.

19. Mr. Smith to Boston to see what Mr. Boardman will do. Wrote to my Brother Samuel to assist me; that I may not be deceiv'd. Desir'd Lieutenant Maynard to receive from my Brother an Account of their Proceedings. Din'd at Mr. Amsdens. Mr. Abijah Gale gives me Dimensions for a Leanto. Visited Mrs. Twitchell after the Death of her Mother. Return'd by t'other House. Mrs. Smith very dull—though neighbours come to see her yet she removes into another room and shuts the Door that she may be alone. I went in to take leave of her, and found her under Discouragement. Lieutenant Tainter brought saw'd stuff for Barn Doors. N.B. much Noise about Abner Rice and his Brother in Law Moses Pannell being apprehended, and one Newton likewise. All brot before Colonel Chandler,* for making money—and are committed to Jayl.

20. Greatly engag'd and troubled in my Mind about Mr. Smiths Conduct, and much perplex'd what Course to take: to throw up will tend much to the ruin of Mr. Smith however he has brot it upon himself in giving me so great Reason for it: on the other Hand to go on is exceeding Dangerous: and it will soon be too late for my son to go to Brookfield. May the Lord influence my Mind and Heart and direct me what Course to take. Visit Captain Forbush's Wife, mourning for the Loss of her sister Sawin.

* John Chandler of Worcester.

21. Esquire Baker came here kindly to tell me that he heard Smiths Land in Brookfield was under an attachment and that there were several Executions out against him. Catechiz'd at the Meeting House, A. and P.M. N.B. I gave the Congregation a quickening Word last Lords Day to send their Children. And a.m. I had 51 Boys. P.M. it snow'd yet 23 Girls. Mr. [blank] Park of Sutton din'd here. Lieutenant Tainter and a Number besides with their Teams brot a great Stone for the principal step at the Front of the Meeting House. My wife but poorly—may God fit us for His Will! At Eve Mr. Ebenezer Rice here. I wrote a Line to Mr. Abraham Smith to apprize him that I must be oblig'd to tell the Select Men of his Coming.

22. Sent by Ebenezer to Mr. Whipple⁹ Town Clerk Information of Mr. Smith and his Family being in my House—to be Communicated to the Select Men. N.B. my Paper return'd because the Wife's and Dauters Names were not inserted. Mr. Hill of Sherbourn brot me a Letter from Mr. Morse¹⁰ of Shrewsbury requesting a Contribution for the Relief of Mr. Asa Hill of Shrewsbury who was lately burnt out. Mr. Stone's son Nathaniel here and din'd with us. At Eve I was with Deacon Newton, another of the selectman, and gave him a Paper which had the Names of Mr. Smiths Wife and Dauter but did not leave it.

23. In the Morning I went to Esquire Baker and consulted him on the Smith Affair and wrote and left with him (another of the select Men) an information in Writing certifying when Mr. Smith his Wife and Dauter came into Town. N.B. last Night Mr. Daniel Forbush came here from Brookfield and tells me that Mr. Smith was come up from Boston, and brought up a Letter (which he also delivered me and which was from Mr. Andrew Boardman of Boston informing me that he Should Send up Mr. Barker on Monday to transact the Affair of taking off the Mortgage from Smiths Brookfield Land. Mr. Smith came here and I immediately Sent for Esquire Baker who came. They din'd here. A warm Debate ensued. I insist for security besides a Deed if

⁹ Francis Whipple.

¹⁰ The Reverend Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

we go on; Seeing Mr. Smith has So deceiv'd me, in the Matter of the Former Deed. Captain Baker thinks it very Reasonable and Necessary. Smith resists it. When the Esquire was gone I offer to leave it to 3 indifferent Men. N.B. I receiv'd another Letter from Mr. Boardman attested by him to be the Copy of what he had sent by Mr. Smith. This came by the help of my Brother Samuel.

24. A.M. read Judg. 16 and the Expository remarks upon it were our forenoon Exercise. P.M. read James 2 and by reason of my perplexing Difficulties with Mr. Smith repeated Exposition on Mat. 5, 38, and part of 39. At Eve receiv'd a Letter from Mr. Smith, dated yesterday, in which he intimates his rejecting Still my proposal of a Bondsman. Read to the Congregation a Letter from the Reverend Mr. Morse of Shrewsbury requesting a Contribution for one Mr. Asa Hill who was lately burnt out. Left it with Deacons and Committee to advise upon. I thought it agreeable to Christian Principles, and that Meekness and Mercifulness which I had been recommending in the Day preceding, to Consider Mr. Smith's Case as well as my own; and being perswaded that Mr. Barkers Coming up here (as may be expected on the Ensuing Day) will be in Vain, I desir'd my son Thomas to prepare and go with a Line to Mr. Smith and take an Horse (if Mr. Smith desir'd also) and go away now in the Night to Boston and stop Mr. Barkers Coming to prevent needless Charge. And he went away accordingly about a quarter after 12 in the Night.

25. Thomas return'd: Mr. Smith not accepting my Offer. I went to Esquire Bakers to Consult him again upon my present Affairs; and to desire that the Select Men would defer their Warning Mr. Smith out of Town and especially if Some of his Friends would give Security respecting the Infant now expected; which he comply'd with, and at my Request he sent one of his Sons to Mr. Bezaleel Smith with a Note from me to have him come to Me or to his Kinsmans; and he came. N.B. Captain Maynard and Mr. Benjamin How look out a place in my Land by the Meeting House to set stables. I went over to see Mrs. Smith. She says now that she is willing to sign a Deed. But her

Husband I find in the Same Disposition as he was, and increasing in self Vindications and Resentments. Asks me to let his Goods remain in my House, while he carries his Family to his or her Fathers, to which I consent, but will not be answerable for them. N.B. His dread of Lying as he and I stood in the Road talking in the hearing of his Cousen Bezaleel. I return'd home. N.B. Mr. Ebenezer Maynard brought me a Load of Posts from the Ministerial Lot, and carry'd 'em to the Island. Mr. Batheric, Noah Forbush and my son Ebenezer Splicing Rails at the Ministerial Lott. At Eve Mr. Smith comes here and brings Mr. Barker. We effect no thing—but increase sin and Trouble. The Lord shew Mercy! and extend forgiveness! 'Tis a Day of sore Temptation. May God most gracious Help! Mrs. Smith sent me a Letter in which She complains of great unkindness—which verily I never shewed her but the Contrary.

26. Mr. Barker came with Mr. Smith. N.B. Mr. Barker tells me Mr. Smith at the Time when he (Barker) went up to take a Mortgage of him did not acquaint him that he had given me a Deed, but said he was under Obligation to me—whereas Mr. Smith has told me he did inform Mr. Barker that he had given me a Deed. Mr. Barker returns to Boston without effecting any Thing; for neither are the Conditions of my Bond fulfilled nor is there any security. N.B. Mr. Bezaleel Smith here and Confronts Abraham with respect to the different Account he has given of the Sum which the place in Brookfield is mortgaged for. Noah Forbush not well: does no great matter of Business to Day.

27. Mr. Ebenezer Rice levys an Execution on Mr. Abraham Smith to the value of an hundred Twenty odd Pounds old Tenor in behalf of one of the Hitchcocks in Springfield. My wife was over there to see Mrs. Smith who takes but little Notice of her. P.M. I rode down to Colonel William Ward and got him to take Mr. Andrew Newtons Deed that it may be acknowledged. Went to Mr. Ephraim How of Marlborough and paid him Six Pounds Old Tenor Interest.

28. Went over to t'other House and talk'd with Mrs. Smith. Her Husband is gone to Boston again, that he may obtain a

Power of Attorney for Colonel Chandler or somebody else that may take up the Mortgage for Mr. Boardman, and by what he has Said I apprehend he designs also to go to his Mother that she may sign his Deed; he had also sent to Brookfield to have the Land there measur'd. His wife manifests Satisfaction and Reconciliation with me and her Consent at least, if not Desire also to have me go to their Fathers. I rode to Mr. Smiths Father in Sudbury and lodg'd there, but the man himself was not at home: was gone to Boston. The Woman was almost overwhelm'd with Trouble about her son before I began. N.B. Mr. Bezaleel Smith there and had sufficient Ground to confirm what I said.

29. Left a Letter for Mr. Amos Smith at his House, rode to Mr. Francis Wheeler's and din'd there. He gave me from under his Hand and witness'd that the Child which might be born of his Dauter in Westborough Should not be a Town Charge. I call'd at Lieutenant Dakins, who favoured me with a pint of Hotspur Peas; but especially was desirous to acquaint me with their present Difficultys with Mr. Loring and their purpose to have a Council. I call'd at Mr. Lorings¹¹ in Marlborough—receiv'd of him his Chandlers History of Persecution.¹² Was at Mr. Benjamin Woods's.¹³ Paid him 30/ old Tenor in full of all Demands. At Eve return'd home in Safety. D.G.

30. Have had so many avocations that I could not prepare more than one sermon.

31. Mr. Smith came up from Boston last night, but has not been to either of his Fathers, nor Seen his Mother. Read Judg. 17. Preach'd on Ps. 51, 11. P.M. read James, and repeated on Mat. 8, 34. N.B. The Deacons and Committee who met last Thursday to Confer about Mr. Asa Hills Case, as mention'd last Lords Day, made me no Return.

¹¹ Jonathan Loring was the son of the Reverend Israel Loring of Sudbury.

¹² Samuel Chandler translated the following work by Philippus van Limborch, *The History of the Inquisition*, 2 vols. (London, 1731). Chandler also published *The History of Persecution, in four Parts* (London, 1736).

¹³ A leading citizen of Marlborough.

APRIL, 1754

Richard Kelly works here. Noah Forbush here still at Shoework. Ebenezer plough'd [in my Garden and split] the Indian Hills at my New Barn—and carry'd out some Muck from the stables. P.M. Mr. Abraham Smith and his Brother Francis Wheeler here. Mr. Nathaniel Green Coroner, with an Assistant here after Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith and I return our writings which had past and reciprocally burn our Agreement and give mutually Full Discharge. Mr. Green I suppose arrested or seiz'd him and they went all off together. I fear the Event with poor Smith. The Lord pitty, convince and forgive him! and may I be in a proper Frame towards him. May God forgive me wherein I have offended in my trading with him!

2. My wife went over to t'other House. Mr. Smith having given I know not what Satisfaction to the Officer, Green, is there till this Morning probably by reason of Mrs. Smiths being so near her Time, growing ill last night they had the midwife: But when they had din'd they all rode away—viz. Mr. Smith and wife, and Child, and her Brother Francis Wheeler, for Sudbury. Richard Kelly setts up, and mends, Fence at the Island, and prepar'd Beds in the Garden two long Beds for Hotspur Peas. Mr. Simon Tainter junior, who fell into a Fit yesterday, is greatly recover'd to Day.

3. Wrote to Mr. Hutchinson¹ to change next Sabbath.

4. Public Fast. A.M. on Jer. 12, 2. P.M. on Ez. 18, 30, latter part. Improv'd Some parts of Sermon on Jer. 31, 18, namely from page 6 to 15.

5. I visited Mrs. Williams (Mr. Samuels wife) who has of late lost a number of Relations, and some of them very near and dear to her, at Sherbourn, by the mortal fever that has rag'd among them. N.B. Mr. Abraham Smith at the other House to answer to Mr. Ebenezer Rice, sheriff. He lodg'd (as I heard) at Lieutenant Bruce's. N.B. Mr. Ephraim Bruce here, and tells me that Mr. Smith had told Such Things at their House, as if true, he Should be greatly Disaffected to me for: but when I came to understand

¹ Aaron Hutchinson of Grafton.

what they were, it was even astonishing that ever a professing Christian should pervert and misrepresent the Truth so. Particularly that when our Agreement to throw up all our Bargain, was so clear, and in presence of his Brother Wheeler as well as others he should so exceedingly misrepresent the plain and express'd Terms thereof. Thus when it was propos'd that we should throw up all, it was expressly mention'd that a Bag of Feathers which he sent to my Dauter Forbush (of 50£ weight at 7/6 old Tenor per pound, but was thrown in for 10£ in our Bargain) should be given in—and this was the least he could do since he lay expos'd to an action in Law for Breach of Covenant and for Damages by his presumptuousness coming into my House; Yet Mr. Smith tells 'em at Bruce's that this was not mention'd till after Signing the mutual Discharges; and that tho he told me he had forgot that Article, yet I was so unfair and hard as to refuse to Consider it.

6. Receiv'd an insulting Letter from Mr. Smith, but God grant me Wisdom, Meekness and Patience. I rode to Grafton. Mr. Hutchinson in his New House, tho very unfinish'd.

7. Preach'd at Grafton a. and p.m. on Ps. 51, 11. Mr. Hutchinson here on Job and on [blank]. In returning at Eve call'd at Mr. Winchesters.

8. Captain Maynard and Lieutenant Bruce run the North Line of the Island, and set up Stakes.

9. Receiv'd a joyful Letter from my son Forbush that on the Night before last (the night after the 7th) my Dauter Mary was delivered of a Dauter, and both Mother and Child well. All glory be to God our Saviour and Deliverer. May He perfect begun Mercy! Richard Kelly at work again on John Dunlops Account. He setts up the Fence on the Line before mention'd. My Wife to Mr. Harringtons and brought seven Dollars which I borrow of him to pay the Reverend Mr. Stone for Newton Meadow.

10. Kelly at work here: and finishes for John Dunlop. Lieutenant Forbush Setts out 90 Apple Trees South west of the Barn—70 out of my own Nursery and 20 from Mr. Whitney.

Showery p.m. P.M. a Cow which Ebenezer had of Mr. Abraham Knowlton and which I have had to keep a while, was Mir'd in the Swamp which I took up a few Years ago, near the Cedar Swamps; but we got her out again alive. Before Welch² in Boston Jayl is hang'd (the Day for his Execution being tomorrow) another barbarous Murder is Committed, and by another Irish-man.³

11. Rode to Mr. Daniel Mathis's to a Fast kept there on Account of his Sciatica and Discouragements. Mr. Stone⁴ was there, but no Minister besides. I preach'd a.m. on Ps. 51, 11, and pray'd both before and after Sermons. Left Mr. Stone to carry on the remaining Exercises: being oblig'd myself to hasten to my own Catechetical Exercises to Young Men. About 24 persons attended: I deliver'd Number 5 which is from page 17 to 22.

12. To my great Sorrow Mr. Abraham Smiths Goods which Mr. Ebenezer Rice seiz'd on an Execution, were sold at Vendue at Captain Maynards. Billy work'd part of the Day at Mr. Nurse's.

13. Mr. Moses Morse plough'd my Stubble at the Island, with 4 Oxen and his large Plough. At Eve my Kinsman Mr. Daniel Needham⁵ came from Norwich and is travelling to Salem. He is much out of Health.

14. Read Judg. 18. Preach'd on Ez. 18, 30, repeating with alterations and additions Sermon on Jer. 31, from page 15 to the End. P.M. Read Jam. 5, preach'd on 1 Thess. 4, 17, last Clause, and chiefly made use of Sermon on Ps. 17, ult. The Happiness of Heaven from the Company: Especially of the glorious God

² William Welch, also known as George Kelly, was tried and convicted of the murder of Darby O'Brien "in November last by stabbing him in the Belly" *The Boston Weekly News-Letter*, March 14, 1754. Welch was executed in Boston April 11, 1754.

³ "Last Saturday in the Afternoon Two Men at the South End having some Dispute about cording Wood on a Wharf, one of them struck the other on the Head with one of the Sticks, so that he fell down Speechless and expired soon after. The Man that gave the Blow surrender'd himself up to Justice, and, after Examination, was committed to Prison: The Jury of Inquest have found it wilful Murder." *The Boston Weekly News-Letter*, April 11, 1754.

⁴ Nathan Stone of Southborough.

⁵ Parkman's oldest sister, Mary, had married Daniel Needham.

Himself—from page 73 to 82. The Reason of my using old sermons to Day (tho I made great Alterations) was I was preparing on a difficult Text, viz. Rom. 5, 12, and by means of many Interruptions as well as the Subject I could not accomplish my Preparations. N.B. My Kinsman was so ill that he went not to Meeting at all.

15. Mr. Nathan Maynard plough'd my Island stubble with Mr. Nurse's and his own Oxen. My Kinsman still but poorly, but behaves as a Christian. Sent his Horse to Mr. Bathericks to be kept.

16. My Kinsman goes on his Journey. Rode to Shrewsbury Ministers Meeting at Mr. Cushings. Mr. Stone, Morse, Mac-carty,⁶ Buckminster,⁷ and Davis⁸ there. Mr. Buckminster the Concio on 2 Cor. 2, 15, 16. Mr. Martyn not there to Day. Mr. John Brighams wife came to us.

17. Mr. Martyn and Mr. Smith came to Association. Mr. Davis preach'd on 1 Cor. 16, 13. We went in a Body to see Colonel Ward,⁹ at his request, he being in a low State of Health. I pray'd with him. His Dauter also ill. Mr. Millen¹⁰ my Com-pany home, but he goes to Hopkinton. Mr. John Child and his Lad and Dr. Jenison¹¹ lodge. I Sent my Mare to Captain Bakers and Dr. Jenisons to Deacon Newtons.

18. Mr. Child glazes my sons shop. Dr. Jenison to Leicester. Lieutenant Hezekiah Ward din'd. P.M. Mrs. Molly Martyn. Unusual Cold Weather.

19. Exceeding Cold. Ebenezer's weak Cow brings a Calf. The Cold is more Severe, and the Ice thicker than I think I have ever known it.

⁶ Thaddeus Maccarty of Worcester.

⁷ Joseph Buckminster of Rutland.

⁸ Joseph Davis of Holden.

⁹ Justice Nahum Ward of Shrewsbury died a few weeks later, May 7, 1754.

¹⁰ The Reverend John Mellen of Sterling.

¹¹ William Jennison, who did not have a college education, studied medicine with Dr. Stanton Prentice of Lancaster. He began to practice medicine in Mendon in May, 1753, but "afterwards engaged in trade." Bond, *Watertown*, II, 802.

20. The Weather moderated considerably, yet 'tis Cold. An unusual Time! Mr. Greenwood¹² of Sutton, from the General Court calls and takes the Journals of the House of Representatives which he had lent me; and acquaints me with the proceedings of the Court.

21. Read Judg. 19. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Rom. 5, 12. Read P.M. 1 Pet. 1. Acquainted the Congregation that I perceiv'd it was the mind of those I had Convers'd with that it is not adviseable to have among us, a public Contribution for Mr. Hill of Shrewsbury (who was burnt out and whose Request was read some Sabbaths ago) not only because of our Circumstances here, but Mr. Hill has receiv'd pritty full Supplis; and it is not expected from us, all Things considered. But yet if any persons are still So inclined as to Contribute Money or Necessarys of Life, they may use their Discretion.

22. Thomas rides to Hopkinton upon my Mare. He desires to use some severity with Mr. Israel Walker who keeps him out of his Money from one Year to another. He was to have return'd the same Day but did not.

23. Thomas return'd—does nothing with Mr. Walker.

24. My wife makes a Visit to Mr. Martyns P.M. and return'd at Eve.

25. Mr. Barrett¹³ preach'd my Lecture on Ps. 34, 8. N.B. Captain Wood¹⁴ came with him, who also, and Dr. Brigham of Marlborough din'd with us.

26. Mr. Jacob Foster here in his Way to Brookfield. Alpheus Newton disquieted with my Sheep.

27. Trouble with my Creatures breaking in to Neighbour's Meadows.

28. Read Judg. 20 to number 25. Preach'd on 1 Cor. 15, 24, 27, 28, a. and p.m. P.M. read 1 Pet. 2. May God pardon our sins and graciously accept us! My Neighbour Williams's Wife

¹² Daniel Greenwood. Benedict and Tracy, *Sutton*, p. 653.

¹³ The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

¹⁴ John Wood.

ill of the Fever (as it is Suppos'd) which so many of her Relations have dy'd of at Sherbourn.

29. Thomas help'd me at the Garden a.m. Catechiz'd Children at the Meeting House both a. and p.m. Visited Mrs. Williams in the Morning and prayed with her. Was at t'other House at Eve. Gave Lieutenant Maynard a Note to Mr. Biglow of 8£ Lawfull Money. Mr. Foster came back from Brookfield but goes to his Brother Twitchells to lodge. N.B. We were almost wholly out of Hay.

30. Mr. Foster came here and rode with me to Mr. Jonas Brigham's who moves a Barn from the East side of the Road to the back of his House.

MAY, 1754.

1. I visited Mrs. Williams and pray'd with her. She is very bad and grows much weaker. Visited Mrs. Barrett of Hopkinton who is Sick. Return'd at Evening.

2. I preach'd at Lieutenant Tainters, by his Desire, the sermon and on the Text I preach'd from when Neighbour Newton's House was burnt, viz. Lam. 3, 22, 23. My wife went with me. Before I got home Mr. Eleazer Williams meets with an Horse to Visit his Mother. I went and pray'd with her; she is hastening away apace, and was Sensible. Discours'd like a good Christian. Gave her Testimony to the Truth of the Christian Religion and to the Expediency and usefulness of waiting upon divine Ordinances. Mr. Williams desir'd me to return again in the Morning—

3. Which I did—but his Wife was a Corps laid out. She departed after Day break this Morning. Mr. Eleazer Whitney brought me forty Rails, ten of them being beyond the Number I expected, and not Splic'd. Still exceeding dry Weather. Mr. John Freeland Taylor makes a Coat of Blue Broad Cloth for Thomas. This Day is a week since Mrs. Williams was confin'd—She was at Lecture yesterday was Sennight.

4. Mrs. Williams bury'd. May God Sanctify this breach! Mr. Freeland here till he went to Mrs. Williams Funeral.

5. I have been preparing upon the Doctrine of Original Sin, comparing Mr. John Taylor,¹ Dr. Watts (Ruin and Recovery),² Turretine,³ Van Mast., Mr. Willard⁴ etc. and cannot finish in season what I propos'd. Therefore on this Consideration and on Consideration of the Extraordinary Drought preach'd a.m. on Jer. 14, 22 and p.m. on Occasion of the Death of Mrs. Williams and another of Mr. Nathaniel Whitneys Brothers and I preach'd on Job 14, 14. The public Reading was Judg. 20, from number 26, a.m. and p.m. was 1 Pet. 3.

6. Here the Woods at Wachusett are much on Fire in this terrible Drought, and 'tis thought they approach nearer. The burnt leaves by means of the strong Winds reach even hither. Mr. Jonas Twitchell works for me, carrying out Dung—my sons Ebenezer and Thomas also hard at it. Have Ebenzers Cart and Oxen and my Mare for the Team: and borrow Deacon Newtons Cart. Mr. Bigelow and Timothy Warrin here at Evening. Mr. John Freeland finishes Thomas's Coat and goes home.

7. Our sheep continue troublesome to Alphy Newton and Mr. Francis Whipple comes to me on his Account. The Shower of Rain tho but Small exceeding comfortable and reviving.

8. Warmer Weather. Many People are planting to Day. I walk'd up to Lieutenant Fays and to Engin Fay's. Hear that Colonel Nahum Ward dy'd Yesterday. A great Loss to his County!

9. Held a Catechetical Exercise to Young Women, of which forty one attended. At Eve was at old Mr. Maynards.

10. Ebenezer's Mare which I have now the Care of, is kept at Mr. Bonds whilst Ebenezer has mine to work—that I may help

¹ John Taylor, *The Scripture Doctrine of Original Sin Proposed to Free and Candid Examination* (London, 1740). Other editions followed.

² Isaac Watts, "The Ruin and Recovery of Mankind," *Discourses, Essays, and Tracts on Various Subjects*, VI (London, 1753), 177-320. The Ruin and Recovery evidently did not appear as a separate imprint.

³ This was probably Francisus Turretinus, *Compendium Theologiae Didactico-Elencticae* (Amsterdam, 1695). Parkman owned this volume. See Diary, Nov. 21, 1747.

⁴ Samuel Willard, D.D., minister of the Old South Church and Vice-President of Harvard College, was the author of numerous works. The editor has not discovered a work with reference to original sin in the title. Many of Willard's writings were collected by Joseph Sewall and Thomas Prince and published as *A Compleat Body of Divinity in Two Hundred and Fifty Expository Lectures* (Boston, 1726).

him what I can. His Father Harrington here. Lucy came from Brookfield with Mr. Baldwin last night. I rode up to Shrewsbury to the Funeral of Colonel Nahum Ward. A very great number of people attended—many Gentlemen from Neighbouring Towns—except Ministers, there being no Minister from the Neighbouring Towns or Parishes but my Self. Mrs. Patty in a low Condition. I supp'd with the Bearers and other Gentlemen at the Widows. Justice Baker and Lieutenant Fay my Company home. N.B. We had a very refreshing Rain gently distill'd most of the Afternoon. A Seasonable Blessing this exceeding dry time.

11. My Cattle break in to the Meadows So often it gives great Disquietment. Mr. Nathaniel Whitney in particular greatly offended, and in intemperate Anger, which gave me much trouble. Last Night Watertown New Meeting House burnt.

12. Read Judg. 21. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Rom. 5, 12. P.M. read 1 Pet. 4. Showery. We praise God for this Great Blessing. May it please God to pour out abundantly His Holy Spirit! and may Doctrine distill as the Rain, and Knowledge flow down among us!

13. A most mercifull growing Season! P.M. Mr. Baldwin came from Sudbury.

14. [No entry.]

15. Mr. Hezekiah Pratt plough'd at the Island. I was at t'other House. Ebenezer has begun to plant one piece. I was at Mr. David Maynards with old Mr. Green. N.B. I wrote to Colonel Chandler concerning my Collection of Poems⁵ and sent him the Paper of Subscriptions. Wrote also to Mr. Forbush of Brookfield. These were sent by Elisha Jones. Mr. Baldwin and John Woods begin to work at the Meeting House. They undertake the Pulpit in the first place. Frequent Showers of Rain, rendering it a wonderful season, thanks be to God! O that Grace might Spring in our Hearts! Mr. Nathaniel Whitney here and seems very Calm. I read him a paper containing Several Offers which I make him. To which he makes me no Reply.

⁵ Parkman's hopes of publication of his poems, which have been lost, never did materialize.

16. Showery this Morning also. Lucy lodg'd at t'other House. I went into the Neighbourhood to get somebody to plough or harrow my Ground, but without Success. I was at Mr. Daniel Warrins—but he offer'd a Bushel of Indian Corn. N.B. I had din'd at Lieutenant Tainters with Master Hezekiah Coolidge⁶ who came the Day before Yesterday to keep School, and keeps at the School House. Mr. Baldwin here at Eve, and aks Leave to Spend a little Time with my Dauter Lucy.

17. Still Showery. Mr. David Maynard junior with his son David and a Team, ploughs by the Barn.

18. Very rainy.

19. Read Ruth 7. Preach'd on Rom. 5, 15, 18 a. and p.m. Read Pet. 5.

20. Town Meeting to See whether the Town will Send a Representative. They vote not to. Billy must furrow out for ploughing; he has Benjamin Rice to help him; but they prove insufficient—forc'd to get Mr. Jonathan Forbush to hold plough and we plant part of the piece by the Barn. Mr. Hezekiah Coolidge visits me and lodges here.

21. Greatly fatigued and disappointed about Oxen to plough my further Field at the Island. I Seek to above half a score Neighbours in Vain. We are also out of Rye, and when I was about to go out P.M. Mr. Isaac Johnson of Southboro came to desire me to go and see his Father in his last Minutes (as they apprehend), Mr. Stone being gone with his Wife to Mr. Martyns. It was exceeding difficult for me to go, yet I went. Return'd at Eve.

22. Lieutenant Gilbert of Brookfield here. N.B. my Horse was kept last Night by Mr. Batherick. Lieutenant Thomas Forbush plough'd for me. Abner Warrin wash'd 5 of my sheep, which were all that were wash'd. P.M. my son Forbush here. He

⁶ (Harvard 1750). He was the son of a tavernkeeper and selectman of Sherborn. At Harvard, Coolidge had been punished for fighting, card-playing, and gambling. After making his humble confession and graduating, he kept the Roxbury Grammar School for a time. At Westborough he frequented taverns and gambled, and was soon dismissed from the school. *Sibley*, XII, 539-540.

goes at Eve to t'other House. Deacon Haynes⁷ of Sudbury brings a Letter to our Church for a Council.

23. Billy has Eben Rice to help him furrow and plant: and they almost finish.

24. [No entry.]

25. Mr. Israel Hearsy⁸ from Boston here going to Oxford to See his Wife. I rode to Southborough (at Mr. Stone's⁹ Desire by Mr. Ebenezer Rice).

26. I preach'd at Southborough on Eph. 5, 14, a. and p.m. Mr. Stone here, on Nahum 1, 2. Return'd home at Eve. I lodg'd at his House.

27. Andrew Newton Sign'd and seal'd and deliver'd another more fairly drawn Deed, and his Wife also in presence of Messers. Biton and Lock, their near Neighbours. Din'd at Mr. Bridge's¹⁰ in Framingham on part of a large Turtle or Tortoise. Showery—yet rode to Captain Livermore's¹¹ at Waltham and lodg'd there.

28. Visited Mrs. Williams (widow of the late Reverend Mr. Williams)¹² and Mr. Cushing¹³ and his Wife. Proceeded on my Journey to Cambridge (having been refresh'd at Watertown at Mr. Benjamin Hastings) din'd at Brother Champneys¹⁴ late in the Day—Rain prevented my going to Boston. At Eve at President Holyokes¹⁵—and at Mr. Spragues. Lodg'd at sister Barretts: Sister Lydia¹⁶ being there also, but my Mare (Ebenezers) was kept at Brother Champneys.

29. Early to Boston. Put up my Mare at Mr. Procters. Dr. Mayhew¹⁷ the Election sermon on Mat. 25, 21. Din'd at Brother Samuels and went to the Convention P.M. Dr. Sewal Moderator and Pray'd. At Eve at Brother Samuels my Brother William

⁷ Josiah Haynes.

⁸ The husband of Parkman's niece, Tabitha.

⁹ The Reverend Nathan Stone.

¹⁰ The Reverend Matthew Bridge.

¹¹ Samuel Livermore.

¹² Warham Williams of Waltham had died, June 22, 1751.

¹³ The Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

¹⁴ Parkman's brother-in-law, Samuel Champney of Cambridge.

¹⁵ Edward Holyoke of Harvard College.

¹⁶ Parkman's sister-in-law, Lydia Champney.

¹⁷ The great Jonathan Mayhew.

also. Sweet Conference together about our Affairs, which are in Common. I lodg'd there.

30. Conference with my Brethren and Messers Oliver and Briant¹⁸ at Mr. William Winters office upon settling what our honoured Mother had given us, and we agree with the Executor, or Eldest Brother. Broke fast at Olivers.¹⁹ Return'd to Convention and attended the public meeting. Mr. Williams²⁰ of Long Meadow preach'd on Exod. 25, 8. The Collection follow'd. I din'd at Dr. Sewalls.²¹ Present Messrs. Flynt,²² Niles,²³ Williams (that preach'd), Townsend²⁴ of Needham, Byles,²⁵ Quincy (Edmund)²⁶—P.M. at Mr. Prince's,²⁷ and at Mr. Foxcrofts.²⁸ Supp'd at Cousen Edward Langdons—and lodg'd at Brother Parkmans. Return'd Mr. Pierpoints Letters to Mrs. Derricut.

31. Variously employ'd still in Town. Din'd at Mr. Stoddards. At Eve rode to Brother Harringtons in Watertown and lodged there.

JUNE, [1754]

Set out Early in the Morning from Brother Harringtons. Stop'd at Mr. Woodburns¹ Tavern in Waltham, and wrote a Letter by him to Brother Samuel Parkmans. Cross'd Charles River and went to Captain Josh Fullers. Proceeded up to Natick. Refresh'd at the Reverend Mr. Badgers;² visited Mrs. Peabody;³ and Mr. Hezekiah Coolidge having invited me to his Fathers in Sherbourn, promising to come up with me—I therefore rode

¹⁸ Joseph Bryant had married Parkman's niece, Elizabeth Parkman.

¹⁹ Edward Brattle Oliver, who had married Parkman's niece, Esther Parkman.

²⁰ Stephen Williams.

²¹ The Reverend Joseph Sewall of the Old South Church.

²² Tutor Henry Flynt of Harvard College.

²³ The Reverend Samuel Niles of Braintree.

²⁴ The Reverend Jonathan Townsend.

²⁵ Mather Byles of Boston.

²⁶ (Harvard 1722). "Squire" Quincy, the great landowner and office-holder of Braintree and Boston.

²⁷ Thomas Prince of the Old South Church.

²⁸ Thomas Foxcroft of the First Church in Boston.

¹ Samuel Woodburn.

² Stephen Badger.

³ The widow of the Reverend Oliver Peabody of Natick.

there; but he was not at Home. It was said he was gone to his Uncle's, Major Coolidge. It was about noon when I left Mr. James Coolidges and proceeded to the Majors—but neither was he there. I din'd there, and hastened to Colonel Buckminster's. From whence Dr. Wilson⁴ of Sherbourn rode with me some miles—and gave me an account of Some of Coolidge's late Conduct at Coltons Tavern in Cambridge—his gaming etc. In Southboro a storm rising (after I left Mr. Stones) I was oblig'd to stop at Lieutenant Brigham's. Arriv'd in Safety and found my Family well. D.O.M. Gratis.

2. Read Ruth 2 and 2 Pet. 1. Repeated sermon on Jer. 8, 4, 5, a. and p.m. Captain Storer of Boston in his Journey from Connecticut attended with us, and din'd here. He lodg'd at Mr. Ebenezer Rice's.

3. Mr. Nurse's Piggs (being unyoked), root up great part of my Field by the Barn to our great Grief.

4. [No entry.]

5. Preach'd my own Lecture on 1 Cor. 11, 31 to page 10. Read the Letter from the aggrieved Brethren at Sudbury—and left the Affair to further Consideration. After Lecture Came Justice Liscom⁵ to acquaint me that old Mr. Johnson⁶ is dead and Mr. Stone being gone to Harwich, the survivors desire me to attend the Funeral next Saturday. N.B. Inform'd concerning Brother Abijah Gales Conduct towards Mr. Isaac Amsdens wife; and desire he would stay from the Communion till the Cause can be heard. At Eve came Messers. Williams and Breck of Springfield and lodge here. Lieutenant Tainter took my Billy with him to lead the Horses to his Barn.

6. The Horses fetch'd by Billy, and the said Springfield Gentlemen leave us. N.B. Mr. Ebenezer Rice repeatedly request he may cutt two or three large Trees for Timber in the Ministerial Lott—I advis'd yesterday with several of the selectmen, and to Day with Esquire Baker. I am not so free to sell any

⁴ John Wilson (Harvard 1741) practiced for a time among the Indians at Natick and then settled in Hopkinton. *Sibley*, XI, 96-97.

⁵ Samuel Lyscomb of Southborough.

⁶ William Johnson of Southborough.

stick off from that Lot; but Mr. Rice tells me they are such Trees as are not likely to be of so great profit and Service any other way. It was also desir'd that Mr. Marly were appriz'd of it, that there might be no Disquietment, even altho he has verbally declar'd he Should not trouble himself about the Ministerial Rights. But Mr. Rice said he could not have Time to go over to Mr. Martyns⁷ or Captain Eagers about it. Whereupon I told him he had heard what anyhow the Case was; he must use his Discretion. He said if he did cut 'em he would pay all Damages that Should ensue, every manner of the Way.

7. [No entry.]

8. Ensign Whipple of Grafton brot a Letter from Mr. Hutchinson about their Difficultys and desiring Help.

9. Sacrament. Read Ruth 3, 2 Pet. 2. Preach'd on Isa. 9, 6, his Name Wonderful. P.M. on Rom. 6, 1, 2. After the Exercises the Church stop'd upon the Sudbury Affair. Voted not to Send. But those who were for sending and were the minor part, were in some Chafe, especially M. Grow and Lieutenant Bruce. Esquire Baker and Mr. Whipple earnestly for it. However there was no withstanding so evident a Vote.

10. My son Thomas help'd me. Had Mr. Williams's Cart and Oxen to carry out the ashes to the Island Field. My sons plough'd with my Mare and Lieutenant Forbush's plough. P.M. Messers. Chamberlin and Joseph Wood, with Two or Three sons apiece, hoed what was to be hoed at the Island.

11. Rain. Yet I rode to the School House and Catechiz'd the Children there, at 4 P.M.

12. Mr. Martyn came here in order to go with me to Grafton. No word nor Lisp of either Side respecting the Epistolary Acrimony. At Grafton we join'd with Messers. Cushing and Hall⁸ in hearing the Matters of Difficultie between a Number of the Church and Mr. Hutchinson,⁹ who they conceive, was chargeable with Falsehood in saying that the Selectmen had agreed and determin'd to move Mr. Arnolds Shop and at Such a Time—

⁷ The Reverend John Martyn of Northborough.

⁸ David Hall of Sutton.

⁹ Aaron Hutchinson.

when they had not. See the Minutes of the Council. Mr. Carter,¹⁰ Father in Law to Mr. Hutchinson there. Mr. Hall at Eve went home. The rest of us lodg'd there.

13. Mr. Hutchinsons Confession new drawn—we were at the Meeting House Twice. The Church accepted by a Majority of those present. I pray'd at the Conclusion. After Dinner we parted. Mr. Martyn and I rode to Westborough together but no word of our own Troubles. Call'd at Winchesters—and at Captain Bakers. When I came home marry'd Cornelius Biglow junior to Sarah Miller.¹¹ Billy to School at the School House. Mr. Hezekiah Coolidge Master.

14. Captain Bakers¹² Company together in pursuance of Beating Orders to go to the Eastward; I pray'd with the Company. Captain Timothy Brigham of Southborough and others here after the Company was dismiss'd.

15. The Busness of the Week and the Circumstances of my Family prevent my making the fully of my Ordinary Preparations for the Sabbath. Mr. Jonah Warrin here Early and desires me to write a Letter to his son Samuel which I gratify'd him in. Receiv'd a Letter from Daniel Millen to be Communicated.

16. Read Ruth ult. Preach'd a.m. on Isa. 9, 6—shall be call'd Wonderfull. P.M. read 2 Pet. 3. Repeated on Mat. 22, 37, 38. Stay'd the Church and read the Letter from Daniel Miller and the request was answer'd.¹³

17. Sundry Neighbours, viz. Mr. Jonathan Warrin, Daniel Hardy, Phinehas Hardy, Solomon Woods, and Ebenezer Rice junior. Samuel Harrington, Jonathan Bond, Moses Nurse's Boy little Ebenezer came and gave a lift in Weeding my little Field by the Barn. The Precinct Met (among other Things) to See whether Mr. Jonathan Forbush Should retain his Right in the Meeting House Seating, if he Conveys his Right in the Pew which he drew for me, equal to what he would have had if he had

¹⁰ Margery Carter of Hebron, Conn., married the Grafton minister.

¹¹ The daughter of James Miller of Westborough.

¹² Edward Baker of Westborough.

¹³ Daniel Millen of Holliston had requested assistance in a council to be held July 2.

done nothing about said Pew. They sent for me—upon Esquire Bakers informing me in the midst of them that the Money for the Pew must be immediately paid, I insisted to have a just Title convey'd to me I would See to the answering it—Upon its being intimated that they wanted the money forthwith and maybe I could not pay, I answer'd that altho this precinct, as a precinct had paid me their Dues (that is, with regard to Sallery) yet this Body, namely as Members of the Town were yet indebted to me; and that as much or more than the Pew came to. Lieutenant Bruce answer'd Sharply, and coarsely, asking me with great Anger Why I Upraided them with this? Whereas I spake of my just dues only when forc'd to it, and with all Meekness in my just Defence. But I soon retir'd from them and would not stay to contend with them.

18. The Association met here, viz. Messers. Cushing, Martyn, Stone, Smith, Maccarty. Lieutenant Tainter kill'd one of my Lambs. Captain Baker sent a side of Lamb. Mr. Ebenezer Rice's Wife sent a dozen and half of Biskett—French Turnips, Potatoes and Salletting. As for the Exercises and the Conversation see the Association Minutes. Mr. Maccarty lodg'd at Esquire Bakers; the rest lodg'd here. The Horses were sent 1 to Esquire's, 1 to Lieutenant Tainters, 1 to Mr. Nurse's and Two to Mr. Pratt's.

19. Mr. Maccarty pray'd at the public Lecture and Mr. Cushing preach'd on 3 John 4. Mr. Hutchinson, here and Mr. Hezekiah Coolidge din'd here. Mt. Hutchinson and I confirm'd an Agreement to Change next Lords Day.

20. Catechetical Exercise to Young Men, Number 6 from page 22 to page [blank]. N.B. That I might not hinder the Carpenters at the Meeting House, I took the Young Men to my own.

21. Having heard that Messers. Harrington and Daniel Forbush and some others were disquieted with what I mention'd of late at the Precinct Meeting concerning the Towns arrears with me, I went to see 'em and talk with them and did so, and made a Visit likewise at Mr. Nathaniel Whitneys. Am growing Feeble and out of Health.

22. Another Letter from the agriev'd Brethren in Sudbury,

which I am the more sorry for as they Seem to have some bad Design in it; or at least it will be like to have a bad tendency among us, some of the Brethren of our Church being in some Ruffle already about their Affair. But its coming now when I am going out of Town, and there will be no other Lords Day in which it can be done, I thought it best to acquaint Deacon Newton with it, that he might tell the Church—but I wrote what I said to him and left it with him, telling him with all that the Letter was at the Churchs Service, being left with my wife for them if they Should desire to have it. Then I rode to Grafton.

23. Preach'd at Grafton on Rom. 12, 28. If it be possible etc. Mr. Hutchinson at Westborough. I baptiz'd a Dauter of Mr. Andrew Adams, and a son, Abner, for Mr. Charles Bruce. Rainy Day, but at Eve it increas'd, but especially was violent in the Night. Yet Mr. Hutchinson return'd home which I could not. Mr. Hutchinson preach'd on Gen. 3, 22, 23, 24. Heb. 11, 4.

24. Great part of the forenoon rainy, but I set out for Westboro. At Captain Bakers found that he and Francis Whipple were disquieted with me about the Sudbury Letters not being read, whereas Deacon Newton was told that it was at the Churchs service. N.B. Deacon was at the Squires, and I think own'd that I told him where they might have the Letter—but he said he had promis'd me he would Say nothing but what I had writ. I offer'd to warn a Church Meeting this Day to be towards Night, and to hire a man to do it if that would satisfie; but it was not accepted. I left 'em ruffl'd. P.M. saw Mr. Abraham Smith with his Father ride upwards.

25. This Day the Churchs are to meet at Sudbury for Council. Mr. Campbell¹⁴ of Oxford, and Deacon Davis here on their way thither. N.B. Mr. Nathaniel Whitney's Discourse of Sudbury Affair. Jonah and the Storm. Send Mr. Nurse my Chair to carry his Wife to Salem.

26. A very menacing Letter from Mr. Abraham Smith, threatning to prosecute me for telling him he was a Lyar and had told a Lie.

¹⁴ The Reverend John Campbell.

27. Mr. Adams at work making a pair of Great Doors for the Barn. Sent an answer to Mr. Smiths Letter, by Mr. Phinehas Rice of Grafton. Was over at t'other House.

28. Mr. Adams finishes that work. Mr. Samuel Livermore junior here, going to Cold Spring. I wrote by Mr. Livermore to Mr. Forbush on the Smith Affair. Mr. Phinehas Rice brings me another blustering Letter from Mr. Smith.

29. I was in a poor feeble, relax'd State, but got through my Preparations somewhat Seasonably and largely. D.G.

30. Read and expounded for the a.m. Exercise 1 Sam., chapter 1. P.M. read 1 John 1, and preach'd on Rom. 6, 3, 4. Forenoon Exercise finish'd Somewhat before 12. Altho I was Still but in a weak State yet had today Some Appetite to my Dinner which I have not had for some time. Stay'd the Church at Eve and related to them what I had done about the Sudbury Letter, and so endeavour'd to remove all misunderstandings among them about that Affair, and I said that if any one of them had any Thing to offer there was Opportunity but no Body Spake. So the Church was dismiss'd with Blessing, and I desir'd that those who were appointed Delegates to the Holliston Council would Seasonably attend that service.

JULY, 1754.

1. Messers. Martyn and Maccarty and their Wives here p.m. Neighbour Eleazer Williams plough'd at the Island, and Mr. Benjamin Tainter hoed. Send Two Calves to be kept at t'other Place: Mr. Tainter assisted in getting them over and took my Mare to keep at his own Pasture.

2. My Mare was brot from Mr. Tainters: and Lieutenant and I rode to Holliston. Neither heard nor saw any Thing of Esquire Baker, the other Delegate. At Mr. Daniel Mellens who had call'd us, we found the Reverend Messers. Bucknam¹ and Bridge,² and their Delegates, viz. Esquire Adams³ for Medway first

¹ Nathan Bucknam of Millis.

² Matthew Bridge of Framingham

³ Elisha Adams.

Church, and Esquire Haven,⁴ Deacon Pike⁵ and Ensign Stone⁶ for Framingham. We got together by about 10 a.m. so that we settled all our Preparatory Business respecting the Churchs Committee who were ready with us to attend upon the Council when we should be form'd—we form'd—(tho I earnestly besought I might be excus'd leading in the Work, and try'd a Vote for Mr. Bucknam), yet I could not escape. Mr. Bucknam chose Scribe and sent a written Message to Captain Littlefield to attend if he pleas'd. These Things before Dinner. P.M. Mr. Mellen gave us a long and too confus'd Account of his Case. At Eve were in our Debates—Could find no Method to proceed in: both Esquire Adams and Esquire Haven went home. We remain'd wholly incapable of drawing up anything, till we dispers'd. I only, lodg'd at Mr. Mellens. Lieutenant Tainter at Captain Littlefields. I was in a most feeble, weak, trembling State thro the Night and had but little sleep. But (Mr. Mellen lodging with me)

3. In the Morning I had some Discourse with him which open'd a Way for us to proceed in—I wrote—it took; with Mr. Bridge's Help it was ripen'd—and we had a result which succeeded (D.G.). Mr. Mellen Consented. The Ministers din'd at Mr. Prentice's. P.M. went to Lecture. I pray'd before sermon. Mr. Bucknam preach'd on 1 Sam. 4, 13, for his Heart trembled for the Ark of God. After Sermon the Church was Stop'd and our Result was publicly read by the Scribe. Mr. Mellen renewed his Acceptance, Submission etc. The Church also voted their Concurrence. And Mrs. Mellen publicly consenting was also restor'd by the Church to Charity and privileges—all which gave us great Joy and cause of Praise to God. We left 'em cheerfully and Lieutenant Tainter and I rode to Southborough. I wanted to Consult Mr. Ezra Tailor on the Smith Affair. Found him at Captain Timothy Brighams, and read him the Letters which had pass'd between us. He said he would go and See Smith next Monday or Tuesday, with Mr. Ebenezer Rice. Lieu-

⁴ Joseph Haven, selectman and representative.

⁵ Moses Pike was a prominent office-holder. Temple, *Framingham*, p. 670.

⁶ Hezekiah Stone.

tenant Tainter rode Home. I lodg'd at Mr. Stones being afraid to ride in the Evening Air. Had but a poor Night.

4. Lowery till 8 or 9. I return'd home when it clear'd up in Safety, except my feeble state. My wife tells me that 16 Hands came Yesterday forenoon and hoed the rest of my Corn over.

5. Am not altogether So faint and feeble. Can Study part of my Time.

6. Mr. Jason Haven,⁷ a Senior sophister here; din'd with us. Sent an Answer to Mr. Smiths second Letter by Primus—Mr. Phinehas Rice's Negro. P.M. I attended the burying of Mr. Thomas Twitchells Infant.

7. Read and gave large Exposition of 1 Sam. 2. P.M. read 1 John 2. By the Extra Business of last Week was able to prepare but one Exercise—therefore p.m. repeated Exposition on Mat. 11, 29, 30, delivering two Exercises in one. Mr. Gershom Brigham's wife din'd with us. At Eve read to the Church the late Result of the Council at Holliston.

8. Went to t'other House; my son Ebenezer began to mow between the House and Barn. Brought over Ebenezer's Mare for Mr. Ebenezer Rice to go down with Mr. Ezra Taylor to Abraham Smith of Sudbury. At Eve Mr. Jason Haven came and lodg'd here. Thomas mow'd Bushes p.m.

9. Mr. Haven to Framingham. Thomas mow'd at the Island. Billy mow'd p.m. Mr. Forbush and his Wife and Child with their Friend Deacon Cutler and his Wife came from Brookfield to t'other House last Night, and this Day here, with Mrs. Brown (Mr. Zechariah Browns Wife) broke fast and din'd here. P.M. Mr. Forbush to Cambridge and the rest of the Company left us except My Dauter and her Child. Master Coolidge and I rode over to Mr. Eliezer Rice's to See the Ministerial Meadow, and find that some of the Grass is now fit to be mow'd.

10. Expected Mr. Stone to preach my Lecture but he did not come. I preach'd myself on 1 Cor. 11, 31. Thomas and Billy at the Island part of the Day.

⁷ (Harvard 1754). Haven became the minister of Dedham, 1756-1803.

11. Mr. Phinehas Hardy here about the Affair of the Pew; and he seems inclin'd to have me resign the matter to Mr. Jonathan Forbush that he may take the Pew and Pay the Money. I visited Captain Forbush and other Neighbours as far as Jonas Twitchells. N.B. came home on Foot. Thomas and Billy mowing and raking at the Island.

12. Mr. Arnold of Grafton here, and obtains of me a Copy of Mr. Hutchinsons Second Paper (or Confession). Thomas and William mowe and make Hay at the Island, and Lieutenant Tainter Carts up a few Cocks of it. It is So Cloudy Weather and now and then Sprinkles of Rain, that the Hay does not make as we could wish. Mr. Baldwin Strikes me up an Extempore Gate before my House. Plants in fore yard.

13. Thomas finish'd mowing at the Island. Dull weather a.m. brighter p.m. I hiv'd a Swarm of Bees my Self, my sons both of them gone to the Island.

14. Read 1 Sam. 3. Mr. Forbush preach'd for me on 1 Cor. 11, 29. I administer'd the Lords Supper. P.M. read 1 John 3. Mr. Forbush preach'd on Eph. 5, 8. They went to their Father Forbush at Evening.

15. Went to the Ministerial Meadow and found there Messers. Jonas Twitchell and John Rogers mowing. Rody Smith was gone to Captain Maynards for Rum but mow'd the rest of the Day. My son Thomas got in a Jagg from the Island and then mow'd at the Meadow p.m. P.M. I rode with Mr. Forbush to Waltham and lodg'd at Mr. Isaac Brown's.

16. Set out from Mr. Browns early; broke fast at the Reverend Mr. Adams's^s at Roxbury. We proceeded to Mr. John Barkers at Boston, whom Mr. Abraham Smith I Suppose has dependence upon to testify against me; but who in Discourse, tells me he was astonish'd at Smiths Impudence that Night he was at my House, and the next morning likewise, than ever he was in his Life; and says he doth not remember that he so much as once heard me express my Self towards Smith in any unbecoming manner. To this Mr. Forbush was Witness. Thence we went to Dr. Pyn-

^s Amos Adams (Harvard 1754) served Roxbury, 1753-1775.

cheons⁹ and din'd there. Spent the Chief of the p.m. at Brother Samuels, Captain Storers, and Mr. Kneelands.¹⁰ We return'd as far as to Mr. Adams's and lodg'd there. At home Thomas and Billy rak'd at the Meadow a.m. P.M. prov'd rainy, and at night a great Storm of Thunder and Lightning and Rain.

17. Commencement. Mr. Forbush and I set out early from Mr. Adams's and went to Cambridge. Mr. Forbush took his second Degree. I din'd in the Hall. We lodg'd together at Sister Barretts having left our Horse and Chair under the Care of Brother Champney. Thomas and Billy, and Rody Smith rak'd at the Meadow, and on 18 Neighbour Eliezer Rice, Hezekiah Pratt and Edwards Whipple brought three Load of Hay from the Meadow.

18. Subscriptions for my Collection of Poems promoted by Mr. Forbush who got a Number of them among his Acquaintance and others, and at Mr. Hancocks¹¹ Chamber, Mr. Tucker¹² and Mr. Webster¹³ subscrib'd. Din'd at Mr. Appletons¹⁴ where I also mention'd the Collection. N.B. Mr. Walker Merchant of Boston there, with whom I have much Conversation. Mr. Forbush and I rode up to Mr. Woodward's of Weston, and lodg'd there.

19. We Set out early from Mr. Woodward's, and broke fast at Mr. Isaac Baldwins. N.B. Jeduthun there. We fish'd in the pleasant Pond beyond the Garden. Mr. Forbush took Ebenezers Mare which Baldwin rode down, and rode to Abraham Smiths to talk with him, as well on his own as on my Account. Baldwin rode home with me in the Chair. Found all well and Comfortable. D.G. Neighbour Eliezer Rice brought home another Load of Hay from the Meadow. Thomas and Billy work'd part of the Day for Neighbour Eliezer Rice, and part of the Day at the Meadow. N.B. Mr. Jonas Twitchell work'd 2 half Days for me.

⁹ Joseph Pyncheon, the physician of Boston and Springfield. *Sibley*, VIII, 90-95.

¹⁰ Samuel Kneeland, the printer of Boston.

¹¹ Belcher Hancock, the tutor at Harvard.

¹² The Reverend John Tucker (Harvard 1741), the minister of Newbury. *Sibley*, XI, 78-91.

¹³ The Reverend Samuel Webster of Salisbury.

¹⁴ The Reverend Nathaniel Appleton of Cambridge.

20. Thomas and Billy at the Meadow. Mr. Forbush went to Upton. I rode to Shrewsbury and prevail'd with Mr. Cushing to go in my stead to Worcester: Mr. Maccarty having obtain'd of Mr. Forbush to supply his Pulpit; but if I would undertake it, he would Supply mine.

21. I preach'd at Shrewsbury for Mr. Cushing on Acts 3, 19, a. and p.m. N.B. read a.m. the Chapter of the Text. P.M. read Mat. 18. Mr. Fish¹⁵ preach'd for me in the room of Mr. Forbush. I return'd home at Eve. Molly and her Child gone to Deacons.

22. Thomas and Billy at Work at the Meadow. Ebenezer carted one Load of Hay from thence. I went to Neighbour How's. Billy breaks out with Poison. Mr. Forbush and Wife to t'other House and lodg'd there.

23. I rose Early and went to Esquire Bakers and to the Fays for Teams to fetch home Hay. They agree to go p.m. But by noon it began to rain, and rain'd exceeding hard the rest of the Day. Mr. Forbush and his Wife and Ebenezer's Wife rode to Mr. Martyns, but the former return'd here at Eve and lodg'd here. Thomas went over a.m. to work for Ebenezer.

24. Thomas work'd part of a.m. for me. P.M. late he went to Ebenezer to hoe for him. Jonathan and Joseph How came to hill for me, the former but a little before noon. N.B. greatly put to 't for plough and for Horse—sent Billy to t'other Place for my own Mare. Thomas Stay'd to Plough which was one of the Reasons of his being late to Ebenezer. Billy works with Difficulty because he is so much poison'd. Mr. Forbush and his Wife and little Daughter leave us to go to Brookfield. Fair Weather, but can do Nothing about my Hay at the Ministerial Meadow—Some of which is in Cock, and some of has lain over the storm in swarth.

25. Thomas and William bring home two small Jaggs of Hay from Ministerial Meadow, which make Six small turns from thence and is all of the South side of the Brook. N.B. Neighbour Eliezer Rice assisted—for which my sons work'd for him. Our Kinswomen

¹⁵ Elisha Fish of Upton.

Mrs. Sally Brigham and her sister Mrs. Betty Gott¹⁶ came to See us—but return'd to Marlboro at Eve.

26. Thomas and Billy hoed at the Island Field.

27. Thomas and Billy hoed a.m. P.M. Thomas mow'd in Newton Meadow.

28. Read 1 Sam. 4, and made the Exercises of both a. and p.m. from thence. Rain'd hard. Read P.M. 1 John 4. Daniel How din'd here.

29. Fair. Thomas mow'd Bushes a.m., and in Newton Meadow p.m. N.B. Mr. David Batchellor and Brother Hicks din'd here. P.M. Visit little Elijah Rice who is Sick. Captain Maynard at Eve invited me to dine at his House tomorrow, a number of military Gentlemen having bespoke a Dinner there—and he Suppos'd his Honour (as he call'd Captain Baker but I thought he meant Colonel Williams) had Spoke to me of it, but no one had. Captain said if I would come he would find me a room etc.

30. At about 11 a.m. came Colonel Williams and with him Mr. Smith, Captain Uriah Eager, and two other officers with them, and the Colonel invited me to dine with him to Day. He said he had depended upon Captain Baker to invite me, having given him Order, to do it, or else the Captain had said he would, but he was gone over to Bolton. I walk'd over as far as Mr. Nathan Maynards in the middle and heat of the Day, but from thence had his Mare, which I also rode home upon. I din'd with Colonel Williams, Major Willard, and the other Officers of this Regiment, at Captain Maynards. The Design of their Meeting was to Consult about a general Meeting of the Regiment—agreeable to the Governor's Proclamation. Messers. Cushing (who came from the Funeral of Mr. Morse's Child) Stone and Smith, there. After 4 o'Clock (the Hour I appointed) I attended the Catechetical Exercise to Young Women at the Meeting House. N.B. Mr. Baldwin went yesterday to Brookfield, and Elisha Jones, one of his Prentice's, work'd for my son Ebenezer during the Absence of his Master. At Eve deliver'd Mary Latiner a Receipt from Mr. Abraham Smith of her Debt to Said Smith, but it was writ

¹⁶ Sarah and Rebecca, daughters of the late Dr. Benjamin Gott, were Parkman's nieces.

as from Mr. Richard Barns. Thomas mows and rakes at Newton Meadow; but those who clear'd there left many Bushes unpick'd up, by which means it is very slow and bad mowing.

31. Before the Rain came heavy, I ran up to Mr. Elijah Rice who came with his Team and got in nine Cocks of Hay from my Newton Meadow but presently the storm came on and it was a very rainy Day. I had agreed yesterday with Mr. Stone to preach his Lecture to Day but the Rain prevented. But Mr. Baldwin came from Brookfield P.M.

AUGUST, 1754

1. Joseph Bowman and Richard Kelly reap'd, bound up and with Mr. Timothy Warrins Team Carted in my Rye—Thomas and Billy helping them. My Wife rode to Deacon Forbush etc.

2. Thomas can make but very Slow Work at the Meadow it being bad to Mow—Billy helps him. At Night Mr. Solomon Stow brought me from Mr. Kneeland 6 of Clark on Infant Baptism.¹

3. Thomas and Billy work at the Meadow.

4. Read 1 Sam. 5. Preach'd on 1 Sam. 4, 22. P.M. read 1 John 5. Preach'd on Isa. 9, 6. Mr. Foster din'd here.

5. Thomas and William at the Meadow Still. At Eve came one Mr. Jonathan Fuller of Oxford, and brought in a Chair my Neece Mrs. Tabitha Hearsey, who is in great Affliction by reason of her Husband—she is returning to him at Boston at least to See what his Pleasure is about her Goods which were allow'd her at their Parting. She has also her Dauter Hannah.

6. My Kinswoman etc. pursue their Journey. The Lord conduct and defend her! Being nigh out of Cyder I rode to Mr. Harringtons for supply. Thomas and Billy mow and rake a little at the Newton Meadow: and Neighbour Moses Nurse

¹ Peter Clark, *A Defence of the Divine Right of Infant Baptism* (Boston, 1752). Earlier, Clark had published *The Scripture-Grounds of the Baptism of Christian Infants* (Boston, 1735).

brings up a Load of Hay from thence. Mrs. Prentice,² I hear, at Grafton, and that her Exhortings have Success.

7. Thomas and Billy still at the Meadow.

8. Thomas and Billy at the Meadow this Day also. Neighbour Moses Nurse Carts a large Load of Hay from thence. Mr. Thomas Twitchell Examin'd.

9. Thomas and Billy went to the Ministerial Meadow and Mow'd the North Side of the Brook, and rak'd up about 9 Cocks, and left about as much more.

10. Thomas and Billy were going to the Meadow to rake the rest which they left Yesterday, and to bring it home but it prov'd a rainy Day. Mr. Bond brought a Load of Boards from Mr. Jonathan Forbush's Mill; the Boards of those Loggs which I had last Winter of Mr. John Kelley of Hopkinton.

11. Read 1 Sam. 6. Preach'd on Chapter 4, 22. Mr. Foster din'd here. P.M. read 2 John. Preach'd on Rev. 1, 18. May God add his Special Blessing!

12. Thomas and Billy went in the morning to the Ministerial Meadow to look after the Hay which they lately Cut there—but they were drench'd by that time they rak'd up the Rest of the Hay—a very Heavy Rain.

13. I rode to Mr. Thomas Chaddocks, who being ill had desir'd Prayers. N.B. Mr. Samuel Wood late Miller of Upton there. Visit at Gashitts also. When I return'd at Eve Mrs. Hephzibah Maynard here. Desires me to try what I can do to reconcile Abijah Gale and Isaac Amsden.

14. N.B. Thomas with Ebenezer's Team and Help brings home the last Load of Hay from the Ministerial Meadow. Thomas goes p.m. to help Ebenezer but is not well. I visited Ensign Mathis of Southborough and came home by Isaac Amsdens, Esquire Liscombs, and Mr. Abijah Gales, calling at those places; and endeavouring what I could a Reconcilement.

15. Lieutenant Tainter plaistering at the Sides of the Pulpit, din'd here. Mr. Thaddeus Gale here about his Brothers Affair.

² Mrs. Solomon Prentice was one of that fanatic band of "immortals" in the vicinity.

Mr. Jonathan Bond comes from Boston with a Letter from Mr. Joshua Winter informing me that My Neece Mrs. Lydia Davis at Halifax dyed of a Dropsie July 3 last. Mr. Jonas Twitchell here to be Examin'd.

16. Sent Billy over to help his Brother Ebenezer in his Harvest and haying.

17. Very Rainy Day. Concern'd about Billy who went from his Brother's to Mr. Hows—and thence he went out upon the Great Pond a fishing, and did not return to them till Even, till Dark—and not to us till

18. Next Morning—when he came Safely. Read 1 Sam. 7. Preach'd on Rev. 1, 18 a. and p.m. Read third John. Mr. Foster etc. din'd here.

19. Sent to Mr. Barret by Mr. Daniel Hardy to desire his Company to Ministers Meeting to morrow morning at Mr. Martyns. At Eve Suse to t'other House. Read Universal Magazine.³ Let Mr. Thaddeus Gale my Chair to go to Worcester.

20. Association at Mr. Martyns. No Mr. Barrett: but he sent me a Letter that he would endeavour to come at Eve or tomorrow Morning. Those who attended were Messers. Cushing,⁴ Stone, Smith⁵ and Davis.⁶ The Conversation was chiefly with Mr. Davis about his Contract with his People and his Satisfaction with it. We all lodg'd at Mr. Martyns. N.B. Mr. Martyn much out of Health.

21. Mr. Barrett came not—I was oblig'd to preach the Public Lecture. Text was Heb. 11, 6. Major Keys and Sir Foster⁷ with us. May God grant to all of us a Right and part in that better Country! and may we seek it in a proper Manner! N.B. Conversation after Dinner about Mr. Morse's Letter to me about Mr. Silas Brigham—it was advis'd that I let the Matter run

³ *The Universal Magazine*, begun in London in 1747, continued to be published for the rest of the century.

⁴ Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

⁵ Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

⁶ Joseph Davis of Holden.

⁷ Abiel Foster (Harvard 1756), later became the minister of Canterbury, N.H.

and not meddle with it, till more be done by Mr. Morse⁸ at Shrewsbury Church. When I return'd with Mr. Foster Stop'd at t'other House where was my Wife and we drank Tea there.

22. I sent Billy to work with his Brother, but being not well he return'd home. Early in the Morning I rode to Lieutenant Fays on my son Thomas's Affair. The Painter at the Meeting House having Colour'd the Pulpit 3 Times over return'd to Billerica from whence he came to us last Monday Eve. Dull Cloudy Weather. Prevents Ebenezers Business in his Hay. P.M. made a Visit to Mr. Williams on the account of the great Changes and Sudden, in his Circumstances for tho he lost his Wife so lately, he is out-publish'd to another. At Eve Mr. Phinehas Hardy Treasurer for the Precinct, came to reckon, and he receiv'd a Receipt from me in full of what the Precinct had voted Except the Deficiency in Mr. Bigelows Rates but including the Deficiency in Bruces. Mr. Baldwin finishes his work at the Meeting House. The Pulpit and the fronts of the Gallerys, Ministerial Pew and Deacon's seat. Likewise Three Pews for particular persons, viz. Deacon Newtons, Mr. Bonds, and Esquire Bakers. Mr. Adams is building Three more.

23. Mr. Baldwin and his 'prentice comes to work for me—to plain and Joint Boards for Chamber floor—and a number of Small Jobbs. Sent Billy to Ebenezer.

24. Mr. Baldwin and his 'prentice are here at work. Mr. Thaddeus Gale return'd my Chair. (See on the 19th). His Father and Captain Elisha Jones din'd here. P.M. Great storm of Rain. I rode to Southboro at Eve and Mr. Stone came here.

25. Mr. Stone and I 'chang'd. I preach'd at Southboro on Heb. 11, 16, baptiz'd Edmund the Son of [blank] Moors—and Mr. Stone preach'd on Rev. 3, 18, and baptiz'd Mr. William Pierce's Dauter Mary. We each of us return'd home at Eve.

26. Mr. Baldwin and Elisha Jones went off. Trooping at the North End.

⁸ The Reverend Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

27. My Wife and I rode to the South part of the Town to visit Mr. Grow and his Wife who were Sick and Mrs. Mary Stewart—likewise Mr. Bowman and Mr. Thomas Twitchell. Return'd home at Eve. While we were gone Mr. Martyn here. N.B. Mr. Baldwin went to Brookfield. Billy helps Ebenezer.

28. Mr. Martyn and his Wife came and din'd with us, and he came to preach my Lecture which he did tho my asking him was but implicit and not direct—but he seems to be reconcil'd—but we act an odd part towards one another—afraid of lisping the least word of our uneasiness. He preach'd on Gal. 2, 20, a very good sermon—May God give his Blessing! I am much oblig'd to his Wife for her pains to have us reconcil'd. But my thoughts were much engag'd upon the Situation of the Affair. Our Conduct is as if nothing had happen'd. I am concern'd at the Frame we must needs be both of us in, especially as the Communion in their Church as well as ours hastens. But I have very much discharg'd my Duty, I think, in my last Letter to him: and I am taught by the Word and by the Example of Christ to be free to forgive even innumerable Trespasses: I learn that 'tis the Glory of a Man to overlook a transgression, and that Charity Covers a Multitude of sins. As to his making me Satisfaction for such undeserv'd Insults, tho I ought to claim it, yet I conceive I had better forego my own personal Right than endanger the Public Peace and the Success of our Ministry—on these Considerations and dreading the grim Mischiefs of our being at Variance, I deny myself and yield the matter of making Demands of him, or shewing any Resentments, Earnestly begging of God Grace, Directon and forgiveness to Each of us. And O that we might have Fellowship one with another and that the Blood of Christ would Cleanse us from all sin!

29. Billy is Still helping his Brother Ebenezer who is about his Hay yet.

30. Mr. Baldwin return'd from Brookfield and lodges here. Retir'd and Somewhat devoted—but alas! how Imperfectly!

31. Billy help'd his Brother Yesterday and to Day, and he is now almost done Haying.

SEPTEMBER, 1754.

Read 1 Sam. 8. Preach'd on Rev. 1, 18, and found it best to deliver my whole preparation tho I was oblig'd to Speak the faster and to continue somewhat longer than usual. Administer'd the Lords Supper, took in 3 persons into the Church. P.M. read Rev. 1. Repeated on Mat. 12, 33, 34, 35. Administered Baptism to Several Children and appointed Catechizing at the East part of the Town. Deacon Forbush and Sir Foster din'd here. Mr. Baldwin here at Eve and lodg'd here. O that God would grant us all to understand, and be confirm'd in, be influenced by, and have a Right to the Benefit of the Resurrection of Christ from the Dead!

2. Visited the Widow Thurston whose Son Samuel lies Sick. Was at Mr. Grow's again, that Family being Still under Affliction by Sickness. Visited also Mrs. Harrington lame by a Fall from her Horse; and Ensign Miller, whose paralytic Disorders increase upon him much.

3. Catechiz'd at Mr. Joslins—about 19 Children. Had visited the good old Mr. Bradish. After Catechizing Mr. Joslin went with me cross the Woods to Mr. Jabez Snow's—Mr. Snow with me to Mr. Abraham Beeman's. Was also at Mr. Adams's where they fill'd my Ears with Complaints (I mean the Mother and Dauter) against the Gales, against whom they had been, and were like to be again Summon'd to Court as Witnesses: but I was not willing to meddle with their Affair.

4. Sir Haven was here yesterday, and lodg'd at my sons last night. Was here again today and din'd with us. I have been in a great deal of deep Concern about how to dispose of Billy. He Seems not willing to resume his Books except I can keep him wholly to 'em—which our present Circumstances forbid. His Mothers Consent to Learning for him, is hard to obtain. It grieves me much to give him up—But as he was yesterday Clearing at the Island Pasture, So there he goes to Day. P.M. Mr. Jonathan Forbush here again about the Pew which he drew for me—is not willing to give me a Title to it except the Precinct will let him have the Same privilege in the Meeting House as

if he had not drawn it, since he drew it, as they all knew, for me, but appears desirous of it himself. Lieutenant Bruce comes here to conferr about building the Pews, and I agree with him to provide a Stick of Timber for My Part of the Foundation. I discern So much of the minds of persons about this Matter of the Pew that I am very much dispos'd to give it up, tho there are So many Reasons impelling to keep it. Such Tokens of Ingratitude are very grievous—But how much it is the Lot of Ministers in these days! May God himself be pleas'd to look with Pity on his own Cause!

5. Billy clearing at the Island part of the forenoon. P.M. Showery. My Wife and I walk'd together to Mr. Williams',¹ to Celebrate his Marriage to Mrs. Eleanor Gould.

6. Sir Foster brings Sir Dana² here—who is come up from Marlborough, where he keeps School. Billy cutts Stalks.

8. Read 1 Sam. 9. Preach'd on Phil. 3, 10. P.M. read Rev. 2. Judge Ward here, but goes to Mr. Nurse's.

9. Lieutenant Forbush being about to Sell Some Land to Mr. John Beeton, Blacksmith, he comes to acquaint me with it and asks me what I would my Self have for the Straitning or accomodating of my Lines. I go with him and agree where.

10. Lieutenant Ward here with his Instruments, and he with Mr. Nathaniel Whitney Measure this Piece of Land where my House Stands and the Lines agreed upon Yesterday. Robert Morton of Mendon here, with his Box, Glass and Prospects; and he Shews us his Sights, gratis. Master Richard Martyn³ brought his Sister Molly here, and left her to Stay with us a little while.

11. Receiv'd the last Volume of the History of the Foundling⁴ from Mr. Samuel Livermore by Mr. Samuel Harrington. At Eve came Dr. Perkins, and Mr. Hezekiah Coolidge and lodg'd here. Mr. Jeduthan Baldwin brought back Ebenezer's Mare which he himself had rid to Weston when he finish'd his Work and left us.

¹ Samuel Williams of Westborough.

² Samuel Dana (Harvard 1755) was later the minister of Groton, 1760-1775.

³ The son of the Reverend John Martyn of Northborough.

⁴ Probably Samuel Silence, pseud., *The Foundling Hospital for Wit* No. 1-6, (London 1743-1749).

12. General Muster of Colonel Williams Regiment. 5 Southern Companys at Mendon with Grafton Troop: 8 Companys of Foot and one Troop at Westboro. I pray'd with Captain Bakers Company at the Meeting House. Had Captain Baker's Horse to ride over to the Field which was in Captain Maynards Pasture. Dr. Perkins and Mr. Coollidge rode with me. We proceeded to Captain Maynards—my Sons House was taken up by Dr. Brigham⁵ for twenty Marlborough men. The Battalion was not form'd till some time in the afternoon. There were many Spectators. The Reverend Messers. Cushing, Martyn, Stone, Smith, Morse, Hutchinson there. The first of whom pray'd with the Regiment at about 4 P.M. and when the Colonel had read his Proclamation he soon dissolv'd the Battalion and the Companys march'd out of the Field. I din'd with the Colonel and the Ministers (except Mr. Hutchinson) who went to Lieutenant Fays, where, Captain Baker ask'd me to dine with him—but I requested he would contrive to dine with the Colonel and other Officers, for I should not be able to refuse them. Lieutenant Maynard had also bespoke me before Captain Baker; and I found it would greatly incommode me to go so far. N.B. Rumours about the Indians. Dr. Perkins, Mr. Asaph Rice and Mr. Baldwin, together with Mrs. Molly Martyn lodge here.

13. Dr. Perkins and Mr. Rice and Mr. Baldwin, as also Mr. Hezekiah Coollidge return home. N.B. Sent Mr. Badgers Family Companion⁶ home by Mr. Coollidge. P.M. my wife carry'd Mrs. Molly Martyn as far as my other House where her Brother is to come for her. I went to Lieutenant Forbush's, and he and his wife sign'd me a new Deed of this Land where my House stands with the additions, and Judge Ward took their acknowledgements. Mr. John Beeton receiv'd a Deed likewise of an Acre joining to mine.

14. Frost last night. Beeton begins to Clear his Land. P.M. I rode to Shrewsbury and Mr. Cushing here. Very Cold Eve. I

⁵ Samuel Brigham, the physician of Marlborough.

⁶ *The Family Companion for Health: or . . . Rules which . . . will . . . keep Families free from Diseases, and Procure them a Long Life* (London, 1729).

was Shav'd at Mr. Job Cushings. Bears are about very thick—many are kill'd.

15. I preach'd at Shrewsbury a.m. on Acts 3, 19. P.M. on 2 Tim. 2, 3. Mr. Cushing preach'd at Westborough on [blank] and on [blank]. We both return'd at Eve.

16. This being the fifth Day Old Stile I separated myself in some peculiar manner for Recollection and Devotions. O that God would pardon my brokenness and many Miscarriages! *Vid. Natal.*

[In the Natalitia the following under the date Sept. 5, "old Stile."]

I would bless God with my whole Soul for his adorable Patience and Longsuffering and in Special that I have been preserv'd through another Year, tho I have been So utterly undeserving, nay provoking to Him! I endeavour'd (in Some very broken manner) to acknowledge the Divine lenity and Goodness, and to humble my Self for my great Defects and unfaithfulness. I would also devoutly committ my Self the uncertain residue of my frail Life, humbly begging of God to make me faithfull in my Great Work, and enable me to Save my own Soul as well as those that hear me!

And whereas the Care of my Family lies with a peculiar Weight upon my Spirits, I would most earnestly beseech of God to enable me to Cast this Care upon Him, who cares for His own!

17. Mr. Abijah Gale came while we were in family Exercise—read a Summons to me to go up to Court to Day—and threw down his money. Being thus oblig'd to go, p.m. I went to Worcester—to Mr. Maccartys⁷—to Colonel Chandlers—lodg'd at Mr. Maccartys. N.B. Colonel Cushing and his Wife also there. N.B. Several Gentlemen are taken ill—Mr. Trowbridge,⁸ who is the King's Attorney—Colonel Chandler is also ill, but crawls about a little.

18. I attended Court. Din'd at Captain Stearns's⁹ with the

⁷ The Reverend Thaddeus Maccarty.

⁸ Attorney General Edmund Trowbridge.

⁹ Thomas Sterne of Worcester.

Judges: Judge Sewal¹⁰ not well. N.B. Messers. Joseph Green,¹¹ Nathaniel Bethune,¹² Isaac Winslow,¹³ and [blank] Wheelwright din'd with us. N.B. They Subscribed for my Collection of Poems. P.M. came on the Cause, upon which I was Summon'd viz. of Isaac Amsden¹⁴ plaintiff against Abijah Gale¹⁵ Defendant; for that the Said Abijah assaulted the Plaintiffs Wife, attempted to discover her Nakedness and to have Carnal Knowledge of her Body—I was put under solemn Adjuration and was ask'd what I knew of the Cause Depending and especially Whether I had met with anything from Mrs. Amsden that was contrary to the Oath which She had taken? My answer was to this Effect—

That it was Surprizing to me to be summon'd, having had no Knowledge of the Case, till of late, Sometime Since the Prosecution or Complaint before Mr. Justice Liscomb that I know now no otherwise than by Report and Conversation as any other Neighbours might do. That from what was Said to me at my summoning I had no reason to Suppose any thing would be desir'd of me at this Court more than to be present to hear the Cause (being Mr. Gale's Pastor) and to give my Testimony of him which I could freely do, and did so, viz. that for any Thing I had ever known of him he was of unblemish'd Reputation till this Affair: and I might Say much the Same of Mrs. Amsden who was brought up in my near Neighborhood, and was of good Character among us. This Answer of mine was upon Colonel Brattle's interrogating me as upon Oath whether I knew anything of this Cause, or had heard this Woman Say any Thing different from what She had now Sworn? And this was also urg'd by the Chief Justice Sewal; to which therefore I further reply'd that I had indeed made Mrs. Amsden a visit and did put Some Questions to her, but I was not prepar'd to Say what her answers to me at that Time were:

¹⁰ Justice Stephen Sewall of the Superior Court of Judicature.

¹¹ The Reverend Joseph Green (Harvard 1746) of Marshfield. *Sibley*, XII, 28-30.

¹² (Harvard 1734). A Boston merchant. *Sibley*, IX, 386-389.

¹³ (Harvard 1727). A prominent businessman of Boston, who was later a Mandamus Councillor. *Sibley*, VIII, 333-339.

¹⁴ Of Southborough.

¹⁵ The innkeeper of Westborough.

and that I could not think it fit or just for me to utter what was so brokenly and imperfectly remember'd—So that I was not ripe to Say any thing of the Particular Expressions She us'd. When the Judge ask'd me whether I remembered that it was Opposite, or Contrary to her Oath? I answer'd that as I remember'd it was what did not carry the Matter so far as the Complaint She has made upon Oath—but I was not Ripe for offering any More of it. The Colonel chew'd upon that that I said I was not ripe—that I ought to say what 'twas—but I told him I would not be impos'd upon. For I conceiv'd it wrong to utter what was So unshapen in my Mind—and I said I perceiv'd that Mrs. Amsden at the Time of my Discourse with her was in such a Surprize and flutter that I did not know whether what She had answer'd was her real Mind—and She was So uneasy at my putting these sorts of Questions to her that I thought it best not to proceed, and therefore desisted—so that I conceiv'd it unjust for me to declare what I apprehended She did, under these Circumstances, Say. The Jurys Verdict came in against Gale; for it appear'd there was an Assault. It was late in the Eve—lodg'd at Mr. Maccartys again. N.B. Colonel William Ward in Jayl.

19. My Mare got out of Mr. Maccartys Pasture, but was found by Mr. Othniel Taylor, about two Mile and half off. Weather very hot. Was at Colonel Chandlers Office. Colonel deliver'd Me two Deeds, viz. Hezekiah Hows and Andrew Newtons, to me. Paid him 15/ old Tenor for both and lodg'd two more, viz. from Lieutenant Forbush and Richard Barns. I call'd at Mr. Dyars—din'd at Dr. Crawford's.¹⁶ N.B. his son William at Learning. I stop'd at Captain Jenisons and wrote a Letter to Mr. Edwards at Stockbridge. Return'd home safe at Eve. Mr. Stone of Southborough had been to See Me. A Bear Was Seen by my son Thomas passing through my Land just below the Burying place, and went Cross the Road. N.B. Talk'd with Mr. Isaac Amsdens Wife about what she said to me at their House etc. See loose papers.

¹⁶ Robert Crawford, the physician.

20. Mr. Nathaniel Whitney was here and I gave him Some Account of what I utter'd upon oath at the late Superior Court. Lieutenant Forbush here at Eve tells me of his Cattle being once and again in my Island—and to Day in the Corn.

21. Lieutenant Forbush now Setts the Fence between Beriah Rice and me in the Meadow.

22. Read 1 Sam. 11. Preach'd on Acts 1, 9. P.M. read Rev. 4. Repeated Exposition on Mat. 12, 36. Read publickly the Petition of Mr. Thomas Gleson¹⁷ of Oxford and desir'd the Congregation that if any one had any thing to offer he would come and See me this week.

23. Mr. Stratton¹⁸ of Waltham came to See me.

24. My wife dips little John into Cold Water to cure him of his Ricketts.

25. Lieutenant Forbush kindly came and kill'd a fatt Calf for me. My Wife and I rode in the Chair to visit aged Widow Hannah Rice¹⁹ and took little John with us. Call'd at Captain Maynards in returning home. Lieutenant Tainter carry'd down the Calf to Boston. Lieutenant Brigham of Southborough and his Wife here. N.B. He shew'd me an Instrument sign'd by his Children by which he was empower'd to take up and dispose of the Land which they had, otherwise, Right to from the Rights of Edmund Rice. John was dipped again.

26. John was dipp'd again, and we cease for a while. I had a Message last Eve from Mr. Cushing to preach his Lecture today, but it happen'd to be a Day appointed for the Catechetical Exercise to young men—which I attended—had 23. Mr. Foster came here after School, but return'd again.

27. Billy cutt up part of the Corn by the Barn.

28. Mr. Isaac Amsden of Southborough here to ask me whether I had not talk'd with Ezra Taylor about what his Wife Said to me at Major Howards on the 19th. I told him what it was and that I wrote it down that same Eve, and with all that I was ready to shew it [to] him, but he answer'd that twas no

¹⁷ Gleason had been "burnt out" lately.

¹⁸ Joseph Stratton.

¹⁹ Mrs. Jacob Rice.

matter, or to that purpose. P.M. Joshua Lock and his wife here, and offer'd a Confession of their Fornication. But it was very imperfect—he also was not willing to own the Covenant. Said he was by principle of the Church of England—did not care to be examin'd Strictly—his wife might own the Covenant and have the Child baptiz'd here. It was also late in the Day—therefore I did not proceed to gratifie them at this time.

29. Read 1 Sam. 12. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Acts 1, 9. P.M. read Rev. 5. Mr. Stratton of Waltham din'd here. Appointed a Contribution for Mr. Thomas Gleson of Oxford (by Mistake I said Dudley) to be next Lords Day P.M.

30. An unusual dry Time. Our well So low that we can't without much difficulty dip the Buckett. Messers. Batherick, Abijah Gale, Adams and Kimbal, Carpenters are at Work at the Meeting House building the seats in the Womens Gallery.

OCTOBER, 1754

Was up at 4, morning, and Saw the Eclipse: and before Light took up a large, well-fill'd Hive of Bees. Mr. Jonas Twitchell work'd for me in clearing the Newton Meadow. Sent home to Mr. Samuel Livermore junior the fourth Volume of the Foundling; by the Hand of Mr. Joseph Stretton of Waltham. A.M. exceedingly perplex'd for want of money to pay my just Debts and especially for Spinning. I went to Ensign Fay to borrow, but very much in Vain. We are also out of Cyder, and I sought to him for present Supply; which I answer'd my End in—but remain in great difficulty on the other Account.

2. Mr. Jonas Twitchel at Work to Day also, clearing at my Meadow. William waits upon his Mother to Mr. Martyns, and Lucy undertakes to wean little John. Ebenezer here at Eve and has my Chair and Mare to go with his Wife and son to their Father Harringtons. Mrs. Miller (Ensigns Wife) here to bring me word that if I would have Cyder of him I must fetch it tomorrow or not at all, whereas not being warn'd of it my Barrells are not soak'd, nor do I know whether I can have either Man or Team, so that altho I want it much, and dont know but that I

must go without if I have it not of him, yet I must Send him denial. And this is also the Third Message which I have had of this kind, which because so Sudden I have been forc'd to deny. N.B. Received a Letter from Brother William Parkman dated July 10 last: brought by Dr. Crosby. N.B. Mr. Simon Tainter now of Sutton coming in to my Door fell down upon the Floor in a Fit—I Suppose Epileptic—but after a while came to, and he proceeded with his Wife and Child to their Father Bruce's.

3. Sent Billy to Mr. Garfields for pursely Water¹ for little John, and bagg of Apples from Mr. Joseph Knowlton—which he brought. I preach'd at Lieutenant Tainters on Hos. 2, 8, 9. May it please God to add his effectual Blessing! When I came home found Mr. Ball² of Grafton here, who had carry'd Mr. Bliss's³ Stackhouse⁴ for me. Mr. Fay brought a Barrell of Cyder.

4. In the latter part of the Night and Morning Some refreshing Showers, but clear'd off afterwards So that I rode over to Mr. Martyns and brought home my Wife. No word pass'd about our Epistolary Contests. At Evening came Mr. Benjamin Tainter with his Wife, his own Mother, and his Wife's Father, Mother and Brother. N.B. Thomas lodges at t'other House to my great Grief and Trouble, as there are Several young Women like to lodge there, and Mr. Foster is gone to Holiston to See his Father who we hear is Sick.

5. Putt to much Difficulty to draw Water out of our Well. Mr. Hall⁵ of Sutton and his Dauter Hale here. Mr. Abijah Gale here to know what I thought was expected of him by the Church.

6. Read 1 Sam. 13. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Mark 16, 19, and Sat on the Right Hand of God. P.M. read Rev. 6. Mrs. Woods, Mother in Law to Mr. Benjamin Tainter, din'd here. Mr. Ephraim Bruce's Wife had a fit and was brought in here at noon. P.M. we had a Publick Contribution for the Relief of Mr. Thomas Gleason of Oxford.

¹ Purslane, a low, succulent herb.

² Nathaniel Ball.

³ The Reverend Daniel Bliss of Concord.

⁴ A work of the English divine, Thomas Stackhouse.

⁵ The Reverend David Hall.

7. Lieutenant Tainter, Messers. Jonathan Forbush, Eleazer Whitney, Thomas Twitchell, Amariah Thurston, with several Lads, Daniel Grout and Joseph Harrington came and cutt up my Corn at the Island, and Mr. Ebenezer Forbush with his Team brought it in. They made 4 Load of it and had done by noon. Four of them stay'd to dine. It was our purpose to have husk'd in the afternoon (for some persons said they Should choose it rather than in the Eve) and a few Neighbours were Sent to, but none came but old Mr. Maynard. So then we sent again, desiring they would come in the Evening, but neither did there come any but a few Boys who ran away home again. N.B. Mr. John Hicks of Cambridge and his Wife and little son Jonathan here, going to Sutton. Mr. Abijah Gale here at Eve with a Paper of Acknowledgement.

8. To Day some of my own Family who did not use to husk, put their Hands to it. Deacon Newton came in the Morning to assist in Counting the Contribution—Money. We found it to be £9.6.10 old Tenor. Noah Forbush part of p.m. husking—a number more came in the Evening, viz. Thomas Hardy, Alpheus and Abner Newton, Charles Rice and Ebenezer Rice junior—very frosty Night, they did not stay to husk the whole.

9. Mr. White, Painter from Billerica to Paint the Pulpit. Thomas and Billy husk. Joshua Lock here again about his and his wifes Confession etc. I endeavour to show him briefly the absurdity of his turning to the Church of England, unless he had better acquainted himself with the Controversie. Daniel Goddard⁶ of Shrewsbury here to ask my Advice about his Learning Latin. He goes away disgusted because of my defending Mr. Cushing.⁷ Mr. Fish of Upton and his Wife dine here. He preaches my Lecture on John 3, 14, a moving and profitable Discourse! May God add his Blessing. Mr. Hicks of Cambridge and his Wife and son from Sutton came and lodge here. Mr. White the Painter with Mr. Francis Whipple, Spend some Time

⁶ The son of Edward Goddard. He evidently did not pursue his interest in higher learning.

⁷ Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

in the Evening here. Thomas and Billy, and 3 Rices (Merchants Sons) husk in the Evening.

10. Mr. Hicks etc. return to Cambridge.

11. Hear that Mr. Whitefield⁸ is at Boston. My Wife visits Mrs. Amy Maynard.⁹

12. Mr. White finishes his painting the Pulpit etc. Brushes over my Chair, gratis—dines with me—returns home to Billerica.

13. The Pulpit etc. are not dry. We make a convenient Station for preaching and Communion Table before the Deacons Seat. Many Shrewsbury people here—Mr. Cushing being gone a Journey. Mrs. Amy Maynard grows worse. Read 1. Sam. 14 to number 23. Preach'd on Mark 16, 19. Administered the Lords Supper. P.M. read Rev. 7, and having Spent my Preparations in the forenoon I repeated Sermons on John 11, 24. Deacon Miles¹⁰ and his Wife, Mrs. Foster¹¹ of Holliston and her Daughter Twitchel¹² din'd here. At Eve I visited and pray'd with Mrs. Maynard, and My Wife watch'd with her.

14. Visited Deacon Newton to Settle with him for the Year past respecting my Note given him. P.M. Mrs. Judith Bellows here in a peculiar Domestic Difficulty, but defers opening the particulars to a Visit which She prays me to make with them. Mrs. Foster (the Schoolmasters Mother) with divers others here.

15. Sent the second Volume of the New Universal Magazine to Captain Storer at Boston per Mr. Ebenezer Rice. Mr. Davis came this way for my Company to Southboro. Rode down there to Ministers Meeting. Messers. Barrett, Martyn, Seccomb,¹³ Smith—were the rest that attended. See the Minutes of the Association. At Eve our Conversation was upon the Qualifications for Communion at the Lords Table. N.B. Mr. Stone is Strongly in the Sentiments of Mr. Stoddard.¹⁴

⁸ The great George Whitefield.

⁹ Mrs. Ebenezer Maynard.

¹⁰ Samuel Miles of Concord.

¹¹ Mrs. Jacob Foster.

¹² Mary Foster married Moses Twitchell of Westborough.

¹³ John Seccomb of Harvard.

¹⁴ Solomon Stoddard, *An Appeal to the Learned. Being a Vindication of the Right of Visible Saints to the Lords Supper, though they be Destitute of a Saving Work of God's Spirit in their Hearts: against the Exceptions of Mr. Increase Mather* (Boston, 1709).

16. Mr. Martyn preach'd on Luke 9, ult. Many useful and awakening Thoughts on the great Evil and Danger of Apostacy—May God sett them home upon my own Heart! N.B. when we return'd to Mr. Stones, Mr. Davis a terrible Fit—shaking etc. N.B. Mr. Martyn desires me to Change next Sabbath to which I Consent. I return'd home by t'other House and Call'd to see Mrs. Amy Maynard, who grows worse.

17. Rainy Day. A.M. my Wife and I went to See Mrs. Mainard and found her much worse. She thinks she shall dye—she prays audibly, tho with low voice; very importunately, and pertinently. I can't tell whether She was aware that she Spoke So loud as to be heard by others. I receiv'd also her Testimony to the Gospel and the Ordinances thereof. Pray'd with her and left her in a very solemn manner. P.M. Catechiz'd at the School House.

18. Lieutenant Tainter and Solomon Miller brought home 6 Barrells of Cyder from Ensign Miller, at 20/ per Barrell. Went (by special Desire) over to Mrs. Maynards again, She being, as they think, dying. We endeavour'd to Commend her departing Soul to God by Prayer—but I left her breathing.

19. Mrs. Maynard dy'd about 10 o'clock last night. She is much Commended.

20. I walk'd over to t'other House and thence rode over to Mr. Martyns and preach'd there a. and p.m. on Ps. 119, 60. I read some Passages of the Psalm a.m. but p.m. did not read. Mr. Martyn preach'd a.m. on Eph. 5, 8, 9. P.M. on Ps. 57. He did not read either a. or p.m. We each return'd at Eve.

21. A.M. Mrs Amy (or Emma) Maynard was buried. Some Number of persons din'd here, among which Captain Maynard; it being inconvenient for them to go home after the Funeral because; there was to be a Precinct Meeting at 1 o'Clock. It was to Vote me Support and Wood. And when they came together they Voted to do as they did last Year—and Lieutenant Tainter came to acquaint me with it. I sent them a Line by him: which altho it did not induce them to alter their Vote, yet a Number of them were induc'd to subscribe Wood by the Cord—and it

amounted to 20 Load. This was brought me by Mr. Ephraim Bruce, and he said it was freely and heartily done. So that I made no further Difficulty. My Brother Samuel Parkman from Boston waits on Reverend Mr. Gay¹⁵ of Hingham here, and lodge. They are going to Leicester, to the Ordination of Mr. Joseph Roberts.¹⁶

22. Came the Reverend Messers. Barrett and Eliot¹⁷ and with them Deacon Barret of Boston and his son, and Mr. Thayer of Boston also—and they din'd here. N.B. Deacon Barret ill and with his Brother returns to Hopkinton. The rest go to Leicester. P.M. came Mr. Joseph Briant from Stoneham and lodges here.

23. Mr. Briant to Leicester. Sent by him Lieutenant Nathan Brigham's Deed to be recorded at Colonel Chandlers Office. At Night Mr. Solomon Baker brought up from Mr. Kneeland one of Mr. Edwards Enquiry¹⁸ etc. Price 4/6, Lawful Money. The Reverend Joseph Roberts's Ordination at Leicester.

24. Messers. Eliot, Thayer and Young Barrett from Leicester—only call'd at the Door in their Way to Hopkinton. P.M. Went down to see Mr. Jonathan Bellows and wife; but he was not himself at home. I discours'd with his Wife according to her particular Case, and pray'd with her and Such as were in the House. N.B. Dr. Chase¹⁹ was with me and he visited at Mr. Ithamar Bellows's their Daughter Elizabeth having the Rheumatism. I talked freely with the Doctor concerning his own Conduct; and wish a Blessing!

25. A very Rainy Day. N.B. Some Number more of Bears kill'd among us and on the Confines. The Whitneys have kill'd and assisted in killing 4 or 5 within a very few Days. Tis Said about 20 have been kill'd in this Town.

26. A Cool Morning after the Storm. My Wife goes on in

¹⁵ Ebenezer Gay.

¹⁶ Joseph Roberts (Harvard 1741) had preached at various places. He served Leicester, 1754-1762. *Sibley*, XI, 65-68.

¹⁷ Andrew Eliot of the New North Church in Boston.

¹⁸ Jonathan Edwards, *A Careful and Strict Enquiry into the Modern Prevailing Notions of that Freedom of Will* (Boston, 1754).

¹⁹ Thomas Chase, the young physician of Westborough.

plunging little John in Cold Water. The Reverend Mr. Bliss of Concord here in his way to Upton.

27. John dip'd again. Read 1 Sam. 14 from number 24. Preach'd on John 1, number 16 a. and p.m. N.B. Jane Smith (Sister of Rody) fell into a fit in the Time of afternoon sermon was carry'd out, and carry'd to my House; there She remain'd in her Fitt for four Hours. A sorrowful Spectacle!

28. Mr. Henry Barns, Merchant in Marlborough, here. Is about to set up the Pot Ash Business in Hopkinton. Messers. Bliss and Fish here and din'd with us. P.M. Was at Lieutenant Forbush's.

29. Brother Samuel Parkman here in his Return to Boston, but I was not at home. At Eve Mr. Foster who lodg'd here. Mr. Samuel Fay junior acquaints me with Mr. Billings Case and Request.

30. Mr. Fay last night was so importunate to have me visit Mrs. Billing that to Day I went. Din'd at Captain Bezaleel Eagers. I found Mrs. Billings Case to [be] very deplorable both in Body and Mind. Pray'd with her. At Eve came Messers. Hezekiah Pratt with a Yoke of Oxen, Solomon Baker with a Plough and with 2 Yoke. Mr. Eleazer Williams, Joseph Baker—and my sons Ebenezer and Thomas.

31. I made a Visit to Mr. Eliezer Rice and to Mr. James Maynard. The former was not at home.

NOVEMBER, [1754]

1. Brother Hicks¹ came p.m. and lodg'd. At Eve Mr. David Taylor of Concord with Letter requesting a Council on his Difficultys.

2. Brother Hicks after Dinner returns home. Mr. Whitney came with his Cart to bring me Turnips for Winter according as I had bespoke. I expected Mr. Henry Barns's Wife and her Mother in their way to Hopkinton, but they did not come. However my other avocations enough.

¹ Parkman's brother-in-law, John Hicks of Sutton.

3. Read I Sam. 15. Preach'd a.m. (repeating) Mat. 12, 36, 37. P.M. read Rev. 9. Preach'd on John 1, 16. Many Southboro People at meeting here Mr. Stone being gone to the Cape.

4. I wrote to Mr. Bows of Bedford about Mr. David Taylor's Request. Mr. Abraham Beeman and his Wife here to be examin'd.

5. A very rainy Day. We have reason to fear little John is much troubled with Worms as well as Rickets: and is much oppress'd having very labouring Breath. May God teach us to profit by his holy Hand upon us.

6. Ebenezer has an Husking p.m. My Wife and I took John into the Chair and rode to Lieutenant Tainters—were well entertain'd and return'd.

7. I rode to Upton and preach'd Mr. Fish's Lecture on Ps. 51, 11. Return'd at Eve. N.B. a smart Assault by Long Kelly at Mr. Dunlops, respecting the Church of England; which made me late home.

8. A Second Appointment to Shovel the Gravel at the back of my House, but it was Cold and Dark, and but Two Came, Mr. Beeton and Jonathan Grout. They stood it till 9 o'Clock. Mr. Foster² came over; and lodg'd here. Sent by Lieutenant Tainter to Boston. N.B. He kill'd one of my steers, or rather one of his which he changes for one of mine that was a Rogue. He kill'd it at his House and brot me a Side of the Meat, the Hide, Tallow and Offal, and borrows half of the Meat to spend in his own Family. N.B. The Quarters he brought here were 90 & 86.

9. A very Cold Night the last—and this morning. Mr. Jonathan Fuller junior of Sutton call'd to see me. Mr. Jonathan Forbush brought some Wood we being in a Straight, he brought also several Presents besides. Mr. Dodge Came with Money for a Token of Love to me. A cool Night again.

10. Read I Sam. 16 and gave Observations upon it for the Exercise a.m. Read p.m. Rev. 10. Preach'd once more on John 1, 16. Stop'd the Church at Eve, on the Account of Mr. Abijah

² Jacob Foster, the schoolmaster.

Gale's Acknowledgement which was read and accepted, and he restor'd³—and on Account of Mr. David Taylor of Concord, late of Bedford, who wrote to this Church for Assistance under his present Distress: Voted.

11. Was at t'other House. Bid Farewell to Mr. Dodge and his wife who are moving to Framingham. Mr. Foster goes to keep School North Side. Mr. Daniel Adams examin'd at Eve. Mrs. Winchester here.

12. I rode to Concord alone. N.B. Mr. Stephen Prentice⁴ of Grafton on the Road with me as far as Bruce's Tavern, very Troublesome. Captain Baker who was the appointed Delegate having Sent me word he could not go. At Mr. Taylor were the Reverend Messers Dunbar,⁵ Martyn and Smith, each having a Delegate, viz. Deacon Putnam, and Messers. Josiah Fosset and [blank] Kidder, who were present at the Hearing of Mr. Taylors Cause. There came also from Bedford, Deacon Lane and Mr. Abbot, who were of Singular Service in informing and letting us into the Controversie. We found Mr. Taylor very desirous to have us hear not only the Difficultys which repeatedly withstood it, that being of Civil Nature and had been fully heard, and Settled in a Course of Law, which had run through the Courts. We conceiv'd it would be best to have something drawn up for Mr. Taylor to offer the Church of Bedford, which if it express'd a sutable [sic] Christian Frame in him, would be most of all likely to induce them to grant him a Dismission to Concord first Church, and put an End to the Contention; at least what subsisted between Mr. Taylor and the Church of Bedford. This was therefore what we bent our Minds to. One and another try'd to draught Something—and we discours'd with Mr. Taylor to perswade him to it, but it seem'd in Vain—it grew late and we retir'd to rest—the Bedford Committee returning home. Mr. Whitefield preaches

³ "A Paper was read to the Church (being Stop'd at Evening) Sign'd by Abijah Gale containing his acknowledgment of acting foolishly and imprudently with the wife of Isaac Amsden of Southborough; and the Church voted Satisfaction with what he offer'd." Westborough Church Records, Nov. 10, 1754. See Diary for Sept. 17-19, 1754.

⁴ The brother of the Reverend Solomon Prentice, who had been dismissed by the Grafton church. Pierce, *Grafton*, p. 551.

⁵ Samuel Dunbar of Canton.

at Upton. I sent him a Letter on three Heads—the last of them requesting he would go to poor Smithfield.

13. After frequent importunate Sollicitations I undertook to draw up Something for Mr. Taylor to make application with to the Church in Bedford: little imagining that it would succeed; yet it did, through the divine Favour, and as we had earnestly requested the Committee from Bedford to return again, So they came and Mr. Taylor having Sign'd the Address to their Church, They freely came in to it, and each of them engag'd to use their best Influence to have it succeed with the Church. Whereupon we gave Thanks to God, din'd, adjourn'd without Day, and parted with Joy. I rode to Marlborough and lodg'd there.

14. When I return'd home, understood that tho there was an appointment of Hands to come yesterday P.M. to level my Bank on the Back of the House, yet none came to the work but Mr. Kenny, and towards night Noah Forbush.

15. Very rainy last Night and this Morning but p.m. Clear. Visited Mr. Jonah Warrins Daughter Sarah who is much disorder'd in the Mind. Mr. Warrin told me he deliver'd my Letter into Mr. Whitefield's Hands, and that he saw him read in it.

16. Old Mr. Maynard cleaning the Meeting House, din'd here.

17. Read 1 Sam. 17 to about 31, 10. Preach'd on Col. 1, 16, 17. P.M. read Rev. 11 and by means of the Business of last Week was oblig'd to repeat Sermon on Acts 16, 29, 30. At Eve Mr. Jeduthun Baldwin here.

18. Rain—especially the latter part of the Day—at Night the Storm increas'd greatly. Mr. Baldwin lodg'd here to night also, being prevented by the storm returning.

19. Mr. Baldwin left us, it being a bright Day. Neighbour Moses Nurse plough'd Indian Hills for me in order to Sow Rye. At Eve Ebenezer here. N.B. Mr. Jonah Warrin being in great Distress for his Dauter Sarah, came for me. And I went. She had attempted Several Times to destroy her Self; but now was Somewhat calm and conversible. Dr. Brigham⁶ here. I pray'd with them. The Doctor in returning din'd with us.

⁶ Samuel Brigham, the physician of Marlborough.

20. Mr. James Fay and his wife came to see me. I visited Mr. Daniel Forbush's Child under a grievous Scald, and pray'd with him. N.B. his Discourse about Mr. Whitefield, and of my Conduct with regard to him. At Lieutenant Tainters at Eve.

21. Ebenezer went to Brookfield after our young Cattle. He rode my Mare. Moses Nurse with 2 Yoke of Oxen, and my Billy helping, plough'd, sow'd Rye and harrow'd it in. Held a Catechetical Exercise to Young Women. At Eve Ebenezer and Samuel Forbush each with a Yoke of Cattle, Noah Forbush with my sons Oxen and a Drag, Elijah Rice, Moses Nurse and his Cousen Daniel and Abner Newton, came and plough'd and drew down Gravel from the back of my House. N.B. Much to 't for want of Wood.

22. The Friend at a Pinch, Lieutenant Tainter brought a Load of Wood. Mr. Jacob Foster here—gives up his School, and bids farewell to Westborough—tells me Mr. Benjamin Webb⁷ is to keep in his Stead at North End.

23. Last Night is froze hard. Billy having harrow'd yesterday with Ebenezer's Oxen at the Island at Night went home with them. He this Morning return'd here with them, and Carted out Muck into the Garden and Grass Ground. Thomas help'd him a.m. but was ill p.m. Lieutenant Tainter another Load of Wood. P.M. Mr. Gleason of Oxford here. At Eve Mr. George Bruce of Mendon here. Had been serving a Writ on Richard Barns, who it is fear'd is hastening into Ruin. Ebenezer return'd.

24. Very Cold Night, the last. Read 1 Sam. 17, from number 32. Preach'd on Rev. 5, 9. At Dinner were besides Ebenezer and his Wife, Mr. Hezekiah How, and Mrs. Lydia Cutting. P.M. read Rev. 12, and by reason of my difficult Circumstances (especially being oblig'd to help yesterday in Carting out Muck) was oblig'd to repeat an old Discourse. It was an Expository Exercise on Mat. 12, 42. Omitted to appoint the Communion to my great Sorrow.

25. Storm of Snow. My Stray'd Steer brought home by Ebenezer.

⁷ (Harvard 1743). *Sibley*, XI, 326-327.

26. Wrote to Mr. John Parkman in the Isle of Wight. Sent it by Mr. Jonathan Bond to the Care of my Brother Samuel Parkman in Boston. Mr. John Chamberlins Wife here from Stockbridge. She relates the sorrowful Story of the Indians besetting their House and killing two of her Children. At Eve Mr. Daniel Warrin, Collector, here. Tells me the Treasurer, Phinehas Hardy is advis'd not to give him Orders to pay me any Money till two Notes, viz. for 2£ each, on account of the Pew are Satisfy'd for—and yet the Precinct know that I am ready to pay them if they will but give me a Title to the Pew. They are especially Esquire Baker and Deacon Newton, who Mr. Warrin mentions are advising in the Manner aforesaid, and therefore altho my Dependence upon receiving Money of the Collector now, is greater than usual, and my Necessitys more pressing, yet he gives me little ground of Hope that I can be supply'd either as presently or plentifully, as my Straits require.

27. Cold Day. Winds high; Snow blowing about. Billy must needs go a Hunting, having long begg'd this Favour.

28. Thanksgiving. I preach'd on Ps. 150, numbers 1 and 2. N.B. appointed the Communion to be on the Next Lords Day—having omitted to do it last Lords Day—but gave Opportunity for any one to object if there were any that desir'd to. Ebenezer and his Wife with us. May we have a truly grateful sense of the divine Benefits and of our infinite Obligations therefor!

29. My Wife Saw Deacon Newton and call'd him in to talk with him concerning his Advice to the Treasurer as mention'd on the 26th. I also went down to him, and in my Discourse with him highly resented it. At Eve Mr. Solomon Woods here.

30. Have had a great deal of Trouble in my Mind and much Discourse with my Wife about Deacon Newtons Conduct; ever since my Conference with him Yesterday forenoon.

DECEMBER, 1754

With much adoe my Mind was brot into some Composedness. Omitted reading both a. and p.m. Preach'd on Rev. 5, 9, a.m. On Acts 16, 29, 30 p.m. N.B. was oblig'd to deliver a great part of

the latter Exercise without any Writing—the former part was a repetition of Sermon on the Text. N.B. Mrs. Chamberlin of Stockbridge, and Deacon Forbush din'd here. Mrs. Chamberlin lodg'd here.

2. Sent for Mr. Jonathan Forbush and acquainted him with what I had met with respecting the Pew. Agreed with him that he should pay for and build and improve the Pew as long as I liv'd—but at my Decease he shall return it to my Family and give them Legal Conveyance of it, they repaying him the price he pays and for the building it; and indemnifying him with respect to his Seat in the Meeting House elsewhere. This he consents to—upon Supposition he outlives me, but does not bind his Heirs thereto if he decease first. This he also declar'd in the hearing of my Wife. N.B. Mrs. Chamberlin here. N.B. Town Meeting to Call in Town Debts; at which my son Ebenezer very hardly gets his Bill for boarding the Schoolmaster, Mr. Foster, granted. Is forc'd to abate from 35/ Old Tenor to 30/ per week.

3. My son Forbush here. My wife goes with him to Boston on Mr. Jonathan Forbush's Mare, and he takes Mrs. Chamberlin's which She was otherwise to have rid on. Mrs. Chamberlin remaining Still with us. N.B. Mr. Jonathan Forbush brought me my promissory Notes from the Treasurer Hardy given for the Pew, and so ends that Affair. Only now my son Forbush heard his Brother Jonathan declare (as yesterday in the hearing of my Wife) concerning giving up the Pew to my Heirs if he outlives me. N.B. Mr. Phinehas Rice of Grafton here and wants copys of the Papers against Mr. Hutchinson.

4. In the Morning had some Discourse with Treasurer Hardy concerning the Taking away the Pew from me in that violent manner. Mrs. Chamberlin left us to go to Captain Forbush's. Tho it rain'd I rode over to the North End and preach'd Mr. Martyns Lecture. Text Rom. 7, 9. I return'd at Eve. My son Thomas has been lathing his Shop. Mr. Gale having finish'd the work he had to do there in preparing for the Mason.

5. Bright and pleasant. I preach'd at Mr. Grow's, on the Same that I did Yesterday: Lieutenant Maynard, 3 Howes, Mr.

Daniel Warrin (over the River) and Mr. Phineas Maynard Set up Stables on my Land back of the Meeting House.

6. I wrote to Mr. Hutchinson concerning Mr. Rice's Desiring Copys etc. See on the third, and I sent it per Mr. Ezekiel Brigham of Grafton. My wife with my son Forbush returned in Safety. Blessed be God!

7. Mr. Forbush to Brookfield.

8. Read 1 Sam. 18. Preach'd on Rev. 5, 9, a. and p.m. Read p.m. Rev. 13.

9. Brother Hicks and his Daughter Hannah here. Lieutenant Maynard etc. finishing their Stables.

10. Visit Mr. Eleazer Pratts, Mr. William Nurse's, Mr. Smiths, Mr. Reuben Maynard's Family.

11. Mr. Adams and his wife here at Even. Sold 11 Sheep to Mr. Simon Tainter. Persis Fay Spins here.

12. Precinct Meeting to call in Debts and especially to See what they are indebted for the Meeting House. They grant 281£ old Tenor.

13. The Earth has been open for some time, but now Snow—p.m. Rain. At Eve came Brother Hicks and Dauter Hannah and lodged here.

14. Bright Morn, Brother Hicks and Dauter proceed on their Journey home. I rode up to Grafton. Directed Mr. Hutchinson to call at Captain Bakers and desire him to keep his Horse—which he did.

15. Preach'd there a. and p.m. on Rom. 7, 9. N.B. Consulted with the Deacons Whipple and How, Major Willard and 2 sons and Mr. Brooks and his son, about baptizing Mr. Hezekiah Taylors, and Mr. Jonathan Rolf's Child—and requested their Minds concerning my giving Copys of their Papers which were given in to the Ministers concerning Mr. Hutchinson: and they were generally of the Mind that it was best to wave it for the present—nay and not to gratifie anyone that would be likely to disturb their peace till the Church's Consent to it shall be obtain'd. P.M. I baptiz'd the following Children—Hannah, of Hezekiah and Abigail Taylor; Lucy, of Aaron and Elizabeth

Brigham; Elizabeth, of Jonathan and Abigail Rolf. At Eve came to see me Messers. Arnold, Isaac Harrington, and Stephen Prentice. Mr. Hutchinson return'd, having preach'd on Rom. 10, 10, and John 12, 46.

16. The Wind very high—call'd at Mr. Arnolds and at Mr. Brooks's in my Return home. When I came home found here my Cousen Sadler who came here yesterday noon to See me. At Eve Lieutenant Tainter and his Wife here at Supper.

17. P.M. Lieutenant Tainter came and waited on my Kinswoman Sadler to Ensign Mathis's in Southborough. N.B. Vendue at the Meeting House, at which are sold the Remnants of the Boards, Plank etc. now the Carpenters and joiners have finish'd their Work. Visited Deacon Newton who is ill, but mending.

18. The Reverend Mr. Wellman din'd here. I have receiv'd the whole six of Mr. Edwards's Enquiry. Rainy.

19. Visited Sarah Warrin who is yet out of order. Hannah Gold who lately lay in at Mr. Williams of a base born Child. My Wife walked to the other House to see my Dauter in Law, who is under some peculiar bad Circumstances and over runs her Time.

20. Vendue of Remnants of Boards etc. at the Meeting House. I went a little while. Very Cold Night.

21. [No entry.]

22. Read a.m. 1 Sam. 20. P.M. preach'd on Eph. 1, 7, each part of the Day. P.M. read Rev. 14. Widow Beeman, Persis Fay Still live here.

23. Lieutenant Griffin here going to Boston.

24. Visited Mr. Jonathan Bellows and his wife in order to compose their Strife. N.B. Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin there and much disquieted with Mrs. Bellows. When I return'd home Mr. Martyn and wife here and din'd here.

25. Joseph Bowman came from Boston having done Several Errands for us, and call'd me up between 2 and 3 in the Morning. After Day exceeding Rainy.

26. At Eve Ebenezer came over for his Mother, his wife growing ill. About 10 o'clock at Night a Daughter was born to them. D.G.

27. My Wife has not return'd from the Groaning. P.M. I took my Daughter Sarah into the Chair and rode over to See My Dauter Eliza and her new born Babe. Left my Wife Still to tarry another Night, their Maid being not Sufficient and their Nurse not yet with them. N.B. 5 Bushels of Oats of Solomon Miller at 8/ old Tenor.

28. Sent Billy over to help his Brother in the forenoon. P.M. Mr. John Chamberlin of Stockbridge here. Brings my Volume of Chubbs Tracts¹ from Mr. Edwards. He informs me that Mr. Edwards is very weak and brought down by the Fever and Ague, which has follow'd for some months past, and that the Captain Cuncauput is return'd, a great many of the Stockbridge Indians, perhaps two Thirds of them are gone from the Town. Towards Eve my wife return'd from t'other House. N.B. Mr. Eleazer Williams brought a Load of Wood.

29. Read 1 Sam. 21. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Acts 9, 6 carrying on the Subject begun from Acts 16, 29, 30, but p.m. in Application endeavouring to stir up Conviction and Humiliation Shewing the Evil Nature of Sin. I us'd from page 2 to page 12 of Sermon on Job 33, 27. Mr. John Chamberlin of Stockbridge din'd here. N.B. my Son and Dauter gave Thanks for the little Token of the Divine Goodness to them. But what a Damp it is to my Joy that they have not lain hold on God's Covenant for themselves or their Offspring! The Lord give me an Heart Seriously to reflect upon it!

30. My Wife and I rode over in the Slay to visit our Children and dine there. Return'd at Eve home. N.B. My Daughter in Some Comfort, Blessed be the Lord who heals her! and the Child in a hopefull State. It was represented very Small, but by its Weight appears near middling (as they Speak) and tho they had many Thoughts to call it Mary, yet agree to call it Elizabeth.

31. A considerable storm of Rain and Snow. We are in Some Difficulty for want of Wood. Mr. Jeduthun Baldwin came here last Evening. He goes to Worcester this Morning in his Journey

¹ Thomas Chubb, *Three Tracts* (London, 1727) or *A Collection of Tracts on Various Subjects* (London, 1730).

to Brookfield. Three of my Sons having lain with Noah Forbush at t'other House, we fear have taken a Troublesome Distemper, and are using Some Means to drive it out if they have, and another which they have probably infected with them.

Thus Ends this Year, in which we have in General had thro Divine Mercy much Health of Body, but not a few Straits, Cares, and Difficultys. God be pleas'd to sanctifie them and prepare us for what we have yet to conflict with especially our final Departure out of this State which has many Scenes of Sin and Trouble.

JANUARY, 1755

A true Sense of the Divine Dispensations would (methinks) fill my Soul with an holy astonishment at the Liberty and Goodness of God which is still protracted: and His Longsuffering is amazing towards So worthless and unfruitful a Creature. O that I might be rous'd and quicken'd! and O that God would vouchsafe after all, to pardon and Sanctifie me; and that He would please to direct and assist me in the great incumbent Dutys—that I may improve my Time, Serve the Souls of men, and Save my own soul as well as those that hear me! It was very Cold, yet Billy went to Ensign Woods the Clothier and to Allens Mill.

2. Very Cold—but Billy to Johnsons Mill. I have almost Every Day Deep Concern for both the Spiritual and Temporal Welfare of my Children especially my dear son Ebenezer. Would humbly lift my Soul to God on this Account and beg Grace to Committ my whole Cause to Him, who I know will do what is wisest and best. In That I would repose myself.

3. The Aged Judge Ward here and din'd with us.

5. Read 1 Samuel 22. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Ps. 39, 6. Read P.M. Rev. 16. On this Day my little son Samuel was observ'd to look Yellow.

6. More Notice taken of Sammè's Yellowness, yet plays about and is brisk. At Eve Mr. David Maynard junior here, and gives me account of the unhappy Condition of his Brother Mason, who has lain for some time in Worcester Jayl.

7. Traded away sled sides to Lieutenant Stephen Maynard and brought 1000 shingles of him.

8. Sammè, tho he sits at Table with us and plays about, grows very Yellow from Day to Day—to our Surprize he does indeed in some Measure fail in his Appetite.

9. At Captain Forbush's, heard that Mr. Daniel Hastings dy'd on the 7th having had the Mumps and took Cold. It was very Surprizing—may God sanctify it to us, as well as to his own Relations! He dys in the midst of his Glory and gaiety—was just going to be married—but that very Day his Thoughts perish.

10. Mr. Solomon Stow brought me 5 sheets of Tin (price 5/ a piece Old Tenor) for my Chamber Floor, next my Hearth.

11. Exceeding High Gusts in the Night—my old Barn is in great Danger, but God is our preserver; to Him I committ myself and my substance.

12. [No entry.]

[The remainder of the diary for January, 1755, and for the entire month of February, 1755 has been lost.]

MARCH, 1755

1. Lieutenant Maynard with two Stout Teams, brought 6 Load of Wood. P.M. I attended the Funeral of Mr. Joseph Farr of Southborough, Mr. Stone being gone to Boston. I proceeded to Mr. Stones having agreed to change with him. He came home before Night—but so tir'd he tarried at Home.

2. In the Morning he rode up to Westborough and preach'd here. I preach'd at Southboro on Zech. 1, 5 and John 12, 35, occasion'd by the late Death of the Venerable Mr. Stone¹ of Harwich Aet. 88. At Eve I return'd home—call'd to see Mr. Ephraim Bruce's Child which he told me Yesterday had a Pin Stuck across the Throat—but now they can't tell what is come of it—they suppose it Swallow'd.

3. Altho it was Town Meeting Day, yet I went away Somewhat Early to Visit Mr. Zebulon Rice—call'd at Mr. Grouts and

¹The Reverend Nathaniel Stone (Harvard 1690) had served Brewster (Harwich), 1700-1755.

Mr. Phinehas Hardy's. Mr. Zeublon Rice gone to Town Meeting at Upton—his Wife also from Home. Visit Mr. Ebenezer Miller and Mr. Moses Warrin din'd at the House of the Latter. N.B. My Wife indispos'd.

4. A great Storm of Snow. I would have gone over to the Funeral of Captain James Eagers Wife, if it had not been so exceeding stormy: and it is doubtful whether they will be able themselves to attend it. N.B. This Day 38 Year ago, old Stile, The Great Snow Storm.

5. I preach'd the Lecture from 1 Cor. 11, 20. At Eve my Wife and I went up to Captain Bakers² to the Marriage of Mrs. Betty to Mr. Jonas Wilder of Bolton. Stay'd to supper and made it late Home. Very Cold.

6. N.B. My Wife much indispos'd from Day to Day.

7. Captain Benjamin Wood of Hopkinton dines here. He gives me further Account of the perplext state of their Church. Snows again.

8. Lieutenant Tainter comes up from Boston but leaves his Whirrey at Waltham by reason of the deep Snows. My Watch useless.

9. Read 1 Sam. 28. Preach'd A.M. Isa. 9, 6. The mighty God. Administer'd the Lords Supper. P.M. Read Rev. 22, and preach'd on number 22. Had an Exceeding great Weight upon my Spirits last night especially concerning my own state and Frame. Had a great Relief in my Mind as to my sermons (their being prepar'd Seasonably) having Spent the week very much in Work—and got them done before the Sabbath. D.G.

10. Colonel Williams, Colonel Brigham and Major Ward met here—they are going to Mendon to give out Commissions there.

11. My Wife and I rode p.m. to See Lieutenant Bruce, who was lately very ill. Sent my Watch by Mr. Moses Brigham to Mr. Moses Peck at Boston.

12. I rode to Mr. William Nurse's expecting to hear Mr. Cushing there but the Meeting which was appointed to be there to Day was put by; the Snow being So deep and very uncom-

² Edward Baker of Westborough.

fortable Travelling. Mr. Ebenezer Nurse went with me. Visited the Widow Whitney, and at Mr. Eleazer Pratts. The Field Officers return from Mendon at Eve.

13. Heavy Rains the last Night: Smoaky Air to Day and rain frequently yet hearing Mr. Ebenezer Rice was confin'd by illness I went up to See him, and endeavour'd to discharge my Duty with tender Affection to him.

14. Mr. George Bruce Sheriff call'd here. He had been with an Execution against Jonas Bradish, who is Bondsman for Mr. Ebenezer Rice. It gives me much Grief, as Mr. Rice has behav'd himself So ingenuously among us. Mr. Bruce acquaints me that Mr. Dorrs³ Family at Mendon is in great Affliction by the illness of Mrs. Katy, at her sister Tafts⁴ in Braintree. It is far from a New Observation that this World is full of Changes, nor is it Strange that we are So unaffected with them.

16. Exceeding Cold Morning. Read a.m. 1 Sam. 28. Preach'd on Rev. 22, 17, a. and p.m. Several persons more than our own Family at Dinner. P.M. appointed a Church-Meeting for the Choice of a Deacon or Deacons to be next Thursday come sen- night at 1 o'Clock p.m. In the Evening began my Preparations for the Fast.

17. Settld my Accounts with Mr. Ebenezer Rice.

18. [No entry.]

19. Mr. James Bowman again asks my advice about a School Master.

20. Public Fast. Preach'd on Mat. 24, 12. After the Exercises Captain Fay warn'd his Company to meet tomorrow to beat for Voluntiers.

21. Messers. Samuel Hardy and Simon Tainter here on the Affair of Mr. Tainters Debt to me for the sheep he bought of me. P.M. the Company Met.

22. Mr. Martyn Sent his Son Richard with a Letter (in Soft Stile) complaining of my not visiting them—to which I return'd a like answer: but as he also acquainted me therein that he could

³ The Reverend Mr. Joseph Dorr.

⁴ Katherine was the daughter of the Reverend Mr. Dorr. Her sister, Mary, married Moses Taft (Harvard 1751), the minister of Randolph, 1752-1791.

not change with me next Sabbath (being previously engag'd to Mr. Cushing) I was oblig'd to prepare as well as I could to preach at home.

23. Read (and Expounded as usual) 1 Sam. 30. Preach'd on Mat. 24, 12, but P.M. was oblig'd to repeat an old Sermon. It was on Heb. 3, 13.

24. Lucy ill with Swelling in her Mouth, Face.

25. My Wife and I rode over in my Chair to Mr. Martyns. Carry'd the Preceptor⁵ Volume 1, and din'd there, it raining hard p.m. and at Eve we tarry'd and lodg'd there. N.B. No word with him of the angry Letters of Last Year to this Day.

26. Bright Morn. We return'd, call'd at Ensign Rice's, and (both going and returning) at Mr. Masons. Call'd also at Captain Maynards, din'd at Ebenezers. P.M. I rode to Mr. William Nurse's and heard Mr. Cushing, on Contentment.

27. This Day the Church Met to choose Deacons. I prepar'd somewhat to deliver on that Occasion, but it was brief and broken. N.B. Mr. Whitney and Deacon Forbush are concern'd, and talk with me before the Meeting about Lieutenant Tainter, who they Say, would be like to be voted for, for one were it not for Something which divers Brethren have heard from him about his paying me (one way or another) a matter of 16 or 17£ upon the Score of the North sides Rates which Should have been paid me in the Year 1744: but which is not so accepted by me. I open'd the Meeting with Prayer. Read Acts 6 to 7, and 1 Tim. 3, 8 to 14 and deliver'd what I had prepared. Brother Whitney chose by 19 out of 25—then try'd for another, but the Votes were scattering, viz. 6 for Lieutenant Tainter, 6 for Mr. Francis Whipple, 6 for Mr. Jonathan Bond, the rest were for Esquire Baker, Jonathan Forbush junior, Daniel Forbush and David Maynard junior. We try'd again—but still no Choice: they were 12 for Lieutenant Tainter, 10 for Mr. Bond, 4 for Mr. Whipple. Try'd again also in Vain; there being now 12 for Mr. Bond, 11 for Lieutenant Tainter—2 for Mr. Whipple and one for

⁵Dodsley, Robert, *The Preceptor: Containing A general Course of Education*, 2 vols., (London 1748). A preface to this work was written by Dr. Samuel Johnson.

Jonathan Forbush junior. We try'd once more and Mr. Bond was chose by 16 votes—only 6 for Lieutenant, the rest for Whipple and Jonathan Forbush junior. Both Mr. Whitney and Mr. Bond modestly refus'd, but their answer was desir'd to be deferr'd to this Day fortnight to which Time the Meeting was adjourn'd. The Disposal of the Lot is of the Lord. At Eve Mr. Jacob Sweetzer of Rutland here, and lodg'd—his Horse at Mr. Nurse's. Billy brings home sad News of Betty Bimelock (Indian) Murdering her Child about six weeks old.

28. Mr. Sweetzer left us before Breakfast and before the Storm which came on when the Day got up.

29. [No entry.]

30. Read 1 Sam. 31. Text Isa. 9, 6. The Everlasting Father. P.M. no reading. The Exercise was from Rev. 1, 3 in which I deliver'd an Extract from Mr. Lowman on the whole Book of Revelation.⁶ N.B. Mr. Jonah Warrin in Distress about his Dauter Sarah again, came to me at noon and desir'd public prayers. N.B. One Mr. Sheldon of Litchfield in Connecticut at Meeting P.M. At Eve I visited Sarah Warrin and pray'd with her.

31. I visited Sarah Warrin again. The Difficultys in my own Family very great on account of our being kept out of Money and Wanting many necessarys—but Desire to keep up my Spirits, hoping in an infinitely Mercifull and gracious God. My Wife lame by the Humors falling into a Blister on one of her Legs, on which she was endeavouring to make an issue. N.B. at Eve a great Light as of Some Burning. It appear'd in the North East.

A P R I L 1 7 5 5

1. Wrote out 12 Principal Articles of Religion for the Benefit of Candidates for Communion. News that the Burning last night was Captain Thomas Amsden's House in Marlborough. Suspected to be by his son in Law Dr. Robinson.¹ P.M. Captain Fays Company call'd together to beat for Volunteers at the Desire

⁶ Moses Lowman (1680-1752) was an English non-conformist divine who published *A Paraphrase and Notes on the Revelation of St. John* (London, 1737).

¹ Jeremiah Robinson had married Eunice Amsden.

of Captain Speakman of Boston. N.B. Mr. Henry Burns of Marlborough here.

2. It rain'd, had no Horse to go to the Fast Exercises at Mr. Jonah Warrin's till accidentally my Dauter in Law came with her Child. The Roads bad and it rain'd so that she did not go (as she design'd)—therefore I took her Horse and went. I pray'd first; Mr. Fish² preach'd on Luke 19, 10. He pray'd P.M. and I preach'd on Phil. 4, 11. Sarah Warrin in So ill a frame that before we began the Exercise I could not get it out of her that she desir'd that what we were undertaking, or concurr'd in it—however she did tarry with us. And at Eve desir'd to talk with Mr. Fish—and when I took leave she ask'd me to remember her as being, if not under Conviction yet under Temptations. My Dauter Eliza return'd home at Eve with her Child.

3. A brighter Day. I preach'd at the widow Newtons on Numb. 23.

4. [No entry.]

5. [No entry.]

6. Read 2 Sam. 1. Preach'd on Isa. 4, 6. P.M. no reading. O that I might have the Grace to submit myself to the Glorious Prince of Peace! and that a perfect Reconcilement on each part might be accomplish'd! not only submit myself but induce Others!

7. Lucy much out of order—breaks out in her Face.

8. Lucy and I ride to Marlborough to consult Dr. Brigham about her. She is blooded—we din'd there. I went to Captain Daniel Barns's³ and paid Mr. Barns the full of my Account there; which was about 6£ old Tenor. Visit Mr. Smith⁴—and also Mr. Ephraim How and pay my Interest there. We return home at Eve; find our Tabernacle in Peace. D.G.

9. I rode down to Mrs. Belknaps who lies Sick—found her in an Excellent Frame as to her Spiritual Frame, pray'd with her—Said what I possibly could to her Husband to induce him to Reflect on himself. Din'd at Chamberlins. N.B. their bitter Complaints

² The Reverend Elisha Fish of Upton.

³ Also a deacon in Marlborough.

⁴ The Reverend Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

of Mr. Jonathan Bellows's. At Eve Mr. Baldwin here—and lodg'd here. My Mare was kept at the Squire's.

10. In the Morning Mr. Whitney gave his Letter to the Church, containing his Denyal. Catechizing a.m. about 28 young Men attend the Catechetical Exercise. P.M. Church meeting by Adjournment to receive the Answers of the Elected Deacons. Mr. Bond after a modest refusal, and the Church insisting on their Choice, submitted. Mr. Whitneys refusal (in writing as aforesaid) was read but the Reason which is couch'd in it, not satisfying the Church we adjourn'd to this Day sennight after Lecture.

11. [No entry.]

12. [No entry.]

13. Read 2 Sam. 2. Preach'd on Mat. 5, 4, and therein deliver'd one of my former Expository Exercises with Alterations Accommodating it to a Scheme I have now in Hand, viz. the manner of the Souls Preparation and coming into Christ. P.M. read Gal. 1, and preach'd from number 15, 16. O what a great important and glorious Work this of bringing the Soul to be acquainted with and united to Christ is! May I myself be one of those who happily experience this—but alas! My Great Darkness and Perplexity!

14. Mr. Samuel Hardy and Mr. John Rogers work here setting up Fence at the Island a.m. and Digging stones behind the Meeting House p.m.

15. Mr. Cushing and I rode over to Hopkinton to Ministers Meeting at Mr. Barretts. It was very thin: none but Mr. Stone more. N.B. Mr. Barretts Troubles a.m. with his Peoples very great. Deacon Millen with Some Questions.

16. Mr. Stone preach'd an Excellent Sermon from Rom. 6, 17. After Lecture Deacon Millen came and left a Paper of Questions for the Association to Solve. N.B. Mr. Prentice⁵ of Holliston and his new Spouse, came and din'd with us. N.B. before we broke up, we that were of the Association had Some serious Dis-

⁵ The Reverend Joshua Prentiss married Margaret, the daughter of Nathaniel Appleton of Cambridge, Jan. 9, 1755.

course with Brother Barrett upon the late Complaints against him—which may God bless and render Effectual! Mr. Cushing my Company home. I ask'd both Mr. Cushing and Mr. Stone to preach my Lecture tomorrow, but in Vain.

17. My Lecture on Ezek. 5, 5 to 9. N.B. Mr. Eliezer Rice asks that his Children might be baptiz'd on his Wife's Account which is readily consented to. N.B. The Church stop'd according to Adjournment. Mr. Whitney persisting in his Refusal the Church proceeded to choose another Deacon. First tryal was scattering. 13 for Brother Tainter: 11 for Brother Jonathan Forbush junior, 1 for Brother Francis Whipple and 1 for Brother David Maynard junior—try'd a second Time—still too Scattering. 14 for brother Forbush, 13 for his Father Tainter again: 2 for Brother Whipple—try'd a Third Time: and then Brother Forbush was chose, viz. 15 out of 29, 11 of which were for Lieutenant Tainter, 2 for Mr. David Maynard and one (if I mistake not) for Mr. Whipple. Adjourn'd to next Monday come sennight 2 p.m. Deacon Bond and his Wife here after meeting.

18. My Wife to Marlborough on Ebenezers Mare, and tarrys over Night.

19. My Wife does not return a.m. by reason of the Rain: but it Clearing away p.m. She came in Safety. N.B. her Kinswoman, Dr. Brigham's Wife, a third Child, the oldest not 3 years old till next August. N.B. Brother Hicks here in his Journey from Cambridge home. N.B. a Child of Mr. Robert Keys nigh Wachusett missing Some Days.

20. A.M. read 2 Sam. 3. Preach'd on Gal. 1, 15, 16. Administered the Lords Supper. P.M. omitted Reading. The Sermon was formed out of Number 130, 131 of Expositions on Mat. 7, 15-21. Ministers Meeting, the Lecture and Family Cares preventing my preparing anew for this Exercise. But my Soul in deep Engagement on my State and Frame. May God most gracious pity, pardon and accept me thro the Merits of the great Redeemer. Deacon Bond waited at Communion.

21. Mr. Samuel Hardy came to Clearing. He takes the work between the Pasture Fences to clear for a Dollar. P.M. Reverend

Mr. Hall of Sutton here, going to Boston on account of Troubles he meets with by means of Mr. Elisha Putnam and Duncan Campbell Esquire. N.B. Mr. Keys's Child not found, tho some Hundreds of men were Yesterday and to Day in Search after her. A dozen went who belong to our Congregation.

22. I visited at Mr. Zebulon Rice's, Captain Fays, Mr. Whipples, Mr. Eliezer Rice's and Mr. Pratts.

23. This Morning my Wife, accompany'd by Deacon Forbush Set out on her Journey to Brookfield. She had Ebenezers Mare to ride on. I borrow'd old Mr. Charles Rice's to ride to Shrewsbury, to preach Mr. Cushings Lecture—din'd there—but Mr. Cushing⁶ of Waltham being on a Visit to their Parents I conceiv'd it would be more agreeable for him to preach and therefore I requested him to—he comply'd and preach'd on Luke 12, 43. N.B. Discourse with Mr. Thomas Smith who went to a Wise-Man (Mr. Williams Wood a blacksmith in Scituate nigh Providence) to know where Mr. Keys's lost Child might be found. Call'd for my Account with Dr. Smith as I return'd at Eve.

24. Catechiz'd both parts of the Day at the Meeting House—35 Boys—28 Girls.

25. Mr. Moses Nurse with his Plough and 4 Oxen, assisted by Deacon Bonds Son Thomas and a Yoke of Oxen and from 4 o'Clock P.M. Barnibus Newtons Oxen broke up Some Grass Ground for me on the Island.

26. Alpheus Newton was to have come and Sowed Wheat for me, but disappointed me. Poor Mr. Samuel Coollidge,⁷ brought up by Lieutenant Tainter, 2 or 3 Days ago, is in Town, that if he may be able he may keep School.

27. Read 2 Sam. 4. Preach'd on Josh. 7, 13. P.M. read Isa. 8, and preach'd on number 20 against the foolish and wicked practice of going to Cunning Men to enquire for lost Things. And may God succeed what has been Said! Poor Mr. Coollidge was very distracted last night. Lieutenant Tainter tarries at home with him to Day.

⁶ The Reverend Jacob Cushing was the son of Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

⁷ Coolidge (Harvard 1724) had a checkered career as librarian at Harvard, sometime preacher and schoolmaster. See Diary, Sept. 8, 1744, and July 3, 1745.

28. The Church met by Adjournment to receive Brother Jonathan Forbush juniors Answer—he desir'd to be excus'd, but his Reasons not Satisfying the Church, he submitted. Wrote a Letter to my Wife at Brookfield in Answer to hers by Deacon Forbush. Deliver'd mine to Mr. Francis Whipple who designs to Lambstown⁸ tomorrow. N.B. I very affectionately let the Church know (at their meeting to Day that my Difficultys and Burdens are inexpressibly great, So that I was unavoidably forc'd to omitt many Things in my ministerial Work which I would most gladly perform—many Schemes and Designs for their Souls Good, I was forc'd to drop—and I could not but greatly lament it for their sakes as well as my own. I let 'em know that it was very much against my Inclination to be uttering Complaints—I was averse to putting Memorials to the Precinct. I therefore apply'd to Them as the Lord's People praying they would advise some way or other for my Relief. However at least to let me have their fervent Prayers to God for me. And thus left it.

29. Visit Lieutenant Forbush—and Captain Forbush. N.B. took him aside and talk'd with him closely, and may God render it Effectual! N.B. Mrs. Lucy Forbush (Ebenezers Wife) fell backward from her Horse before my House. I in part saw her—ran to her help—directed her into my House till she might revive and recover—she complains very much of her Hand aking extremely—Captain Tyler of Mendon with me. She recover'd so as to go home.

30. Mr. John Rogers comes with his Oxen and Plough—splits hills by the Barn and sows Wheat. Billy with my Mare helps him.

M A Y , 1 7 5 5

In the Morning I went to Mr. Jonah Warrins¹—Sarah, his Dauter, exceedingly Set to destroy herself, being requested by him tho against her Inclination, I pray'd. N.B. She ran away

⁸ Lambstown plantation had become the town of Hardwick.

¹ Of Westborough.

into the Woods, and all hands after her. Neighbour Alpheus Newton a.m. sowed and plough'd in some more Wheat and some Peas at the Barn Orchard.

2. In the morning Captain Baker brot me a Letter from Mr. Forbush and my Wife (at Brookfield) urging me to go up there, and informing me that Mr. Benjamin Lull of the Manor of Peace would meet me Monday or Tuesday next at Brookfield. P.M. rode up to Mr. William Nurse's, on my own Mare, there got Daniel Nurse's, and left mine. Rode to Mr. Noah Brooks's and lodg'd—at their earnest Request.

3. Rode to Brookfield. Din'd at Mr. Roberts at Leicester.² N.B. Dr. Upham's Company from Mr. Eatons.⁴ Found my wife and Mr. Forbush⁵ and his in Health.

4. My People destitute (for I could not get up to Brookfield soon enough for Mr. Forbush to go to Westborough). I preach'd at Brookfield a.m. on Rev. 22, 16 and p.m. on Ps. 110, 3. Many of the other part of Town at Mr. Forbush's meeting, Mr. Harding⁶ being absent, and his people in great Disquietment.

5. My Wife and I, with Mr. Forbush and his, at Dinner at Mr. Benjamin Adams's. P.M. Mr. Forbush and I rode to Esquire Fosters and to Mr. Henry Dwights—and Captain Buckminsters.

6. Preach'd a Lecture for Mr. Forbush from Judg. 14, 14. After Lecture came Mr. Lull to Mr. Forbush. Supp'd late at Lieutenant Abraham Hows, my wife, and Mr. Forbush, and his wife there also. Mr. Lull lodg'd at Mr. Jabez Ayre's.

7. Mr. Lull came and we made an agreement about his Pearl-Hill Lot in Townshend, and reciprocally gave Notes of Sixty five pounds Lawfull Money to stand to our agreement—then we rode up to the Town, an Ecclesiastical Council sitting to Day on the Affair of Mr. Hardings Dismission. I return'd with Mr. Forbush at Evening.

² The Reverend Joseph Roberts.

³ Jabez Upham, a physician of Brookfield.

⁴ The Reverend Joshua Eaton of Spencer.

⁵ The Reverend Eli Forbes (or Forbush), Parkman's son-in-law.

⁶ The Reverend Elisha Harding of Brookfield, who was dismissed by his congregation a few days later, May 8, 1755. Salary difficulties were behind this controversy. *Sibley*, XI, 561-562.

8. My Wife and I Set out for home. Din'd at Captain John Browns in Leicester, and lodg'd at Mr. Cushings.

9. We came home Safely, and our Tabernacle and all in it in peace. D.G.

10. [No entry.]

11. Read 2 Sam. 5. Preach'd on Gal. 1, 15, 16. P.M. read Tit. 2, and preach'd on number 12, delivering an old Sermon out of a set of sermons from page 34.

12. We heard at Eve that this Morning the Spouse⁷ of Brother Smith of Marlboro died—and somewhat suddenly. An heavy stroke!

13. [No entry.]

14. Colonel Williams⁸ came from the Reverend Mr. Smith to desire me to attend the Funeral of his Wife tomorrow.

15. This Day 2 o'Clock p.m. was last Lords Day appointed to be the Time for the Catechetical Exercise to Young Women: but the Funeral aforesaid prevented it. I took very effectual Pains to Notifie the Young Women in the several parts of the Parish of it. And my wife and I rode down in the Chair to Marlborough. We stop'd and din'd at Colonel Williams as did Messers Cushing and Martyn⁹ and their wives. The Bearers at the Funeral were the Reverend Messers. Loring¹⁰ and Cushing, Gardner,¹¹ Martyn, Goss¹² and I. Mr. Cushing pray'd, Mr. Loring having a Cold. We return'd safe home at Evening.

16. Catechetical Exercise to Young Women—29 present. At Eve Mr. Ebenezer Cutler of Grafton requested me to go in the Morning to See his Son Ebenezer who is ill in Body and disturb'd in Mind.

17. Mr. Williams Wife has Fitts—he lends me his Mare and I rode to See the foresaid young man. Call'd at Mr. William

⁷ Martha Smith, wife of the Reverend Aaron Smith.

⁸ Abraham Williams of Marlborough held many town offices and was a justice of the peace.

⁹ The Reverend John Martyn of Northborough.

¹⁰ Israel Loring of Sudbury.

¹¹ John Gardner of Stow.

¹² Thomas Goss of Bolton.

Nurse's, and agreed with him to preach (by divine leave) at his House next Thursday. Din'd at Mr. Cutlers. At Mr. Bezaleel Smiths and at Mr. Eleazer Pratts in my return home.

18. Mr. Martyn preach'd for me a.m. on Job 31, 14. P.M. on [blank]. I preach'd for him a. and p.m. on Rev. 22, 17. After the Exercises I visited Captain James Eager, who languishes in Jaundice, etc.

19. Town meet to choose a Representative—they Chose Mr. Francis Whipple.

20. Was at the Funeral of Samuel Lyscomb, of Southboro, Esquire. N.B. a.m. was at Marlborough—at Mr. Woods, and at Mr. Smiths. Din'd at the House of Mourning.

21. Was at Captain Bakers, at Eve and married Mr. Jonathan Adams¹³ and Mrs. Hephzibah.¹⁴ N.B. Mr. Forbush from Brookfield here.

22. Preach'd at Mr. William Nurse's on Isa. 66, 2. Mr. Cushing and Mr. Hutchinson¹⁵ there.

23. [No entry.]

24. Was at the Funeral of Mr. David Mathis of Southborough. Ebenezer rode to Brookfield to look of Mr. Harding's Place, or desire the refusal of it. N.B. old Mr. Graves, Deacon Amsden and Deacon Woods desir'd me to preach at Southboro tomorrow, Seeing Mr. Forbush would preach for me, and Mr. Stone¹⁶ was gone to Hardwick.

25. Preach'd at Southborough. A.M. on Rev. 22, 14, and p.m. on Gal. 3, 10. Cursed is Everyone etc. Mr. Forbush for me on [blank]. I went in the Morn and return'd at Eve. N.B. In Southborough they had a Contribution for me.

26. At Eve came Mr. Breck¹⁷ of Springfield and lodg'd here.

27. Mr. Breck, Mr. Whipple (the Representative of this Town) and I set out for Boston. Din'd at Mr. Woodward's¹⁸ at Weston.

¹³ Of Shrewsbury.

¹⁴ The daughter of Squire Edward Baker.

¹⁵ Aaron Hutchinson of Grafton.

¹⁶ The Reverend Nathan Stone of Southborough.

¹⁷ The Reverend Robert Breck, Jr.

¹⁸ The Reverend Samuel Woodward.

Lodg'd at Brother Samuels at Boston. N.B. Mr. Charles Frost¹⁹ of Falmouth lodges there also.

28. Mr. Checkley²⁰ preach'd the Election Sermon on Zeph. 1, 15. A Day of Darkness. I din'd at Mr. Secretary Willards²¹ where also din'd old Mr. White²² of Gloucester, old Mr. Niles²³ of Braintree, Mr. Wigglesworth²⁴ of Ipswich, Messers. Nathaniel²⁵ and Daniel Rogers,²⁶ and Mr. Hemingway²⁷ of Townshend. P.M. Made a Visit to Colonel Mascarene²⁸ where my kinswoman Hersey²⁹ lives—and attended the Convention of Ministers. Mr. Prince³⁰ Moderator and Dr. Mayhew³¹ Scribe. Visited my Kinswoman Olivers Family, but he was not at home. Poor old Scipio (one of my Brother Alexanders Negro Men) very low. Instructed and prayed with him. Visited my sister Rebecca,³² at the North End; and lodg'd at Brother Williams.

29. Convention Lecture by Mr. Joseph Parsons of Bradford, on Mat. 5, 14, 15, 16. Din'd at Mr. Mathers, where also din'd a great number more, viz. Messers. Job Cushing, John Gardner, Parsons, Abbot,³³ William Balch,³⁴ Bradstreet,³⁵ etc. P.M. Visit my Kinswoman Langdon³⁶ lately widow'd, and the Deacon her Father in Law attended the Conversation a little while [but Mr. Lowel desiring me to go to smoak a Pipe with Dr. Chauncy,³⁷

¹⁹ (Harvard, 1730). Frost was a wealthy merchant and landowner, justice of the peace and representative of Falmouth, Maine. *Sibley*, VIII, 715-717.

²⁰ Samuel Checkley of the New North Church.

²¹ Josiah Willard, Secretary of Massachusetts.

²² The Reverend John White.

²³ The Reverend Samuel Niles.

²⁴ Samuel Wigglesworth, the minister of Hamilton.

²⁵ The Reverend Nathaniel Rogers of Ipswich.

²⁶ Daniel Rogers, the minister of Ipswich.

²⁷ The Reverend Phineas Hemenway.

²⁸ Jean Paul Mascarene of Boston. See *New Eng. Hist. and Gen. Register*, X (January, 1856), 143-147.

²⁹ Mrs. Israel Hearsey.

³⁰ Thomas Prince of the Old South Church.

³¹ Jonathan Mayhew of the West Church in Boston.

³² Parkman's sister-in-law, Mrs. Alexander Parkman.

³³ The Reverend Hull Abbot of Charlestown.

³⁴ The minister of Groveland.

³⁵ Simon Bradstreet, the minister of Marblehead.

³⁶ Parkman's niece Mary was the widow of Edward Langdon.

³⁷ Charles Chauncy of the First Church in Boston.

I comply'd. N.B. The Conversation chiefly of Mr. Biles³⁸ and his wife in their violent squabbles. No word of our own Disgusts. I think this visit was on the 28th.] At Eve Brother Samuel and I visited Deacon Grant. Both return'd to his House, and there arose an unexpected Contest between him and me about Clark the Separate who had exhorted in Boston a few Years Since and was lately in Falmouth. Mr. Charles Frost present and join'd with him, very sanguinely. I Soon held my Tongue: and let it go off.

30. Set myself to hire Money in order to Purchase of the Reverend Mr. Harding of Brookfield for Ebenezer: but in vain. Visited Colonel Saltonstall at his Brother Cooks—he is exceeding low, and much distress'd. Pray'd with him and commended him to God. Visited Mr. Foxcroft—din'd with my Kinsman Winter. Mr. William Winter and I go to old Mr. Owen Harris to hire money, but the attempt there also was without any success. Visited Mr. Sutton who Shew'd me a mathematical Bellows. N.B. at the 3 Horse Shooes enquired after Francis Fogery—or Allagajo—could not find nor hear of Him—but there was Bartholomew—and Captain Lane an Interpreter. Lodg'd at Miss Dudley's.

31. A great Frost last night. Undertook my Journey home and I arriv'd well; found my Family in Peace. D.G. N.B. I din'd at Mr. Isaac Brooks in Waltham and rode most of the Journey home alone. Call'd at Dr. Robys,³⁹ and at the Widow Darlings.

JUNE, 1755

1. Read 2 Sam. 7. Preach'd on Ps. 68, 1, a. and p.m. and p.m. read Ps. 66. N.B. Mention'd to the Congregation Judge Saltonstalls¹ Sickness, before Prayer.

2. Lucy and I rode to t'other House and din'd there. Mr. Eliezer Rice goes to Boston to See his Son Silas at the Camp, and

³⁸ The Reverend Mather Byles of the Hollis Street Church. A modern authority says "that Byles's humor was enough to make a wreck of any woman." *Sibley*, VII, 479.

³⁹ Ebenezer Roby, the physician of Sudbury.

¹ Colonel Richard Saltonstall.

at his Request I wrote a few Lines of Instruction and Caution to the Youth. I visited at Mr. David Maynard juniors and talk with him about his getting Timber for a Kitchin, which he says he will forward. N.B. Whilst I was gone last week Mr. Phinehas Hardy brought 3 Posts for my Kitchin. Mr. Freeland at work here, turning a Coat for Billy.

3. Rode over to Deacon Bonds; at Eve Mr. Baldwin here.

4. I preach'd my Lecture on Ps. 68, 1. Very hot weather—and follow'd with Thunder.

5. Mr. John Rogers and Rody Smith digging Stones. Billy brought over Rails from t'other Place, and carry'd out Ashes to the Cook Field, and laid 'em on the New-broke ground. Thomas has been drooping for Several Days—today Seems worse. P.M. went to Mr. Daniel Forbush to the raising of a New House. Went in to Ensign Millers—who grows weaker with his Paralytic Shaking.

6. My Son Thomas has Fever and Ague.

7. Judas Rice here and paid Thomas and me in behalf of his Brother Asaph.

8. Read 2 Sam. 8. Preach'd on Gen. 49, 10 latter part. Administer'd the Lords Supper. P.M. read Isa. 44 and preach'd on number 5. N.B. my old Neighbour Mrs. Elizabeth How din'd with us.

9. Went over to the Funeral of Captain James Eager,² who dy'd last Saturday Morning in the 69th year of his age. My Company chiefly in going and returning was Captain Baker and his wife. N.B. My Kinsman Bryant of Stoneham, going to Grafton, call'd here. I would Seriously reflect upon my own Speedy Departure. O that God would fasten and ripen the Impressions upon Me!

10. Rody Smith work'd with Billy in hoeing Corn. Mrs. Prentice³ and with her one Mrs. Logan, going to Charlestown, call'd here. I perceive they are plung'd very deep into Errors; and Yet Seem exceeding Spiritual, heavenly and Purify'd—at

² An early settler of Westborough who had served as selectman.

³ Mrs. Solomon Prentice of Grafton, at other times known as an "immortal."

least Mrs. Prentice. 'Tis Said they are Nicolaitans, and yet Perfectionists. O the infinite Mischief done by such to the Church of God which they profess to have the most fervent Affection to! May God grant 'em a Discovery of the Evil; and may I and all others be preserv'd from their Mischievous Reveries! My Kinsman Briant call'd here in his Return.

11. Thomas Still lies by, with the Fever and Ague.

12. Was at Captain Fays Training—I din'd at his House; and he din'd all the Company and all that Came, on free Cost. N.B. I Spoke to the Company to avoid Intemperance and Disorders.

13. Mr. Kenny and his son Nathan I hir'd to hoe my Corn with Billy. P.M. Mrs. Winchester here, and requests me to write a Letter to her son John Chamberlin at Stockbridge, which I gratify'd her in. She also gave us a melancholly Account of the Conduct of Mrs. Prentice and her Party.

14. Mr. Batheric Shews himself one of a mutinous Spirit against Military Officers—this was in some Conversation I had occasionally with him near the Meeting House.

15. Read 2 Sam. 9. Preach'd on Isa. 44, 5, a and p.m. Lieutenant Bruce's wife ill: was pray'd for.

16. Variously hinder'd from visiting Mrs. Bruce. Chiefly was disappointed of what I expected from Mr. Bruce, an Horse to ride on to them.

17. My Son Ebenezer's Wife, with her young Child, and my Dauter Lucy rode in my Chair to Brookfield. Rode to Mr. Martyns and with him to Bolton, to Ministers Meeting—Messers. Cushing, Seccomb and Morse all that were at Mr. Goss's besides us. N.B. Mr. Morse perswaded in his Mind that God will remarkably bring down his Enemies and gave us a Concio to that Purpose. My Daughter Elizabeth and Lucy rode to Brookfield in my Chair. Lodg'd at Mr. Goss's.

18. Mr. Stone and Mr. Mellen⁴ came. I having never preach'd at Bolton, was urg'd to preach the Lecture, Seeing Mr. Barrett⁵ who was appointed to do it was absent, and it being a remarkable

⁴ The Reverend John Mellen of Sterling.

⁵ The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

Juncture of the Forces marching to Providence to take Ship there, and many moving westward, and the Preparations ripening apace for the Expedition against Crown Point, I preach'd on Josh. 7, 4, 13. P.M. Mr. Martyn and his Wife were my Company back as far as their House, where, because of the Storm (of Rain) prevailing I Stop'd and lodg'd.

19. I return'd home. Attended a Catechetical Exercise to Young Men (about 24 of them) and afterwards visited Mrs. Bruce in her illness.

20. Ebenezer finishes Weeding. Billy comes home Sick from thence.

21. Dr. Willson⁶ of Hopkinton having visited Mr. Daniel Warrin, return'd and din'd here.

22. Read Sam. 10. Preach'd a.m. on Eccl. 12, 13. P.M. read Isa. 46, and preach'd from number 8. N.B. made Some use of 2 pages of Sermon on Tit. 2, 6, viz. part of page 15, all 16, and part of 17. Deliver'd also 12 Articles of Religion which I recommended to Young People especially. N.B. a great number of Bills for Prayer and Thanks—but p.m. I happen'd to forget to take Notice of two of them that were put up then. They were Lieutenant Bruce's for his Wife; and Mr. Eliphalet Adams on occasion of the Death of his Mother: Lieutenant Bruce came into my House, and the Storm abroad was great, Thunder, Lightening, and Rain. Yet the Storm of Brother Bruce's Passions was more grievous; uttering many bitter and grievous Things; neither could I at all lay his Passionate Heat by anything I could Say. He went away talking and in a Rage, notwithstanding it was the Sabbath, and the Storm which Should have Struck Terror, into each of our Hearts. I could not Suffer him to go away in Such a Frame. I put on my Great Coat, and went to the Meeting House, ready to declare it was not with Design that I omitted the Note, but through forgetfulness—as I went I Spake to him at the Stables to Mollife him—and entreated him and all others that were there to go into the Meeting House; but neither of them did. When I got into the Meeting House I was Somewhat out of

⁶ John Wilson, the physician.

Breath by my running through the Rain. There were many more in the Meeting House (probably) than I expected: Yet I then conceiv'd it best for the prevention of further Mischief to declare that it was thro my Infirmity and no otherwise that his Case was Neglected: I also mention'd to them the Reason of my coming to Speak of it to them, viz. the violent Anger which he was in, and continued in, though I did all in my Power to Compose and Satisfie him: and that he assur'd me he would never bring me any Papers (to desire Prayers) any more. When I return'd from the Meeting House, he being Still at the Stables, I Stop'd there again and there labour'd to pacifie him: but all was in Vain. So that I left him with telling him that I had done and Said enough (and indeed it was too much) I would not trouble my Self any more. This was a just Chastizement from God upon me, for my own Sloth and Negligence! the Lord be mercifull to me a Sinner! Mr. Elizer Rice's Wife Stop'd here because of the Storm and Supp'd with us.

23. I made it my Business to Visit Mrs. Bruce. But went to Mr. Adams's first, because he was poor. N.B. I Sent by the widow Beeman to Mr. Eliphalet Adams, that it was only thro forgetfullness that his Case was omitted in the Prayer. I visited the Widow Beeman also. As to Lieutenant Bruce, he now receiv'd me civilly—no word of yesterday; only when I parted while I had him by the Hand I told him I would not have any Difficulty between him and me, and he answer'd Smiling, "with all my Heart." At Eve was at Captain Maynards. Lieutenant Maynard pitches upon Friday for Breaking up for Me. N.B. My Dauters Elizabeth and Lucy not return'd yet. Alpheus and Abner Newton a.m. draw off Stones from the Ground behind the Meeting House, with Six oxen. 2 Yoke Abners, and one Yoke Neighbour Zebulon Rice's.

24. Rode out to the Southward on the Affair of my Breaking up—and went to Mr. Jonah Warrins to See his Dauter Sarah, who yet remains under Disorders: To Deacon Bonds (whose wife lies in) and I din'd there: to Ensign Millers and had Some free discourse with him upon Original Sin, divine Decrees etc.: to

Captain Fays who is to lead in my Team next Friday, but he was not at Home. I find tis wish'd I had not troubled myself So much about Lieutenant Bruce's Anger last Lords Day.

25. My Wife and I, after Lucy came home with the Chair (N.B. she and Elizabeth came from Brookfield Yesterday) rode to See Lieutenant Bruce's Wife; and went to Mr. Timothy Warrins Raising of one Barn and removing another. Did not get home till late. N.B. Billy, tho drooping began to Mow a little. Thomas has his Fits of Fever and Ague yet. Dr. Joshua Smith extremely ill.

26. Mr. Benjamin Tainters Wife being in Travail, and like to expire sends in all haste to me to visit here. I rode there, and pray'd with her. After a few Pains more She was deliver'd of a Son. We gave Thanks to God, and at her Desire we Sang Gods Praise; Singing Ps. 116, 1-7.

27. We broke up about an Acre and half, behind the Meeting House. Our Team was of 20 Oxen. Captain Fay with 4. Lieutenant Brigham with 4. Deacon Bond 2. Lieutenant Tainter 2. Mr. Zebulon Rice 2. Ensign Miller 2. Mr. Samuel Hardy 2. My son Ebenezer 2. The Men who came were Captain Fay, Lieutenant Brigham, Lieutenant Maynard, Isaac Miller, the Lads were Thomas Bond, Joseph Rice son of Mr. Ebenezer Rice and had Lieutenant Maynards Plough. Lieutenant Maynard also at his Cost hir'd Mr. John Rogers p.m. to work for me among them. At Eve Captain Maynard Sent Quarter Veal and Several Pounds of Butter—all this was given freely.

28. Both Thomas and Billy not well.

29. I read 2 Sam. 11, and preach'd on Eccl. 12, 13. P.M. read Ps. 51, 17 before the Fast, fearing least I Shall be absent from here on that Solemnity. N.B. I read the Same Ps. publickly. And gave Notice at Eve to the Congregation that it was uncertain whether I Should be at home the ensuing Fast by reason of what I had engag'd before I knew anything of the Fast. Mrs. Mercy Chamberlin from Stockbridge here and lodges here.

30. Set out a little before Sun rise on my Journey to Groton; leaving Billy ill of (I Suppose) the Fever and Ague. Broke fast

at Mr. Martyns, and call'd and baited at Mr. Goss's—din'd at Mr. Seccombs—supp'd and lodg'd at Mr. Trowbridge's.⁷ It rain'd hard great part of the p.m. and was long detain'd by it—partly at Mr. John Stone's in Groton.—and I stop'd at Captain John Stevens's (late of Townshend, now in Groton). N.B. Mr. Lull there before me. N.B. The New Meeting House in Groton, a Superb Edifice and cost the Town above 13000£ old Tenor.

JULY, 1755

1. Set out from Groton with Captain John Stevens Esquire, and rode to Townshend. Mr. Lull goes to Lieutenant Taylor in Townshend for the Plott of the Land which Mr. Lull would give me in Equivalence for the 70 acres which I lost; and he tells me that it lies on Pearl Hill about 2½ Miles from Lunenbourg Meeting House. Captain Stevens and I din'd at Mr. Hemenways. P.M. when Mr. Lull and Lieutenant Taylor (whom Lull had chose for his Arbitrator) came, and we set to the Business. But instead of the Lotts being on Pearl Hill as abovesaid, and as Lull had always told me, it was found in the Plott to be probably five Miles farther off, being 7 or 8 Miles from Lunenbourg Meeting House, and therefore I was dissatisfy'd with it. It was therefore agreed that Lull Should not only give me a Deed of his third Division, but of his Sixth also, and if they Should appear to be both of them more than an Equivalence for the 70 Acre Lot and my Dammages and Disappointment—also my Expences, which Mr. Lull Should have born in finding the Bounds of the 100 Acre Lott, then I engag'd by writing to pay as the Arbitrators Should judge. I also gave him from under my Hand to Quitt my Claim to the 70 Acres as Soon as I Should have my Equivalence for it in the Judgment of the Arbitrators. Said Lull accordingly gave me a Deed of the Said 2 Divisions, one containing 62 Acres and the other 35 Acres, which Captain Stevens took the Acknowledgement of. And we agreed that Since we could not view them to Day—and So not this Journey—The two Gentlemen above Said Should take a Time and View them and Judge of them when

⁷ The Reverend Caleb Trowbridge of Groton, Mass.

they could with best Convenience. I pay'd Captain Stevens 24/7 for this Day. I lodg'd at Mr. Hemingways—but it was my great Grief that Mr. Lull went away uneasy because I would not be[ar] my Part of the Charge (not only of Viewing the Lotts when they Should be found but likewise) of looking them up. Thus this troublesome Day finish'd. May God please to discover what was amiss, and forgive it!

2. Set out (from Mr. Hemenways¹) and went to Lieutenant Taylors; who rode with me to Lunenburg. Visit Mr. Stearns.² Meet with Mr. William Jones (Brother of Captain Elisha of Weston) who tells me he can assist us in finding the Lotts, and their Bounds which I have of Lull. Din'd at Reverend Mr. Harringtons at Lancaster. Arriv'd at Mr. Martyns before Night but tir'd and unprepar'd to preach to my own people. Lodge there.

3. Publick Fast on Occasion of the Expeditions to Crown Point etc. Mr. Martyn preach'd for me; and I for him. My Text Ps. 51, 11. May it be accompany'd with a divine Energy to the Eternal Salvation of all of us! Mr. Martyn preach'd a.m. on [blank]. P.M. on [blank]. I came home at Evening. Billy, as well as Thomas, laid up with the Fever and Ague. My Wife tells me that Mr. Hezekiah Pratt and 14 others came last Tuesday P.M. and hoed my Corn.

4. Mr. Twitchell mows for me near my House, part of the Day and gives it. Captain Codman of Charleston was poison'd lately by a Negro. My Son Thomas has his Fitts yet, and Billy grows worse. May God prepare us for his Sovereign Will! At Evening Mr. Baldwin here. N.B. Mr. Beeton broke up his acre joining to me. He had 16 or 18 Cattle.

5. Mr. Baldwins Horse had got away in the Night; an Horse of Value; So that he is in Perplexity for Some Time this morning, but after a while finds him in the Burying Place.

6. Read 2 Sam. 12. Preach'd on Isa. 65, 24, a. and p.m. on Occasion of the Reduction of Chignecto, and Several other Places

¹ The Reverend Phineas Hemenway of Townsend.

² The Reverend David Stearns.

by Land by General Monkton, Winslow etc. and the Taking Several French Men of War by Admiral Boscawen on our Seas.

7. Mr. Jonathan Bellows's wife here complaining of Messers. Belknap and Chamberlin; at Eve They here inveighing against her.

8. Mr. Samuel Hardy mow'd here at home for me. My wife and I rode to t'other House and din'd there. Both Thomas and Billy their Fitt of Fever and Ague.

9. Little John taken ill—vomits, is feverish etc. I rak'd Hay which Mr. Hardy mow'd. N.B. Mr. John Brigham's wife here and complains to me of the Church of Shrewsbury. I reprov'd her for her Disquietment with Mr. Cushing; and shew'd her her Duty towards the Church.

10. Samuel Harrington junior comes and mows instead of Mr. Moses Twitchell. Mr. Jonas Twitchell also Comes and mows.

11. Great Rains—all Hay making Suspended—Indian Corn generally very low. Many persons here and interrupting me. Mrs. Winchester here about her Dauter Chamberlins going to live at her Uncle Jonathan Brown's in Watertown in her Circumstances—both Pregnant and languishing; they being much displeas'd with it. At her Request I write a Letter to her son at Stockbridge.

12. Mr. Jonas Twitchell comes and rakes and Carts about 10 Cocks of Hay from the Island. N.B. Mr. Nurse's Team.

13. By Means of both my Sons Illnesses I have been so taken off from my studies that I was oblig'd to use some old Preparations part of the Day. A.M. read 2 Sam. 13, and gave in place of a Sermon, a long Exercise in Exposition. P.M. read Heb. 10 and preach'd on number 22. Mrs. Martyn Sick.

14. My Wife visits Mrs. Martyn p.m. Thomas his Fitts, Billy a little better.

15. My Wife and I rode to Boston. Call'd at Mr. Stone's, who was gone. We din'd at Colonel Buckminsters. N.B. Mr. Barrett of Hopkinton with us. We put up the Mare and Chair at Procters,

and walk'd to Brother Samuels where we lodg'd. All our Friends are as well as usual. D.G.

16. My Brother Samuel rode with me to Cambridge, it being Commencement. N.B. Brother Champney is involv'd in Mr. William Fletchers Ruin. N.B. No Boston Scholar in the Class who take their first Degree to Day. I was almost melted with the Heat. Return'd to Boston at Night, my Brother Samuel with me; and my wife being at his House, I lodg'd there again.

17. Made several Visits among my Relations and Friends, particularly to Mr. John Osborn, a relation of my former Wife's. I attended the public Lecture. Young Mr. Checkley³ preach'd—his Text Ps. 20, 7. He had importun'd me to preach, but I refus'd—din'd at Mr. Foxcrofts.⁴ Mr. Conant⁵ and Dr. Rogers of Ipswich din'd there also. I went to See Mr. Oxenbridge Thatcher, who had my Kinswoman Hearsys Case in his Hands: and he shewed me her Petition to the Governor and Council: assuring me he should do his utmost that she might be divorc'd. Nigh sunseting we set out on our Journey—Reach'd Captain Thomas Prentice's (in time past of Lunenbourg and Lancaster) and we lodged there.

18. We din'd at Mr. Bridge's⁶ in Framingham, call'd at Mr. Stone's, and at Lieutenant Bruce's: Mrs. Bruce being yet alive, and at 9 or 10 at night arriv'd at home—our House in safety (except Thomas and Billy's illness) D.G.

19. About break of Day came Mr. Forbush and Mr. Joseph Manning from Cambridge, and went to bed here. Mr. Joseph Woods brought a Complaint sign'd by Ebenezer Chamberlin and Mary (wife of Ithamar) Bellows; against Judith, wife of Jonathan Bellows. N.B. Lieutenant Bruce here and acknowledg'd he did amiss on June 22 and what he said was writ and sign'd.

20. Read part of 1 Cor. 11 from number 17. Preach'd again sermon on Heb. 10, 22, a. and p.m. Administer'd the Lords

³ The Reverend Samuel Checkley, Jr., minister of the Second Church of Boston.

⁴ The Reverend Thomas Foxcroft.

⁵ Sylvanus Conant, the minister of Middleborough.

⁶ The Reverend Matthew Bridge.

Supper. Deacons Bond and Jonathan Forbush junior and Mrs. Mary Stewart din'd here. P.M. read Ps. 139.

21. Visited Mrs. Bruce and Mrs. Martyn. They are both of them better. N.B. din'd at Mr. Bruce's. N.B. Mr. Jonas Twitchell deny's me, tho he had led me along in Dependence upon him for mowing.

22. Read Mr. Hopkins's History of Housatunnoch.⁷ Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlins Wife here, and appears dissatisfy'd at my Lenity to Mrs. Judith Bellows: but hope she went away easy with my just Vindication.

23. Mr. Moses Twitchell came and mow'd for me. Part of the Day the remainder of the upland at the Island, and part in the Meadow near to it. Mr. Joseph Rice's wife and Joshua Lock's, came to See me but my Business in my Hay was so urgent I desir'd to be excus'd—and went to my raking. N.B. There was no Hand could be hir'd, and both my sons, Thomas and Billy incapable of any Labour at all.

24. In the Morning came Mr. Moses Twitchell to mow again—he undertakes to mow what remains to be mow'd (and which is the Chief of it) of my Newton Meadow, for two Days Work, to which I readily Consent. A.M. I visited Mrs. Judith Bellows. A most amazing scene open'd, when I enter'd into Examination of her and her Dauter Comfort. Mrs. Bellows constantly and very Solemnly Denys that she herself knows what became of the Things which Comfort stole from Belknaps: or that Comfort came by them in a dishonest way. Affirms that what she says is as true as that the Heavens are over her Head and the Earth under her Feet. Comfort with great sorrow and shame confesses She did take the Things in the Way complain'd of: and hopes and prays She shall never be left to such sin and folly again. She says that her Mother did know of it—know as much as She did of it: and knows what became of them. She can't Say her Mother did burn them but very seriously and solemnly declares that her

⁷ Samuel Hopkins, *Historical Memoirs, Relating to the Housatunnuh Indians* (Boston, 1753). This appeared later in different form as *An Abridgement of Mr. Hopkins's Historical Memoirs* (Phila., 1757), and *An Address to the People of New-England* (Phila., 1757). The Philadelphia imprints were by Benjamin Franklin.

Mother told her She had burnt them, and can tell what her Mother said at the same time; and that was this, "But I will never be such a fool as to acknowledge it as You have done." Upon which the Mother added many bitter Reproaches;—persisting in denying what Comfort had affirm'd. I interrogated Mr. Bellows Strictly, whether from all that he had seen and heard about it, he did believe his wife had burnt the Things? He answered that he did. There arose very terrible Contradictions, and exceeding bitter Charges against him—so that I was oblig'd to turn to the Children and enquire of them—as, whether (since Mrs. Bellows complain'd bitterly of her Husbands beating her etc., whether) they had either of them seen their Father Strike their Mother? unless as He had Said he had been forc'd to do. This was prefac'd with Something very Solemn to them and expressing the great unhappiness of Such a Case etc.—They answer'd that they never had. The Woman oft times rose to Such transports of Rage, and behav'd so furiously that I was necessitated to rebuke her Sharply—(having us'd all manner of gentle Methods with her before), and was not able to do anything to any good purpose with her. To my great sorrow and grief left her: with serious Advice and Charge to the poor Man and his unhappy Children. May God of his infinite mercy and Goodness restrain, convince and recover her! P.M. held a Catechetical Exercise to Young Women. 30 Present. Joseph Chaddock kindly help'd me p.m. in Hilling and securing the upland Hay. Mr. Moses Twitchell lodges here.

25. Had Mr. Zebulon Rice's Teams, manag'd by his son Adam; and Mr. Twitchell loaded up all the upland Hay; which was safely brought home. About 10 Cocks. Mr. Thomas Twitchell came and work'd a while, but having rak'd about $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen Cocks, and the Weather growing thick, they both broke off about 10 o'Clock and went home. It prov'd a very rainy Day. N.B. The Reverend Mr. Fish here, he having put a Bone out of Joint and been to a Bone-setters. We agree to Change next Sabbath, God Willing.

26. Mr. Solomon Prentice here. He din'd with us. I talk'd

closely with him of his Wife's pretence to Immortality: he gives in to it, and thinks She is, as She declares, in the Millennium State. I also enquir'd strictly into their Sentiments and Practices respecting their Conjugal Covenant. He utterly denys Every Thing of uncleanness, Fornication or Adultery among them. P.M. I rode to Upton, Deacon Forbush in Company. Mr. Fish⁸ came here.

27. I preach'd on Joel 3, 13. A.M. on Mat. 13, 39, p.m. I tarried there all night. Mr. Fish return'd home. O that the God of infinite Grace and Goodness would grant Success! but more especially that I might, myself, feel the Power and Efficacy of the Word of God and do Every Thing as reallizing Eternity.

28. I rose very Early and Brother Forbush and I return'd to Westborough. Lieutenant Tainter and a Young Man of his hiring—and two Boys also under him, in all four Hands, came and hill'd for me. There were also Ensign Harrington, Mr. Eleazer Whitney, Ezra Baker, Ebenezer Rice junior for Barnebas Newton, and William Bowman—nine in all—and they ended by baiting Time. Mr. Thomas Twitchel raking for me in the Newton Meadow, and Lieutenant Tainters two Boys help him. Both Thomas and Billy drooping yet; and their Fitts follow them. Thomas's Yesterday and Billy's to Day.

29. Mr. Nurse going to Dr. Willson, I sent Billy with him. And he endur'd the Journey without Injury. Brought a Letter from Doctor to Me—with Medicines particularly a Vomit. Cortex-Elixir Vitr. and a Saline Infusion. Mr. Thomas Twitchell and Jedidiah Woods rak'd, cock'd, pol'd and Carted the rest of the Hay that was now ready at the Newton Meadow being 3 Load. Had Ebenezers Team for one and Mr. Nurse's gratis for the other. Towards Night went to see the Ministerial Meadow which is now brown but I have No body to cut it.

30. Great Rains, a.m.

31. Neighbour Nurse very ready to help and oblige me in my little Husbandry. One Mr. Marshal of Somers, a Separate Teacher here. P.M. I rode in the Chair to Mr. Thomas Twitch-

⁸ The Reverend Elisha Fish of Upton.

ells. Carry'd Sarah and Susan to get Gowns made. Went to Mr. Richard Kelly to get him to reap my Rye. We had a dark ride home, in the Chair, not without Considerable Danger.

AUGUST, 1755

1. Only Breck and I to rake Barley. Thomas and Billy yet ill.

2. Solomon Baker came in the Morning and with Mr. Nurse's Team got in my Barley: being but half a Load of it.

3. Read 2 Sam. 13, from number 19, and preach'd on the Same. P.M. read Ps. 20 and preach'd from number 7. May this be a most Seasonable Word! Both Thomas and Billy at Meeting a.m. but Billy had a fit p.m.

4. Mr. Richard Kelly and Mr. John Freeland came to reap for me: but it rain'd so hard they were prevented. They din'd with us. P.M. 3 hours they went to it and reap'd till night. I gave 'em 14/ old Tenor. Mr. Zebulon Rice work'd p.m. in taking out a Summer at my Stable which was broke, and put in One or Two others instead of it to bear up the Scaffold. N.B. Deacon Bond and Alpheus Newton help'd in Pitching off the Barley and Hay—and Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin in Pitching it on again, to its place.

5. Mr. Moses Twitchell Mows for me at the Ministerial Meadow, and Mr. Daniel Warrin a.m. I visit old Captain Forbush: and Mrs. Bruce who is still sick. Was at Mr. Jonas Twitchells. He had given me Encouragement that he would work for me and he had told me he Should very gladly pay his Rates this Way—but when it came to, disappointed me. He allow'd he had said to me that he thought I might depend upon him. This was the Reason of my saying any thing to him. The Collector also having told me that this man would help me, I ask'd him now to help me but so much only of tomorrow as to bind and shock up my Rye (being but an acre and quarter of it) but he answered me indecently—So that I left him; and was much offended with him. Went to Mr. Rody Smiths, who was also to have work'd for me; but neither could I get him. N.B. I din'd at Mr. John Rogers.

Mr. Batheric and Ebenezer Forbush reap'd the piece which the Reapers Yesterday had left. I call'd to see my Children at t'other House. Neither Ebenezer nor his Wife, nor youngest Child, have been well of late. At Evening Messers. John Rogers and Rody Smith assisted by John and Silas Frost, gather'd up and bound my Rye, and Neighbour Rogers came with his Team and brought it home. This was done gratis. Mr. Moses Twitchell lodg'd here.

6. Rode to Deacon Bonds, Mr. Jonah Warrins and to Mr. Barachias Morse's. P.M. Mr. Moses Twitchell, Jonathan Bond junior and Levi Warrin rake in the Ministerial Meadow. Billy and Lucy rode over to Mr. Martyns¹ and return'd at Eve. Billy no fit to Day.

7. Can't get any Body to Cart my Hay from the Ministerial Meadow, though I have taken a great deal of Pains. P.M. preach'd at Lieutenant Tainters on Mat. 13, 39. My wife, Thomas and Billy there. N.B. Mr. Francis Gardner² keeps school at the School House.

8. My Son Ebenezer went with his Team, and Moses Nurse with his, to the Ministerial Meadow, and brought thence a Load apiece of my Hay. But did not get home with it till nigh 10 o'Clock. At Eve Rain. Mr. Ebenezer Millers Wife was here and Examin'd.

9. Thomas and William are Somewhat better and Stronger. Blessed be God for it!

10. Read 2 Sam. 14. Preach'd on Ps. 20, 7. P.M. read Ps. 119, parts 7, 8, 9. Repeated Sermon on Ps. 119, number 54.

11. Deacon Bond tells me the News is confirm'd of General Bradock's Defeat and Death. A most Sorrowfull Stroke! may God of his infinite Mercy Sanctifie it to this Sinfull Provoking People! and be mercifull to His Servant Shirley³ and the Forces with him; that they may not be dismay'd when they Shall hear of

¹ The Reverend John Martyn of Northborough.

² (Harvard 1755). He became the minister of Leominster, 1762-1814.

³ Governor William Shirley of Massachusetts, was a lieutenant-general and commander-in-chief of British forces in America at this time.

it! Barachias and Seth Morse came and mow'd in the ministerial Meadow.

12. Seth Morse (having lodg'd here) works again for me, and Neighbour Moses Nurse fetch'd home one Load from the Ministerial Meadow. P.M. Mr. Francis Gardner made us a Visit.

13. Barachias and Seth Morse work for me—they get home 3 Load, 2 Load by half after 12. P.M. they rake and bring home another Load at Eve. Those were brot by our own Team: Ebenzers Oxen and my Mare. Having heard that my Young Cattle in the woods, had stray'd from their Keeper, I wrote several Letters and Advertisements about them.

14. Old Mr. Maynard makes another Will. Lieutenant Maynard brought me present of Fish from Mr. John Breck of Boston—and himself presents me a Load of Hay out of the Meadow on Rutters Brook. 'Kias and Seth mow at the ministerial Meadow again and this is the last, which they accomplish a.m. but because it was cloudy and they could not rake up what they had mow'd; they return'd home and P.M. reap'd my Wheat by the Barn, and got it in. N.B. Mr. John Chamberlin of Stockbridge here, and wants to hire part of my t'other House for his Wife, that She may ly in there: but I am not free for lest it Should hinder the Sale of the House. Am oblig'd to ride about to get a Team to Cart home my Hay. Receive a kind Letter from Mr. William Winter of Boston giving me a Clear Account of the Death of General Bradock and the Defeat of the Forces with him on the fatal July 9th past, in their Expedition to Ohio.

15. 'Kias reaps for Ebenezer a.m. and for me in carting home Hay p.m. Seth work'd for me all Day. Had Mr. Pratts Team to bring home one Load, and with Mr. Samuel Fay juniors Oxen they brought home another. And this finish'd my Haying for this Year. Those Young Men agree to have 17/ per Day—I am indebted to them for 9 Days £7.13.0 Old Tenor. N.B. Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin here again about Mrs. Bellows, urging for Church-Meeting.

16. Billy reaps a few Oates. Rain p.m.

17. Read 2 Sam. 15. Preach'd on Isa. 42, 23, 24, 25 on ac-

count of the Defeat etc. Sir Gardner din'd here. P.M. read latter part of Deut. 27, 26. I acquainted the Church (in hearing of the Congregation) that I had receiv'd a Complaint against Judith, wife of Jonathan Bellows—and appointed a Church Meeting to hear it, tomorrow come Sennight, at 2 p.m., and all concern'd must look upon themselves bound to attend.

18. Mr. Dunlop came to thrash my Wheat—finds it too damp. Thrashes only the out Sides of the Sheaves and leaves them to be dry'd. He with Billy reaps Oates. Ensign Harrington here a.m. Mr. James Flagg of Upton p.m. At Eve sent a Letter to Mrs. Bellows.

19. I rode to Marlborough. Din'd at Mr. Smiths.⁴ Hear that Dr. Breck⁵ was in Marlborough over the Sabbath, and went out of Town but this Morning to return home, and has not come to See his Sister. At Deacon Tainters and at Mr. Henry Barns's—Improve him to help me to a Chap for my old Place. Return home in the Eve.

20. Mr. John Freeland Taylor comes to work here to make me a Jacket and pair of Breeches. Mr. Dunlop also comes to take Care of my Wheat, drie and thrash some of it. Hear that Some of my young Cattle that had Stray'd away, are come to my Sons.

21. Mr. Freeland at work here. My oldest Steers come home. Very Cloudy Weather, unfit for the In-gatherings. Mrs. Judith Bellows here—also Mr. Joseph Rice's Wife. Thomas and William Somewhat worse again.

22. Mr. Freeland still here. My son grow somewhat better.

23. Mr. Freeland finish'd his work for me; and Something for Thomas. He ask'd me but 26/ old Tenor for all he had done, this Turn, for me—and having din'd he left us.

24. Read 2 Sam. 16. Preach'd on Isa. 42, 23, 24, 25, both a. and p.m. May God grant us Grace to attend to both his Word and Providence!

25. The Church met today on account of Mrs. Judith Bellows (wife of Jonathan Bellows) being Complain'd of by Mr. Ebenezer

⁴ The Reverend Aaron Smith.

⁵ Samuel Breck, the physician of Springfield, was the son of the late Reverend Robert Breck of Marlborough.

Chamberlin and Mrs. Mary Bellows (wife of Ithamar Bellows).⁶ Before Meeting, Mr. Batheric gave me fresh Trouble about Singing (in the assembly) triple Time tunes; and would have Me lay this before the Church, but I told him we had so much Business today, it was not likely there would be Time for it. Lieutenant Tainter Carry'd to Boston 2 hind Quarters of Veal for me to some Friends there—Mr. Solomon Woods kill'd it—and took a Quarter for him and Lieutenant Tainter in token of Gratitude to them both.

26. [No entry.]

27. Remarkable Plenty Pidgeons—the Neighbours take them in their Netts in great Numbers.

28. Public Fast on Account of Gods Frown upon us in the Expedition to Ohio, and Still to Supplicate divine Favour in the Other Expeditions—viz. to Niagara and Crown Point. And O that we had a Spirit of Prayer that we might Cry aloud to God for His infinite Mercy—as our Necessity is! For in Him may we Confide, and in His Name go forth against our Enemies.

29. Mr. Martyn and his Wife to my great Pleasure at all other Times, but now to my great Interruption, made us a visit. Deacon Bond 'Listing orders.

30. I had not time to prepare any more than one Sermon for besides the Interruptions of Company I was much disquieted with toothach.

⁶The following appears in the Westborough Church Records, Aug. 25, 1755. "The Church met (having been timely warn'd) to hear a Complaint Sign'd by Ebenezer Chamberlin and Mary (Wife of Ithamar) Bellows, and bearing Date July 18 last, against Judith (Wife of Jonathan) Bellows, all of them Members of this Church, setting forth in substance, that the Said Judith hath walk'd very Disorderly and Contrary to the Rules of the Gospel—In particular respecting her Daughter Comfort, who has confess'd her taking away certain Things from a Neighbour feloniously and that her Mother would not let her return said Things when She would have done it: and that said Comfort also declar'd her Mother had burnt them. The Complaint exhibited further that said Judith was guilty of False speaking about those Things etc. After prayer the Complaint was read, and the Partys respectively, and the Witnesses, were fully heard—the Church voted, 1. Respecting the first part of the Complaint that altho we cannot say She is guilty of Burning the Things referred to in the Complaint, yet we find upon all that has been Said, that She has Conducted in a very Evil Manner respecting her Daughter under her Guilt; and in that whole Affair respecting Said Things, and 2. Voted, as to the Second part of the Complaint, namely, her False speaking, that it is Supported. This was voted universally. The Pastor read those votes to said sister Judith, and solemnly laid the Evil before her, and Call'd her to Repentence . . ."

31. Read 2 Sam. 17. Preach'd on Luke 2, 25. The Consolation of Israel. Administered the Lord's Supper. Deacon Burnap and his Brother Daniel at Communion with us, Mr. Barrett being at Boston. Deacon and his Wife and Dauter Hitty were at Dinner here, also Mrs. Chamberlin of Stockbridge, who is Come to board at my sons. P.M. I repeated Sermon on Eph. 1, 3, to page 12. Took in also the 7th and 8th articles—and the Reflections in the Close of all.

SEPTEMBER, 1755

1. Mrs. Chamberlin Sends for Mrs. Forbush, and women are gather'd for her Help. N.B. My Son has the Trouble and fatigue, tho unable to undergo it.

2. Rode (with Mr. Martyn and Stone) to Chauzit: the Association meeting at Mr. Mellen's.¹ I deliver'd a Concio on Gal. 1, 15, 16. Lodg'd at Mr. Mellen's.

3. The ministers (most of us) went to Mount Wachusett. Mrs. Mellen and her Sister Robbins with us and Mrs. Mellen had a Fall from her Horse but recover'd. We refresh'd ourselves on the Top of the Mount, Having carry'd up Bacon, Bread and Cheese, Rum. In Descending from the Summitt we stop'd a little and Sang a Stanza to the Praise of the Great Creator. N.B. A great multitude of persons happen'd to go up to the Mount to Day. We saw many Horses at the Bottom, and at Mr. Keys's. N.B. I went to Mr. Jonathan Wilders enquiring after my Young Cattle which have stray'd but Mr. Wilder was not at home. When I return'd to Mr. Mellens he came to me, and told me my Cattle he believ'd were at his Neighbours and promis'd he would take Care of them. N.B. my Mare was very lame by reason of her loosing one of her fore shooes, which exceedingly incommoded me, and retarded the whole Company. This Man had such Benevolence, Compassion and Generosity that he took off one of his own Horse's shooes, and sav'd and Straiten'd the Nails to put them into mine, which he so fasten'd on that it held me till I got to Westborough: a nobleness that was notic'd

¹The Reverend John Mellen of Sterling.

by all, and may he be suitably rewarded for it! A Number of us in returning homeward visited the Mine²—digging by Mr. Christian Angel—a German from Ypres a Town on the River Rhine. Messers. Cushing, Martyn, Stone and I lodg'd at Mr. Morse's:³ but I was greatly fatigu'd and had but little Sleep.

4. Mr. Stone and I din'd with Mr. Martyn at his House. When I return'd found that Mrs. Chamberlin (at my Sons) was deliver'd of a son on the 2nd, and yesterday, Mr. Willard Wheeler carry'd a Letter from me, to Captain Stevens of Groton, Signifying my acquiescence in his dropping the Arbitration between Lull and me: and Lieutenant Taylors Plan of 3rd Division in Townshend.

5. [No entry.]

6. At Eve Mr. Stone came here, Mr. Buckminster⁴ being to preach for him.

7. I rode to Mr. Martyns, leaving Mr. Stone to preach for me. Mr. Martyn was gone to Mr. Morse's, Mr. Morse to Mr. Davis, and Mr. Davis to Rutland for Mr. Buckminster. I preach'd on Isa. 42, 23, 24, 25, and on Gal. 1, 19, 16 former part. Return'd soon after Exercise because Mrs. Chamberlin was in a very low and dangerous Condition.

8. Visit Mrs. Chamberlin who is reviv'd a little. I am again endeavouring to carry on the tilling my now broke Land, by providing for the harrowing of it.

9. Visit Mrs. Bruce who is yet very low—visit Mrs. Gale; din'd at Mr. Jabez Snows. Visit Mrs. Judith Bellows—but find her much the same. Went to the other Familys in that Corner to get em to help me to Timber for my Kitchin.

10. Harrow my new Ground; with 8 Oxen, viz. my sons, and Lieutenant Forbush, Samuel Forbush, and Mr. Rogers's. Mr.

² It was at about this time that various shafts were sunk into a hill in Sterling in anticipation of finding some mineral of value. *A Brief History of Sterling* (n.p., 1931), pp. 60-61, comments: ". . . Christian Angel a miner from Sweden was the principal workman." Specimens of ore were found to be without value and the mine was abandoned. Fragments found in the twentieth century include plumbago, nickel, sulphates of copper and iron, garnets and carbonite of iron.

³ The Reverend Ebenezer Morse of Boyston.

⁴ Joseph Buckminster of Rutland.

Rogers and John Frost were the Men that manag'd it. Mr. Benjamin Nichols work'd for me in Clearing at the Newton Meadow. Mrs. Lock here with her Confession. Mrs. Whipple and her sister and Mrs. Pratt made a Visit; Each with a Cheese. Nichols lodges here. Lieutenant Tainter kill'd a large Calf for me and carry'd part to Boston.

11. Many of the Soldiers of Captain Woods Company march being on their Journey to Crown Point. I held a Catechetical Exercise design'd to Young Men—but there were only 3 Youths came besides my sons Thomas and William. Nichols at work for me in Clearing etc. Captain Wood and Lieutenant Bond here as they went off. I deliver'd Lieutenant Bond Mr. Meads *Almost Christian*⁵ for the use of those who go with him and into the Expedition from this Place. Esquire Charles Brigham here at Eve—I assist him in Making Return to Colonel Pollard of the Commitment of poor Silas Rice.

12. It is a very dry Time; Water very low, and many low Grounds that at ordinary Times are wet, are now hard: and it is very hot like July. Mr. Nichols clearing still.

13. Mr. Gardner⁶ of Stow having been at Windham brought from thence a copy of an Express from Albany that our Camp at Lake Sacrament was beset by French and Indians last Monday—and Men are very earnestly pushing along—many come to hear the Express.

14. I read 2 Sam. 18. Preach'd on Luke 2, 25—and p.m. because of the Recruits for Crown Point I preach'd on Ps. 18, 34, first part and us'd with variations, omissions and additions Sermon on 2 Tim. 2, 3 from Page 11.

15. Training Day—to See who would List, or if not Sufficient offers, then to press for Crown Point. I din'd with the Officers at Mr. Ebenezer Rice's. N.B. Another Post from Albany who informs there was a Smart Engagement last Monday but that our people drove off the Enemy, took their General, and slew (as I

⁵ Matthew Mead, *The Almost Christian Discovered: or, the False Professor Tried and Cast* (Boston, 1730). Another edition was published in Boston in 1742.

⁶ The Reverend John Gardner.

think) 1000 of them besides, to the Loss of 130 (as judg'd) of our own; and Colonel Ephraim Williams,⁷ Colonel Titcomb⁸ of Newbury, among the last. About 60 of ours wounded—and General Johnson⁹ himself has a Ball lodg'd in his Thigh. May God be glorify'd for what has been thus far done, and prepare us for further Favours!

[The following is from the *Natalitia*, dated Sept. 5, 1755.]

Scarce any one has ever had greater Cause to bless and praise God and yet what Heart so Stupidly Senseless and ungratefull! and who that have Such Reason to grieve and mourn for Sin and wickedness, among all that profess to have any apprehensions of their Conditions, is So remote from this Duty! (My Flight is only to Jesus who gives both Repentance to Israel and Remission of Sins! O for the Spirit of Christ to qualifie me; and the Merits of Christ, His Righteousness, and his Sacrifice; for acceptance with God! My infinite unworthiness does not drive me to Despair, while the Sacred Scriptures assure me that the Blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin; and He ever lives to make Intercession for His People—and among them are Some of the Chief of Sinners.)

17. Mr. Nichols came to Work—he thrash'd Rye—Billy with him. N.B. Many Men who have enlisted for the 2nd Regiment of Recruits for Crown Point meet at Captain Fays to be viewed by the Muster Master Captain Josiah Richardson, but he came not—so that their assembling was in vain.

18. Mr. Nichols cleans up Rye and remainder of Wheat which Dunlop thrash'd, and mow'd Bushels in the New broke up Land. I catechiz'd at Mr. Joslins. After Catechizing came Mrs. Judith Bellows and was far from penitent. I told her I was offended with her myself—and this for two Things—namely, her ill Carriage to her Husband, and her not adhering to the Truth. As to the first, She had the assurance to Challenge me upon it. I

⁷ Of Stockbridge.

⁸ Moses Titcomb had played an important role in the capture of Louisburg in 1745. John J. Currier, "*Ould Newbury*" (Boston, 1896), pp. 464-473.

⁹ Sir William Johnson, the superintendent of Indian affairs. Johnson's account of the campaign in New York appeared in *The Boston Weekly News-Letter*, Sept. 18, 1755.

therefore apply'd to Mr. Joslin who Soon confronted her, particularly with her Conduct that very Day that I had been at their House the time before Last. Mrs. Joslin also join'd with her Husband in it. Yet She remain'd incorrigible. I visited Mrs. Bruce and pray'd with her. Her Case is now fear'd to be desperate. When I return'd home met Brother Hicks¹⁰ and his Dauter Hannah here. N.B. He has been perplex'd at Boston, by Mr. Elijah Collins, by means of a Bond of Mr. Oliver Wards in which Brother Hicks was also jointly bound. They lodg'd here. N.B. one of their Horses Sadly lame.

19. Brother Hicks and his Dauter endeavour to go home; but the lame Horse is very lame this morning. N.B. We have been much troubl'd by ten Hogs of Captain Samuel Forbush, which get into my Corn Field. Nicols still at work for me—mows bushes in the design'd Rye Field.

20. Nicols a.m. builds Some stone Wall in the Lane behind the Meeting House.

21. Read 2 Sam. 19. Preach'd on Luke 2, 25. Sir Gardner din'd here. Read p.m. 2 Cor. 3, and prach'd on number 6, designing to begin again to Read the New Testament. I insisted on that Expression in the number, repeating my first Exposition with additions.

22. In the Morning Mr. Jeduthun Baldwin here—he came last Night—is going to Crown Point—and takes leave accordingly. N.B. He tells me the Negro Man and Negro Woman who murder'd Captain Codman¹¹ of Charlestown, were Executed last Thursday, at Cambridge.¹² The Man was hang'd, and was afterwards to be hang'd in Irons on Charlestown Neck: the Woman was burnt to Death, a frightfull Spectacle! May all hear and fear! especially to be punish'd Eternally in the Flames of Hell May my own Soul be suitably affected with the Thought! Our

¹⁰ John Hicks of Sutton.

¹¹ John Codman.

¹² Aug. 19, 1755, "Phillis, a Negro woman, and Mark, a Negro Man, Servants to the late Capt. Codman . . . were found Guilty of poisoning their Master." The woman was sentenced to be "burnt to Death," the man to be hanged. *The Boston Weekly News-Letter*, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, 1755. A Boston broadside of 1755 called attention to the "untimely end" of these miscreants.

Parish met to Day to grant my Support, as they call it. I sent in a Memorial, that considering the Troubles [of] the present Time (by the War) I was willing to take up with what they did for me, as to sallery and Wood, last Year, if they would do it chearfully—but that I could not, with less. In Return they Sent me a Committee (Mr. Grow and Ephraim Bruce) with their vote in the following words viz. “(thirdly) Voted and granted to the Reverend Mr. Parkman our Minister for his Support for the Current Year the Sum of thirty two Pounds Lawfull Money including his Firewood.” Sign’d by Thomas Forbush Moderator. This I did not well understand. The Committee Said the Precinct meant to make my whole sallery and Support to be in old Tenor £460. I told em I did not know what my Sallery was, if there [was] needed so much support to make it up that Sum. They said I had better go to the Precinct or write to them. I chose this latter—and accordingly wrote to them desiring them to let me know what they Suppos’d I meant by Support for I conceiv’d my Sallery was 55£ Lawfull Money. The Committee carry’d my writing to the people. I remark’d also to the Committee that this was not So much as they did last Year for there was here no Subscription for the wood. They went, but the meeting broke up without doing any thing further—either in answer to me—or about the Wood.

23. Brother Hicks here, going to Boston again on the Affair of Elijah Collins: it being left to Arbitration. N.B. We are exceedingly troubl’d by Captain Forbushes Hogs at my Cook Field—10 of them and have been in nigh 10 Times. I got Mr. Ebenezer Forbush to mend my Fence—and yet they got in. I went to the Captain’s and they promis’d to Shutt them up.

24. I went to Mr. Whipples to See how my Slit work Boards etc. lay—Solomon Baker brought a Load—all the Braces were missing and some other sticks. Was at Mrs. Hitty Rice’s, and din’d with her. To Day there is a Muster of Soldiers for Crown Point, at Captain Maynards—the Muster Master being Captain Josiah Richardson of Sudbury.

25. I made a Visit to Mr. Seth Rice’s. He was not at Home.

He is gone to Dr. Smiths. His Family greatly distress'd for him, being grown worse of late—pain'd in Body as well as discompos'd in Mind. Dr. Smith¹³ came there. We rode together to see Lieutenant Stephen Maynard who is Sick of a Fever. His Son Antipas also Sick and the Family in much Trouble. Pray'd with them. N.B. Josiah Lock, of the Same Family, Set out to go to Crown Point.

26. A Great Frost last Night. Mr. Thomas Stoddard promoted to be a Captain of a Company going to Crown Point, was here and his son Boardman with him. N.B. I sent home the Three Universal Magazines¹⁴ by him, which I borrow'd of Esquire Steel¹⁵ of Leicester. Exceedingly encumber'd and Disappointed with respect to my design'd Kitchin—no Timber comes from Joslins as I expected—and my Field which I broke up in June—can't get the Fencing Stuff. My Son Ebenezer, instead of bringing Stuff here as I expected, goes to work for Mr. How without saying a word to me of it, which greatly disappoints and troubles me. Brother Hicks returns from Boston and lodges here. Another Frosty night.

27. Call'd away at Night to visit Elijah Rice's Wife, (who now live within Upton Bounds) She had been deliver'd of one Child, which was living; but there was another of which She could not be deliver'd. They had Mrs. Forbush and Mrs. Clark—and had Sent to Dr. Greenleaf.¹⁶

28. I tarried till after midnight—got home between one and two o'Clock—was but poorly Capable of preaching. Yet I went through the Service of the forenoon reading 2 Sam. 20. Preach'd on Luke 2, 25. P.M. read part of the Chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew. Read with some alterations and additions Number 2 of my Expositions. More than 16 Requests for Prayers—about half of them respecting those who went to Crown Point. Contribution for Mr. Jesse Maynard of the northside.

¹³ Joshua Smith, the physician of Shrewsbury.

¹⁴ Published in London beginning in June, 1747. Booksellers in Boston often advertised it for sale.

¹⁵ Thomas Steel (Harvard 1730) was a businessman who served as town clerk and representative. In 1756 he was appointed judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Worcester County. See Washburn, *Leicester*, pp. 179-180, and Sibley, VIII, 783-785.

¹⁶ Daniel Greenleaf, a physician of Boston.

29. Deacon Jonathan Forbush junior here. We Counted the money gather'd Yesterday—found it £21.3 7½ old Tenor.¹⁷

30. I visited the Widow of the late Thaddeus Gale, and Mr. Abijah Gale mourning for his Brother. Also visited Mr. Abraham Bond and Mrs. Hannah Warrin mourning the Loss of their Father. Visited Mrs. Bruce again, who now revives a little.

OCTOBER, 1755

1. My Daughter Forbush came down last night to t'other House, and with her Mr. Joseph Manning; they came here today. Mr. Manning and I visited Lieutenant Stephen Maynard who is Grown better, but he has two Children Sick. N.B. Mr. Hezekiah Pratt and Mr. Kenny (for Mr. Nurse), dug stones for the Wall behind the Meeting House, and this was gratis.

2. Mr. Abijah Gale and Mr. Batheric came and began to Frame a Kitchin for me, on the Back of my New House.

3. Mr. Alpheus Newton begins to dig a Cellar way for my Kitchin. Mr. Dunlop and Mr. Beeton and his Boy work at leveling the Ground where the Kitchin is to stand. Messers. Gale, Batherick, Grow and Zebulon Rice at the Frame. An Hot Day. Mr. Edwards Whipple (with the Assistance of my Son William and Steers) brought a Load of Boards and Eight Braces.

4. Messers. Gale, Grow, Rice and Batheric work at the Frame.

5. Read 2 Sam. 21. Preach'd on Jer. 7, 23, a. and p.m.¹

6. Mr. Ebenezer Forbush dug in my Cellar way for the new Kitchin. Messers. Gale, Zebulon Rice, and Batheric at Work on the Frame. Towards Night we Rais'd—No Hurt—Thanks to God. N.B. No Mr. Grow to Day.

7. Our Well affords very little Water. My sons Wife and Dauter Susanna ride to Watertown with my Mare in the Chair. Messers. Gale and Batheric at Work in rectifying the Frame and

¹⁷ This contribution was "for the Relief of Mr. Jesse Maynard who was lately burnt out." Westborough Church Records, Sept. 27, 1755.

¹ In the Westborough Church Records, Oct. 5, 1755, Parkman wrote, "Abigail, heretofore Maynard, now Lock (the wife of Joshua Lock) made a Confession of the Sin of Fornication, and was restored to Charity. She also own'd the Covenant and Grace, her Dauter, was baptiz'd."

preparing the Principals—which are not yet put on. The Reverend Mr. Cushing here and din'd with me. Desires me to preach at a Private Fast at Shrewsbury next Tuesday on account of Mr. Samuel Wheelock² who is in a gloomy, delirious State, and lately cut this Throat, but not mortally.

8. No Body at Work. Disappointed about sowing my Field, north west of the Meeting House: Can't get up the Wall nor Rail-Fence.

9. Lecture on Eph. 1, 3. N.B. Mr. Grow work'd a.m. Mr. Manning with my Dauter Forbush at Eve from Cambridge and Boston. My Kinsman William Bowes Parkman generous in sending Me another Pamphlet concerning Affairs in America. This is the Present State of North America—of the Discoverys of the English and French Claims Rights and Possessions etc.,³ and therewith he sent me a Letter handsomely written. A great Trouble to be straitened as to Water. My Wife daily in Pain and her Life much afflicted, as her Time approaches.

10. Messers. Gale, Grow, Rice. Still finishing the Frame of my Kitchin and various things about it. Ensign Harrington a Load of stones, from his own Home, to Stone my Cellar Way.

11. Gale and Rice a.m. My Dauter returns here at Eve from her Father Forbushes. Very Cold night and A.M. likewise.

12. There was a great Frost last Night: A Cold Day for this time of the Year. Read a.m. 2 Sam. 22. Preach'd on Hag. 2, 7, those words—The Desire of all Nations. Mr. Manning, Deacon Forbush, Sir Gardner and Mrs. Chamberlin (who has now got abroad again). P.M. omitted Reading—preach'd on Exod. 17, 12, latter part and 13 with reference to the Expeditions against the French and Indians. N.B. My Dauter Forbush was dismiss'd from our Church to Brookfield 2nd Church. Mr. Manning Still with us. My Wife so indispos'd she Stays at home p.m.

² The son of a deacon of the same name. It was he who died in Shrewsbury, April 8, 1756, although it is not ascertainable that this was a case of suicide. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, pp. 465-466.

³ [Huske, Ellis], *The Present State of North America* (London, 1755). A Boston reprint followed in 1755.

13. Rain. The Rain increases till it is a very Wet time. Mr. Manning and my Dauter Forbush here. Draw near as to Wood.

14. Rain Still a.m. About noon It began to Clear So that I undertook my Journey to Mr. Samuel Wheelocks in Shrewsbury to assist in the Exercises of a Fast there on the Account of his Melancholly. The assembly (which there was) met at Lieutenant Stones. Prayer was over before I got there, and the last Syllables of the Psalm were singing when I went in. Yet Mr. Cushing would not excuse me from Preaching. Text was Rom. 11, 33. N.B. Altho Mr. Wheelock would not Suffer the Exercises to be at his House, neither could I obtain to see him before I went to meeting. Yet after we had done, he sent his son to desire me to go to him and Pray with him: only with this Caution that nobody must go with me. I went and pray'd with him, but could hardly keep him with me. He thinks there is no Such Sinner as he is—that he has Committed the Sin unto Death; and this was the Reason why he was against the Exercises—because it is added “I do not say You Shall Pray for it.” My Visit to him was Short. Mr. Cushing, his Wife and I stop'd at Mr. Braggs⁴ (They went first and waited for me). There we had Some refreshment—which I needed, for I had had a very wet and worrying Journey. I return'd home before I slept; my Wife's Circumstances forbad my Staying. My Dauters, Forbush and Lucy and Mr. Manning went over to Mr. Martyns and lodged there; tho they were also Sopp'd with the Rain. N.B. It was Training to Day, at Lieutenant Brighams, but his Invitation was too late for me to attend it. I was pre-engag'd to go to Shrewsbury.

15. Mr. Manning P.M. brought Lucy from Mr. Martyns; Molly remains there, but he lodges at t'other House. I wrote by him to Mr. Lull in which I desire him to Send his Deed of Townshend Rights, to be acknowledged and Recorded; and to accept of Mr. William Jones of Lunenbourg to be one of our Arbitrators instead of Captain John Stevens of Groton. Dauters Eliza and Susanna from Watertown.

⁴ Ebenezer Bragg, an early resident of Shrewsbury, was a carpenter.

16. My Son Thomas finishes the digging of a Cellar Way from the Kitchin. Mr. Benjamin Tainter brings me 4 Barrells of Cyder, gratis—one Barrell from his Father, another from Mr. Daniel Forbush, a Third from Ensign Harrington and one from Mr. Solomon Woods. All Gratis. Little John Sav'd from Drowning. Bill had dug an Hole in Neighbour Barnabas Newtons meadow in the Time of Drought, which was now fill'd with Water; into this John fell and Samuel pull'd him out. *D. Grates plurimas!*

17. Before it was quite light in the Morning Lieutenant Tainter came and brot a Load of Wood fearing we Should Suffer—whereas Timothy Warrin had brought a Load last Eve. My Sons Thomas, and William undertake to gather our Corn, but it rains hard before they got home one Load. My Wife in Pains, expecting her Hour for which the Lord mercifully prepare us! Her Pains continue at Times, yet we go to Bed—we lie till after midnight—when She grew so ill that I fetch'd Mrs. Forbush—and then Mrs. Baker, in the meantime Sending along 3 Mrs. Rices.

18. Ebenezer brought his Wife in the Morning—and Messers. Phinehas Hardy and Batherick came to work on my Kitchin Roof (boarding and Shingling). About 9, or between 9 and 10 o'Clock a.m. my wife was deliver'd of her ninth, and my fourteenth living Child: her fourth, and my Seventh Daughter—a perfect Child and Well; and especially my Wife in great Comfort. Blessed be the Name of God! May we have a due Sense of the divine Mercy (So utterly undeserv'd) and may we have Grace to Walk accordingly! I threw by the Preparations which I was making, as Soon as the Child was born, and set myself to prepare on Gen. 22, 14, tho under many Disadvantages. The Women din'd here with us, and then went home o'foot Except Mrs. Forbush who was waited on by William with an Horse. Rachel Pratt watches.

19. Read 2 Sam. 22 from number 26. In preaching I went on with the Repition (with Some Alterations) of Sermon on Eph. 1, 3. Mrs. Chamberlin din'd with us. P.M. Read Mat. 2. Preach'd on Gen. 22, 14, and baptiz'd my New-born Daughter, Anna

Sophia. May a gracious God pardon us and accept our Offerings! Mrs. Pratt (wife of Neighbour Hezekiah) watches.

20. Very Rainy. Messers. Edwards and Benjamin Whipple din'd here. N.B. The last is become a Separate at Lambs Town. I had Some free Talk with him upon it. At Eve my wife has Pains in her Breasts and Smart in her Nipples to a great Degree. These forebode ill. Mr. Zebulon Rices Dauter Abigail draws her Breast. My Dauter Lucy watching.

21. Deacon Forbush is Stoning my Kitchin Cellar Way. Sarah Watch'd. My Wife got up on the 21.

22. Thomas and William cutt up and bring in 3 Turns of Corn from the Cook Field. A great Frost last Night. My Wife distress'd with her Nipples. She got up, but she grows weaker by Reason of the Childs sucking her when her Nipples are So Sore.

23. Cold, Bleak Season. Messers. Phinehas Hardy, Zebulon Rice and Edwards Whipple here Shingling my Kitchin Roof. Am straitned for Wood, being near out this Cold Weather.

24. A Number of Soldiers from Lake George—whom I interrogate of their state and understand there is a great Force of Canadians at the Narrows.

25. Storm of Rain and Snow—and We without Wood except Some Timber of Ebenezer Rice which he had condemn'd and given me.

26. Read 2 Sam. 23. Preach'd on Hagg. 2, 7, a. and p.m. Sister Forbush din'd here. O that God would bless the Exercises to my own Saving Advantage! and to the Eternal Good of all the hearers!

27. Deacon Forbush again at the stoning my Cellar way. Mr. Thomas Twitchell tends him. Receiv'd Letters of the 13 and 16 from Mr. Jeduthun Baldwin at Lake George. Other Letters are come also; all Signifying that the Army is not like to proceed against Crown Point this Winter.

28. Mr. Grow finishes the Covering of my Roof. Mr. Nurse puts on the Iron of the Wheel-barrow made by Mr. Edwards Whipple for me. Mr. Martyn and his Wife here and dine with us.

They carry home my little John. Cornelius Biglow junior (who was here upon some Cooper Business) din'd here.

29. The Cold Air we have had produces Snow. A Considerable storm. My Dauter Susanna goes over to Mr. Martyns. In the Night I had a Turn of distressing Pain. God be thank'd I am out of Hell! May these Trials be Sanctify'd to me for my thorough awakening that I may flee from the dreadfull Wrath which is to come!

30. The storm of Snow continues and increases. It prevents Deacon Forbush coming to finish my Cellar Way: It prevents also the Young Women coming to the Catechetical Exercise appointed to be to Day. Receiv'd a Letter from Mr. John Parker of Southborough, now at Lake George.

31. Mr. Hall⁶ and his Delegate here, in their return from a Council on Mr. Reeds⁶ affair at Framingham. Mr. Putnam,⁷ Candidate, here, on his Journey to Pomfret. The Weather Fair, but every Thing wears a Winter Hue. I hear Mr. Eliezer Rice is return'd home from Lake George.

NOVEMBER, 1755

1. Storms again. A Sorrowfull Time. Many have not gather'd Corn, nor made their Cyder.

2. Read 2 Sam. 24. Preach'd on Isa. 9, 12 latter part and number 13, a. and p.m. Mr. Eliezer Rice, Mr. Ithamar Bellows and William Dunlop, return'd Thanks for their safe Return home from the Service.

3. Mr. Stone and Colonel Timothy Brigham here in their Journey to Woodstock Council. Mrs. Judith Bellows din'd here. She Spends a great Part of the p.m. here—but is not convinc'd she has been in an Error. Mr. Daniel Warrin Collector here and reckons—pays £14.10.1 old Tenor, but has after this about 120£ to pay. Thawy Weather.

⁶ The Reverend David Hall of Sutton.

⁶ The Reverend Solomon Reed of the Second Church of Framingham, a fervent New-Light preacher, had salary problems, and the next year departed for other pulpits. *Sibley*, X, 398-400.

⁷ Aaron Putnam (Harvard 1752) served the First Church of Pomfret, Conn., 1755-1802.

4. Dull Heavy Air. Visit Jonathan Bond who is Sick of Pleuretick Fever. Receiv'd Lieutenant Maynards account which I have sought for these Ten Months.

5. A Fine Morning—warm and bright—p.m. Cloudy. Jonathan Bond worse.

6. Am Sent for to Visit him—accordingly I went—he is Still delirious and his Fever changes to be Nervous. N.B. Mr. Eliezer Rice came to see me and gave Some Account of Affairs at the Camp at Lake George.

7. Deacon Forbush and Mr. Thomas Twitchell are Stoning my Cellar Wall, but do not finish it. Mr. Zebulon Rice P.M. hews Sleepers—and Mr. Eleazer Pratt Sets em into the Gains.

8. I wake with Some Serious Impressions of the Sparing Mercy and Long suffering of God towards Me and the Church I am related to: and desire to be deeply humbled on consideration of my Ingratitude, unprofitableness, and unfaithfulness. Would Spend what time can be spar'd from my preparations and unavoidable Cares of my Family etc., in Serious Reflections and Humilliations. And O that I had a Spirit of Grace and Supplications—and that God would have Mercy on me and grant Forgiveness through the Blood of Jesus Christ of my numberless and great Offences—and quicken and assist me in my whole future conduct! N.B. This is 31 Years since my Ordination. Mr. Thomas Twitchel here again and finishes the Stoning of my Cellar Way.

9. Read 1 K, 1. Preach'd on Rev. 3, 2, and in the Close p.m. I warmly represented to the people the Pressures I was under and Obstructions in the Work of the Ministry. See the Notes. May God grant Me relief and may we all do our utmost to strengthen the Things etc.

10. A very Rainy time. My Son Ebenezer has neither gather'd his Corn nor made his Cyder: and its So with divers others.

11. Rain a.m. P.M. Billy works at Mr. Nurse's in cutting Turnips. At Eve Nathan Kenny, and Solomon and David Maynard husk'd out the rest of our Corn. At Eve also Mr. Whitney and his Wife with their Brother Child return from the

Funeral of his Sister Liscomb, who has dy'd Somewhat Suddenly. A valuable and gracious woman, one that when she was among us, conducted with much decency and Discretion and a good Friend to the ministerial Interest here. May God teach us all rightly to improve this and every Such sorrowfull Providence!

12. I went over to t'other House in my way to the North End. Ebenezer was cutting up his Corn: his Brother Thomas and Mr. John Frost help him. He informs me that my Mare was in an ill Situation on Lords Day Morning, being Cast in her Fetters and a great Rail in between them, and She had lain till She was almost Spent, when he discover'd her. I rode upon her to visit Mrs. Beeman who is Sick at her son Bruce's. I went also to Mr. Martyns, where is my little son John Still. Call'd to See Ensign Josiah Rice who is still lame in his Foot. Billy work'd a.m. for Mr. Nurse. Bright and Pleasant Weather.

13. Fair again. Billy with Mare and Steers work'd for Mr. Nurse all Day. Thomas for Ebenezer, who finishes getting in his Corn. Catechetical Exercise to Young Women, about 26 Present. N.B. What they Said the Proofs of were the Answers to the 22, 23, and 24 Questions. And they must begin next time both Young Women and Young Men at the 25th Question.

14. Rose Early and visited Jonathan Bond. Brought home Mrs. Bonds Oxen and Billy and Nathan (Kenny) plough with them and my Steers at the Cook Field. Mr. Nathaniel Whitney brought a Barrell of Cyder, and he brought one from Mr. Grout. These were gratis. At Eve came Isaac Miller with Two Barrells of Cyder more which were also gratis. One from Deacon Jonathan Forbush and the other from Ensign Miller, who also Sent me a large Piece of Beef and a parcel of Apples. May God reward His Servants and grant me Grace to make a proper Improvement of the Benefits I receive!

15. With many avocations am able to prepare but one sermon, Since this one obliges me to much Reading.

16. Read 1 Kings 2. Preach'd a.m. on Mat. 16, 24. Mrs. Joanna Forbush¹ (wife of young Deacon) din'd here. P.M. read

¹ Mrs. Jonathan Forbush, Jr.

Mat. 6. Repeated the Exposition on number 23. N.B. an unusual multitude of Notes put up, desiring Prayers and Offering Thanks etc.

17. Mrs. Hannah Ward (Dauter of Lieutenant Hezekiah) din'd here.

18. This Morning about a Quarter past 4 We were all wak'd up by a very Terrible Earthquake.² The shock Seems to me to be as great and to last about as long as the great Earthquake, October 29, 1727, but the manner of Shaking I think is different—That more horizontal, this partly Vertical. My Children rose and gather'd into my Chamber, where we gave Thanks to God for our Preservation, and begg'd His Mercy towards us. We heard another shock at 28 Minutes after 5. The Air was Clear, the moon bright, and a great Frost. God grant us grace rightly to improve His holy Dispensation! and prepare us for what is yet before us!

19. I rose early—rode to Southborough and preach'd Mr. Stone's Lecture at 10 a.m. on Isa. 9, 12, 13. Din'd there (N.B. his Mother Thatcher³ there) and he rode with me and preach'd my Lecture at 2 p.m. on Eccl. 8, 11. May God bless these Exercises to our, and to his people's Saving Good!

20. Mr. Wellman⁴ and his Wife came—they din'd here. Ebenezer has Billy part of to Day to help him.

21. Billy to Ebenezer.

22. At Eve about half after Eight was another Earthquake and which very much Surpriz'd me. Yet it was not above a third so long or strong as that last Tuesday morning. May God grant the impressions may be increas'd and abiding!

23. Read publickly Hab. 3. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Ps. 18, 7. Administered the Lords Supper. Both the Deacons din'd

²This earthquake was felt on both sides of the Atlantic. The effects in Boston were described at length in *The Boston Weekly News-Letter*, Nov. 20, 1755, and *The Boston Gazette, or Country Journal*, Nov. 24, 1755. For the controversy over the causes see Eleanor M. Tilton, "Lightning-Rods and the Earthquake of 1755," *New England Quarterly*, XIII (March, 1940), 85-97.

³The Reverend Mr. Stone's mother-in-law, the widow of the Reverend Peter Thatcher of Middleborough.

⁴The Reverend James Wellman of Millbury.

here—also Mrs. Chaddock and Mrs. Mercy Chamberlin. P.M. My Wife went to Meeting. D.G. Rain a.m.

24. Catechiz'd at the Meeting House a. and p.m. At Eve Mr. Joseph Stratton of Waltham and his Dauter Harrington, and give me Account of the Surprizing Effects of the Earthquake. Lieutenant Forbush desires me to go to Upton Fast on the 27th.

25. At Captain Forbushes—ride his Horse to Lieutenant Brighams, whom I visit, he being still confin'd by illness—din'd there. P.M. visit Eliz Biglow—who is sick of a Fever. N.B. Thomas and Billy at their Brother Ebenezers who has a Husking to Day.

26. Samuel Forbush carts out muck for me. Mrs. Molly Martyn dines here: She returns home at Evening.

27. I rode over to Upton Fast. On Occasion of the Earthquake. Mr. Zebulon Rice accompany'd me (on the 24 at Evening Lieutenant Burnap of Hopkinton here in Mr. Barretts⁵ Name to desire me to assist at a Fast there, next Thursday, but Lieutenant Forbush was first). I began with Prayer. Mr. Hutchinson preach'd (an Hour and Half) on Deut. 5, 29. P.M. Reverend Mr. Dor⁶ pray'd and I preach'd—taking for my Text Isa. 5, 25, and read also Chapter 9, 12, 13, and I pick'd my Discourse partly out of that of mine on Isa. 9, 12, 13, and partly from that on Ps. 18, 7, with Some additions and alterations. May God freely pardon what has been amiss, hear our Prayers and accept our Humilliations and Thanksgiving: and may the Word prove Savingly beneficial! I return'd at night.

28. A fine Morning. My Wife and Lucy are gone over to Mr. Martyns. At Eve they return and bring home my little John.

29. Billy so out of Order that he is incapable of any Business.

30. Read 1 Kings 3. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Isa. 5, 24, 25. But am heartily griev'd it was So defectively—especially as it was the finishing the Subject, and there can be no Opportunity for ever Supplying what has been omitted. May God forgive me my many Miscarriages and Omissions! Miss Mary Steward, Miss Patience Woods and Miss Grace Ball din'd here.

⁵ The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

⁶ Joseph Dorr of Mendon.

D E C E M B E R , 1 7 5 5

1. One Mr. Stimpson of Hopkinton here and din'd with us.
2. Lieutenant Tainter here and din'd with us. He is so good as to come and see whether we had any service to be done at Boston, as his Custom has been, but I would not at this time trouble him with anything. I am heartily thankfull to God for the affectionate Kindness of this Good Man, who whether he is at home or goes abroad he is ever caring for us. This is to be noted before Thanksgiving.
3. Ebenezer came with two Barrells of Cyder which is all that I design to have of him more this Year—in all 3 Barrells. He says he has one more Cheese to make Still.
4. Public Thanksgiving. Preach'd on Ps. 150, number 2. May God give Success! Master Gardner din'd with us and Mr. Elijah Warrin and his Wife and their little son, here at Eve and supp'd with us. She and her son lodg'd here.
5. Mr. John Martyn junior here at Breakfast time. P.M. Mary Latiner here and Examin'd. Also Joseph Bowman.
6. It was very Cold, but having appointed to Change with Mr. Wellman I Set out upon my Journey a.m. Call'd at Captain Bakers and deliver'd him a Paper containing a brief Memorial to be laid before the Town next Monday, when they are to meet to bring in Town Debts; desiring them to pay Me what they owe Me. N.B. Captain Baker Said he would use his Best Endeavour to have it Succeed. I therefore repose my Affair under God in his Care. Din'd at Mr. Hutchinsons. Lieutenant Tainter came to me there and din'd with us. Met Mr. Wellman on the Road from Sutton to Grafton. I lodg'd at Mr. Wellmans, Lieutenant Tainter at his Sons.
7. I preach'd at Sutton for Mr. Wellman, and he for me at Westboro. My Text a.m. was Gal. 1, part of 15 and part of 16. P.M. it was Heb. 11, 16. A fine Day, as to Weather; might God grant us divine Refreshment and Joy from His Word and Ordinances! I baptiz'd Moses Son of Deacon Chase,¹ and having

¹ Abel Chase.

Consulted Mr. Wellman about it, who requested it, I appointed an Exercise in the Evening at Mr. Jonathan Fullers, where accordingly [I] preach'd to a crowded Assembly from Luke 12, 36, 37. N.B. After Exercise came in two Soldiers—one of them had Plans of the Forts lately built by our Forces. Fort William and Henry and Fort Edwards. I lodg'd at Mr. Samuel Trasks.

8. Rode to Mr. Charles Richardsons who copy'd the Plans which I borrow'd last night, for me. Mr. Wellman and Lieutenant Tainter came, and we all din'd there. P.M. Lieutenant and I return'd home, calling at Mr. Wellmans where I borrow'd Henry on the Historical Books of Old Testament² and at Mr. Hutchinsons with whom both I and Mr. Wellman are somewhat disquieted that he would not change with Mr. Wellman and go to Westborough in his Stead. I arriv'd safely thro God's Mercy, in the Evening. Thus I have perform'd this long design'd Journey for the Sake of my dear Kinswoman, Mrs. Fuller (who is about 82). And may God himself visit, Support and bless them and at last receive them to Himself!

9. Soldiers are continually returning from Albany.

10. Mr. Nathaniel Whitney here at Eve and tells me the Town Meeting on the 8th did nothing upon my Paper which I sent and was (he said) presented, by Captain Baker. But he tells me that Lieutenant Tainter takes off the Force of any Such Petition, for he says that he has paid 20£ old Tenor towards that Debt—and Harrington has some pounds more: so that there is very little remaining now. In answer to which I assur'd him (Mr. Whitney) that no Body had to my Knowledge paid a Farthing of that Debt but Messers. James Ball, and Jacob Rice, and Captain Maynard. Unless Lieutenant Tainter charg'd for keeping a Creature or two the Winter following the Drought. But yet he never said so to me; nor is there any Thing behind in my account with him except for some few Things which Lieutenant has bought at Boston for us, this Year: for as for last Year I discharg'd all Debt to him Unto the Day when I gave him a Note to

² Matthew Henry (1662-1714), a noted English dissenting minister wrote *Exposition of the Historical Books of the Old Testament* (London, 1708).

the Collector of 15£ old Tenor. Mr. Whitney added that Lieutenant Tainter told him as above, yesterday.

11. Levelling the Bank of Sand which was dug out of my New Cellar Way.

12. Last Night it snow'd, which has been Somewhat rare—it being an extraordinary open Season. Am preparing again upon Mat. 16, 24. May God assist me in it.

13. Much interrupted by the Coming of Captain Thomas Stoddard from Fort Edward. He tells me he supposes Mr. Bowes, late of Bedford, one of the Chaplains in the army, to be by this time dead, he having been struck suddenly with numb palsey, and speechless when he was with him, as he came down upon his Journey. May God grant that I may myself be always ready! Since we know not the Day nor the Hour. O that I might wait for my Lord!

14. Captain Stoddard having lodg'd here, his son in Law, Mr. William Boardman came from Marlborough this Morning (from Boston Yesterday) to wait upon him. They tarried with us over the Sabbath. Reverend Mr. Bowes³ Death is Several Ways confirm'd. I read 1 K. 4. Preach'd on Mat. 16, 24. P.M. read Mat. 7, and on Occasion of Mr. Bowes Death, repeated the remainder of what I began on Occasion of Deacon Newtons sudden Death last February, viz. from Deut. 32, 29. N.B. Deacon Bond, Mr. Cornelius Biglow and others return'd. N.B. After Meeting Captain Maynard came in to see Captain Stoddard—and took home his Horse. Which I took in very kind, good Part of him and wish it might please God So to Change his Heart as that he might be reduc'd to some Freeness and sweetness again.

15. Captain Stoddard and his son Bowman left us for Boston. At Eve Lieutenant Tainter return'd from below—I had writ by him to Brother Sam Parkman but he brought me no answer—and thus it has been divers times, that tho I write it is to no purpose.

³Nicholas Bowes (Harvard 1725) had been the minister of Bedford, 1730–1754. After being dismissed he taught school and served as chaplain at Fort Edward. He died at Western (now Warren) on his way home in December, 1755.

16. Rain, and high Winds: as the Day advanc'd the Gusts were very Strong. The stormy winds fulfill the Almighty Authors Words. May God deliver Me from the Whirlwinds and Tempests of Gods Eternal Wrath!

17. Bright and Clear. In the great Storm yesterday Captain Maynards etc. Stables were wholly turn'd over so as to stand upon the Roof. At Eve Lieutenant Tainter here and I had some Talk with him about his having said that he had paid me some considerable Part of the North side Debt. And we had some considerable altercation but parted in Love and Peace. A Frosty Night which we have not had of a great while, nor anything severe.

18. Dr. Brigham⁴ (who has been Doctor of Colonel Browns Regiment of Recruits to Lake George) din'd here. Sent 4£ 5/ old Tenor to Mr. Benjamin Nicols. At Eve Mr. Zebulon Rice at work putting up Partition in my Cellar. Mrs. Judith Bellows here, but as unrelenting, Self-vindicating as ever.

19. Billy not well, but thrashes Rye.

20. Many deep and Serious Thots of my Personal and family Circumstances both relating to present and future Life.

21. Read 1 K. 5, and gave an Exercise upon it. P.M. read Mat. 8 to number 13. Deacon Forbush, Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Chaddock din'd here.

22. Rode Mr. Nurse's Mare to Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlins to see his son who is dangerously Ill. I din'd there. Dr. Brigham also. At Mr. Jonathan Bellows—Mrs. Bellows extremely Clamorous. At Mr. Snows where I talk'd with Comfort Bellows in the hearing of Mrs. Snow and her son and Dauter. At Mr. Amsdens, Bruce's—Bathericks. N.B. Breck (the first time) went to Mill.

23. Pleasant Day, but grows Somewhat Cold. Mr. Edward Marrit⁵ of Cambridge here. At Eve Lieutenant Forbush who having writ something for Mrs. Judith Bellows, wanted to apprise me of it (for she had clean worried him out to do it) but said he did not think it would do much good. Mr. Daniel Warrin

⁴ Samuel Brigham of Marlborough.

⁵ Marrett was a tailor, who later served as selectman of Cambridge, and as a captain of militia. Paige, *Cambridge*, p. 605.

here and paid me 10£ old Tenor. Lieutenant Tainter, here and we retir'd and talk'd over our whole Affair, concerning the Northside Debt to me and what he had done towards it. He brought me from Esquire Baker, my Paper which I put in to the Town, with the Record on the back of it, of the Towns refusal to do anything about it. Lieutenant Tainter (now first of all) acquainted me with the Articles which he had given me with Design in his own Heart, towards defraying the Northside Debt; Except that he had hinted to me somewhat of his keeping a Cow for me the winter after the Drought, and which at the Time, as I remember I manifested my Dissent to. Thro divine Restraints we kept from being angry—supp'd together and parted in peace.

24. A Great Frost: and the Day proves an exceeding Cold Day. Am disappointed of all Carpenters coming, and by these Means my design'd Kitchin remains unclos'd, and my Cellar consequently greatly expos'd to the Frost notwithstanding all I have done in making a Partition between the New Part and the old. We now batten and Partition and carry down Coals, and all little enough; for the Frost is very great. Master Gardner, having been to Boston, brot me Several Letters, among which one from my worthy Friend Simon Frost⁶ Esquire of Kittery, who inclosed Mr. Benjamin Lulls Deed of the 70 Acres; which Judge Frost had got recorded for me at Portsmouth. My Son William much indispos'd.

25. The Frost has got very much into the House: But the wind not so high abroad. Blessed be God for my preservation and many Comforts—and I would praise Him My Heart is in some Measure tender—I hope choosing and yielding to Him. Had some serious Thoughts on the Day, as kept by many in Commemoration of our Lords Nativity. And I desire to be one with all of them that are one with Christ, and who avoid the Superstitions and Excesses of this Day, and Serve the Lord in sincerity. May I and mine have part in the glorious Logos⁷ who was made Flesh and dwelt among us! At Eve Dr. Joshua Smith here—

⁶ Justice of the Court of Common Pleas.

⁷ See John 1, 1-18.

receiv'd the News Paper in which have a frightfull Account of the terrible Earthquake at Cadiz and Seville; but especially Lisbon, St. Woes and Agazira. O may we learn Righteousness! fear God and give Glory to Him: and in peculiar since we are so mercifully Spar'd!

26. Somewhat moderater. My Son Ebenezer came and with Thomas's Help kill'd two Swine; which were but Small, one 126, the other 119, our Corn having been so cut off by the Frosts, both late in the Spring and early in the Fall. The Negro Gosport, Mr. Gardners Servant here, and din'd here. At Eve I walk'd to the widow Newtons and reckon'd with her—gave her a Note to Constable Forbush and reckon'd with Mr. John Beeton—Paid him 20 shillings old Tenor for Captain Drury^s of Grafton, and gave a Note for the Shop work to the Collector Forbush. N.B. Several Returning from the adjournment of the Town Meeting came in to my House—viz. Deacon Jonathan Forbush junior, Messers. Solomon Woods and Benjamin Tainter—afterwards Ensign Harrington. Tis observable that Ensign Harrington never said one word of his having paid me any of that Debt: tho so much has been Said by others of his having declar'd he had. Some of them cut out my pork. All of them supp'd with me. Our Discourse was partly of the awful providences of Late in the Earthquakes—and likewise of unhappy Controversie of the Town with me, who refuse to pay their just Debt to me, or to settle with me. N.B. receiv'd a Letter from Mr. Charles Richardson of Sutton inclosing the Plans of the Forts lately built by the Army.

27. After a considerable time in which the Ground has been open, it Snows.

28. Read 1 King. 6, preach'd a.m. on Mat. 16, 24. P.M. on Occasion of the Earthquake and Inundation at Cadiz, Seville and especially at Lisbon preach'd on 1 Pet. 4, 7, repeating the first Sermon on that Text, with divers alterations and additions, and may God forgive my great Deficiency, and add His efficacious Blessing! N.B. after Meeting at Eve two Soldiers returning from Oswego, viz. James Johnston of Shirley, the other Timothy

^s Thomas Drury.

Canniston of Pepperrells Regiment here and desir'd Refreshments, which we chearfully gave 'em.

29. A.M. a great Heap of stones sledged from the West End of my Kitchin to make part of the Wall from the Well to the Barn. At Eve reckon'd with Barnabas Newton.

30. Very Cold Morning. Billy is ill with a Flux and confin'd most of the Day, to the House. P.M. Mr. Martyn made me a Visit. At Eve I walk'd up to Mr. Zebulon Rice's.

31. Captain Wood, return'd from Albany, was here with his Brother Jonathan in their Journey home; feeble and weak yet; and complains of Dizziness—but we are much rejoic'd to See him again, and so well as he is, we having heard he was Dead.

Thus this Year ends with nothing peculiar accomplish'd against Niagara or Crown-Point—the building of Some Forts—but the Troops are exceedingly wasted by Sickness and by their great Fatigues and hard Fare. We must now wait the Will of God in what is to follow. And may God fit me and mine for His holy Pleasure!

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