

The Diary of Ebenezer Parkman
1751-1753

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; and 1749-1750, April, 1964.

JANUARY, 1751

Every Year brings fresh occasion of Praise to the great, unchangeable, and incomprehensible Being who upholds the Universe! Let me especially praise and adore Him who preserves my Soul and Sustains my Body; who confers richest Favours on the vilest Ingrate!

To Thee Supreme, Omnipotent!

May universal Nature rise!

“Homage To thee, with one Consent,

From whom we all have all Supplies!”

But thou, My Soul, as thou’rt most bound,

Thy Breath and Being cheerfull Spend.

The Great Jehovah’s Praise resound

To Ages that shall never End!

At Eve my wife and I rode over to Mr. Francis Whipples and assisted at the Solemnizing the Marriage of his Daughter Lucy to Nathan Maynard.¹ N.B. She was born this Day 22 Years Since. An handsome supper, and though a Cold Night, yet it was (thro the Smile of Providence) a pleasant, joyfull Time. As I would bemoan my Ingratitude, Barrenness, Senselessness, So I would beg of God to quicken, pardon and help me! To God I would committ all the Events of this Year! But! I know not what a Day may bring forth!

2. Cold, raw Day. The Earth open still and good Clearing. Ebenezer and Thomas improve it. I was much employ’d with Ramsays Cyrus and (except yesterday) for Several Days. It shews a Strong, bright Genius, and is writ with much Elegance. Old Mr. Maynard came to invite me, and my wife also to his House at Even, his Son Nathan having brought home his Bride. We went and Supp’d with them.

3. Ebenezer Thrashing Wheat—which has Suffer’d by the Rotts of the Barn. Thomas a.m. to Mr. Wymans for Several Sadlers-Tools which he has made for him. P.M. he thrash’d with his Brother. A Cold Season.

¹ The son of David Maynard.

4. Bright and pleasant—and not altogether so Cold as the Days past. My sons thrashing Still. Lucy to Mrs. Mehitable Brigham² to obtain her to help in making her new Riding hood—and stays all Night.

5. Read a Letter from Mr. Elijah Collins concerning my Watch, and from my Brother Parkman³ concerning his Marriage last July 19 to Captain Harris's Widow, his near Neighbour, and took her to his House the 31. That her Son, William Harris's Brigantine was lately ashore on Plumb-Island, where his Father was cast away, and lost a Brigantine which my Brother was part owner of.⁴

6. I rode over to Mr. Martyns and he came hither. He read not publicly either a. or p.m. His Texts Dan. 2, 21, and Mat. 6, 33. He return'd home at Eve. I at his meeting read a.m. Lev. 25, and preach'd on Jer. 6, 8. P.M. read Acts 2 and preach'd on Numb. 23, 10. At Eve I was very much tir'd, and it being very dark when I had refresh'd my Self at Supper with Mr. Martyn, I tarried and lodg'd there. I had design'd also to go to Bolton next Morning.

7. It prov'd a very Stormy Morning—it blew and Snow'd and became very tempestuous. I yielded to their Importunity to Stay till noon. After Dinner I ventur'd out, and got home safely—my Family also in Comfort. But Captain Maynard came towards Eve, and had a fresh Debate about the precincts pulling down the old Meeting House.

8. The Storm goes over—but very cold and snow blow'd about.

9. Mr. Whitney here—reckon'd with him for his work, about my New House—gave him a Note to Lieutenant Tainter for 5 Days—2 at framing and 3 at digging Stones—15/ per Day—in all £3.15.0 old Tenor. Thomas making another New Pillion. Ebenezer sledged Wood. I kept to my Preparations with some Diligence.

² Mrs. Moses Brigham.

³ William or "Elder" Parkman of Boston married Hannah Harris.

⁴ *The Boston Gazette, or Weekly Journal*, Dec. 4, 1750, reported "One Day last Week, a Brigantine deep laden from the West Indies, in bad Weather, ran ashore on Plumb-Island, and tis feared will suffer much Damage."

10. My Wife and I design'd to have rid to Marlborough, but a young Dog antickly Seiz'd upon the Lining of the Chair (which was to be set upon Runners) and tore it wholly out of the Back: which exceedingly defac'd it. However we rode over to the widow Newtons⁵ and din'd there. Captain Eager⁶ there also. At Eve my son Thomas rode over to Robert Cooks—I thought upon Business, but (as I came to understand afterwards) to an House-warming.

11. Ebenezer Sledded Ship-Timber for Mr. Ebenezer Rice. Thomas thrashing.

12. Rain. Ebenezer with Neighbour Benjamin How and his Brother Noah, go to the Meeting House to put up Some Sort of Steps or stairs into the Gallery. Thomas went to Lieutenant Tainter who promis'd to Send £7.3.10 old Tenor to Esquire Hazzletine of Upton.

13. Very Rainy. The Rain with the Snow upon the Earth make it very difficult going to Meeting. A few of us arrive there. A.M. read several parts of Lev. 13. Scil. the heads of the paragraphs and gave Some Expository Observations. Preach'd a. and p.m. on 2 Sam. 33, 3. So very rainy at Noon that I acquainted the Congregation that I Should not go out of the Meeting House, and desir'd them that went out to come in again, in $\frac{1}{4}$ of an Hour. I eat a bit of Bread and Cheese which my Maid handed to me in the Pulpit, and I was much refresh'd. P.M. according to my proposal to the Congregation I went not out of the House, but began the Second Service as soon as the people gather'd in. Read Acts 4, and gave Some glances upon it. Preach'd as aforesaid. Got home safely tho it was very tedious to me. However I bless God for my many Comforts which I am favour'd with! After Supper and the Evening Exercise in my Family I read to them Mr. Baxters Preface to his Call. May God grant His Awakening Spirit to accompany it and render it profitable!

14. Cloudy, Misty—exceeding bad Stirring. My Mare troubl'd with a large Swelling which is become an hard Bunch, upon her Breast.

⁵ The widow of Ensign Thomas Newton.

⁶ James Eager of the north precinct.

15. The Storm continues (ever since last Saturday) and rains all Day. My 2 Sons can employ themselves to but small purpose. I was both yesterday and this Day engag'd on my preparations. William gets to School through the Wet and Dirt. Master Forbush here at Eve and lodg'd here.

16. Mr. Stephen Fay here—din'd with us and tarried till almost Night. The Storm not over, but rains Still. A very unusual Time. The Earth Extremely hollow, and fill'd with Water.

17. According to appointment I met Mr. Stephen Fay at Justice Bakers Tho it was rainy Weather and bad Stirring abroad. I din'd at Deacon Newtons. I went down with Justice Baker and Mr. Stephen Fay to look of the Land within my Plot of 4 acres and 57 Rods. Mr. Fay and I agreed to go on and give each other a Deed; I him of 3 Acres and 37 Rods of this Land, and he me of Three Acres Right of the sixth Division, to take up Common Land other where. We finish'd the Affair at Mr. Ebenezer Rice's. N.B. Mr. Rice's Young Man (Dudley) and his wife's brethren, had been at the Great Pond, though foul Weather: and caught a great Number of fine Fish—the Pickerell, Some of them very large. They made me an handsome Present of 3 large ones. At Deacon Newtons as I return'd home, but tarried not long. N.B. Ebenezer at Mr. Cornelius Cooks' assisting him in making a stubb scythe, a Whipple-Tree Chain and several other Things.

18. The first fair Day ever Since this Day Sennight. This Day, Ebenezer and his Brother Thomas go a Fishing at the Great Pond (mov'd by yesterdays News about Fishing). They return to Dinner. Ebenezer goes this afternoon to looking up Trees for Loggs to be carry'd to the saw-mill; his Brother goes (on Foot) to Mr. David Felton at Marlborough and bought an Horse side of Leather price 30/ old Tenor; and return'd home at Eve. Deacon Newton here. We reckon'd my Debts to him was 8£ 4s, 6d. He threw in 10/6 and I gave him a note to Mr. Samuel Williams for the rest. N.B. I press him to Peace in the Affair relating to Mr. James Maynard and Rev. Mr. Price. P.M. reckon'd with Aaron

⁷ Westborough's blacksmith.

Warrin—his account £4.10 old Tenor. Gave him a Note to Mr. Williams.

19. Ebenezer and Thomas go into the Woods to Cutt Loggs.

20. A pleasant Day. I read Lev. 14 to number 32 with long Expositions. Preach'd on Tit. 3, 1. Din'd at Justice Bakers—my wife and several of the Family tarried at the Meeting House—Billy din'd at Mr. Ebenezer Rice's. P.M. read Acts 5, with some brief Exposition. Not having altogether finish'd my Preparations for the Afternoon Exercise, tho I began early in the Week and continu'd more than usual at the work, yet by Reading Dr. Hoadly⁸ etc., and my meditations enlarging, yet being desirous it might not be more than Two Exercises; I wanted also some more moving Subject for the afternoon—I therefore repeated to page 8 of sermon on 1 John 2, 14, latter part.

21. Daniel How assisted Ebenezer and Thomas in Killing Two large Hoggs. Each 12 Score, 11¾. P.M. my sons thrash'd Wheat and Swingled some small matter of Flax. Mr. Phinehas Hardy, afterwards Mr. Samuel Hardy, Mr. Grow and Mr. Harrington, were here, reckon'd with them for work and Stuff about the New House and gave each of them a Note to Lieutenant Tainter. Captain Maynards Wife made us a Visit. At Eve I rode over to Mr. Williams and receiv'd £9.10 old Tenor of money from him. The forepart of this Day was exceeding pleasant.

22. The Early Morn began with Storm. As the Day got up it grew exceeding Tempestuous. The Wind at South, very Stiff, and sometimes like meer Hurricanes, raining very hard also. It beats extremely against, and into the House. The Lord hath his way in the Whirlwind and in the Storm, and the Clouds are the Dust of his Feet. Nah. 1, 3. Stormy Wind, fulfilling his Word. Ps. 148, 8. Storm prevails till The Middle of the Day: then the Clouds Scatter and the Sun appears; yet it continues very windy. In the Storm, Two Apple Trees (which were defective) were blown down; the Roof of the Bee House was blown off. The Well-Crotch, Sweep and Pole were laid flatt, one Leaf of the front Gate was forc'd from the Post and thrown down;

⁸ Bishop Benjamin Hoadly (1676-1761) was a controversial figure who published numerous works.

and it was wonderful that the Roof of the Barn was not carry'd off and destroy'd. The Rain beat through the Windows of the House so much that there were great Puddles in the Rooms and Chambers, but especially in the Great Entry; and had the Wind and Rain continued with Such Violence for a little while longer, it look'd as if the sashes of the Windows would have been forc'd down and the House laid open that we could have had little or no Comfort. But Blessed be God who in the middst of Wrath remember'd Mercy! He that raised the Stormy Wind, made it obey and fulfill his Word. We have reason to fear there is much Dammage done by this terrible Storm. I hear already of the Desolation of Mr. Daniel Forbush's Barn which was blown down to Day when the Cattle were in it, and he himself gone to Boston.

23. A.M. Ebenezer and Thomas got Wood. P.M. they went into the Woods to prepare Loggs for the Saw-Mill. Mr. Charles Rice with me and reckon'd. N.B. a Letter from Mr. Henry Gould⁹ of Concord for Money. At Eve Mr. Stephen Sadler¹⁰ and his wife and they lodg'd here; as did Master Forbush also; there being an Entertainment or Frolick, of some young people at his Lodgings (Captain Maynards) to Night.

24. Moses Warrin¹¹ was married to Persis Rice, Daughter of Mr. Seth Rice. Some of the Company (without any Knowledge) took in the Key which offended a Number of persons who came to see 'em married, and particularly Jonathan Smith was so much displeas'd that he got an Horn, and when the Bridegroom with his Bride and attendants were returning home, he began to blow, even before they had got all of them away from the Road before my Gate. I therefore went out and Smartly reprov'd him for his Impudence and Folly. P.M. my wife and I, tho it was very cold, took a Ride to See old Mr. Fay in his illness and confinement. We also went to Benjamin Fay, and examin'd into their suffering Young people to have a Frolick a little while ago at their house. At Eve we were at Mr. Nathaniel Whitneys and

⁹ Parkman's son had been apprenticed to Gould.

¹⁰ Of Upton.

¹¹ The son of Daniel Warrin of Westborough.

we made a Visit also to Mr. Daniel Forbush, where I saw Some of the Sorrowful Effects of the late storm, which blew over his Barn.

25. 26. Sharp Weather.

27. Read Lev. 14 from number 33 with Remarks. Preach'd on Nahum 1, 3. Din'd at Justice Bakers. P.M. read Acts 6, and repeated the Rest of Sermon to young men on 1 John 2, 14, latter part.

28. Martha Pannell went from us to live at Mr. Benjamin Hows.

29. Was at Mr. Bathericks and Sent by Mr. Bezaleel Smith 20£ old Tenor to Mr. Henry Goold. Visited Mr. Bradish.

30. My wife and I rode to Marlboro—as we went we call'd at Deacon Rice's¹² and din'd there. Renew'd my Desire to Jeduthan Baldwin to work for me in finishing my New House. We visited Dr. Gott who is in a waste and much confin'd. We went also to See Cousen Sally Brigham at Justice Brighams.¹³ I was likewise at Mr. Smiths¹⁴ and Supp'd there with one Mr. Osgood of Andover. N.B. Judge Dudley¹⁵ lies dead. Captain Boardman bury'd this Day. We lodg'd at Dr. Gotts.

31. A very Snowy forenoon. I went to Mr. Benjamin Woods¹⁶ but returned and din'd at the Doctors. I wish I could deal more plainly with the Doctor about his intemperate use of Spirituous Liquors—yet had it over and over with him and gave him what Charge I could that he should abstain—but I fear it is all in Vain. Mrs. Rachel Bowker there. Everyones Heart bleeds—but we must leave it to God! P.M. we visited at Mr. Smiths (Mr. Osgood not gone) and went in to See Mrs. Williams to mourn with her under the loss of her Father. At home in the Evening.

¹² Caleb Rice of Marlborough.

¹³ Charles Brigham, a justice of the peace.

¹⁴ The Reverend Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

¹⁵ Justice Paul Dudley of the Superior Court of Judicature died Jan. 21, 1751.

¹⁶ A leading citizen of Marlborough.

FEBRUARY, 1751

1. [No entry.]
2. At Eve in much Trouble. A Cow ready to Calve missing: and my young Horse lam'd himself in the Stable. He was hung by one of his fore feet in the floor of the Manger, and after much Striving fell down on the outside of the Manger, in great pain—but was heard and Seasonably reliev'd—but the Cow (which I bought of Mr. James Ball) missing all night tho we search'd up and down the woods till about midnight, and considerable Snow upon the Ground.
3. The little black Cow, missing last night, found this morning with a Calf, in the woods—was late at meeting by Reason of tramping (in the Snow) so late last night. Read but the Two first Verses of Lev. 15, and gave some Observations upon it. Preach'd on Tit. 3, 1, a. and p.m. Din'd at Esquire Bakers and p.m. read part of Acts 7.
4. This Day concludes the School kept by Forbush at Captain Maynards. Ebenezer with Neighbour John Rogers's Help and his Oxen join'd to my Team carry Large Loggs to Mill.
5. Worcester Court at which we expect the Case of our Treasurer Mr. Ebenezer Maynard by Appeal against the Reverend Roger Price, for Mr. James Maynards Rates, is expected to come on. Mr. Haven came to see us at Evening. N.B. Ebenezer and Thomas, Mary and Lucy gone to dine at Lieutenant Tainters and wait upon his Daughter Sadler¹ in her going home to Upton.
6. Mr. Haven and I rode over to see Mr. Martyn. Mr. Cushing came there also. Call'd at Captain Eagers about Clabboards for my New House. Ebenezer and his Brother and Sister return'd from Upton.
7. Mr. Haven bought of me Dr. Atterburys Two Volumes of Sermons.² He leaves us to go to Brookfield, North part of it, to preach on probation there. Mr. David Baldwin of Leicester sold me 1000 of White Pine Boards for £15.10/Old Tenor for which I paid him 10£ old Tenor. As I Sat at Captain Maynards came

¹ Elizabeth Tainter married Stephen Sadler of Upton.

² Francis Atterbury, *Sermons and Discourses on Several Subjects and Occasions*, 2 vols. (London, 1730).

in the Reverend Mr. Price from Court—tells me they gave him the Case yesterday, as he was sure all men of any Reason and Justice would. Captain Maynard urg'd me much to dine there but I return'd home. P.M. nigh Evening I visited Mrs. Pratt. When I came home had Mr. Jonathan Bond with me. N.B. Ebenezer and Thomas carried Loggs to the Saw Mill, and Boards to the New House.

8. Ebenezer in the Woods about Loggs. Thomas to Marlborough and bought an Horse Hide of Mr. Felton—cost 58/. He paid Lieutenant Nathan Brigham 21£ old Tenor in full for the Land I bought of him by the Meeting House. Thomas brings word that Cousen Sally Brigham was brought to Bed this Morning and bore a Son, being (I think) thirty Weeks Since her Marriage.

9. Ebenezer works for Neighbour Rogers, with the Oxen. At Night I was with Joseph Grout junior who is Sick of a Fever, till nigh 12 o'clock.

10. Many of Hopkinton People at Meeting with us Mr. Barrett³ being Sick. A.M. read Levit. 16. Preach'd on Rom. 12, 18. Din'd at Justice Bakers. Deacon Kimbal⁴ and others of Hopkinton din'd there also. P.M. read Acts 7 from number 26, gave short Exposition each part of the Day. Preach'd on Rom. 3, 24—freely by his Grace—(and by Reason of my Interruption last Eve did not finish the Subject which I was then engaged upon) I us'd from page 16 to 24 of sermon on Eph. 2, 8. My Wife this Day 34 Years old. May God grant her the Grace so to number her Days as to apply her Heart to Wisdom.

11. Rainy. Ebenezer a.m. goes a Fishing at the Great Pond. At Eve the Storm increases the Wind Southerly and to the East of South, very Strong for several Hours.

12. Am running over Some of Esquire Wests Observations on the History and Evidences of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.⁵

³ The Reverend Samuel Barrett.

⁴ Ebenezer Kemble.

⁵ Gilbert West, *A Defence of the Christian Revelation . . . as Contained in . . . Observations on the History and Evidences of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ* (Boston, 1749). This work first appeared in a Dublin edition of 1747.

13. I rode to Hopkinton to See Mr. Barret in his Sickness—find he is much better. I din'd there. The Desolations in Hopkinton by the great Storm much greater than among us. Mr. Barretts, Mr. Price's, and 10 or 11 Barns more in that Town blown down. Mr. Barretts Cattle, and his Negro Man also in the Barn at that Instant. I was at Lieutenant Woods where lay ill Phebe Chamberlin and at their Request I pray'd with her. At Aaron Warrins Shop for a large Cargo of mended Shooes. Call'd at Mr. Hezekiah Pratts, whose wife wastes very much. My Son Ebenezer breaks Flax. Thomas at his Trade.

14. A fine Day after a Sharp Night, but the prospect of my Debts, Building and Family Expences very gloomy and distressing. P.M. rode out—designing to visit Lieutenant Tainter; and yet what can he be able to do for me in these uncommon Times of Difficulty and Straitness in the Province! and especially in Times of Such Trouble and Division in the Parish! As I pass'd by Mr. Nurse's Lieutenant passed along in the Common Road and went to my House—but carry'd no money for my Relief. As Soon as I was inform'd that Lieutenant had passed along the Road I turn'd my Course (from going to his House) and it being probable that the Lieutenant Saw, and was inform'd that it was I, that was at Mr. Nurse's, yet that he had no Special Business with me, I went to Mr. Ebenezer Rice's and reckon'd with him. I Should have proceeded up the Road to visit Joseph Grout, but heard he was better—had no fit Since Lords Day Evening. Lieutenant Tainter here while I was abroad.

15. Snow. Old Mr. Maynard and old Mr. Whipple here. By Mr. Whipples Discourse I perceive there are new Disgusts with Lieutenant Tainter—that he doth not take Steps towards Mr. James Maynards Rates being Sunk by the Precinct: there being a Warrant up for a Meeting and nothing of Mr. Maynards Affair in it; nor to Consult the Precinct about it.

16. Exceeding high westerly Winds—Sometimes Rain, Sometimes white flying Clouds.

17. I read (and gave Some Expository Hints on) Levit. 17. Preach'd on Rom. 12, 18. Din'd at Justice Bakers. My wife has

for a long Time refus'd to dine with me there fearing to be burdensome, tho the Justice has repeatedly manifested his uneasiness at her not coming, and Said that she gave him more trouble as she did not dine there. P.M. read Acts 8, and tho I had provided sufficient for another Exercise on the same subject which I preach'd on in the forenoon, yet being unwilling to harp too much on that string at this Time, I conceiv'd it best to wave what remain'd for the present, and chose to finish the Subject I was upon last Lords Day a.m. and therefore deliver'd the Rest of that Discourse (without the Reconcilement of St. James and Saint Paul) on Eph. 2, 8 from page 24 to page 36, from Rom. 3, 24. Which may God be pleas'd to add his Blessing to! N.B. I publicly notified a meeting at Mr. Hezekiah Pratts next Wednesday.

18. Was in a great deal of Anxiety on Account of my Family Circumstances, being in divers Straits and Difficultys—much in Debt already (by means of my New Building chiefly) and unwilling to keep my Creditors out of their dues, yet oblig'd to keep plunging much deeper if I would go on with my New House and place—and no reason to say any word to the Parish, they being so involv'd, and in Such Contention. But I took a Walk to Mr. Whipples, Mr. Williams's (to each of their Houses) to Deacon Newtons, Widow Newtons etc. In the midst of my disconsolateness on outward Accounts, desire I may not leave trusting and reposing myself in a Mercifull and faithful God: who I pray may be my Supporter under all!

19. Wrote to my Kinsman Davis⁶ and to Captain Charles Morris at Halifax. P.M. I rode to Mr. Grouts to See his son Joseph who is still sick, and pray'd with him. In every Conversation yesterday and to Day, with the Parishioners, endeavour to my utmost to promote peace and agreement, and to engage others to do what in them lies with those immediately concern'd, that the Contention may go no further. Was at Esquire Bakers at Eve. He is going into Connecticut with Mr. Shattuck Flax-trader—who is there, to sett out in the morning—wrote to Mr. Pierpoint.⁷ Solomon Baker⁸ designing to go to Boston in the

⁶ Parkman's niece, Lydia Tyley of Boston, married Robert Davis, June 9, 1748.

⁷ James Pierpont, Jr., of New Haven.

⁸ The son of Squire Edward Baker of Westborough.

morning, Sent my Watch by him to Mr. Moses Peck by him to have a Glass fitted to it. N.B. My son William this Day ten years old—he goes over to Mr. Benjamin Hows, and at Eve Ebenezer and Thomas go over there, and to my Grief tarry (all of them) too late. P.M. Ebenezer thrashes Barley.

20. Manifested to my sons Somewhat of my affectionate Concern for them. Ebenezer acknowledges. Thomas more insensible. P.M. at Mr. Pratt and his Wife's Desire, and agreeable to public Notice, given last Lords Day, preached to a Considerable Assembly at Mr. Pratts, his wife lying in a languishing Condition, and long confin'd from public Worship. I us'd Luke 12, 40 for the Text. Pick'd the Exercise out of Sermon on Mat. 24, 44, and added Two Extracts from Mr. Flavels Touch-stone.⁹ Viz. Mr. Sedgwick's and Mr. Sydenham's Marks in brief. N.B. old Mr. Whipple and Lieutenant Tainter tarried at Mr. Pratts after the Exercise, and I endeavour'd to have some misunderstandings removed and peace promoted. I advis'd Lieutenant to make Mr. James Maynard a Visit. O that the God of peace would give peace! At Eve Mr. Jedediah Hows of Brookfield here, and Neighbour Stephen Maynard.

21. After several Days of Springlike weather, we have now gentle warmish Rain.

22. Neighbour Batherick here and with Ebenezer hewing Timber for a Privy. Mrs. Warrin of Upton and her child here.

23. [No entry.]

24. Read Levit. 18. Preach'd all Day on Rom. 12, 16. Din'd at the usual place, tho the Justice was gone a Journey to Connecticut. N.B. Deacon Newton invited me to dine at their House, but I conceiv'd it not so well to leave Mrs. Baker now when she needed me most. P.M. read Acts 9.

25. Mr. Batherick and Ebenezer frame a Privy. At Captain Maynards about some Affairs of Plotts of Land, it being Proprietors Meeting at Marlborough to Day. Visited the widow Sibyl Childs. Din'd at Lieutenant Tainters. Settled with Joseph Bruce and paid all.

⁹ John Flavell, *The Touchstone of Sincerity: or the Signs of Grace and Symptoms of Hypocrisy* (Boston, 1731). This appeared originally in a London edition of 1678.

26. Rode to Mr. Fosgitts¹⁰ and picked out 325 more Brick, and paid him £8.12 old Tenor, being in full. Paid Mr. Goddard 20/ old Tenor for Carting the former parcell of Bricks. N.B. both din'd and supp'd at Mr. Martyns.

27. Ebenezer went with Neighbour Benjamin How to clear a new Road for foot people to Meeting. Lieutenant Tainter carry'd to Boston a Calf for me, which he came and kill'd last Night.

28. Mr. Fish¹¹ of Upton preach'd my Lecture on Ps. 107, 9. My wife not well at meeting.

MARCH, 1751

Cold Day. Mr. Fish left us to go to Upton. Samuel Bumpso came hither in order to his and Ebenezer's going to Sam's Swamp to get a Stick of White Pine to make Two Troughs for my new House. They both went but did not Succeed in Sam's Swamp; but obtain'd Two in Mr. Bradish's,¹ which they cutt down and partly hew'd one of them. [Two words crossed out] by the help of Mr. Daniel Warrin to hew for them. At Eve Lieutenant Bruce came here and I gave him a note to Lieutenant Tainter for 72£ 10/ old Tenor, which with 27£10/ of the like Tenor paid some Time agoe makes 100£ old Tenor in part for Cook Island, which he promises to give me a Deed of upon Demand.

2. Lieutenant Tainter here, who carry'd a Veal for us to Boston. Ebenezer to Mr. Bradish's Swamp with Mr. Daniel Warrin to hew Troughs.

3. Read Levit. 19. Preach'd on Rev. 1, 8. Administer'd the Lords Supper. My wife (being ask'd by Esquire Baker) din'd with us—Mr. Williams also invited both of us to dine at their House. Molly din'd at Deacon Newtons. Some of the Hopkinton people here at meeting, Mr. Barrett not being well yet. P.M. read Acts 10. Repeated sermon on 1 John 3, 3.

4. Town Meeting was at the North Meeting House—Tedious

¹⁰ In Bolton.

¹¹ The Reverend Elisha Fish.

¹ James Bradish.

Storm of Snow. Mr. Edwards Whipple has bought us 25 pounds of Flax at Northampton at 5/ and asks 1/6 for bringing—comes to 8£2.6.

5. The Storm yet more tedious, Snowing, blowing and Cold, all Day and Night. I was chiefly engag'd in reading Expositors and other writers on my design'd Text and Subject—a faithfull minister. Read especially Davenant on the Colossians.² I bless God my own Soul not altogether unaffected! Find I have great Reason for Deep Humilliation for my unqualifydness and great unfaithfulness—the Lord pardon me, thro the Great Saviour! N.B. I had appointed a Catechizing at the Meeting House to Day, but the Storm prevented going out.

6. Stormy morning—but the wish'd for Sun appear'd before Noon. The Snow is deep, and the air very Cold. Read Gilbert West Esquire on the Resurrection of Christ. (It is Mr. Martyns³ and I would fain return it tomorrow.) Ebenezer takes Care of the Cattle, gets wood, and is busy'd about various Choars. Thomas makes Whippes but can't get Deer's Hair for Saddles.

7. I rode over to Mr. Martyns and din'd there. Preach'd his Lecture—Text I Cor. 11, 20, latter part. May God be pleas'd to add his Blessing! Call'd at Ensign Rice's at Evening. N.B. Mr. John Caruth there.

8. John Caruth junior here, from Mr. Martyn. Sent Tar, to make Tar-Water. My sons sledding wood most of the Day. N.B. one of our Geese, instead of Setting, was found Dead near the Currant Bushes—when open'd we found her Eggs were broke within her.

9. Misty.

10. Read, with some brief Observations Lev. 20. Preach'd all Day on Col. 1, 7. Din'd at Justice Bakers—P.M. Acts 11. A very Rainy Day, and very difficult getting to and from Meeting.

11. I was at Mr. Ebenezer Rice's to pay them Rum which I had borrow'd of them—chiefly for raising my New House, my Well, Cellar and Chimney work. N.B. the Precinct Meeting for

² John Davenant, *Expositio Epistolae D. Pauli and Colossenses* (Cantab., 1627). Two other Latin editions were published in 1630 and 1639.

³ The Reverend John Martyn of the north parish.

their Annual Election of officers, thrown up. At Eve came Mr. Haven from Brookfield and lodg'd here.

12. After Dinner I undertook a Journey to Leicester—call'd at Mr. Maccartys,⁴ met Mr. Lull in Shrewsbury with a Drove of Hoggs, reach'd Mr. Goddards⁵ and lodg'd there. The Roads very bad, I was so late as to ride great part of the Roade from Worcester to Leicester in the Dark and Mudd.

13. From Mr. Goddards to Mr. David Baldwins. Bargain'd with him to make my Window Frames and Sashes, 13 of the former and 15 of the Latter, 24 Squares in Each Window 7 by 9 Dimensions of Glass and to lodge 'em Safe at Captain Maynards at Westborough, not exceeding the first week of June, for 48£ old Tenor Money, and 4 inner Doors, double rais'd pannells at the price which Mr. Goodwin Housewright in Worcester shall sett. Return'd to Worcester—din'd near 5 o'clock at Mr. Maccartys. Horse kept at Captain Daniel Wards. Mr. Maccarty and I walk'd to Colonel Chandlers but he was not at Home. Spent the Eve with his Lady. Lodg'd at Mr. Maccartys. N.B. was in great Grief and Trouble by means of the bitter Lamentations and Complaints about Dr. Breck. N.B. News that Colonel Samuel Willard⁶ of Lancaster was struck last night with the Numb Palsey.

14. Was with Mr. Putnam⁷ (as I was yesterday with Mr. Doolittle,⁸ and Mr. Waters⁹) on the Affair of Dr. Breck. N.B. in my returning home, had Discourse with Mr. David Crosby¹⁰ about his son and Dauter Cook,¹¹ who are under the Frowns of our Church. Have heard to Day and yesterday of Several sudden Deaths—but when I got home (instead of finding Mr. Martyn

⁴ The Reverend Thaddeus Maccarty of Worcester.

⁵ The Reverend David Goddard of Leicester.

⁶ Willard was a leading citizen, a justice of the peace, and judge of the Worcester County Court of Common Pleas, and Lancaster's representative for many years.

⁷ James Putnam, the lawyer of Worcester.

⁸ Ephraim Doolittle of Worcester.

⁹ John Waters of Worcester.

¹⁰ Samuel Crosby of Shrewsbury. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, p. 255.

¹¹ Sarah Crosby married Robert Cook of Westborough. Their conduct was a concern of the Westborough church for many months.

and his wife, to dine with me, as I expected) found Forbush¹² from College there, who came up with Tidings of Asaph Rice's¹³ illness at College. But especially—O Especially! with the heavy and grievous Accounts of the Death of my Dear Kinsman, and rather Brother or Son than Nephew Elias Parkman who was taken ill Friday night was sennight of a Pleurisie, Soon grew delirious—continued all Wednesday after and expir'd—was interr'd the next Saturday. May I be suitably affected with this Holy Dispensation—remember and prepare for my own Decease! May God remember dear Nabby, and her Maker be her Husband! and with him may the dear Orphans find Mercy!

15. Rainy—Thomas carry'd 19£ Old Tenor to Mr. Obadiah Newton. Captain Maynard here from Boston, but no Letter from any one.

16. P.M. I rode over to Mr. Martyns and desir'd him to change tomorrow, which he consenting to I tarried there.

17. Mr. Martyn preach'd for me, and I for him. My Text a. and p.m. Dan. 2, 35. His was Isa. 5, beginning. I return'd home at Eve and he lodg'd with us. N.B. a Letter from Brother Parkman of the Death of the Doctor the Day, he dy'd, by the Date of it.

18. Mr. Martyn and I chang'd Watches, mine being so much worn and having prov'd very expensive to me to keep it in repair; and he also having lately bought Lieutenant Ephraim Brigham's—but I Suppose he can sell mine, but his watch being by him valued at 10£ more than mine, and the Chain 40/ I gave him Bishop Hopkins'¹⁴ works, Kennets Roman Antiquities;¹⁵ and lively Oracles by the Author of the Whole Duty of Man.¹⁶ P.M. Mrs.

¹² Eli Forbush, who was keeping school in Westborough.

¹³ (Harvard 1752). Rice practiced medicine for a time in Brookfield and later served as the minister of the First Congregational Church of Westminster, Mass., 1765-1815.

¹⁴ Ezekiel Hopkins, D.D. (1634-1690), Bishop of Raphoe and Derry, was the author of numerous books. Posthumously, there was published *The Works of . . . Ezekiel Hopkins . . . Collected into One Volume* (London, 1701). Two other English editions appeared by 1710.

¹⁵ Basil Kennet, *Romanæ Antiquæ Notitia; or the Antiquities of Rome* (London, 1696). At least 11 English editions had been published by 1746.

¹⁶ [Richard Allestree], *Whole Duty of Man* (London, [1658]). Many other editions followed. *The Lively Oracles Given to Us* (Oxford, 1658) was also published anonymously and in several editions.

Newton, widow here. Mr. Abijah Gale and wife here. She was Examin'd.

19. I was with Neighbour Stephen Maynard as he and Neighbour Benjamin How measur'd Mr. Baldwins Boards.

20. Ebenezer and Thomas digging stones East of the Barn.

21. Publick Fast. Preach'd all Day upon Hos. 2, 8, 9. At noon refresh'd at Deacon Newtons. At Eve my wife and I returning home call'd to See Mrs. Pratt who grows weaker and weaker.

22. Was at old Mr. Maynard's a.m. At Noon Mr. Ebenezer Harrington¹⁷ and Ensign Stone of Framingham were here, but did not stay to dine. P.M. Mr. Benjamin Lull. Ebenezer drawing stones with the Young Horse put in with the Rest of the Team; and tho it be the first Tryal does very well.

23. One Mrs. Davidson here from Needham, who informs that Mr. Peabody¹⁸ very bad, and it is doubtful whether he will ever recover.

24. Read Levit. 21, omitting number 18, 19, 20, but gave a general account of what they contain'd—preach'd a. and p.m. on 1 Chron. 29, 15 on occasion of the Death of my dear Kinsman Dr. Elias Parkman¹⁹ of Boston. May God bless these meditations to me for my highest Profit! Din'd at Esquires. P.M. read Acts 12.

25. Undertook a Journey to Boston. Din'd at Mr. Stone's²⁰ at Southborough. Call'd at Colonel Buckministers at Framingham, but Mrs. Buckminister not at home. Rode to Natick—found Mr. Peabody poor and weak. Lodg'd there—with his son of Roxbury.

26. Prosecuted my Journey—aiming to go to Mr. John Child's, Glazier at Roxbury. N.B. one Cook of Needham or Dedham piloted me, to his Grandfathers Captain Robert Cook in Needham—to Mr. Stephen Winchester in Newton bad with a Cancer—and to Mrs. Hastings's who formerly carry'd me up to Newtown

¹⁷ Selectman of Framingham.

¹⁸ The Reverend Oliver Peabody of the First Congregational Church of Natick.

¹⁹ Parkman's nephew.

²⁰ The Reverend Nathan Stone.

in her Lap—N.B. her mother Davis alive—accounted 116 last October. There was a Mr. Childs at Madam Dudley's—put up my Horse at Cousen Cowels—visited my Kinsmans Widow—Roxbury, her Negro man dy'd to Day—little Elias very ill of a Fever. Lodg'd at Brother Samuels.

27. My Brother Parkman, Cozen Cowel and I attended the Funeral of poor Roxbury. I lodg'd at Brother Parkmans, and rejoice in his New Spouse.

28. The Town very much alive with people who throng into it to put off or Change their Province Bills. I attended the Public Lecture. Mr. Cooper²¹ preach'd on Luke 18 chapter, 9 to 14. The Pharisee and Publican. Din'd at Dr. Chauncy's,²² where also din'd Judge Sewall,²³ Mr. Cook²⁴ of Sudbury and Mr. Peabody²⁵ of Roxbury. Visited Mrs. Oliver and Captain Devenport Walker. Was at Mr. Foxcrofts etc. Lodg'd at Cousen Cowells.

29. A.M. at Mr. Eliots²⁶—Mr. Welsteeds²⁷—Mr. Clark²⁸ of Salem Village came there. Settled my Account with Brother Samuel and paid what appear'd to be the Ballance. Lodg'd at Brother Samuels. My Horse kept at My Kinsman Cowels till this Night; when he was kept at Mr. Stoddards. Visited Mr. Jeremiah Condy.

30. Sett out from Boston after Noon about 10 minutes,—rain'd somewhat while I pass'd thro Watertown—got to Mr. Nathaniel Williams at Weston by half after Two. Got to Mr. Bridge's²⁹ in Season to have come home, but he was desirous we should change: at least he would go to Southborough, and Mr. Stone (having been Spoke to already to do it in Case I should need) to come to Westborough. So that I tarried at Framingham.

²¹ Samuel Cooper of the Brattle Street Church.

²² The Reverend Charles Chauncy of the First Church of Boston.

²³ Justice Stephen Sewall of the Superior Court of Judicature.

²⁴ The Reverend William Cooke of Wayland.

²⁵ The Reverend Oliver Peabody (Harvard 1745), minister of the First Congregational Church in Roxbury, 1750-1752. *Sibley*, XI, 563-564.

²⁶ The Reverend Andrew Eliot of the New North Church.

²⁷ The Reverend William Welsteed of the New Brick Church in Boston.

²⁸ The Reverend Peter Clark, the minister of Danvers.

²⁹ The Reverend Matthew Bridges of Framingham.

31. Preach'd at Framingham a.m. on Prov. 14, 9. P.M. on John 12, 26. Exceeding Cold Wind. Mr. Samuel Haven din'd and lodg'd with me. Ensign Stone and Mr. Farrar³⁰ came to see me at Eve. Mr. Bridge, who came to Westborough did not return home till after I was in Bed. N.B. Mrs. Bridge's fall from the Horse Block, by reason of the Wind.

APRIL, 1751

1. Breakfast at Colonel Buckminsters. N.B. Mr. Bridge, Mr. Haven¹, together with his Father, and one Mr. Hale of Brookfield, consulting with me about Mr. Samuel Havens preaching with them (as he had done) in order to his settling there—whereas he had a Call at part of Medway, and therefore, he (justly) refuses to encourage those of Brookfield till he has done with Medway. Mr. Hale rode home with me. We din'd at Mr. Nichols in Framingham.

2. I was at Mr. Jeduthun Fays. Mr. Cushing here while I was from home.

3. I was employ'd partly upon some Books I brought from Boston. Night Thots etc.

4. Preach'd Mr. Cushings Lecture at Shrewsbury on Song. 1, 12. Return'd at Eve. Ebenezer sowing Rye. It has been very searching Cold Weather for some Time. I have taken Cold and went to bed ill. N.B. Lieutenant Bruce went up to Grafton to meet the Reverend Mr. Prentice,² and expected me to have gone.

5. Somewhat better a.m. but was indispos'd p.m. Remains Cold. Ebenezer and Billy plough at Cook Island.

6. A.M. A great Snow Storm. The Snow nigh a foot deep. Ebenezer fetch'd nine Bushels Lime borrow'd of Messers. Woods and Oake, northside.

³⁰ John Farrar, a prominent citizen of Framingham.

¹ Samuel Haven (Harvard 1749), the son of Joseph Haven of Framingham, taught school, read divinity with the Reverend Mr. Parkman, and became the minister of the Second Congregational Church of Portsmouth, N. H., 1752-1806. *Sibley*, XII, 382-392.

² Solomon Prentice who had been dismissed by the Grafton church in 1747.

7. Read Lev. 22. Preach'd on 1 Cor. 4, 1. Din'd at Esquire Bakers. P.M. read Acts 13. Preach'd on 1 Pet. 3, 5. Those words—Love as Brethren, be pitiful, be Courteous. Us'd (with alterations) Sermons on Tit. 2, 12, from page 85 to 95. Stop'd the Church, and they voted the Dismission of Samuel and Susanna Baker to the Church of Bolton. N.B. Mrs. Rachel Pratt^s grows much weaker.

8. The weather being unfit for our masonry little expect Mr. Newton today, Yet I went over to the New House. Ebenezer and the Team also. Ebenezer fetch'd a Load of Clay from Mr. James Maynards, Mrs. Newtons Clay Pitts being filled and Surrounded with water. I was at Lieutenant Tainters—visited Mrs. Pratt.

9. The Snow being chiefly gone, my masons came, Mr. Obadiah Newton and Mr. Edward Willson to top out my Chimney, but they were beat off by the Rain. Din'd them at home. P.M. about 4 they go to work again. They lodg'd here, and I kept their Horses. N.B. Ebenezer and Thomas tended the Masons.

10. Masons go to work, but were beat off again Several Times before noon. I carry'd them their Dinner. Ebenezer and Thomas tended them again to Day. P.M. they broke off about 4 or between 4 and 5 o'Clock (I suppose) it raining very hard—and they went away both of them to Shrewsbury. I rode with Mr. Holbrook of Grafton to Mr. Amsdens—and discours'd with each of the Gales and their wives concerning their making a profession of Religion. N.B. Sent a Letter by Mr. Holbrook to Mr. John Avery at Boston, Merchant respecting my Young Horse.

11. Lieutenant Wood of Upton and [blank] Chase (a young practitioner in Physic and who has taken up Lodging at Captain Bakers) din'd here. We are terrify'd with more than ordinary Gusts of Wind—and the weather is very Cold.

12. Lieutenant Tainter cutt my Two Year old Colt, and Gratis, as he has been always wont generously to do all such work for me. Ebenezer and Billy go to ploughing a.m. at the Cook Island. Bright, but windy and cold. Preach'd the Lecture on

^s Mrs. Hezekiah Pratt.

Hos. 10, 12, former part, omitted page 1. Proceeded to the End of page 12. After Lecture my wife and I call'd to See Mrs. Pratt, and before we came home we went to See Mr. Eliezer Rice and his wife (who had not been to Lecture either of them) to discourse with them especially with her concerning some Conversations She had had about me at old Mr. Whipple's Some Time since. He not being in the House, I desir'd her to Send for him to come in, which She did, and he came. I told him I wanted to Speak with him, and we walk'd out, to his Gate. Upon my acquainting him with my End in coming, he was Soon in a Ruffle. He tax'd me with impudence in coming now, for that I ought to have come before. I answer'd that it was but newly that I was inform'd of the persons She Spake in the hearing of, So that I was not able to Say any Thing of it besides, I was not willing to mind it or make any Thing of it, Considering the Frame she was in when I suppose she Said what she did, but that it best to let it dye—but Seeing She came again to the Communion and She was now more in her right mind; but especially Seeing it was got about and it was Concluded by people that I had talked with her, I was desirous to know what she now had to say of it; or who the Men were that She had Said told her what She reported. He ask'd me whether I thought it convenient to talk with her now, about what she had said when (as I conceiv'd) she was not altogether herself? He also Said that he acknowledg'd he had been brought under great Trouble and Affliction in the providence of God, and he was Sorry to find that his Neighbours especially that his Minister should add Affliction to the Afflicted, and he added (most unjustly) that he thought I took a delight in it. He utter'd divers other grievous Sentences. It was so Cold we could stand no longer abroad. We went into the House—but having intimated my purpose was to talk with his Wife, I let him understand that I was not willing to be with her alone. He Said he design'd to be with her when I did talk with her. Mr. Edwards Whipple was in the House, and I talk'd with Mr. Rice then only about our Reckoning together—which we finish'd—except that when he ask'd me whether It was much better if I did not get

home till Evening I told him it was Friday and I wanted to go home—but was very willing if they had any Thing to Say, or I could serve them in any Thing, to stay as long as it should need, and I waited a while, but he was silent—So that I took leave.

13. Drizzly Morning. Broke away afterwards. Ebenezer goes a Fishing till noon.

14. Read Lev. 23. Preach'd on Rev. 22, 16. My wife and I din'd at the Justice's. Sacrament. P.M. Read Acts 14. Preach'd on John 15, 14, repeating in part but with many alterations and additions what was deliver'd before my ordination on the Text.

15. Rain. No Masons. At Eve came Mr. Maccarty—after him Mr. Campbell,⁴ Maccarty, Wellman⁵ and I rode to Sudbury, the Association Meeting to Day at Mr. Lorings.⁶ There were besides, Messers. Cushing, Gardner,⁷ Martyn, Smith, Morse,⁸ Goss,⁹ Davis. Mr. Loring for a Concio read Sermon on Ps. 90, 12. N.B. Mr. Campbell and Wellman's Difficulty with Mr. Martyn and Stone, complaining of their Result at the late Council at Sutton. Mr. Stone not present the Affair not heard by the Association as such; but afforded Mr. Campbell and Wellman assistance to effect a Reconcilement between them and Mr. Martyn, which was with success, and they made up all the Matter. I lodg'd at Mr. Lorings. I rode to Concord—broke fast at Mr. Minots. Paid Mr. Goold the full of the written agreement, viz. [blotted]—which added to the former 20£ old Tenor which I sent him was the whole—and gave him a promisory Note for 18/ Lawfull Money to satisfie him for Thomas's Rates at Concord. I return'd to Sudbury by 11 o'Clock the Time of Lecture which I attended and Mr. Cushing preach'd on John 13, 34. After Dinner came Mr. Bridge of Framingham, and Mr. Samuel Haven. Mr. Haven asks advice touching the admission of Mr. Joseph Haven into the Church. In returning home, called at Dr. Gotts and Mr. Smiths—very Cold Night.

⁴ The Reverend John Campbell of Oxford.

⁵ The Reverend James Wellman of Millbury.

⁶ The Reverend Israel Loring of Sudbury.

⁷ The Reverend John Gardner of Stow.

⁸ The Reverend Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

⁹ The Reverend Thomas Goss of Bolton.

18. Ebenezer ploughing Stubble. P.M. I catechiz'd at the Meeting House, about 36 Children, Males and Females.

19. 20. We are much troubled about the Chimney of the New House, there being so high winds and frequent Rains,—So that we can't keep it Safely cover'd.

21. Cold. Read Levit. 24. N.B. had prepar'd more than Sufficient (for quantity) for one Sermon on the Duty of people to their ministers; but thought it not prudent to deliver it till I had finish'd the whole on that Head—and therefore after much deliberating and weighing things I concluded it to be best to lay it aside for the present and took some Sermons on living Godly in the Discourse on Tit. 2, 12, and deliver'd them, from page 96 to 110 with alterations from Acts 5, 20 latter part (both a. and p.m.) Din'd at Justice Bakers. P.M. read Acts 15. N.B. Mr. William Pierce's young Child (of about 2 months old) well last night after sunsetting, dy'd before Day this morning.

22. Rain—yet attended the Funeral of Mr. Pierce's Child. Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin here in the Eve.

23. I went over to the New House with Ebenezer to direct and assist in planting Elms and Plumb Trees. No ground fenc'd thereof. Sett no Apple Trees. P.M. Mr. Martyn and his Wife here. Afterwards Mr. Abijah Weld¹⁰ of Attlebury, with his son. Mr. Martyn and his wife tarry'd to Supper but the other to Shrewsbury. N.B. The Youth is infirm—going to Dr. Greens.

24. Went to Lieutenant Bruce's about Mrs. Cooks Signing his Deed. At Mr. Warrins. Timothy gave me 20 young Apple Trees which I set out in vacant places of my orchard at Home. Mr. Haven din'd and lodg'd here.

25. Mr. Haven with us. N.B. The Watch I lately had of Mr. Martyn Stop'd in the last Night and I can have no further good of it. Mr. Weld returning home from Leicester to Attlebury, here, and after Dinner he and Mr. Haven took leave together. N.B. The Season unusually Cold and Somewhat windy but Ebenezer (having deferr'd it long already) Sowed Wheat.

¹⁰ The Reverend Habijah Weld (Harvard 1723), the minister of Attleborough, 1727-1782. *Sibley*, VII, 268-272.

26. Ebenezer Sows Flax—and p.m. Carts muck. Thomas helps him p.m. Mr. Ebenezer Rice here. Mr. Cook. N.B. Captain Maynard brought a Letter which came from my Kinsman Davis at Nova Scotia.

27. Cool windy weather yet. Ebenezer and Thomas Sowing Barley and Carting Muck.

28. I have prepared about 16 pages (6 or 7 is an ordinary Exercise) on the third Article of the people's Duty to their Ministers, viz. and Honorable Maintenance. My heart has labour'd very much about the delivering it—I much reluct at it—am ashamed I have So much fear of displeasing the people. But being Sensible it is my Duty to preach on this Subject, have begg'd of God to direct me how I shall conduct my self in this matter—and that I might deliver no Line but what is His. I endeavor to divest myself of my own Concern in it as much as I can, that I may deal impartially—Have conceiv'd it would be best to deliver but one Exercise upon this Head, though I have much more prepar'd. Accordingly committing myself and my work to God, I went to meeting. Read and gave some Expository Observations on Lev. 25, and then preach'd on 1 Cor. 4, 1. Deliver'd some passages concerning the Duty of Obedience to Ministers from Sermon on Heb. 13, 17, but only glancingly—and proceeded to treat of maintenance—but could not deliver all that I had prepar'd, by 4 pages—or more. Din'd as usual. P.M. read Acts 16. Repeated Sermon on Tit. 2, 12., page 111 to 121, from Acts 5, 20. Baptiz'd Mrs. Abigail Gale.¹¹

29. Visited Mr. Moses Brigham's wife who is very weak and low. Mr. Martyn while I was gone.

30. My Wife went to Marlborough and was blooded. She return'd at Eve.

MAY, 1751

1. Having receiv'd a Letter from Mr. Stone¹ to preach his Lecture I went and preach'd on 1 Cor. 11, 26 to page 11. In

¹¹ The wife of Abijah Gale of Westborough.

¹ The Reverend Nathan Stone of Southborough.

returning at Evening call'd at Mr. Amsdens,² his Dauter Abigail brought to bed before her Expected Time. N.B. Mr. Amsdens indecent Discourse and Conduct. Was at Lieutenant Bruce's and gave him a Bond for 150£ old Tenor and received a Deed of Cook Island.

2. My Wife and I rode over to Mr. Martyns. Mr. Morse³ and his Spouse there. We all din'd together. P.M. at the Public Lecture. Mr. Morse pray'd and preach'd on Eph. 1, 3. We return'd at Evening. Found our Tabernacle in peace.

3. Mr. Holbrook of Grafton here and din'd with us.

4. We have now had five Calves, and four of them has [sic] come on Saturday. There has been So much of windy, Rainy, Cold weather that people don't Care to plant yet.

5. Read Lev. 26 with some Exposition chiefly extracted from Mr. Henry,⁴ as has been my method for some time. Preach'd a. and p.m. on 1 Tim. 6, 17, 18, 19. I din'd as usual. P.M. read Acts 17.

6. A.M. at the New House. Mr. Jonathan Forbush and Mr. Ebenezer Rice there with me. Mr. Forbush prizes Mr. Rice's Boards which he has spar'd to me. The price falls so much below Mr. Rice's Expectation that I agree not to use 'em till he is better Satisfy'd. Mr. Biglo Spends Some Hours in building a Wall against the Bank of Gravel which came out of my Cellar. N.B. frequent high Winds. Towards evening I visited Eliezer Rice who is Sick of a Fever. He and his wife also were so very fervent for forgiveness and Reconcilement that I gave him my Hand—but as to the Doctrine of Original Sin, I told him, I would wave every Thot at present, as he was not now able to undergo Discourse and Dispute. We part'd friendly. Brother Hicks⁵ had been at my House and was gone to Cambridge. When I came home, found Mr. Edwards⁶ of Northampton, who was in his

² Jacob Amsden.

³ The Reverend Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

⁴ Matthew Henry (1662-1714), the learned dissenting divine, was the author of numerous works published in England. Several of his writings had been published in America.

⁵ Parkman's brother-in-law, John Hicks of Sutton.

⁶ The great Jonathan Edwards.

Return home from Boston. He and Colonel Timothy Dwight⁷ have been endeavouring to have a Council to sit at Northampton next week to advise the small part of people there whether it is best to have Mr. Edwards install'd over them, or not.

7. Mr. Edwards left us. Dr. Breck⁸ here and din'd with us. P.M. went to Worcester. N.B. Expected Martyn⁹ and wife to go to Grafton—but they did not come.

8. Fine Weather; blessed be God! Ebenezer and Thomas are gone to Bolton for Lime. They have Mr. Richard Barns's Oxen added to our own Team. They have a tedious Journey (undertaking it in one Day) and return not till late in the Night. Mr. Fish here and din'd with us. Brings Letter respecting his Ordination.

9. My sons begin to plant the Field. A very fine Day. Patty Pannell, brought a present, of a Quarter of Veal from the Widow Tomlins with whom she lives.

10. Warm, bright and exceeding pleasant, after a night of plentiful Rain. My sons go on with the planting. N.B. Brother Hicks and his Dauter Elizabeth here. Visited Neighbour Eliezer Rice.

11. Another very fine Day. My Sons finish'd planting at home, this morning. N.B. Thomas has work'd with his Brother for Several Days—to Day for himself in his Shop. Brother Hicks and his Dauter return home. Mr. Levi Brigham sent us a wild Goose which he kill'd in the pond. Ebenezer p.m. sow'd the rest of the Flax.

12. Ebenezer watch'd last night with Neighbour Eliezer Rice. In the public Assembly read Lev. 27. Preach'd on Jam. 2, 5, a. and p.m. Din'd as usual, myself; but my wife, Thomas, William, Sarah and Susanna tarried at the Meeting House. P.M. read Acts 18. Some Number of Strangers at Meeting. Captain Cummins, who is Delegate from Mr. Wigglesworth's¹⁰ Church

⁷ Dwight and other friends and supporters of Edwards were working to establish a new church in Northampton for the dismissed preacher. James R. Trumbull, *History of Northampton* (Northampton, 1898, 1902), II, 228, 233-234.

⁸ Samuel Breck, the physician of Great Barrington.

⁹ The Reverend John Martyn of Northborough.

¹⁰ The Reverend Samuel Wigglesworth of Hamilton.

to the design'd Council at Northampton. Lieutenant Steward,¹¹ from Marlborough, Mr. Smith¹² being absent, and some Number of others.

13. Went to Mr. Eliezer Rice's—Mr. James Maynards, Mr. Seth Rice's, etc. Ebenezer harrows the Ground at the Island. An unusual hot Day. Mr. Bowman and his Brother Thaddeus din'd here. N.B. Gave to Treasurer Ebenezer Maynard per Hand of Lieutenant Tainter a Receipt of the whole of my last Years Sallery, £53.6.8 or 400£ old Tenor, but this Receipt the Committee return'd and I destroy'd.

14. We finish'd planting at the Island. Was there myself p.m. Captain Forbush there and dropp'd Corn. Mr. Silas Brigham with me, about his Affair with Mr. Morse.

15. My wife and I, together with my two sons Ebenezer and Thomas attended the Marriage of Mr. Abraham Batchellor to Mrs. Sally Newton, only Dauter of the late Mr. Abner Newton; which was Solemniz'd at the Widow Newtons p.m. N.B. My Dauter Lucy was invited also, (and not Molly)—Molly rode over to Mr. Martyns, agreeable to Appointment Some Time ago, and Lucy tarried at home with the children. I can't but remark what a changing world we live in. What an House of Sorrows that was for a great while, which is now of so high Joy.

16. Ebenezer shearing a few Sheep.

17. Mr. Abraham Knowlton come from Boston call'd here. 'Tis Said that the Prince of Wales is Dead. Lucy went over to Mr. Martyns for Molly and they came home at Eve.

18. Ebenezer and Thomas a.m. to the New House to take Care of the Boards and Lime there.

19. In the Morning Alexander struck a Ram that return'd the Blow and knock'd him down, and repeated it as often as he endeavour'd to rise—till my Dauter Molly running to his relief, was struck down likewise; So that they were both in Some Danger; till I went to their Succour. In Public read Numbers Chapter 1 with some Exposition. In the forenoon I thought to have preach'd for the Comfort and Support and Direction of the poor,

¹¹ Daniel Stewart.

¹² The Reverend Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

on the Duty of Contentment—and accordingly read Several Essays on that Subject. But after all, chose to wave writing upon it, till I come to the Tenth Commandment and would also be glad to See Mr. Burroughs's¹³ Treatise hereof. Therefore I repeated with some alterations my Exposition on Mat. 6, 25 to 30 omitting number 27. Din'd at Justice Bakers, where also din'd Justice Liscomb.¹⁴ N.B. Lucy, Sarah and Susanna carry'd their Dinners. P.M. read Acts 19. Preach'd on Prov. 16, 31. After Divine Service, read Letter from Upton for Ordination of Mr. Fish.¹⁵ N.B. I nominated Justice Baker.

20. Mr. Martyn came a.m. to talk about his people's Conduct in the Affair of his Sallery. He din'd and tarried till Eve. N.B. He is greatly mov'd and very resolute in the affair aforesaid. Mr. Harding of Brookfield likewise here, but did not tarry long.

21. I visited old Mr. Bradish and din'd there. Visited Mrs. Dunlop who is Sick. Was at Deacon Forbush's. N.B. Mr. Solomon Woods (Tything man) complains of my son Williams's Rudeness at Meeting on Lords Day. Was at Mr. Williams's. Call'd to see Mrs. Pratt. My son Ebenezer about a well Crotch, Sweep etc. Thomas not very well. William setts out Cabbage Plants and goes to Mill at Mr. Allens.

22. Preach'd my Lecture myself—on Hosea 10, 12. Though with many omissions, alterations and additions—especially on account of the Death of the Prince of Wales. After Lecture my wife and I visited Neighbour Eliezer Rice who is still sick, and was in one of his Fitts. Several Neighbours here to raise the Well Crotch and Sweep.

23. This Morning, according to appointment, my Masons were to come, but to my great Disappointment they did not come. Ebenezer mending Fences, after he had done the well-pole.

24. Ebenezer at the Fences, a.m. At Neighbour Bathericks Barn-raising p.m. I was in a great Deal of Trouble about Send-

¹³ The Reverend Jeremiah Burroughs (1599–1646), an English Congregationalist, was the author of numerous works published in England. The following was published in Boston. *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment, Containing Eighteen Rules for the Obtaining this Excellent Grace* (Boston, 1732). Another Boston edition appeared in 1742.

¹⁴ Samuel Lyscomb, a justice of the peace.

¹⁵ The Reverend Elisha Fish.

ing to Mr. Willson, the Mason, again. Neither of my Two Eldest sons return'd from Raising till late at Night.

25. Instead of their rising Earlier than usual that I might Send one of them this Morning to Mr. Willsons, my Sons, both of them were so sound, that when awak'd they are disturb'd—and not without Great Difficulty Ebenezer goes up to him to know the Reason of his not coming to my Work. The many Troubles, Difficultys and Disappointments I meet with together with the Confinement I am under by the Work and Business of my Sacred Office, whilst so many and Important Affairs are depending. But especially the impudent Conduct of my Sons, render me very Impatient So that I am scarcely able to contain myself which is to my greater Grief because of the present Season, just before the holy Supper. Thomas rode to Marlborough to get Pannell Crooks and to bring home the rest of my Malt from Deacon Woods.

26. Read Numb. 2. Preach'd on Rev. 22, 16 a. and p.m. Administer'd the Lords Supper. Din'd at Justice Bakers—and my wife with me. P.M. read Acts 20. N.B. Gave Warning to old and young respecting the Election and requested Young Women to dismiss Seasonably the Young Men that wait upon them.

27. Mr. Willson came to work—work'd up my Bricks—got but one Brick above the ridge of the House. Ebenezer tended him. At Eve paid off both Mr. Willson and Mr. Obadiah Newton who came this Eve in order to go to work tomorrow—but they both went home. Mr. Breck¹⁶ of Springfield came and lodg'd.

28. Mr. Breck to Marlborough. I undertook my Journey afterwards. Called at Mr. Timothy Warrins to receive money of Lieutenant Tainter. At Mr. Gale's to get Horse Shoes mov'd etc. N.B. One Pierce of Sutton who had been a Delegate at Northampton Council, travelled some Miles with me. Mr. Breck and I call'd to see Mr. Warham Williams but his Spouse acquainted us how hurtful it was to him to see Company, So that we did not desire to disturb him. At Saltmarsh's we saw Mr.

¹⁶ The Reverend Robert Breck, Jr.

Roberts Breck of Boston and his Wife with other Company who had rid out so far for their Diversion. Heard that Captain Joseph White, Elias's Father-in-Law, was dead: and my Cousen Cowells Son Peam dy'd suddenly last week; being taken sick on Thursday and dy'd on Friday. About three years old. I put up my Horse at my Kinsman Procters in Boston and lodg'd at my Brother Samuels.

29. Another Token for Good from God to New England, in that we enjoy the present Anniversary. Mr. Welsteeds¹⁷ Sermon on Ps. 47, 9, very disgusting to many people in Boston, as therein he much commended what the late general assemblys had done in Sinking the Paper Currency and bringing us into a Silver Medium. I din'd at Brother Samuels. Attended the Convention p.m. N.B. Mr. Prince read divers Letters from England—especially touching a Correspondence propos'd to be kept up between our Convention and the united Dissenting Brethren in England, particularly the Committee of Deputation there. I lodg'd at Nabby's.

30. At the Convention Sermon; preach'd by Mr. Wigglesworth of Ipswich on 2 Cor. 11, 2, and the Collection for the Support of the Gospel Ministry which I fear was Small. Din'd at Mr. Eliots.¹⁸ N.B. Mr. Kneeland¹⁹ acquaints me with a present from Scotland to Mr. Edwards of Northampton which will turn to be nigh 1000£ value old Tenor. He likewise tells me he will undertake to print the Collection of Poems which I have propos'd to him—and this (if I understood him) whether there be any more subscribers or not. Supp'd at Cousen Olivers with some Number besides—Mrs. Davenport. He lodg'd at Brother Samuels.

31. Bought a Box of London Crown Glass 7 by 9 of Mr. James Pitts for 45£ old Tenor. Bought a piece of Garlix etc. of Mrs. Stoddard. N.B. Mr. Moses Peck has mended my Watch. Endeavour'd to get upon my Journey but was Stopp'd at Eve, when

¹⁷ William Welsteed, *The Dignity and Duty of the Civil Magistrate . . . Preached May 20th, 1751. Being the Anniversary for the Election* (Boston, 1751). The minister of the New Brick Church in Boston deplored the effects of inflation and expressed approval of the resumption of specie payment in this sermon.

¹⁸ The Reverend Andrew Eliot of the New North Church.

¹⁹ Samuel Kneeland, the printer and bookseller of Boston.

I design'd to have gone out of Town, by Storm of Thunder and Lightning and Rain. Lodg'd at Cousen Procters. N.B. Mr. Goldsbury²⁰ of Wrentham there.

JUNE, 1751.

At five in the morning set out from Boston. Broke fast at Mr. Dix's¹ in Watertown. Visited Mr. Williams² of Waltham who is very low. Pray'd with him. N.B. Mr. Cotton³ of Newton and Dr. Convers⁴ there. Visited Mr. Williams of Watertown. He seems very much humbl'd—yet defends himself in many respects. Din'd with Mrs. Baldwin in Sudbury; her Husband Captain Baldwin from Home, but her sons there. Was again refresh'd at Mr. Jonathan Strattons in Marlborough. Before I got up to Amsdens it rain'd hard—stop'd a great while in the Storm at Mr. Amsdens—before dark set out again, but the rain pour'd down so violently I was oblig'd to turn in to Lieutenant Bruce's—Pray'd with them, lay'd down and Slep'd. At 11 o'Clock attempted to ride Home—and arriv'd in Safety. Blessed be God!

2. Read Numb. 3. Preach'd on Job 36, 24, a. and p.m. Din'd as usual. P.M. read Acts 21.

3. Lieutenant Tainter was here—wants a Receipt of the whole Rates, altho above one hundred pounds behind; he offering me his Note of Hand—I comply'd and gratify'd him. Mr. Grout here—Mr. Grout desires a note to the Collector for 40/ which is the price of the Timber which he got me for the Frame of my New House. It was so contrary to my Expectation from one who pretended to be so generous, that I was surpriz'd at it. I was also in a great deal of Consternation at the view and prospect of our Family Circumstances—my sons Ebenezer and Billy not able to accomplish our Weeding at Home—yet have the Cook Island to tend besides—my Mind could be in no Composedness

²⁰ Samuel Goldsbury.

¹ John Dix, the selectman. Bond, *Watertown*, p. 199.

² The Reverend Warham Williams, who died later this month, June 22, 1751.

³ The Reverend John Cotton.

⁴ Josiah Convers (Harvard 1723), a physician of Watertown. *Sibley*, VII, 159-160.

for the Exercises of the Solemnity of Ordination at Upton which approaches—told Mr. Grout I did not see but that I must Stay at Home and hoe. I took my Horse and rode out—din'd at Lieutenant Thomas Forbushs. Was at Mr. Ebenezer Rice's etc.

4. I rode over to Mr. Cooks and to Mr. Martyns in the Morning—Then to the Island with Victuals and Drink, supposing I should find Some Hands at Work there—but tho it was not (I suppose) past 10 a.m. A number had been there and had finish'd the work. Lieutenant Tainter and Mr. Charles Rice ploughed and young Mr. Tainter, Mr. Joseph Woods, Two Hands from Mr. Ebenezer Rice's, Two from his fathers, and one from the widow Newton, in all Seven that Hoed. Young Mr. Jeduthun Baldwin, my Carpenter, and his Prentice John Woods came about Noon—they Eat with us and went to work to finish the New House. Whilst I was gone from home came the Reverend Maccarty and Major Keyes. Also my kinsman Mr. Needham and his wife. Mr. Breck of Springfield and Mr. Martyn and his Dauter. Mr. Haven also—but went with Forbush. Baldwin and his Man lodg'd at old Mr. Maynards. Mr. Maccarty and Major Keyes went home: the rest lodg'd here.

5. Mr. Martyn and his Dauter rode with me and my Dauter Lucy and son Thomas to Upton Ordination. The rest went their respective ways. But by means of So much Company I was later in setting out than I had appointed. The Churches met and Mr. Dor⁵ was chose Moderator. N.B. My Enquiry, in the Council, whether Mr. Fish had been at the Shepards Tent? which was Satisfy'd by Mr. Owen,⁶ his Pastor who gave a good Testimony of the Candidate. N.B. Mr. Fishs having sign'd an agreement with the people about Church Government which I could not approve of; yet did not think it sufficient to break Communion and therefore proceeding. Mr. Hall⁷ open'd the public Exercise with Prayer. Mr. Owen preach'd on Eph. 4, 12. Mr. Dor the Charge. I pray'd after the Charge. Mr. Barret⁸ gave the right

⁵ The Reverend Joseph Dorr of Mendon.

⁶ The Reverend John Owen (Harvard 1723), the minister of the First Congregational Church of Groton, Conn., 1727-1753. *Sibley*, VII, 244-247.

⁷ The Reverend David Hall of Sutton.

⁸ The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

Hand. N.B. our Entertainment was at Lieutenant Woods. We return'd to Westborough at night and Mr. Martyn and his Dauter lodg'd here.

6. Mr. Martyn etc. din'd here. Lucy Bowker at work here for Ebenezer turning his Camblet Coat.

7. Visited Mrs. Pratt. Read to her my sermon on Ps. 23, 4. But having been much worried of late and broke of my Rest, I was very dull and drowsy. Ebenezer finish'd weeding at home. P.M. hir'd William Wood to work at the New House to clear out the stones from the Chambers etc. Lucy Bowker still.

8. Ebenezer Carts Boards from hence etc. to the New House. N.B. My Carpenters diet at Deacon Newtons till this Eve.

9. I preach'd for Mr. Martyn on Prov. 14, 9, a. and p.m. Mr. Martyn for me on Isa. 5, fore part. Rain at Eve and I lodg'd there.

10. Return'd home. My Carpenters diet at Widow Newtons; the Deacon and his wife going from Home this Week. Lucy Bowker, who went home Saturday Night, here again to Day. N.B. Saw Lieutenant Tainter who seems offended that I said, last Monday, that I saw not but that I must go to hoeing instead of going to Ordination on Wednesday, but I endeavour'd to render him some answer to his Opposition as well as Some Thanks for his Assistance in the work done for me.

11. I rode to Shrewsbury to ministers meeting. N.B. Mr. Morse and Mr. Davis⁹ indecently laugh'd out at reading my Collection—which was Judge Dudleys Elegant Translation of Dr. Thomas Burnets Dedication of his *Archaeologia* to King William¹⁰. I return'd home at Night. N.B. Mr. Morse asks advice in his Case with Mr. Silas Brigham, one of our church.

12. Went to my New House to know how my Carpenters proceeded. Visited Mr. Pratt. Visited Neighbour, Eliezer Rice whose Infant is ill. They desire it may be baptiz'd in private—but I was going to the association. Rode to Shrewsbury to

⁹ The Reverend Joseph Davis of Holden.

¹⁰ Burnet's work first appeared as *Archaeologiae Philosophicae: sive Doctrina Antiqua de Rerum Originibus* (London, 1692). Other editions, some in English translations, followed. The editor has found no record of publication of the translation of the dedication by the late Justice Paul Dudley.

Association Lecture—call'd at Mr. Charles Woods's. Mr. Loring¹¹ preach'd on Tit. 3, 5. The sermon an hour and 36 minutes long. Captain Flagg¹² of Worcester we hear is dying. Mr. Edwards of Northampton call'd to see us. He is appointed Missionary to the Indians of Houssatunnock to whom he is going. I ask'd advice of the Association respecting my Baptizing of Eliezer Rice's Child, especially if he should declare himself against the Commonly recognized Doctrine of Original Sin. Some advis'd one way and Some another. In returning home I went to Mr. Martyns, in Company with Mr. Loring, Mr. Stone and Mr. Seccomb.¹³

13. I went to Mr. Eliezer Rice's whose Child is Sick. He still ask'd me what I thought of his proposal about baptizing it? I told him that if he was in Charity, and profess'd what he us'd to do; (and the like was offer'd to his wife) I was willing—There ensued a discourse concerning original Sin and how for the Belief of it was a Term of Communion. He plainly deny'd both the Imputation and Corruption: his wife did neither but profess'd as she us'd to do. I told Mr. Rice that if I was even of his opinion and ever so willing to administer, yet as it was the first Instance, it would not do to do it without laying it before the Church, to prevent Disquietment. But especially to do it in private would be altogether impudent but if he would consent to it I would do it on his wife's Right, but he refus'd. I offer'd to do any Thing within my power to oblige him. He desir'd it might be laid before the Church, and I consented on Condition he would send his Request in Writing; which he promis'd. N.B. Mrs. Hannah Maynard the Nurse was present. P.M. at New House and visited Mrs. Pratt. N.B. Jonas Bradish undertakes to Split a Stick of Timber of nigh 40 feet long for a Trough with his Saw; but gives out.

14. With Mrs. Pratt who grows still weaker. Ebenezer and Thomas yesterday and to Day at Half-hilling. P.M. at the New House to see what becomes of the Timber-sawing; and there was

¹¹ The Reverend Israel Loring of Sudbury.

¹² Benjamin Flagg, Jr.

¹³ The Reverend John Seccomb of Harvard.

Mr. Biglo and Alpheus Newton at it. N.B. Great frustration about Clabboards—from 1400 which are needed, am reduc'd to 7 or 8 hundred. N.B. Boards for my Floor prove too hard, knotty, unequal in Thickness—and Difficult to find fit Boards for another Floor—viz. the West Chamber, but they have laid the west lower room floor. Tho there are so many Boards provided, Those which Lieutenant Tainter brought, which were design'd for the floor having been thrown by as much too knotty: O how perplexing and incumbering these avocations and Disquietments to a Minister! It is very grievous to be thus kept from my Studys. Yet I meet with Some other Things which are of a different Kind: Scil. Mrs. Pratt in her Languishment of Body, Shows a flourishing Soul; and seems to be full of affectionate Regard to me—Says She has been hopefully thinking she shall be part of my Crown in the Great Day—which Expression of hers fill'd me with deep Humiliation at the Sense of my own infinite unworthiness of any such Honour and Happiness—but fervent Desire and Longing that it might be so!

15. Sent Billy with a Letter to Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin about Clabboards—and another to Jonas Bradish. Mr. Cook here and reckon'd with him. P.M. attended the Funeral of Mr. Abijah Gale's Infant Child. N.B. Mr. Biglo in the morning finish'd Sawing the Trough. Baldwin with his son John came home to me: but Parkhurst went to Deacon Newtons.

16. Read Numb. 4. Preach'd on Prov. 16, 31. Din'd at the usual place, my wife and Sundry Small Children Stay'd at and nigh the meeting House. P.M. read Acts 22. In preaching, repeated sermon on Tit. 3, 12, from page 121 to 127 from Gen. 17, 1. An Hour after the public services I went to Mr. Hezekiah Pratts and read to his wife some of my Notes on Mat. 11, 28. She having express'd to me divers Times that she receiv'd much of the Benefits of God's Ordinances thereby. A Number of Neighbours also were present.

17. David How junior of Sudbury here to acquaint me that the Designed Council is put off to Some future Time. Ebenezer So out of Health that he goes to Day to Dr. Smith,¹⁴ is blooded

¹⁴ Dr. Joshua Smith of Shrewsbury. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, p. 436.

and took Physick. A Showery Day. At Eve came Mr. Zebulon Baldwin in behalf of his Father David Baldwin with a Load of Work and stuff for my New House, viz. 13 Frames and 15 setts of Sashes (Jeduthun Baldwin makes the 2 Frames for the Garrett But Mr. Baldwin of Leicester all the Sashes) he brought also 3 inner Doors—and 425 feet of white pine Boards which I bought of him at 30/ old Tenor per Hundred. He and his Team were entertain'd here over night—and

18. In the Morning put in my Three Creatures and carry'd over the Load to my New House. N.B. Lieutenant Tainter there and paid me 15£ old Tenor which I paid Mr. Baldwin for his Father. N.B. Lieutenant Tainter was very Sharp upon me about the pride of Ministers, when he saw the Window Frames—and tho I reprov'd him, for the unseasonableness of it, being before such a Number of Strangers, yet I endeavour'd to let him know that I was myself griev'd that the windows were so large and I have often said it that I wish'd they were less—but I was much more surpriz'd and troubl'd when I found that the posts of the House were a full foot shorter than I gave orders for and depended upon. This was a Disappointment which Somewhat mov'd me—being laid with a number of other Afflictions—but may God grant patience! Mr. Cushing¹⁵ and Mr. Martyn with their wives, here; I and mine waited upon them to Southboro to See Mr. Stone and his New Spouse.¹⁶ We all din'd there; Mr. Loring also with us; and return'd at Eve. N.B. Mr. Elisha Jones¹⁷ of Weston here, but did not lodge. Sister Hannah Champney¹⁸ here from Sutton, brought by Brother Hicks who return'd home.

19. Ebenezer not well—but mow'd a little—the Yard and Garden. I Sent my son William to the Island with my Mare to plough to Day under the Guidance of Mr. Williams who with Esquire Baker and a son of his with an Horse and Plough, Mr.

¹⁵ The Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

¹⁶ The Reverend Nathan Stone of Southborough married his second wife, Mary, the daughter of the Reverend Peter Thacher of Middleborough, May 16, 1751.

¹⁷ Jones held various town offices and later represented Weston in the General Court.

¹⁸ Parkman's first wife's sister, who had been visiting her sister, Mrs. John Hicks of Sutton.

David Maynard junior and a Son, Mr. Eleazer Williams, Mr. Benjamin Fay, Adonijah Rice, Abner Whipple, Daniel Grout. These plough'd and hoed till between 10 and 11—when they finish'd it. I waited on them with some refreshment and acknowledg'd my great indebtedness to them for it. P.M. Mr. Benjamin Fay here. He desires, in behalf of the Committee that I would step to them which I did—they Sat at Mr. Ebenezer Maynards. What they requested of me was to give them a Receipt in full of the Grant in February 8, 1744/5 and which I offer'd to do for them if they could assure me it was the Desire of the Precinct that I Should do it; which they did—or at least, they desir'd it in their Name. Whereupon, I comply'd therewith though I did not deliver it now; but told 'em I would write over again, what I had written and it was requested that I would give it to the Precinct Clerk, Mr. Benjamin Fay. I made them also several offers of my part with a Number (if Such would join) and poor as [illegible] I am and Family as I have yet would stand Equal with the richest in the precinct to put an End to the Quarrell with Mr. James Maynard. Some of the Committee gratefully acknowledg'd themselves oblig'd to me—but Deacon Newton Said he did not think the precinct expected or desir'd Mr. Parkman to be burden'd with that Affair, but would do their Duty about it themselves. N.B. sent to Boston for Colouring by Thomas Whipple. Lucy Bowker at Night.

20. Lucy Bowker works here again for Ebenezer. Thomas to Sutton, to the Raising of their New Meeting House. I Catechiz'd a.m. at the School-House, but no one ask'd me to dinner anywhere; so that I return'd home, din'd with my own Family. P.M. I rode over to the North End to get short Clabboards of Captain Eager, but he, as was also Mr. Martyn and his wife at private meeting at Lieutenant Holloway's. So that I went there also—did not succeed about more Clabboards—went home with Mr. Martyn. Send by him (if he goes to Boston next Monday) to Mr. Kneeland concerning the Collection of Poems which is propos'd to be printed. Supp'd with them by Day Light and return'd home. Ebenezer still not well.

21. Part of the forenoon assisted Ebenezer in mending Fence in the furthest Pasture—a large Steer being very unruly. My wife is grown much lamer ever since we rode to Southborough. Sarah Sick—no doubt by eating Currans and Cherrys. P.M. Necessity obliging I rode to Mr. Whipples¹⁹ for Nails, Bradds and Colours, brought up from Boston by his son Thomas. Carry'd 'em to the New House—rode to Mr. Twitchells at Eve. My son Thomas return'd from Sutton Meeting-House-Raising.

22. Ebenezer is better: he mows between the House and Barn. Thomas mows over the Clear'd ground at the New House. Lucy Bowker here still. P.M. Mr. Hutchinson,²⁰ in compliance with a Letter which I sent him Yesterday, came—but it was So late I did not get up to Grafton before Sun Setting. By Mr. Hutchinson's Desire I call'd to see the Child of Mr. Samuel Cooper and at Mr. Cooper's request I pray'd with them. N.B. Dr. Morse²¹ there. I lodg'd at Mr. Hutchinsons.

23. I preach'd at Grafton a. and p.m. on Mat. 16, 26, and Baptiz'd Nehemiah, of John and [blank] Adams. Return'd to Westborough in the Night. Mr. Hutchinson preach'd at Westborough on Rev. 1, latter part of number 5 and on [blank]. He din'd at Lieutenant Tainters.

24. Ebenezer mows at home. Thomas carrys a Barrell of Cyder to the New House and mows over the Clear'd Ground to it. Neighbour Eliezer Rice, in his Feebleness here, more Discourse about his Childs Baptism. P.M. I visited Mary Lattiner who lies sick at Deacon Forbush's. N.B. Jonas Bradish leaves Word that he cannot get me the Clabboards which my work-men are now ready to call for, which Disappointment putts me into no Small Difficulty. N.B. Lieutenant Tainter and his son, Messers. Harrington, Solomon Woods and Zebulon Rice came a little before night and pulled away Some of the Gravel at the fore side of my New House. Dr. Smith at Eve.

25. My Wife growing very Lame, I waited on her to Lieu-

¹⁹ Francis Whipple of Westborough.

²⁰ The Reverend Aaron Hutchinson of Grafton.

²¹ Dr. Benjamin Morse, the physician of Sutton. Benedict & Tracy, *Sutton*, p. 698.

tenant Bezaleal Eagers²², where She was blooded by Dr. Smith. I left her and proceeded up the Road to enquire after Clabboards—hearing of Some at Worcester I road up there—call'd at Mr. Cushings and at Captain Jennisons²³—din'd at Mr. Maccartys. Bought a thousand of White Pine Clabboards of Captain Chandler, for 20£ old Tenor. Return'd to my Wife at Eagers, were both of us decently entertain'd: and, with my mind much reliev'd by my Success, came home in peace. Another Swarm of Bees, or Two which Captain Maynard hives—and is much Stung.

26. Sent Mr. John Rogers with my Team for Clabboards at Worcester, who brought 'em, though in the Night first. N.B. Mr. Robert Jennison (William Parkhursts Master) here, with his Wife and Brother. Mr. Stephen Maynard here, and we reckon'd. His Mother also was here. N.B. Their Extraordinary bountifulness in the Reckoning particularly in sinking the account of 43 pounds of Butter to 23, and this at 4/ per pound when I suppose the price is not much less than 5/—and in throwing in the bringing up of the Box of Glass for my New House; and in some other Respects, which Things are besides many presents of Meat, Cheese etc.

27. Brother Hicks here and Carrys Sister Hannah Champney to Cambridge. Ebenezer and Thomas mowing. Ebenezer hangs a New, Small, Grindstone of 40/ old Tenor. I visited Mrs. Pratt and Eliezer Rice's Child.

28. The Young Men who finish my New House are daily at Work, but can't go to See 'em every Day.

29. Brother Hicks from Cambridge din'd here. Sent by him to Mr. Benjamin Fay, the Precincts Clerk, a Receipt in Full for the 500£ grant. This I have done at the Committees Desire for peace sake. Baldwin and John Woods at Eve.

30. Read Numb. 5. Preach'd on Prov. 16, 31. Din'd as usual. P.M. read Acts 23. Preach'd on Lev. 19, 32. Appointed the Communion but put by the Lecture.

²² Of the north precinct, and later a representative of Westborough, Kent, *Northborough*, pp. 280-281.

²³ Israel Jennison of Worcester.

JULY, 1751

1. Mr. Twitchell and Mr. Daniel Warrin of the west-side, got stones and built upon the Wall at the West End of my Dwelling House. P.M. Mr. Davis¹ of Holden and his Wife. Afterwards Mr. Maccarty² and Mr. Wellman,³ here in their Journey to Commencement. A Clap of hard Thunder. At Eve I rode to Mr. Martyns for my Watch (which he has made to go again)—and return'd immediately.

2. Mr. Cushing and his Wife here on their Journey to Cambridge. Ebenezer and Thomas also rode down. I visited Mrs. Pratt. Din'd at Deacon Newton's where my young Carpenters board. I visited at Mr. Ebenezer Rice's where two Children have the Throat Distemper. Was at Mr. Charles Rice's and at Captain Bakers. An hot Day. At Eve I was much tir'd with my Walks. Wrote to Mr. Edmund Quincy⁴ about my Collection of Poems.

3. Keep Solitary Commencement at Home. It was Mr. Martyns Lecture and he has ask'd me to assist him in it: but I was not without apprehension I should be oblig'd to attend upon the private meeting (if I tarry in Town); and therefore refus'd him: but if I could have forseen my not going to Cambridge I should have both appoint'd our own Lecture, which I Should have endeavour'd to have him preach, and likewise have assisted him to Day in his. P.M. marry'd Adonijah Rice⁵ to Hannah Crosby.⁶

4. Last night were heavy rains and high winds. This morning very rainy, even to floods. P.M. came two of Brother Hicks's Dauters, viz. Hannah and Betty. Would have gladly attended the private Meeting, which I hear is at Mr. Whitnys, but I expected an Invitation and an Horse, if they desir'd me; but neither Word or Horse had I. Yet I do not resent it; for possibly they

¹ The Reverend Joseph Davis.

² The Reverend Thaddeus Maccarty of Worcester.

³ The Reverend James Wellman of Millbury.

⁴ Squire Quincy (Harvard 1722) of Braintree.

⁵ The son of Charles Rice of Westborough.

⁶ The daughter of David Crosby of Shrewsbury.

know not I am in Town—tho I may think that enough has been Said to Spread the Knowledge of it. It was also somewhat Showery. P.M. Several Neighbours join'd together to levell the Bank of Gravell at the West End of my New House. They were Neighbour Ebenezer and Nathan and Phinehas Maynard. John Rogers and John Frost and Cornelius Cook. Mrs. Pratt sinks yet lower.

5. Rainy Day again. Mr. Ebenezer Rice and his wife Sent for me; their youngest son being dead by the Throat Distemper, and their little Dauter ill also of the Same. At the New House in my Return. Very letting season.

6. Our Kinswoman (Hicks's) return home to Sutton. Weather dull yet. Ebenezer and Thomas return'd from Commencement. They came from Marlborough this Morning, having lodg'd at Dr. Gotts. P.M. Funeral of Mr. Ebenezer Rice's youngest Child. Dy'd by the Throat Distemper.

7. Had not compleated what I design'd for the Sacramental Exercise, and by Reason of my Circumstances, together with my indisposedness (not without too Criminal Indisposedness of Mind and Negligence) could prepare no other; and therefore repeat'd both a. and p.m. Read Numb. 6. Preach'd on 1 Cor. 5, 7. Administer'd the Lord's Supper. My Wife and Dauter tarried at the Meeting House. I din'd at the Justice's. P.M. read Acts 21. Preach'd on 1 Cor. 5, 6, 7, 8. N.B. I expressly told the Audience it was not what I had design'd, but what they had had before. Appointed Church Meeting and Catechizing at Mr. Joslins.

8. Church Meeting at one p.m. at the Desire of Eliezer Rice, who wants to have his infant Child baptiz'd but acknowledges himself tho not utterly to deny Original Sin, yet to be most apt to deny the Imputation of Adams Guilt to his Posterity. Mr. Rice did not appear to be very expert in the Controversy: and was therefore perswaded to take things into better Consideration. After Meeting call'd in to see Mrs. Pratt (as I frequently do passing backwards or forwards) but she is now as a breathing Corps. Sir Forbush was with me—and Mr. Martyn and his wife were

at our House. N.B. Mr. Martyn Show'd me the Advertisement which is publish'd by my Direction of Proposals to print a Collection of Poems, etc. He informed me also of a Fast which Dr. Gott proposes to have kept at his House next week, by the assistance of Mr. Smith, Mr. Martyn and Mr. Stone.

9. Visited Mrs. Pratt who revives a little. Visited Mr. Jonah Warrin who is ill. P.M. attended the Funeral of another of Mr. Ebenezer Rice's Children, which has dy'd by the Throat Disorder, and Mrs. Rice is in some measure troubl'd with it. P.M. my workman Baldwin went to Shrewsbury. He return'd and lodg'd at my House.

10. Very hot Day. My Sons Ebenezer and Thomas are daily Hilling and Mowing, except when the Rainy weather which is indeed frequent prevents.

11. Rainy at different parts of the Day. But the forenoon Ebenezer and Thomas attend the Hilling. I rode over to the New House, and down to the South East Corner. Eat at old Mr. Garfields, for Dinner. Catechiz'd at Mr. Joslins. 20 Children. Was generously entertain'd. May God reward 'em! My Sons Ebenezer and Thomas go over this afternoon to Hopkinton to the Marriage of Edmund Rice to Hannah Gashit.

12. It being rainy, or Cloudy, and letting Weather, Ebenezer a.m. Carted over some slit work for stairs—and Boards to the New House. When he returns he tells me that a very considerable number of persons—Lieutenant Tainter etc. have been to Day and Hill'd my Corn at the Cook Field. N.B. Mr. David Maynard junior brot me 12£ of Putty from my Brother Samuel Parkman.

13. Somewhat bright Day but we do nothing at all about Hay. Ebenezer and Thomas after killing a Lamb, went to Hilling. Sent Billy to Mr. Martyns and to Mill.

14. Read Numb. 7. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Isa. 7, 14. P.M. read Acts 25. Din'd as usual, at Justice Bakers. N.B. Mr. Eliezer Rice proposes to offer his infant Child to Day on his Wife's Right, but understanding that I Should Say so in the Congregation he resisted—and being willing and desirous to gratifie him I stop'd the Church to ask them whether it would not Satisfie

them (Since they had known how the Case was, and they so would know that it was only on the Mothers Right) if I should proceed to baptize that Child when it shall be offer'd without saying anything Publickly at the time of the Administration. Their Silence was propos'd should give Consent; and it did so. I publickly desir'd the Members of other Churches would get their Dismissions.

15. Undertook Something of glazing—one Small Garrett Sash completed. P.M. Mr. Abijah Gale and his wife here with their Relations. Thomas lies by, not well.

16. Exceeding hot. Thomas much out of order. P.M. I set the Glass of another Sash. Visit Mrs. Pratt, and Mr. Ebenezer Rice's Son who has the Throat Distemper.

17. Lieutenant Tainter here in the Morning and deliver'd me 22£10/ old Tenor. My Wife and I rode to Captain Bakers, where lodges Mr. Thomas Chase, a young Practitioner in Physick and Surgery. My wife blooded by him. Neighbours John Rogers and John Frost reap Rye, p.m. but do not get it down, tho it be but an Acre. Mr. Fish of Upton here to ask me to preach his Lecture next Friday; but I am oblig'd to deny him.

18. I rode over to Mr. Martyns, but he with Mr. Smith of Marlborough were gone to visit Mr. Morse. Thomas takes a Vomit. Neighbours John Rogers and Frost reap'd again, a.m., and din'd with us. P.M. Mr. David Baldwin here. N.B. he counts the Doors which he made for me (which are four pannell, and raised and quarter rounded on both sides) at 2 Days work apiece—and at 3£ 5/ whereas Mr. Goodwin (who was the prizer of them from the account I gave him) had set them at far less.

19. Ebenezer to the Meadow to Cart Hay; Mr. Samuel Hardy who has taken it to Cut and rake it having been with 4 Hands, the Day before yesterday to mow, and Two Hands Yesterday to rake. Mr. David Baldwin and I reckon'd—and he consented to take an hundred pounds old Tenor for work and stuff which I have had of him paid him 20£ old Tenor (which makes up 45£ of what I have paid him in Cash) receiv'd his Order to pay Mr. Stephen Manyard 40£ and gave him a Note for 15 more (old

Tenor). Mr. Morris made us a visit—Mr. Stone and his Spouse with him. But my wife exceeding ill: vomiting etc. The Company din'd with us. Mr. Morris lodg'd here. My wife grew better. Blessed be God!

20. Mr. Morris din'd with us, and Sir Forbush waiting upon him to show him the way to Mr. Martyns, he p.m. went there. N.B. Sent Mr. Eliezer Rice word by Forbush (as he return'd to his Father) that I Should not be at home tomorrow. (Otherwise, I should have expected him to bring out his Child to be baptiz'd on his Wife's account). Ebenezer brought home Two Load of Hay to Day.

21. I preach'd at the North End on Hosea 2, 8, 9 and on John 6, 12. Read Numb. [blank] and Acts [blank]. Mr. Morris with us. At Noon and at Eve heavy showers of Rain. I rode to Marlborough to see Dr. Gott who is in a very low State. I lodg'd there. Talk'd plainly to the Doctor—left him. N.B. Overtook Barnes; gave him 8/ old Tenor and we were reconcil'd.

22. Call'd at Mr. Smiths: broke fast at Deacon Matthias Rice's and came home in Safety. Thanks to God! Ebenezer and Thomas Mowing—part of the Barley. Benjamin Gott came up with a Chair and carry'd down his aunt to See his Father. Mrs. Mary Bradish pulls Flax. Neighbour John Rogers, with his Oxen added to my Team, went with Ebenezer to Meadow and brought home Two Load of Hay. Molly to Deacon Forbush. Sent my Horse to Boston per Ebenezer Forbush for my Brother William. N.B. On the 22nd at Eve, while I was in great Concern of Mind about Mrs. Rachel Pratts State (apprehended to be dying and yet uncertain whether she was ready) She receiv'd gracious manifestations and discoverys of the preciousness of the Lord Jesus Christ and her Interest in Him. Glory be to the Name of God!

23. The rest of the Barley cut down. P.M. Solemnized the Nuptials of the Reverend Mr. Fish⁷ and Mrs. Hannah Forbush.⁸ My son Ebenezer and Dauter Molly there.

⁷ Elisha Fish of Upton.

⁸ The daughter of Deacon Jonathan Forbush.

24. Ebenezer got home another Load of Hay from the Meadow, got in Barley etc. Cousen Proctor⁹ to Oxford in the Morning. As we rose from Dinner came my Brother Parkman and having refresh'd himself began to assist me in putting my Glass into the Sashes. N.B. He informs me that my Cousen Oliver¹⁰ has lost her Alexander and that Samuel Bradshaw junior¹¹ lies very Sick.

25. Ebenezer and Thomas Spend the forepart of the Day in mending the Fence at the Island. Molly with Sir Forbush, to wait on the Reverend Mr. Fish and his Bride to Upton. I rode over to Mr. Martyns, and borrow'd his Chair, in which I went to Marlborough to Dr. Gotts for my Wife. The Doctor was insensible as in a Dying State. We attempted to come away, but when we were dining at Mr. Smiths, came a Messenger that the Doctor was dying. We return'd and tarry'd till after 4 p.m. and left him Still breathing. Came home in Comfort. To God the Glory! My Brother sett Glass to Day.

26. My Brother to the New House. Ebenezer mows. Thomas and William reap Rye. Mr. Samuel Brigham came in the Morning and told us that the Doctor dy'd yesterday about $\frac{3}{4}$ after 5 p.m. Mr. Samuel Procter return'd to us from Oxford—in his Way to Boston. Din'd and lodg'd here.

27. My Dauter Lucy and I rode down to Marlborough (using by his leave, Mr. Martyns Chair) to the Funeral of Dr. Gott.¹² Mr. Smith¹³ Said he was not well, and desir'd me to pray—but I refus'd. Mr. Martyn and Mr. Stone being there the former of those pray'd. Mr. Smith, when the Corps was carry'd forth, took the other Ministers home to his House. I walk'd with Colonel Williams to the Grave. When we return'd from the Grave I refus'd to tarry to Supper, because the Sabbath was so nigh. We made haste home.

28. This week past also I was So prevented Studying that I was oblig'd today to preach old Sermons. N.B. my Brother

⁹ Parkman's niece, Mrs. Samuel Proctor.

¹⁰ Parkman's niece, Mrs. Edward Oliver.

¹¹ The son of Parkman's niece, Mrs. Samuel Bradshaw.

¹² Benjamin Gott, the physician of Marlborough, was Parkman's brother-in-law.

¹³ The Reverend Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

William sabbatizing with us. A.M. I read Numb. 6, 8 and preach'd on Heb. 1, 3—upholding all Things etc. P.M. read Acts 26, and preach'd the Sermon on Col. 1, 21 to page 14 but from 2 Cor. 5, 18. My Wife, my Brother, Son William, Jeduthan Baldwin and John Woods din'd with me at my New House.

29. Deacon Newtons son Peter very bad of the Throat Dis-temper and three more are ill. In the morning visited there. My Brother who is setting Glass at my New House, and my Two workmen there, dine at Deacon Newtons. Ebenezer and I dine at the New House. When they return from Dinner they bring sorrowful News that little Peter is dead. At Eve the Rain prevail'd so that my Brother and I lodg'd at the New House all Night; Ebenezer having carted over Bed—Bedstead and Bedding. Baldwin and his man ran up to the Widdow Newtons and lodg'd there: for Deacon Newtons House was now in no fit state to entertain them any more.

30. My Brother and I work at the New House, about the Glass. Mr. Eliezer Rice call'd me hastily to Mrs. Pratt who is thought to be dying—yet she reviv'd by that I got to her. Deacon Newton invit'd both me and my Brother to dine with him. My Brother accept'd and din'd there accordingly but I din'd at home yet hasten'd to the Deacons, his son John being very ill. P.M. Peter Newton burying. After Burying we return'd to our work at the Puttying Windows. Baldwin and his man lodg'd at the New House. Brother and I came home. The Waters are exceedingly rais'd by the heavy Rains of last night.

31. Rain again. Brother and my son Thomas to the New House. Ebenezer getting a Well-Crotch for the Well at the New House. P.M. I was there myself rubbing and cleaning Glass, as my Brother was engag'd in pinning it in. Thomas with his Brother mow'd, Some part of the upper South Side.

AUGUST [1751].

1. At Deacon Newtons¹ whose son John is thought to be very dangerously ill. At Mr. Pratts. Neighbour Stephen Maynard

¹ Josiah Newton.

going to Boston with his Team, my Brother after Spending the forenoon about my new Windows, and dining with us rides my Mare to Boston. Ebenezer Carts a Well-Crotch, Bed, Powdering Tubb with Pork etc. to the New House. Boards also from the Mill. Thomas and William reap Wheat. P.M. they rake Hay in the Southside and Ebenezer mows.

2. John Newton sends for me being near his End. Went: he wants I Should repeat to him the Discourse I had with him yesterday. Pray'd with him. Stephen Newton² is taken ill with the Same Distemper. Call'd at Mrs. Pratts—she is just gone—has inward Comfort, but great outward Trouble. Molly and Sarah go over to tarry at the New House to dress the Carpenters Diet. They lodge there; a Second Bed being Set up there. P.M. heavy Showers of Rain.

3. John Newton dy'd last Night: and Stephen's illness increases. May God in his great Mercy look upon that afflicted Family and Spare them! Neighbour Stephen Maynard brings my Mare back from Boston, which has been very troublesome to him, and was the occasion of his Cart's being over-turn'd. He brot me 11½ Gallons of Rhum.

4. Read Numb. ninth Chaper A.M. and preach'd the last Sermon on Col. 1, 21 from page 31 with additions. Din'd with my Family at the New House. P.M. read Acts 27 and preach'd on Job 15, 11, with a View to the Afflicted Cases of Several Familys in the Parish.

5. Deacon Kimball³ of Hopkinton came to Plaister the West End of my New House. Mrs. Rachel Pratt, the Wife of Neighbour Hezekiah Pratt, dy'd about 1 P.M. I was with her a.m. and we talk'd of her Decease—she having comfortable Evidence of Grace. Mr. Pratt has carry'd himself in a very exemplary Manner towards his Wife; and his House is now turn'd into a Bochim.⁴ The Lord Sanctifie this Death not only to them but to all of us! Stephen Newton Sick of the Throat Distemper but is thot to be better.

² Another son of Deacon Newton.

³ Ebenezer Kemble.

⁴ Judges, II, 1-5.

6. Deacon Kimbal at the New House. Baldwin and his Man John all this Time there and my Dauter Molly lodges and works also, tending upon the Workmen in their Meals etc. Mrs. Pratt was bury'd and with much Lamentation. May it please God to enable us to improve this Breach. Mr. Martyn⁵ came here while I was gone to Mrs. Pratts Funeral.

7. Deacon Kimball, as well as the Carpenters. I am over there Daily. Go to Mr. Bradishs and fetch upward of 200 Lath upon my Horse before me. Ebenezer Carted Stuff for Cellar Stairs, and for a Stack Yard. Thomas assisted him part of the Day.

8. Deacon Kimball etc. Ebenezer and Thomas Carted Two Load of Hay from the Meadow to the New Stack Yard which was mow'd last Saturday was sennight, and was made up the Friday following—being drench'd by the Storms of Rain. Enough for Some Number of Cocks was left finally, and lost. Yet I suppose Mr. Samuel Hardy (who had the work in his Hands) took what Care he could but it prov'd a very wet Season.

9. At the New House. Deacon Kimball, and his Son Ebenezer lay on the Plaistering. Cornelius Cook⁶ tends them. The Carpenters Still there and Molly and Susé to provide for us. Ebenezer and Thomas Cart one Load more from the Meadow to the New Stack-Yard—having stack'd up the remainder of the Hay at the Meadow, there till some better Season for Carting it. Towards Night they came home to mowing. Have much of our haying to do, when many others are done. Deacon Newton came for me to visit his son Stephen who grows worse. Went according and discours'd and pray'd with him. Visited also the Widow Newton.⁷ At Night the Walls of my New House being so green and damp, with the New Mortar, no body cares to lodge within them. Deacon and Baldwin make up a Couch in the unfinish'd part of the House. Molly and Suse go to the Widow Newtons. Others disperse otherwise.

⁵ The Reverend John Martyn of the north precinct.

⁶ The son of Parkman's neighbor.

⁷ Mrs. Thomas Newton.

10. Ebenezer mows, and tends Hay all Day. I am in the morning in no small Trouble for an Hand to tend Plaisterers. Am forc'd to Send Thomas. They finish to Day.

11. Read Numb. 10 and preach'd on 1 Cor. 6, 9, the first 4 pages, which I deliver'd in the Year 1727/8. My Family din'd at the New House. Mr. Stephen Maynard at noon came for me to go up to Stephen Newton who is nigh expiring and I comply'd. P.M. read the last Chapter of Acts. Went on with 1 Cor. 6, 9, 10, 11. Deliver'd page 5 and from page 13 to 19. (For altho I had prepar'd in part on Job 15, 11, Yet I could not finish it, having So many Different Cares and Encumbrances at the Time of So many workmen, and at such a Distance from home.) Stephen Newton Expir'd p.m.

12. At the New House with the Carpenters. P.M. at the Funeral of Stephen Newton. N.B. had Din'd at Mr. Martyn's—and Committed to his Care a paper for Subscriptions to My Collection of Poems, he being about to go to ministers Meeting at Stow tomorrow, or likely to see several ministers in their Journey there. Hot Day.

13. Hot Weather; and yet I go to the New House my Workmen finishing for the present, what they can do for me.

14. Jeduthun Baldwin and John Woods go over to work at the Meeting House at the North End of the Town. Their Tools carry'd over in Mr. Martyns Chair, drawn by my mare. I agree to give Baldwin 18/ old Tenor per Day for 60 Days, to his Journey man, William Parkhurst, 15/ per Day, 26 Days and to his Apprentice, John Woods 10£, lumping the Latter part of his Time. (The former part he was so new and raw, nothing more than his Diet could be expected.) In all, my Debt to Baldwin is 83£10s., old Tenor—his Credit 3£10. This Day due to him 80£. N.B. he offers to take 75£ if I pay him 40£ within a Month, and 35 within 2 months More, or give him Bond for it. The Same Day My Son Thomas carted over my Desk, Study Table, and a Number of Books, etc. Ebenezer went over and with Edwards Whipple and a few more, rais'd the Well-Crotch and sweep. P.M. They went to their Haying at home.

15. Molly has liv'd at the New House ever since we dieted the Workmen, to Day she went home, and after much hard work in the Day return'd at Eve. I visited Mrs. Martha Warrin⁸ in the Morning. Over to the other House to point sashes tho I do but little of it. I tarried all Day at the New-House. Din'd there alone, but went back to Mrs. Parkman at Night: She being full of pain; has strange Cramps. Has also Indications that her Travail is not far off. The Lord prepare her and all of us for the Changes before us. Rainy and stormy Night. N.B. my mind in much Exercise by Reason of the great Urgency that we remove and yet our House and place there exceedingly unfit to receive us. The Hearth's unlaid, the Banks of Gravel at Each Door unlevelled. No pasture for a Cow, or feed or Hay for an Horse etc. etc.

16. Exceeding rainy and stormy Morning. Thomas lodg'd at the New House last Night and remains there this morning to clear out the Cellar, Shavings etc. Ebenezer goes to him to join with him therein. I rode over. Six of us dine here, and here I must begin to Study. Clearer weather p.m.

17. I lodg'd at the New House. My Family here and Molly, Susé and Alexander. A very fine clear Day. Ebenezer in the Morning brought over another Barel of Cyder, and Severall Boxes of Books and Pamphletts. Mr. Samuel Harrington and Mr. Phinehas Hardy brought each of them an heavy Load of Large Flatt Stones from Mr. Harringtons Quarry, for my Hearths and passage to the Well, etc., both which were gratis. Daniel How din'd with us.

18. Read Numb. 11, preach'd on 1 Cor. 6, 11. Din'd at the New House. P.M. read Rom. 1. I gave an account of the Epistle and the Contents of the first Chapter. Preach'd on Job 15, 11. Return'd to the old House at Eve, with Mr. John Green⁹ who (as also old Mr. Joseph Green) din'd with me to Day.

⁸ Mrs. Daniel Warrin.

⁹ This was perhaps a man by that name, referred to as "a sore trial to the thrifty farmers who had to 'entertain' him by turns, and who appointed successive committees in town meeting to ascertain whether he belonged of right in town, and whether he had no relatives anywhere who could support or relieve him." DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, p. 105.

19. At the New House in the morning—when I came back rode up to Mr. Asa Brigham's to desire Mrs. Brigham to release Hannah Pratt to nurse my wife. N.B. was at Mr. Gershom Brigham's who made me a present of Cheese—and visited Mr. Samuel Fays Wife: but din'd at Mr. Joseph Knowlton's who gave me $\frac{3}{4}$ Bushel Rye. When I came home, found Mr. Cushing, and Several Women, our near Neighbours to see Mrs. Parkman, who is every Day and Night in great Pain, and has been for some Time. Here was also Mrs. Patty Haven, and with her Deacon Burnaps¹⁰ Dauter. Those last lodg'd with us.

20. The Young Women rode with me to the New House, and we din'd there p.m. I rode back and brought my Wife here to the New House, where now we take up our Dwelling, for the present, at least. O may God be pleas'd to take up His Dwelling with us. Rainy morn. They work part of the Day in Clearing out Shavings and Dirt out of the New House. At Eve, while we were in our New Circumstances, came Mrs. Peggy and Mrs. Isabella Breck, wifes of Messers. John¹¹ and Robert Breck¹² of Boston; (accompany'd by Captain Maynard) and they lodg'd here.

21. I waited upon the Ladys as far as the Edge of Southborough in their Journey. My sons Ebenezer and Thomas go to mowing at the Island—but by Various Hindrances, did not begin to mow there till late in the forenoon. My Wife grew so ill that we were glad to See Mrs. Forbush¹³ (the Midwife) coming to See us. And we detain'd her all night. Mrs. Bekky Warrin with her Child here, and tarrys to her Aunts Labour.

22. Mrs. Forbush tripp'd away home just after break of Day. But my wife grew so bad that I hastily rode away for her again and brought her. It proves a very hot Day; but we must gather the Neighbouring Women. I rode up the Street and alarm'd the four nearest, and proceeded for Mrs. Baker—likewise for Mrs.

¹⁰ Benjamin Burnap of Hopkinton.

¹¹ Mrs. Parkman's cousin, a merchant of extensive business, often engaged in the Newfoundland fishery. Samuel Breck, *Genealogy of the Breck Family* (Omaha, 1889), pp. 18-19.

¹² This cousin of Mrs. Parkman was a cooper of Boston.

¹³ Old "Granny" was the widow of Thomas Forbush.

Nurse and Mrs. Williams who came—and Suddenly about 11 o'Clock a.m. a Son was born. My Twelfth living Child, and my Sixth living Son. The Name of the Lord be magnified! May I obtain the Grace to walk in Wisdom and faithfulness towards all the Children which he has graciously given to me! P.M. I preach'd the Sacramental Lecture from 1 Tim. 6, 2. "Partakers of the Benefit." It prov'd a very trying Time to me: But may God Support me through! After Lecture I got Mr. William Nurse to lead up my Mare to Mr. Eleazer Pratts for his Dauter Hannah, who came at Evening to Nurse my wife.

23. Our Hay both at the Island and at home, wet. At Eve very heavy Rains. N.B. Mr. Charles Rice (who came and hoop'd our Bear-Barrell, and does various Chores at different Times) with divers others who came likewise, fitted a Draught-Pole for the Well.

24. Mr. Daniel Forbush came and laid the west Chamber Hearth. My mind greatly Exercis'd on Account of the Great Solemnitys before me; especially considering how very slender my preparation is, in all respects.

25. My Great Care was that both my Wife and I might transact aright with the glorious God in the Important Work of this Day. Read (publickly) Numb. 12. Preach'd on 1 Pet. 1, 19. The precious Blood of Christ. Deacon Forbush,¹⁴ his sister Byles,¹⁵ and Mrs. Eleazer Harrington, (Mrs. Bonds Sister) din'd with us. P.M. read Rom. 2. Preach'd on Job 15, 11, and baptiz'd my Son Samuel. And may God accept him and make him a Great and rich Blessing to us! I have call'd him by this Name, out of respect and Affection to my Brother Samuel at Boston. May he be so endow'd as to be worthy of it!

26. Ebenezer Carted over my principall Book Presses, and several Boxes more. And it seems now like something of Remove. I was at Morning Prayer with my Children at my former Dwelling. After Exercises I gave them Exhortation and Solemn Charge to keep the Way of the Lord. May they have Grace to attend

¹⁴ Jonathan Forbush.

¹⁵ Mrs. Joseph Byles of Westborough.

to it and observe it! Before we parted from home, came Mr. Martyn and his Wife, accompany'd by Mr. Michael Dennis, Bookseller in Boston. Who all went with me to the New House. Where came also to visit us Mr. Miller and Mrs. Harrington each with a Cheese. Thomas to the Island a. and p.m. Ebenezer only latter part of P.M. Lieutenant Wood of Hopkinton here.

27. Ebenezer and Thomas Cart 3 Load of Hay from the Island and stack it at the New House.

28. Rode over to Mr. Martyns and din'd there. I preach'd a Lecture at the North End, on Ps. 116, 9, and at Eve return'd home.

29. Mr. Frost and Rogers mow'd with Ebenezer in the Swamp at home, endeavouring to cutt down all to Day that we can come at to mow. Nathaniel Whitney and his Brother in their going with a Team to the Meadow, brought me two Load of stones for the underpinning the East End of my New House. Mr. Daniel Forbush work'd here in laying the west room Hearth but did not finish it. Brother Hicks here.

30. At Night reckon'd with Lieutenant Tainter and with Merchant Rice, and Settled our accounts.

31. I walk'd over to my Farm House, having no Horse here at the New, from thence I might Set out for Southborough whither I went towards Evening—got there when the Sun was about an Hour high, and Mr. Stone¹⁶ came to Westborough. N.B. Madam Thatcher¹⁷ of Middleborough there. N.B. She Show'd me the Notes of her Husband, of his Father, and his Grandfather.

SEPTEMBER, [1751]

1. Preach'd at Southborough—a.m. on 2 Cor. 3, 15. P.M. on number 14, 17, and baptiz'd David, Son of David Newton. Mr. Stone at Westborough on 1 Tim. 4, 8. He also read. At Eve we each of us return'd to his respective home. May the Lord pardon what has been amiss; and accept and bless what was agreeable to His Will!

¹⁶ The Reverend Nathan Stone of Southborough.

¹⁷ The widow of the Reverend Peter Thacher of Middleborough.

2. I sent Billy with a Team to the North-End-Meeting House for a Cyder screw made by Deacon Livermore¹ for me—one of those made by Woolly having Scal'd and Split so much that it is useless; and it is lodg'd at the North Meeting House, under the Care of Mr. Jeduthan Baldwin, who is at work there. I rode after him least some Disaster Should befall him. I din'd at Captain Eagers. A.M. reading Ansons Voiage round the world by Walter.² Ebenezer and Thomas mend the Fence of the Pasture at the Island and bring a milk Cow, and Two fatting Creatures to pasture there.

3. Mr. Daniel Forbush came and wrought at the underpinning of the East End of the House, and in the Evening finish'd the Hearth in the West Room. N.B. Reckon'd with Mr. Bowman and with Mr. Biglo. Ebenezer gets up the Swamp Hay at home: and Some Rowing. Billy cutts Stalks.

4. Mr. Biglo Sent his Son Cornelius to cutt Stalks at the Island. P.M. a number more of Lads came, viz. Joseph and James Bowman: Samuel and Joseph Harrington, Thomas Hardy, and Daniel Grout, who cutt the rest of the Stalks at the Island and Pik'd up those which were cutt in the forenoon by about 5 o'clock P.M. At Evening reckon'd with Mr. Samuel Hardy, for his cutting and raking and cocking Hay at the ministerial Meadow, and instead of 8£ old Tenor which he took it for, I allow'd him nine; and this even altho, by Divine Providence there was a Considerable Quantity was never rak'd at all, and Some Loads which were Carted home, or stack'd at the Meadow, were so wash'd with heavy Rains that it was of but little Value. Mr. Samuel Haven here and went over to t'other House to lodge. Ebenezer has kill'd some Veal and brought us a part.

5. I observ'd the Day in some Religious Manner. (Vide Natal.). Mr. Haven din'd here. I was in some Difficulty to break off from my retir'd Employment to wait upon him, and not discover my Engagedness another way. I remember'd the words of the Lord in Mat. 6, 18. That thou appear not to mean

¹ Jonathan Livermore.

² George Anson, *A Voyage round the World in Years MDCCXL, I, II, III, IV*, Compiled by Richard Walter (London, 1748).

to fast: and agreeably I went down, convers'd, and eat somewhat at Table—but fearing this interruption I improv'd all the forepart of the Day as Separately as I could. But alas! all is too broken, uninfluencing, ineffectual! God of his infinite Mercy and Graciousness, pitty and pardon, and grant His Grace and Mercy to Me for the great Redeemers Sake! At Eve Mr. Whipple and Mr. Biglo here.

[The following appears in the *Natalitia* for September 5, 1751:]

I Endeavour'd to employ myself Separately and religiously—chiefly in the following Acts of Thanksgiving and Praise; Humiliation and Penitence; Supplication and Intercession; Self-Dedication and renewing Covenant with God; Resolutions; Considerations of Frailty and Morality. In Petitioning and Supplicating the Throne of Grace, Special Subjects were, Pardon and Sanctification, Ministerial Qualifications and Success, That God would Sanctifie my present new Circumstances in my beginning the World again in this New Habitation, and particularly Direction and Wisdom to Conduct as all my present state and Case is, Grace to Discharge Relative Dutys, The Spirit of God to Prepare for Death and Eternity, Intercession for especially My Wife—Children—each of them—the Infant—Flock—for Ministers—State of Religion—Friends and Relations.

6. I wrote a Letter to Mr. Pierpoint of New Haven, wrapping up in it a Catalogue etc. I rode to Lieutenant Eagers for Conveyance. Din'd with my Children at my former Dwelling. I hop'd for some Body to come and take up my stalks at the Island, but saw no one. Neighbour How has been burning his Bricks this week.

7. Alexander so ill with Cough and Sore Throat that I had my Cloths on the Chief of the Night.

8. Read Numb. 14. Preach'd a.m. on Job 15, 11. P.M. read Rom. 4 and deliver'd an Expository Exercise on the sixth Commandment. Alexander was so comfortable as to go to Meeting.

9. Mr. Samuel Hardy here digging Stones, and I got Charles Rice junior to join with him in digging and drawing Stones till night, for a wall by my House.

10. Charles Rice and his Brother Abner drawing Stones part of the forenoon. Captain and Lieutenant Forbush gather'd up and pik'd the rest of my Stalks at the Island.

11. Ebenezer went with my Oxen in the Rain to Mr. Adams's to help him move his Barn. I rode to Lieutenant Woods at Hopkinton to attend a Fast there at his House and was agreed when he was at our House a fortnight ago, but I found they had had an Exercise there at the Time first appointed. I din'd at Mr. Barrett's³ and return'd.

12. Was at Mr. Hows Brick Kiln. Went to Mr. Martyns and return'd him his Book of Lord Ansons Voiages. Was at Mr. Wymans to Speak with Mr. Edward Willson. Visit Edmund Rice, and again visited Granny Maynard in her Sickness: her Husband not at Home.

13. Had word that Mr. William Goss at Shrewsbury had Floor Boards which hew'd lay at my Door for a small Matter of ready Money. I borrow'd 3 Dollars at Squire Bakers, and sent Mr. Aaron Nurse to Mr. Goss; but without success—for when he come to see his Boards, he found they had taken Dammage through ill-sticking. But this Affair was a great Interruption to my Studys and Perplexity to my mind. P.M. Eliezer Rice, Mr. Fortner etc.

14. Understand that Ebenezer is now got to making Cyder.

15. Read Numb. 15, and made the Exposition of it for the present. N.B. Neighbour Eliezer Rice was not at Meeting with us. Preach'd from Col. 3, 12, on Mercifulness and Meekness; both in pursuance of my Exposition of the sixth Commandment and because it was just before the Superior Court in this County at which our people are like to have Several Cases. At Night Rain.

16. Very Early in the Morning came Mr. Richard Barns—he tells me that whereas Deacon Newton had sued him for money, and he had resolv'd to withstand him on account of Exorbitant Interest, yet the Deacon after the sermon, yesterday p.m. Spoke to him as soon as they came out of meeting, and desir'd he might

³ The Reverend Samuel Barrett.

See him early next Morning that they might agree, he was now going up to him—But he had an Affair of yet greater Difficulty, for Mr. Gamel (he said) was going to throw him into Jayl and the Execution has been already serv'd upon him, and he must go unless he could this Day obtain 60£ old Tenor value in silver; therefore pray'd me to help him, and offer'd me part of his Land on Sale: would let me have 3 or 4 acres of the Land next to mine I told him I did not care to Trade with him at Such a Time as this was, with both him and me. With him, as he was in Such a Straight that he would be oblig'd to Sell cheaper than it was worth; and with me, as I was already plung'd deeply into Debt both for Land and for my New House. But he still insisted—and told me that he knew where I could get the money, but he could not upon which he induc'd me to go to Marlborough. As I went I eat at Deacon Matthias Rice's—made the Rest of my Dining among Dr. Gotts Children. It was Proprietors Meeting at Marlborough. I attended it and presented the plot of 5 Acres etc. joining to Chauncy Cedar Swamp and Meadows. Captain Maynard oppos'd it again, as did Ensign Josiah Rice, and tho it was put to vote, it did not pass. I was oblig'd to defer it, and I soon retir'd; try'd to hire money for Neighbour Barns. Succeeded at Mr. Jacob Felton's⁴—receiv'd 28 Dollars. N.B. Could get but 250 whole Bricks at Neighbour Benjamin Hows.

17. Neighbour Barns Sign'd a Deed for 4 Acres of Swamp and Upland joining to my old place: and paid him 27 Dollars for it. Hannah Pratt, our Nurse went away. I went over to Neighbour Hows again about Bricks. Job Cushing junior there from Day to Day with 3 Teams—so that I cannot be Supply'd—for the Kiln turns out poorly, many being broke. Both Cushing and I pick'd out many halves. The whole ones 15/ per Hundred. At Night Rain—in the Rain and Dark came Mr. William Winter of Boston, and Dr. Parkmans Widow, and Mr. Henry Newhall's Wife—Two Chairs. Not having got our Beds from t'other House I was oblig'd to go with Mr. Winter to Mr. Ebenezer Rice's and we lodg'd there.

⁴ At one time a lieutenant and a selectman of Marlborough.

18. Heavy Rains. The Company din'd with us. P.M. Mr. Winter to Worcester Court. My Kinswoman and Mrs. Newhall to the other House.

19. Mr. Edward Willson works in topping my Chimney—and Mr. Daniel Forbush in building the Wall at the West End of the House. Abner Rice tends Mr. Willson. P.M. came a small Number of Young Men and Lads who help'd me a few Hours in levelling the Banks of Gravell. They were Nathaniel Whitney, Joseph Dudley, Samuel Harrington, Joseph Harrington, Daniel Forbush, Adam Rice. My Kinswoman and Mrs. Newhall here. N.B. A Blunder about Dinner. A Lamb kill'd but was brought afternoon. They return'd to the other House, and I supp'd with them there. N.B. The Case of Mr. James Maynard and Lieutenant Tainter etc., try'd at the Superior Court and Maynard obtain'd Judgment.

20. Mr. Willson and Abner Rice on the Top of the Chimney A.M. but having work'd up my few Bricks, it is left still unfinished. The Company return'd to Boston: Molly accompany'd them to Marlborough. N.B. Neighbour Eliezer Rice here at Evening and asks for another Church-Meeting. I give him Several Reasons why it is at this Time utterly unsuitable—especially considering the present frame of many persons by Reason of the Contentions at Court—besides that it is but a little while since we had one at his Desire. Nor was there any Time for me to think of it, my Preparations for the Sabbath being now in Hand, and have but little Opportunity for them. But he went away dissatisfy'd. See a loose paper.

21. A great Frost last Night. My Mind much taken off with Neighbour Rice's Conduct last Night, which was the more to my perplexing as I am thereby So much hinder'd in my Preparations for the Sabbath. Out of wood—and no where to go to get any—forc'd to pick up, round about the House. Have taken Cold and have a grievous Pain in my back.

22. Very Cold Morning. Very great Frost. Sometimes doubted whether I could venture to Meeting, having Such a Pain in my Back. With much Difficulty I went. Read Numb. 16.

Forenoon Exercise was an Exposition of the former part of the chapter to number 15. P.M. Read Rom. 6. Made some brief Observations upon it. Preach'd on Col. 3, 7, 8. Made use of the greatest part of what is under Doct. 4 from 1 Cor. 6, 11, but with Alterations and Additions. Heard that Mrs. Mary Bennett, Shopkeeper in Boston dy'd lately. May God Sanctifie this to me, as I was considerably acquainted with her! She was a person of uncommon Abilitys and Attainments.

23. Mr. Hezekiah Pratt kindly brought me a Load of Wood—he had my Oxen with his. Sir Forbush⁵ goes to Boston by whom I wrote to my Brother William. Was at Mr. Clafflands. P.M. I visited Neighbour Bathericks Family—Mr. Daniel and Timothy Warrin—Mr. Twitchell—and Patty Pannell being Sick I visited her also at Mr. Jonas Brighams. When I return'd at Eve, heard that my little Breck is ill.

24. Went to See little Breck at t'other House—found him better. Mr. Jotham Maynard came from Mr. Joshua Townsend to desire me to attend the Funeral of a Child of his (about 5 Years old) who has dy'd of the Throat Distemper—He having bury'd his son Joshua, near 10 years old, of the Same Distemper—Mr. Martyn gone to Stow. I rode over, and din'd with Mrs. Martyn. N.B. Messers. Whitney (of Nitchewog)⁶ Maccarty, Davis, and Humphreys⁷—going to the Ordination at Weston. Mrs. Martyn rode with me to the Burying at Mr. Townsends. N.B. very few males only 2 from the Neighbourhood there, till they were oblig'd to send out for Neighbours to come and assist by which means they made it late.

25. This Day Mr. Woodward⁸ (as I understand) is to be ordain'd at Weston in the Room of Mr. William Williams but I could not go.

⁵ Eli Forbes or Forbush, the son of Deacon Jonathan Forbush of Westborough.

⁶ The Reverend Aaron Whitney of the plantation called Nichewoag, which became the town of Petersham in 1754.

⁷ The Reverend James Humphrey (Harvard 1744), the minister of Payquage or Pequoig plantation (later the town of Athol), 1750-1782. *Sibley*, XI, 416-418.

⁸ The Reverend Samuel Woodward (Harvard 1748), the minister of Weston, 1751-1782. *Sibley*, XII, 349-352.

26. The Reverend Mr. Maccarty din'd here. Tells me that the Ordination went on yesterday without any Lett. The Reverend Mr. Townsend⁹ of Needham preach'd on Mat. 11, 16, 17. Sam Bumpso undertakes to mow Bushes on the North East part of my Brigham Lott. Mows a little, and moves off about his Scyth—See no more of him to Day.

27. After a turn of Frosts and rugged Weather, a very fine Warm Day. My Wife went over to the other House, to See Breck who has been ill—and about some necessary Affairs. Mr. Joseph Knowlton and his Wife with a Present (a Legg of Pork, large piece of Pork, a Cheese, and a parcell of dry'd Huckleberrys.) N.B. Mr. Knowlton rode over to my other House and brought back my wife.

28. Fine Warm Weather. Sam Bumpso part of the Day mowed shrubb Bushes.

29. My Wife thro Gods Goodness, So happy as to go to Meeting again—we offer public thanks. Read Numb. 16 from 15 to 35, and for the forenoon Exercise, gave Exposition. P.M. Read Rom. 7, and preach'd on 1 Sam. 2, 1, 6, repeating Somewhat Considerable of Sermon on that Text, but now adding in many places; especially in the Close. But it was a Subject so Suitable (Hannah with her Samuel now come to the House of God) that (as I conceiv'd) I could not resist it. May God pardon what is amiss and graciously accept of me and mine.

30. Samuel Bumpso mows Shrubb Bushes all Day. P.M. This Parish met. I sent a Memorial to the Meeting at the very juncture that a Committee (Mr. Williams and Ensign Miller) were coming to me to see if I had any Thing that I would communicate to them. By and by Lieutenant Tainter came to me from the people to acquaint me that they had granted no otherwise than they us'd to do (400£ old Tenor). I Sent a Reply and Request in Writing. At Eve Captain Baker and Mr. Whipple came and acquainted me that they had consider'd what I Sent to them and had granted 50£ old Tenor more. But had done Nothing about the Wood, That being an Article which they could

⁹ Jonathan Townsend.

not manage by virtue of this present Warrant: But people would have it in their Thoughts—and doubtless prepare themselves to Say Something about it when there could be Preparation Time for it.

OCTOBER, 1751

1. Fine Weather Still. Let Mr. Jonathan Forbush junior have 212 feet of White Oake Boards, to go to Boston, to Mr. James Allen Merchant, Taylor.

2. I rode to Grafton and preach'd the Lecture on Eph. 1, 3 and return'd home at Eve.

3. Preach'd my own Lecture on 1 Cor. 11, 26, from page 12 to 19, from Jam. 4, 8. Sir Forbush brought me from the Reverend Mr. Commissary Price¹ *Deism Reveal'd* volume 1.²

4. 5. [No entries.]

6. Read Numb. 16 from number 35 to the End. Preach'd on Jam. 4, 8. Us'd Sermon on 2 Cor. 11, 26, page 19 to 23. Administer'd the Lord's Supper. P.M. read Rom. 8 and preach'd on Isa. 7, 14.

7. Rode over to Mr. Gashitts for Lath—was at Mr. Chaddocks also. Rain at Deacon Forbush and at Neighbour Bonds.

8. Mr. Hutchinson came and rode with me to Ministers Meeting at Mr. Martyns. N.B. Sir Forbush examin'd (as well as Mr. Jacob Cushing³) and approbated. Several Brothers of Mr. Loring's⁴ Church. Mr. Loring inexorable.

9. Mr. Stone⁵ preach'd the Public Lecture on Eph. 2, 11.

10. Mrs. Esther Edwards⁶ at the other House and lodg'd there, but I saw her not. Heavy Rains. The Day appointed to gather my Island Corn but disappointed by the Weather.

¹ Roger Price of Hopkinton.

² [Philip Skelton], *Deism Revealed* (London, 1751).

³ Jacob (Harvard 1748), the son of the Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury, became the minister of the First Congregational Church of Waltham, 1752-1809. *Sibley*, XII, 252-257.

⁴ The Reverend Israel Loring of Sudbury.

⁵ The Reverend Nathan Stone of Southborough.

⁶ Esther, the daughter of the Reverend Jonathan Edwards, later married the Reverend Aaron Burr, the president of the young College of New Jersey.

11. Mr. Martyn and his Wife (tho a wet Day) with their Sister Monis⁷ din'd here. Mr. Gay⁸ and his wife lodg'd last night at t'other House, the last night and to Day they Set out in the Rain.

12. Exceeding Cold, yet no Wood. Sent to Mr. Jonah Warrin, but none came. Pick'd up pine and what I could find, for the Sabbath. N.B. Packet from New Haven by President Burr,⁹ but he was not here.

13. Mr. Martyn here and preach'd on Mat. 11, 16 and onward and read Numb. 17. P.M. Luke 12, 1, and read Rom. 9. I rode over to the Northside and read both a. and p.m. Preach'd a and p.m. on Eph. 1, 3, concluding the subject. Return'd at Eve—but miss'd of Mr. Martyn. At Mr. Joslins etc. at Eve.

14. I rode to Lieutenant Tainters to see what was like to come of my Island-Corn. N.B. Mr. Charles Rice makes a Corn-Binn with poles brought by my son Ebenezer.

15. Lieutenant Tainter with his Team (a Load of Wood, Quarter of Lamb and a present of Salt Pork) to cut up and Cart home my Island Corn. Joseph Grout junior with his Team, my William also came with our own—8 Load of Cutt up Corn were brought home. Old Mr. Rice and his sons (3 of them) and his son-in-law with a small number more, came in the afternoon and Evening and husk'd—till about Nine o'Clock at Night—a very Cold Evening. Mr. Breck¹⁰ of Springfield here and lodg'd here.

16. My Corn was laid expos'd where there was no fence, so that I rose Early to look after it. Mr. Breck went to Marlborough to carry up Cousen Betty Gott¹¹ to live with him. Mr. Jonathan Bellows came and work'd for me to Day, in taking Care of the Husks, building up the Corn Bin etc. N.B. Ephraim Bruce, Barnabas Newton and Jonathan Bellows. P.M. Sent Billy into the Whipple Corner for help in Husking. Nobody came till about

⁷ Abigail Marrett of Cambridge, who married Judah Monis, was the sister of Mrs. John Martyn of Northborough. Kent, *Northborough*, p. 287.

⁸ The Reverend Ebenezer Gay of Hingham.

⁹ Aaron Burr of the College of New Jersey.

¹⁰ The Reverend Robert Breck, Jr.

¹¹ Elizabeth was the daughter of the late Dr. Benjamin Gott of Marlborough.

4 p.m. when Mr. Samuel Fay junior, Mr. Joseph Green junior, and four Ladds—viz. Abner and Francis Whipple and two sons of Mr. Fay aforesaid came and husk'd. N.B. Mr. Amsden came to see us.

17. My little Dauter Susan very much indispos'd—but we ventur'd to go to Mr. Martyn with the Child, having appointed and engag'd it. The last night so cold that the Horse was not able well to break the Ice through the Brook at Widow Tomlins. Din'd at Mr. Martyns. Mrs. Eager and her sister, Mrs. Patty Ward there. We return'd at Eve. Susen so ill we sent for Dr. Chase—who came. May God prepare us for his holy will!

18. Warmer Weather. Mr. Ithamar Bellows at work here in making my garden-yard—Carting and stacking stalks etc. P.M. Lieutenant Tainter brought another Load of Wood and helps clear the Island Field, of Pumpkins, Beans, Turnips. Mr. Charles Rice cover'd and Secur'd my Corn Binn. Suse took a Vomit.

19. Susen very bad (of a Fever) Dr. Chase¹² tends upon her diligently. God prepare us for His holy will! hear that several Children and Youth are ill of Fever also. The air much Warmer. Susen (D.G.) better.

20. Read Numb. 18. Preach'd on Exod. 20, 14. Many Grafton people with us. P.M. Sir Forbush, Mr. Joseph Miles, and his son Abner, and Mrs. Twitchell din'd here.

21. Ebenezer with the Team brought Boards from Maynards Mill—and Two Turns from Forbush's Mill—viz. 700 of Mr. Joseph Woods's Boards. P.M. Mr. Jeduthan Baldwin and his apprentice John Woods came to work, to finish my East Room. Sir Forbush to Boston on the Affair of Stockbridge. Grows colder.

22. At the Widow Beeman's¹³ (who was very bountiful, Sending Pork, Beef, and Cheese to my Wife). N.B. The remarkable Number of Teams and market Horses going to Boston, yesterday

¹² Thomas Chase, born in Sutton, April 3, 1732, studied medicine with Dr. Benjamin Morse of Sutton. He lived and practiced in Westborough in the 1750's. Some time after 1760 he moved to New York.

¹³ Mrs. Eleazer Beeman.

and to Day—no less than 19 Teams only from Sutton yesterday. P.M. visited Samuel Hardy junior who is very ill of a Fever. Was at Mr. Moses Warrins, Mr. Grouts, Phinehas Hardys, etc.

23. Susen So well that the Doctor ceases his visits, and generously gives his Medicines and visits also. Sorrowful News of Two Young Women, Dauters of Mr. William Brewer¹⁴ of Shrewsbury, who were drown'd yesterday at Lancaster as they were going to visit a Relation. Ebenezer design'd to have an Husking this afternoon but being belated in his Invitations was oblig'd to defer it.

24. The Wind high and Southerly, the House, especially my Chamber, So fill'd with smoke that I was oblig'd to put out my Fire; this is to my great Disappointment after so much trouble and Charge to obtain Good Chimneys. Sam Bumpso Clearing by the Stack Yard. N.B. Mr. Phinehas Hardy goes to Bolton for Lime, for Deacon Newton and me, and return'd at Night empty, bringing only a Bag of Hair from Mr. Samuel Bakers. P.M. 25 Hands help'd Ebenezer husk. N.B. Baldwin, John Woods and Sam Bumpso went.

25. [No entry.]

26. Sir Forbush return'd from Boston ill. N.B. Letters to him from Colonel Dwight¹⁵ and Pyncheon.

27. Rainy. Read Numb. 19 and Rom. 10. Preach'd all Day on Exod. 20, 14. Mr. Mead and Daniel How din'd here.

28. Visited Sir Forbush. Training. I din'd with the officers after Prayer with the Company. P.M. visited Mr. Jacob Amsden sick of a Fever.

29. Rode Mr. Williams's Horse to visit Mr. Amsden again; Mr. Rogers etc. Din'd at my other House with Mr. Martyn whom I accompany'd hither also. Lieutenant Hezekiah Ward here. N.B. Jonathan Bond junior (a Lad) who with my Billy and my Team plough'd in Rye at my Island. N.B. Mr. Grout, Lieutenant Tainter, Mr. Phinehas Hardy, Samuel Harrington, and Mr. Beriah Rice here. Consult about a Shed over my Kitchen Chimney and North Door.

¹⁴ Abigail and Elizabeth Brewer were drowned "in a saw mill pond" in Lancaster. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, p. 245.

¹⁵ Joseph Dwight of Hatfield.

30. Jonathan Bond and Billy plough'd in Rye again. Mr. John Beaton din'd here. Mr. Bliss¹⁶ and Deacon Miles¹⁷ of Concord here, going to a Council at Sutton. N.B. Mr. Hezekiah How help'd Ebenezer kill the Cow which I bought some Years ago of Ebenezer Maynard. Baldwin yesterday and to Day about the Garrett Stairs. It grows very Cold and we are Scanted for Wood; nor can I as yet tell what way I am like to have supply.

31. Mr. Harrington brought a Load of Wood. So faithful and bountiful is Divine Providence and so kind and unwearied this good Neighbour (under God) to assist me! Billy brought over a side of Beef. Samuel and Hannah Hicks in their Return here. P.M. walk'd to Deacon Newton; and thence to Justice Bakers. Had his mare to visit Samuel Hardy junior, and old Mr. Fay. Mr. Bliss return'd from Council at Sutton and call'd but I was not at home. Mr. Baldwin for 2 or Three Days about the Garrett stairs.

NOVEMBER, 1751

1. Wind at South West and my House fill'd with Smoke. See October 24. N.B. Mr. Joseph Woods here and reckon'd with him for 750 feet of Boards at 16/ per hundred. N.B. His Objections against the people's adding the 50£ lately granted to be added to my Sallery and Support. Nay and against the people's paying 500£ towards my Remove to this Place. Exclaims against my New House and thinks that it is too big, and that it is too high. He thinks there needed to be no Chamber over the room we were sitting in etc., etc. P.M. Baldwin to Shrewsbury and return'd to t'other House.

2. Baldwin built the Cellar stairs. John Woods about the Garrett Floor. Mr. Robert Cooks wife here and din'd with us.

3. Read Numb. 20, and Rom 11. The Exposition of the forenoon Chapter took up both parts of the Day in the room of sermons.

4. Mr. Eleazer Kimball came and lath'd my Chamber in Ceil-

¹⁶ The Reverend Daniel Bliss.

¹⁷ Samuel Miles.

ing. Baldwin and his man John preparing the East Room for the Masons. Ebenezer help'd in making Mortar.

5. Sent Mr. Jonas Twitchell to Worcester for Bricks. A very fine Day. Ebenezer makes Cyder. Sam Bumpso has been thrashing wheat and Rye for Ebenezer for some Time. N.B. Deacon Kimball came, and with his son lath'd and plaister'd my East lower Room: Part of the afternoon Robert Claffland waited on the Masons, and did divers Chores. At Eve Alpheus Newton tended the Masons with Mortar, to plaister the East Room, and North Closet in the Chamber.

6. Alpheus tended the Masons. Baldwin trys for an Horse to go to Sudbury but in vain. Works part of the day. John p.m. to Marlborough. About 3 p.m. the Masons break off and before Night go home. Twitchell does not return from Worcester till Eve. The Weather moderate for my plaistering. N.B. Lieutenant Tainter and Solomon Baker Cart Wood from Moses Brighams. Lieutenant 3 Times: the other 2 Turns. So many Various affairs depending, and so much Noise and Confusion in every part of the House, that I Snatch Opportunity to study with great Difficulty.

7. Thanksgiving. After a very rainy Night, a Very Rainy Morning. Lieutenant Tainter brought a Loin of Mutton. We somewhat expected Mrs. Nanny Gott but she did not come. The sermon to Day on Ps. 4, 7. May God accept our Sacred Offerings and grant us true Gladness in our Hearts from the sense of his Special Favour and the Light of His Countenance upon us! My Children all here together with us. Blessed be God for Family Mercys and for the Measure of Health particularly we enjoy! (altho Alexander is somewhat Rheumatic.)

8. Settled with the Collector, Mr. Williams. Visited Adonijah Rice. Ebenezer brought over the Bricks which Mr. Twitchell brot from Worcester the Night before last. He also brought 10 Barrells of Cyder. Mr. Robert Cook here in further Preparation for his Confession and owning the Covenant. N.B. Lieutenant Ward waits upon Captain Maynard and Lieutenant Bruce to the Cook Island to settle the Measure and Bounds of it. Captain

Maynard also goes with Lieutenant Ward to view the Bounds of the last Plott of Land by Chauncy Cedar Swamp. Mr. Ezekiel How there with a Letter from the aggrieved in the Church of West-Sudbury desiring a Council etc. N.B. Baldwin did not work at Evening.

9. Rainy Day. I broke fast and din'd with my children at t'other House. Sir Forbush there and pray'd in the Morning. A. and P.M. read Numb. 28, and Rom. 8. Mr. Martyn rode hither, and read Numb. 21, and Rom. 11, but Sir Forbush preach'd (his first sermons) a. and p.m. on 1 Cor. 15, 55. I tarry'd and lodg'd at Mr. Martyns that I might confer with him about the Council to be at Sudbury on Mr. Lorings Case, Mr. Martyn being Sent to likewise.

11. In the Morning it rain'd. But so heavy did the Affair of Sudbury lie upon us that Mr. Martyn and I determin'd to ride to Southborough and Conferr with Mr. Stone who was another sent to: we stop'd at my other House where were Messers. Noah How and Daniel Garfield junior who at this Time bought my Fat Steer—agreed to give 13 pence old Tenor for him Hide Beef and Tallow. We call'd also to see old Mr. Rogers, with whom I pray'd. When we came to Southborough Mr. Stone was gone abroad. We sent after him—din'd and tarry'd there until sun-setting but saw him not. We drew up a Letter to the Sudbury Committee and to Mr. Loring. In my return home, call'd to see Mr. Amsden. John Woods return'd to work here p.m.

12. Mr. Martyn and his wife came here, in hopes to see Mr. Stone here, but he did not come.

13. I think Ebenezer has finish'd his making Cyder.

14. Lieutenant Ward here laying out Land for me: he setts off an acre for me south of the Meeting House: and the Four Acres which I lately bought of Mr. Richard Barns. He also laid out a little Bit of Land which was Common between the ministerial Lot and my Land, being 27 Rods. At Eve I was at Mr. David Maynard juniors.

15. Lieutenant Ward laid out another Scrap of Land joining to the Road south west of the Meeting House, and bounding on

the Burying Place. 43 Rods. P.M. Mr. Claffland work'd for me; is making an Hovell for my Cattle. Captain Tainter¹ of Watertown and his Wife here. Sir Forbush is gone to Brookfield to preach.

16. Mr. Claffland all Day—upon the Hovell etc. Wondrous fine agreeable weather and thus it has been for Some Time. Captain Richardson and Mr. Cornelius Woods of Sudbury here to confer with me on the Affair of their design'd Council they having receiv'd my Letter of Denyal last Night. They din'd here, but I still persisted in Denying them and finally refus'd to go. Baldwin begins the Outside of the Door—pediment, Pillars etc.

17. Moderate Weather Still. Read Numb. 22. Preach'd on 1 Thess. 4, 4 carrying on my Exposition of the seventh Commandment P.M. read Rom. 12. Preach'd on James 2, 24, using in part, Notes which were deliver'd under Eph. 2, 5 last Clause.²

18. Exceeding fine Weather. I committed my Plotts of Land lately taken up to Captain Maynard to be presented to the proprietors. Visited old Mr. Rogers—both broke fast and din'd at t'other House. N.B. Mrs. Molly Martyn and Mrs. Betty Williams there, and din'd with us. P.M. at Captain Maynards. At Eve Lieutenant Tainter and Mr. Harrington with their Teams, and a Number of Neighbours (Pratt, Ebenezer Maynard etc.) to the Number of 14 or 16 more, besides my Two oldest sons, Spent the Evening in Levelling the Banks on the fore side of my House.

19. Very fine Day—got Lime from Mr. Jonathan Forbush's and from Lieutenant Bruce's to Top my Chimneys and Sent Ebenezer at Eve for Mr. Willson, at Evening (after he had accompany'd Mrs. Molly Martyn home) and he lodg'd at Mr. Willsons. Mr. Daniel Forbush work'd at the Stone-wall south

¹ John Tainter was the brother of Deacon Simon Tainter of Westborough.

² In the Westborough Church Records for Nov. 17, 1751, Parkman noted that "Robert Cook and Sarah his wife offer'd Confession of their being Guilty of the Sin of Fornication, and likewise their Aggravating it by Denying it; upon which they were restor'd to Charity and Own'd the Covenant."

west of the House and at the North underpinning. Near Night came Mrs. Nanny Gott³ to See us, and lodg'd here.

20. Ebenezer return'd from Mr. Willsons (of Shrewsbury) and it being a Cloudy Morning Mr. Willson did not come. It proves a dull Day misting and likely to bring on a Storm. Mrs. Nanny p.m. to t'other House and lodges there.

21. Baldwin on the Head of the Door yet. John covering and closing a little House. Mrs. Rachel Bowker⁴ who came into Town with Mrs. Nanny Gott, came to see us a.m. Mrs. Nanny also return'd here. Sir Forbush came and din'd with us. P.M. he preach'd my Lecture on Isa. 50, 10. May God accept of him, and both bless him and make him a great Blessing! Mrs. Bowker and Mrs. Nanny to Marlborough. Baldwin did not work at Evening. But went to t'other House and lodg'd there.

22. Mr. Ebenezer Kimbal here a.m. lathing the Stair way. By him I sent the Reverend Mr. Price of Hopkinton Deism Reveal'd volume 1. Baldwin rode my Horse to his Fathers. John Woods about the little House.

23. Mr. Ebenezer Rice brought part of my Books from Mr. Daniel Gookins Bookseller in Boston, which have lain there some time to be sold. Samuel Bumpso work'd gratis at the Vault of the little House. But it grows very Cold.

24. Read Numb. 23. Preach'd on Ps. 4, 7. Lords Supper. P.M. read Rom. 13 and finish'd the Discourse on Ps. 4, 7. Cold Day. Read Sudbury Letter to the Church.

25. Proprietors Meeting at Marlborough. Sent 3 Plotts by Captain Maynard, viz. one of 5 acres and [blank] Rods, which has been depending these Twelve Months: the second was of 27 Rods joining to the Ministerial Lot; the third of 43 Rods by the road South West of the Meeting House. They were granted, with this Exception in the Last, of Liberty for Stables on the Front of it. Lucy Bowker at work for my sons at the other House. Mr. Daniel Forbush lays the East room Hearth. Baldwin finish'd and paint'd the Front Door. Cold Day. At Night Snow.

³ Anna, the daughter of the late Dr. Benjamin Gott of Marlborough.

⁴ The daughter of John Bowker of Marlborough.

26. The Snow went off; chiefly by noon. P.M. Mr. Claffland finish'd the Hovell. At Eve at Lieutenant Forbush's.

27. Mr. Edward Willson came to top out my Chimney, the morning being pleasant: and my son Ebenezer here to help him. But by that Time the Staging was compleated, the weather was So Cold, he quitted it. Samuel Bumpso here and din'd with us. P.M. they all clapp'd to and finish'd the Vault of the Little House, and bank'd it up. Mrs. Nabby Baker at work here, making my wife a plad gown. P.M. I Catechiz'd at the Meeting House. P.M. Baldwin and John Woods left us. For this turn of their Work am indebted to Jeduthan Baldwin £4.13.4, or 35£ old Tenor—in all £9.6.8, or 70£ old Tenor this Day. N.B. His whole work comes to £113.10 shillings old Tenor.

28. Mr. Claffland works here; putting up a Sort of Shed on the Northside of the House. The Cold beats him off p.m. He makes a Cask for the Well and goes home. N.B. Old Mr. Maynard and Mr. Whipple din'd here.

29. Comfortable Day. Messers. Brown and Ballard from Boston call'd at the Door. Billy has been not well for some time. Pain in his Neck and Face.

30. Grows Very Cold. At Eve it Snow'd fast.

DECEMBER, 1751

1. The most Snowy, winterlike Morning that we have had all this Season. Altho I had not any extraordinary hindrances in the Course of the week yet by one affair, or Concern or Care or Other I was so far interrupted that I finish'd but one sermon. Read Numb. 24. Preach'd on Mat. 19, 4, 5, 6. P.M. Read Rom. 14. Repeated Sermon on Mal. 3, 17, to page 8.

2. Various weather. Early Morn fair. Cloudy generally through the Day, and not very Cold—but the Earth with a very Winter Face. Mr. Hall¹ of Sutton din'd here, in his Way to Concord. Sent Mr. Henry Goold 7£ old Tenor by him. Read Sir Hovenden Walkers journal of his Expedition to Canada.² Mr.

¹ The Reverend David Hall.

² *A Journal . . . of the late Expedition to Canada* (London, 1720). Admiral Walker commanded the ill-fated expedition against Quebec in 1711, which ran into stormy weather, lost 8 transports and 900 Men in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and then returned to England.

Samuel Harrington here in the Evening. Ebenezer and Thomas brought a Side of an Hog, kill'd at t'other House—weigh'd (the whole Hog) 11 Score and 17 pound.

3. Ebenezer went to Grafton after our two stray piggs, but in vain, he returns at Evening without 'em.

4. Was at Deacon Newtons at Eve and reckon'd with him. N.B. his boarding my Workmen Baldwin, Parkhurst and Woods one hundred Days (or 14 weeks and Two Days, taking them all, together) at 25/ per Week, was, in old Tenor £17.18.0.

5. Last Night and to Day Very Cold. Rode Lieutenant Tainters Horse to Mr. Bradish's to the Private Meeting there. Preach'd on Jer. 6, 16, to page 13. N.B. The Company Besides Mr. Bradish, his Wife, son and Dauter were Deacon Forbush, Deacon Newton, Lieutenant Tainter and his son—and Four Women. At Night snow'd hard. N.B. Mr. Abraham Temple who brought from Boston Lining and Trimming for a Blue Cloth Jacket for me, din'd with us. At Eve Mr. Biglo, Mr. Daniel Hardy and Mr. Benjamin Winchester here. Billy not well, but is better.

6. Thick Cloudy; sometimes Mist, Sleet, Rain—but not so Cold as Yesterday. Billy writes a Days, and helps a little about the Cattle etc.

7. Reverend Mr. Hall of Sutton din'd here. N.B. He paid Mr. Henry Goold 18/ lawful Money, and brought me my Note—and 5/ Change (old Tenor). And thus I have wholly finish'd with Mr. Goold. N.B. I had sufficient Preparations made Seasonably before the Sabbath—which was a great Comfort to me. However I Still added as New Thoughts were Supply'd, especially in the Heads of Application.

8. Bright and Cold. Read Numb. 25. Preach'd a.m. on Mat. 19, 6. Patty Pannell din'd here. P.M. read Rom. 15. Preach'd a Sermon I now added to that made on Occasion of my Dauter Elizabeths Baptism upon Mal. 3, 17. At the Close of it read from passages in the Boston Gazett or Weekly Journal No. 1655.³

³ Evidently Parkman read all or part of a moralizing piece that appeared under the title "From a late Magazine."

9. Cold. I rode up to Mr. Samuel Hardys to See his Daughter Sarah, who has been Sick of a Fever some Time. N.B. I call'd at Mr. Benjamin Fays. N.B. I Saw two persons of the Neighbourhood there drinking Drams (Adonijah Rice⁴ and John Dunlop), and I gave them a Brief Word upon it. I call'd also at Mr. Phinehas Hardy's to see him after his Recovery from his Wounds by the Fall of a great Log upon him. N.B. We began to keep Geese here at the New House. For Ebenezer brought a Gander from the other House, and I bought a Goose of Mr. Ebenezer Rice. Mr. Daniel Hardy brought a Load of Wood.

10. Somewhat Pleasant Day. Sir Forbush (being come from Brookfield) din'd here. Mr. Simon Tainter brot a Load of Wood from Elijah Rice's Swamp. Mr. Phinehas Hardy a Load from his own place. Lieutenant Forbush and Neighbour Batheric here and want to talk about the affair of Sudbury Council, and have been displeas'd; what they have been disquieted with was (as they apprehended) my not giving the Church Liberty to Send if they had been o'Mind to. Whereas they acknowledg'd that I gave Space for them to speak if they had had Disposition to Say any Thing: but what they complain of is that I did not ask the Church to Speak, as I have indeed sometimes done, when I have Seen them as I thought too Backward. But however, as to Sending, it was not expected of us, after what I had Said to Captain Richardson and therefore the Reading of the Letters was merely to oblige them. N.B. Ebenezer and Thomas are gone to wait on Dr. Chase, who, to Day brings his Wife⁵ from Sutton. Mrs. Lucy Bowker P.M. at Work making me a Cloth Jacket.

11. Rain. I was inform'd that a Number of Young persons lodg'd last night at my other House. Mr. Halls son and Dauter, Mr. Minot's son—and one Mr. Hale⁶ of Sutton. Lucy Bowker here at work.

⁴The son of Charles Rice of Westborough.

⁵Thomas Chase married Mary White, Sept. 26, 1751. John C. Chase and George W. Chamberlain, *Seven Generations of the Descendants of Aquila and Thomas Chase* (Derry, N.H., 1928), p. 102.

⁶Jonathan Hale.

12. A fine pleasant Day. Sir Forbush dines with me, and p.m. preaches to the Young people on [blank]. Take heed that the Light which is in you be [blank]. In which he takes his Leave of the Society. Lieutenant Holloway here after Meeting. May God give His Blessing to the Word deliver'd! N.B. one of the Heifers which we have been wont to keep here, calv'd—Samuel Bumpso kind and helpfull about the Calf—that it may be Comfortable in the Hovel: Billy being gone to Mill at Southborough with the first Grist of Corn that we ever sent from this House.

13. Mr. Harrington and Eleazer Whitney going to Chauncy-Meadows for Hay, brought each of them a Load of Wood. P.M. Mrs. Forbush, the Deacons Wife, fell from Mr. Wymans (of Shrewsbury) Horse, a little South of the Stables. She was much stunn'd. Mr. Wyman and I took her up in an arm Chair and brought her into my House. Sent for Dr. Chase, who came: he let her Blood. She by Degrees came to. I sent by her son Bowman to her Husband. He and his son Jonathan and Mr. Tainter brought a Whirrey, and they carry'd her Home. N.B. Mrs. Rachel Rice⁷ came to our help. N.B. I talk'd with her upon the sorrowful Subject of her Childrens Drinking.

14. Mr. Jonathan Forbush came and gave me account of his mother, that she is much as she was last Night—does not recover, tho she has her sense.

15. Rugged Season. Read Numb. 26, omitting Some number in the middle of the Chapter by reason of the Cold. Preach'd on Jer. 31, 18, 19, 20, a. and p.m. Read P.M. Rom. 16. Dauter Molly tarried with us over Night—the Night exceeding Cold.

16. Exceeding Cold. Reckon'd with Aaron Warrin. His account was £11. 10.4 old Tenor. But the Glass which he had of me came to 42/—gave him a Note for 9.8.4. Lieutenant Holloway here. Spoke to him of the Towns Debt to me. He own'd it to be just—said he would talk with the Select Men about it—and forward it with those of the precinct that he could.

17. Weather Somewhat moderated, but it is a Cold Day. Finish'd Life of Oliver Cromwell.⁸ Sent by Mr. Nathaniel

⁷ Mrs. Charles Rice.

⁸ No biography of Cromwell had been published in America. It is impossible to determine which of many works Parkman may have read.

Whitney a Messenger to Mr. Jacob Felton in Marlborough. Cold Night.

18. Very Cold—Am Somewhat Rheumatic. Daughter Mary and Breck who have been here ever since the Sabbath, return'd home.

19. Sent by Mr. Jacob Whipple⁹ of Grafton to Mr. Thomas Fleet,¹⁰ printer, concerning my Young Horse. See his Paper of Last Monday. At Eve Ebenezer and Lucy came over and Supp'd here. N.B. My Discourse with Ebenezer about his Settling in the World. I made him various offers for his Encouragement and he acquainted me with his Desires to Marry.

20. Snowy Morning—a Dark, misty, Cold Day.

21. Very rainy Morning. Mr. Jacob Whipple with a Letter from Brother Samuel Parkman concerning my Horse.

22. A Cold Season—very Slippery. Read Numb. 27. Preach'd a. and p.m. on Jer. 31, 18, 19, 20. P.M. read 1 Cor. 1.

23. Visited Mrs. Vashi Newton¹¹ and reckon'd with her. Visited Mrs. Forbush (Deacon's Wife) and Supped there. N.B. Sir Forbush there. Pray'd with them. N.B. Exceeding Slippery riding—rode in much Danger, but the Lord sustain'd and preserv'd me. I return'd home in safety—D.G.

24. Last Night and this Morning considerable Snow storm. Cold and blowing. P.M. Messers Benjamin Fay and Simon Tainter here to see us and how we far'd in the storm. At Eve Sir Forbush Supp'd with me.

25. Stormy and Cold. Mr. Beeton here. He brought home various pieces of Work—a shovel, in particular the wood of which Ebenezer had made. I went over to the other House (not having been there for a great While). Ebenezer (I conceive) going to Boston with my Young Horse, to Mr. Thomas Goldthwait—but to my disappointment he is not going. Sir Forbush from the North Side, where he went not without Expectation that there was a Lecture appointed. The proposal was Lieutenant Holloways—but Mr. Martyn forgot it.

⁹ The son of Deacon James Whipple.

¹⁰ Publisher of *The Boston Evening-Post*. The issue of Dec. 9, 1751, contained the following advertisement: "To be sold, a good Draught Horse. Enquire of the Printer."

¹¹ Vashti was the wife of Abner Newton.

26. I went over to t'other House again and Sent off Ebenezer with my Horse to Boston—he himself riding the Mare. A.M. It was a Snow Storm, but it was clear by that he was out of Town. My urgency arose from our being in Danger of loosing this Opportunity—and we are short of Hay. When I return'd Mr. Joslin was here—brought money.

27. Fair, which is rare, but cold—a tight Season. May God uphold us!

28. Mr. Simon Tainter brought (as he call'd it) a Small Jagg of Wood from Elijah Rice's—he and his son din'd here. Stormy. Snow—rain—p.m. came Deacon Mellen¹² of Hopkinton with a Letter from the Church in Holliston to our's to sit in Council there on January 8, next; there having arisen Difficultys among some of their members—viz. Captain Ephraim Littlefield and Mr. Daniel Mellen.

29. Ebenezer return'd from Boston last night—and brings News that Brother Samuel Parkman is ill of a Fever. Read Numb. 28 and gave some observations preach'd a.m. on Job. 33, 27. P.M. read I Cor. 11, and preach'd on number 2. Us'd sermon on this Text, which were compos'd when I was young (viz. June 1724). I therefore made great alterations and additions (in delivering altho not in Writing) proceeding to page 8. After the usual Exercise I stopp'd the Church and read the Letter from the Church in Holliston, and ask'd for a Vote, but there were but very few Hands—after repeatedly requesting that they would offer Some Reason which I might Send with our Answer, for our not complying, Justice Baker Said he believ'd there was Some Difficulty among ourselves which was the Reason—and after further Enquiry, I found it was, and with respect to Me, he himself and others being dissatisfy'd with my so suddenly dismissing the Church when I had read the Sudbury Brethren's Letter on November 24. Mr. Francis Whipple Stops to the Same Purpose. I answer'd (in Substance) that if I had given the Church Ground of Offence it was altogether undesign'd, and I was utterly insensible of it, at the Time of it: that I conceiv'd I gave Time eno'

¹² Henry Mellen.

for any Body to Speak if they had desir'd it. But that indeed Such were the Nature and Circumstances of the Affair, that I did not expect any Thing would be Said—For what I design'd in Reading those Letters and in acquainting them with what I had done about them was, to oblige the Sudbury Brethren and to gratifie the Church also hoping for their Satisfaction and Concurrence in what I had done if they approv'd of it, or otherwise, to have the Church's Sentiments and apprehensions about what was my and their Duty. So that I was So far from designing to give any Offence, that it was all done out of Respect and to avoid all manner of Ground and of Offence: That I could freely appeal to the Consciences of all that I was always Stanch for order; and tho I would vindicate the Authority of the Ministry, yet made Conscience of not invading the Privileges of the Church—and as to this present Article, it was (as I apprehended) wholly owing to a Misunderstanding of the Design I had in Staying the Church. And if the Time which I gave for any Brother to Speak (if any one inclin'd to) was Short, yet I thought it as long as was at all needfull or could be desir'd in such short Days and Cold Weather (N.B. it was Sacrament Day also), when people are uneasy to get home—So that I had no imagination that any one was disquieted. But if they any of them were then uneasy, it would have been much more proper to have manifested it before now; either at the Time of it, or at least to have come to See me and Speak to me of it (as Several had done, and I had satisfy'd them) than to let it alone all this Time; and now make it Such an Obstruction to our Duty. I Said I hop'd they were not fond of Divisions, and of having Councils to come here too for we ought to learn by the Evils which others suffer'd ourselves to beware. These Things were Said at divers Times, in replying to Brother Baker and others—but to him chiefly—little else being offer'd but what was by him—And I added, that if the Space which was given (however I apprehended it) between reading the Letters etc. and my dismissing the Church, was verily too short, I was Sorry for it, and I ask'd their Pardon. But Justice Baker said that did not satisfie him; but he would take a Time to come and

see me; which (that we might make Short) was propos'd to others also to do, and to do it in this ensuing Week—that So this Hindrance being remov'd we might next Lords Day Act upon the Holliston Letter.

This Obstruction was a Trouble to me; but that the Brethren should be so much disquieted as this came to, and yet keep it from me so long, till I am far less Capable of making Defence, did not a little Disturb me.

30. Very Cold Season. I went over to t'other House, and receiv'd Ebenezers Account of his late Journey, in which he sold my Horse for 90£ old Tenor. It Storm'd and Snow'd hard. Zachary Hicks¹³ was here from Sutton and lodg'd here. Ebenezer assisted by Mr. Barns¹⁴ kill'd our Chamberlin Cow.

31. The cold grows very intense. Zachary Hicks to Cambridge. The Frost is exceeding perceptible. The Year finishes with Weather Some of the most tedious and extreme. We hereby perceive how great and powerful God is! Surely with Him is terrible Majesty!

JANUARY, 1752

Through the amazing Patience and Longsuffering of God, I am permitted to begin another New Year. Blessed be His glorious Name! May God be pleased to continue his great Mercy and Goodness, choose out our Changes for us, and prepare both me and mine for all His holy Will! This last Night and this Morning were intense Cold. I think I scarce ever was more sensible of the frostiness of the Air at any Time whatsoever. The Lord extend his pity to the poor, and whoever are in Distress at this so uncommon season! Ebenezer came over with a side of Beef, being part of our Chamberlin Cow. Mr. Whitney¹ was here and said something of the Difficulty last Lords Day, showing himself to be one of those who was in some measure dissatisfyed about the Sudbury affair; but after hearing what I had to say, he was so easy as to say no more about it.

¹³ Zachariah was the son of John Hicks of Sutton. Benedict and Tracy, *Sutton*, p. 660.

¹⁴ Richard Barns of Westborough.

¹ Nathaniel Whitney, a selectman of Westborough.

2. At Deacon Newton's² a.m. The Deacon did not begin with me, but I with him about the uneasiness in the Church about the Sudbury affair; and being the private Meeting was to be at his House this Afternoon I would have him tell the Brethren when they are there—that I was perswaded they mistook my Design that Sabbath, but however, since I now know their minds, and that their inclination was to have had opportunity to pass a vote—if it were to do again, I would not do as I did. Least the Deacon should mistake my meaning I sent Billy with a note—at Eve came the Deacon, as if I had unraveled by my paper what I had spoke by word of mouth. With him came Captain Baker, Lieutenant Tainter, Lieutenant Bruce, Mr. Francis Whipple, Mr. Daniel Hardy, and after them Lieutenant Bruce³ and Mr. Batheric.⁴ By what they said I was so convinced of my omitting to deliver some things concerning my Conference with Captain Richardson etc. that I believed my Conduct at that Time when I dismissed the Church appeared exceptional and as if I bore upon their privilege. I told 'em it must needs be thro such omissions that I was sorry—they all listened satisfied but I had a night of oppressing Thought, and sinking Faintness at my Heart, which was very distressing. Mr. Isaac Harrington here to tell me my piggs were at Mr. Thomas Axtell's.

3. It was still exceeding Cold. Messers. Harrington, Jonathan Forbush and Eleazer Whitney brought each of them a Load of wood, as they went to the meadows for Hay. Judge Ward⁵ dined here and Zachary Hicks who lodged at t'other House was here also.

4. Cold. Ebenezer to Mr. Thomas Axtell's with a Whirry and brought home my piggs which had been so long lost; he having shut them up and fed them as his own.

5. Read Numb. 29. Preached on Job 33, 27. P.M. Read 1 Cor. 3 and preached on 1 Cor. 2, 2. Church stayed on the Holliston letter. I spoke somewhat for their Satisfaction and

² Josiah Newton.

³ Abijah Bruce.

⁴ David Batherick.

⁵ Justice Nahum Ward of the Worcester County Court of Common Pleas.

they voted smoothly. Had a night of Deep Concern about my Spirit and Eternal Condition.

6. A variety of Interruptions. Sent Billy to Ebenezer that he may improve the sledding. Mr. Beeton here and very helpfull. At Eve Batherick and Bumpso.

7. A.M. at the other House—Mr. Daniel Bond of Watertown with Ebenezer. Ebenezer has Mr. Barns's Cattle and Sled and sleds Loggs to the saw-mill. P.M. Parish met and one article, but at no motion of mine, is my wood for the year Currant passes in the Negative. Messers. Samuel and Daniel Hardy a Load of wood [illegible]. Lieutenant Tainter dined here; and was very helpful to get me an Horse for my Journey to Holliston. Had his Mare which he had delivered to Justice Baker for him; and he provided him another. I rode to Hopkinton and lodged at Mr. Barrett's.⁶

8. Captain Baker and Lieutenant Tainter called me at Mr. Barrett's and we rode to Captain Littlefield's in Holliston. All the Churches met there; and p.m. we formed into a Council and went into the Hearing of the Partys. Mr. Buckman⁷ was chosen Clerk—We were up till past midnight. The first Church in Medway and Framingham.

9. In the Council, we still go on in hearing the partys till Evening, but adjourned at noon to Mr. Mellen's where we dined and spent the afternoon, and began our Debates and Votes of Council there in the Evening. I was very faint and worn.

10. We proceeded in our Debating, but we understood that by means of some unseasonable Discovery of the votes of the Council last night, Deacon Mellen was much dissatisfyed, and at Eve he came into the Council and indecently vented his Disgust and was sharply rebuked for it. My spirits were roused with this, but in general I was much worried and waited. Mr. Bucknam and I lodged together at Captain Littlefield's throughout the time of the Council.

11. The Council has been very unanimous. Finish our Result and publish it before Dinner. The Church and the other partys

⁶ Samuel Barrett.

⁷ Nathan Buckman of East Medway (Millis).

retire while we dined. Return and manifest their Gratitude and acceptance. Except Mr. Mellen who desires a little Time to think of the first articles. We return home—calling at Mr. Barrett's a short space where I was informed that as to the Fast at Lieutenant John Woods (to which I was desired to come and assist) Yesterday, Mr. Stone⁸ of Southborough preached, and they had but one Exercise.

12. Read Numb. 30, and 1 Cor. 4. Preached on John 12, 35. Acquainted the Church in the face of the Congregation that I was not prepared to lay before 'em what the Council at Holliston had done, but I hoped I should be enabled by another Lords Day—for I had not an whole copy of the Result, but expect one from Mr. Bridge⁹ of Framingham.

13. A very Cold, Windy Day—feel very poorly—faint and weak. An ill Night.

14. My daughters Molly and Lucy were last Wednesday at Mr. Martyns, and heard their Disgust at my not having been to see 'em for so long time. They pitched upon to Day for us to go, and they would stay at home for us—but tho it was a most agreeable Day and fine slaying, yet I was so very ill that I could by no means go. Mrs. Parkman and Molly went. I grew so ill, so faint, feverish etc. that I sent for Dr. Chase¹⁰, who came. N.B. The Vagrant Baker dined here: and I gave him some friendly admonition, he seemed to thank me and to take it kindly. Mr. Thomas Axtell of Grafton here about his keeping of my piggs. He leaves it to Mr. Phineas Hardy to judge between us.

15. I had a Night of Sleep, and yet had a Morning and Forenoon of Sinking Faintness and Illness. Sir Forbush from Waltham dined with me, and I dined somewhat agreeably. P.M. a little better, yet am exceeding low. At Eve marry'd Ebenezer Miller,¹¹ but thro much Difficulty.

16. Another Comfortable Night (thro Divine Mercy) yet very faint Morning. I perceive I go down Hill apace. Tho Dr. Chase

⁸ Nathan Stone.

⁹ Matthew Bridge.

¹⁰ Thomas Chase, Westborough's young physician.

¹¹ Ebenezer Miller of Upton married Hannah How.

is very faithful and very generous, yet he is young and I am not content without further advice. Sent for Neighbour Pratt, that he might go to Dr. Scammell;¹² he came but could not go for the Doctor. He went to Deacon Newton and he consented and went. He returned at Evening without him, but brot a portion of Rhubarb corrected with oyl of Cinnamon. Memorandum. I consumed Number 1.2.3.4.5.6. of Journals from February 19, 1719 thro to April 1723 containing numberless puerilities and better destroyed than preserved.¹³ As Mr. Jonah Warrin brot a Load of Wood on the seventh at Evening and on the eleventh Day Mr. Sam Harrington another, this Day Mr. Samuel Hardy and James Miller junior brot each of them a load as they went to the meadows for hay. At Eve Dr. Chase here and advises to take the Rhubarb *ut Supr.* N.B. Sir Forbush receiv'd a call from Brookfield and is here at Eve.

17. Was not quite so faint. Took the Rhubarb, it worked once. Dr. Chase here, Mr. Isaac Harrington. Billy to Horns mill. At eve Captain Eager. A more comfortable Day in general (thro Divine Goodness.)

18. Exceeding low and faint at first waking which was long before Day and continued so till I got up, and some time in the morning about 11 a.m. came Dr. Scammell. He says I have no Hectick, advises to Bitters and nutritious Diet, but forbids all Volatiles. I sent for Dr. Chase but he was gone out of town. Dr. Scammel to Colonel Nahum Wards and returned p.m. Captain Maynard¹⁴ visited me. Mr. Jacob Cushing¹⁵ came to assist me tomorrow and lodged here. In general I was better thro the Day than I expected. D.G.

19. A bright Day, but too Cold and searching for me to go abroad. Mr. Jacob Cushing preached for me, a. and p.m. on Job 22, 24. He read Numb. 31 and 1 Cor. 5. I was in some Com-

¹² Samuel Scannell, the physician of Milford.

¹³ It is regrettable that Parkman destroyed these early years of the diary, kept while he was at Harvard College and before he accepted the call to Westborough.

¹⁴ Parkman's old friend, Captain John Maynard.

¹⁵ Jacob (Harvard 1748), the son of the Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury, became the minister of Waltham in 1752. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, p. 254.

fort—yet weak and feeble. Mr. Cushing went to the other House with my Children to lodge there.

20. Somewhat stormy in some parts of the Day; yet such the goodness of Brother Stone that he came to see me in my lowly, feeble state. Dined here, he also prayed with me. At Eve Captain Eager¹⁶ and afterwards Justice Baker¹⁷, Mr. Hastings¹⁸ of Watertown and his wife and others to see me. Was very feverish, weak and faint. N.B. Justice Baker prayed with me—the Lord accept the offering!

21. Thro God's great Mercy I had a considerable comfortable Day. Mr. Bridges of Framingham here. P.M. my wife and I rode out to Deacon Newtons and to the Widow Newtons. Felt so comfortable that I greatly rejoiced. The Glory to God. May I obtain the Grace suitably to improve it!

22. Mr. Francis Whipple a large load of wood. N.B. Mr. Williams here. P.M. Mr. John Martyn junior and his sister, my son Ebenezer and Daughters Molly and Lucy here. I rode out again as far as Mr. Clafflands. N.B. Lieutenant Tainter carry'd to Boston a Calf for me which he killed the Eve before last. Was not in general so well as yesterday. May I wait the Will of God! N.B. Dr. Smith¹⁹ and Granny Forbush²⁰ here.

23. Cold Snowy Day. Mr. Martyn, Mr. Cushing and his wife visited me and dined with us. Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin brot a Load of Wood. Mr. Pratt very kind. Mr. Cushing prayed with me. I had had but a poor night and forenoon, but was better p.m. and Eve. D.G.

24. A stormy Day—snowing all Day. Thro the divine Goodness I enjoyed much comfort. O for grace to improve my Strength to divine Glory! for I find myself extremely prone to wax cool again tho I have been deeply Concerned and very fervent. At Eve Lieutenant Tainter from Boston where he had marketed a poor calf for me—brot me Madera for Bitters.

¹⁶ James Eager of the north precinct.

¹⁷ Edward Baker of Westborough was a justice of the peace.

¹⁸ Joseph Hastings, a selectman.

¹⁹ Joshua Smith, the physician of Shrewsbury.

²⁰ The widow of Deacon Thomas Newton.

25. Had another good Day (thro the great Mercy of God!) P.M. Mr. David Maynard²¹ brought Dr. Samuel Gardner²² (the School-Master) to board here.

26. Mr. Jacob Cushing going yesterday to Southborough that to Day he might preach for Mr. Stone. Mr. Stone was so kind as to come up this morning and preached all Day for me, two seasonable sermons on Isa. 27, 9, and I had the Liberty to the House of the Lord again for which I would praise his Name with rejoicing. Mr. Stone read a.m. Numb. 3. I read p.m. I Cor. 6. N.B. Judge Ward was at Meeting here. He and widow Child²³ (besides the above mentioned) dined with us, who (with my own Family, all of them together) make a considerable Company. Mr. Stone returned to Southborough this Evening—the Lord graciously reward him for his Labor of Love and bless his endeavors among us! especially to me who am now immediately concerned in it.

27. The School begins at Mr. Hezekiah Pratt's, and Billy and Sarah attend it. Mr. James Miller junior brings a Load of Wood.

28. Brother Hicks and his son John here. They are going down to Cambridge to old Mr. Hicks's²⁴ Funeral. Mr. Whitney here with 10 chairs which he has bottomed for me, Two arm chairs and 8 others. Mr. Eliezer Rice here, he desires to discourse with me and asks Mr. Whitney to go along with us. He asks a Church Meeting again and I immediately grant it. I say all I can safely to him for reconciliation. He says there is nobody that takes any care of his Soul, (referring, I suppose, to his absenting himself from meeting without anybody minding it, for which reasons might be given). N. B. He asked whether we should not strive to forget as well as forgive—when there had been nothing ripened so far as forgiveness. I asked him whether he was sorry for his passed Conduct and would endeavour after true affectionate regard to me hence forward? but he made me

²¹ Parkman's old friend, one of the original settlers of Westborough.

²² (Harvard 1746). Gardner, the son of the Reverend John Gardner of Stow, kept school at various places before settling as a physician in Milton. *Sibley*, XII, 27.

²³ Mrs. Jonas Child of Westborough.

²⁴ Zechariah Hicks, a carpenter of Cambridge, died Jan. 27, 1752, aged 94. He was the father of John Hicks of Sutton. Paige, *Cambridge*, p. 580.

no answer to it. He goes away temperately. My Daughter Molly came and lodged here in order to my riding abroad with her Mother to Marlborough if I be able—but the weather proves too rough and Cold.

29. This Day 16 year Was a most gloomy time when I lost my former wife. I would remember the wormwood and the gall, and my soul has reasons to be humbled within me. But how gracious God has been in preserving and sparing me so long! May God grant me His Grace to enable me to improve his long suffering! Mr. Smith²⁵ came from Marlborough to see me, and brings a young lady with him, one Mrs. Lydia Coit of Boston. Their coming prevented our going abroad to Day also. They dined here and tarryed till nigh night when it snowed and the storm increased. At Eve Mr. Williams and Mr. Batherick here. N.B. the errand which the latter acquaints me with from Daniel Bond of Watertown concerning Mrs. Elizabeth Harrington. Ebenezer here likewise. N.B. Messers. Daniel and Jonathan Forbush, Martin Pratt, and Elijah Rice, brought each of them a load of wood, and Mr. Edward Whipple ditto.

30. Messers. Charles Bruce and Eleazer Whitney, each a Load of Wood. Mr. Edward Whipple came with his mare, and putting her into my slay drove my wife and me to his House, and we dined there. I read Dr. Souths sermon on January 30, there. Mr. Walker has made me a pair of Boots. We went to Mr. Eliezer Rice's, he was not at home, but I discoursed with his wife, she having lately lost her mother by sudden Death. Ebenezer drove our slay home.

31. Cold Weather, yet thro God's Goodness I am very comfortable and able to read and write again. Dr. Gardner goes to Marlboro after school and I sent a mesage by him to Mr. Jacob Felton; and a letter from Mr. Josiah Swan²⁶ at Lancaster about Eusebius which I bought of his mother in his name some years ago. Thus I finish the first month of this year, in which I have

²⁵ The Reverend Aaron Smith. The matter concerned the future marriage of Elizabeth and Ebenezer, Jr.

²⁶ Swan (Harvard 1733) had been the minister of Dunstable, 1738-1746. He was now keeping school in Lancaster. *Sibley*, IX, 331-332.

gone through both deep affliction and memorable mercy. May God afford his Grace that I may walk in newness of life.

FEBRUARY, 1752

1. Mr. Eliezer Rice was here and brought me a written request for a Church Meeting. Brother Hicks lodged at t'other house last night, here today.

2. Read Numb. 38 and preached on Job 33. 27, last clause. P.M. read 1 Cor. 7. to number 24 omitting the rest. Stopped the Church and read the Holliston result and Neighbour Eliezer Rice's request for Church Meeting. At Eve was very much worried and tired, but I bless God He has enabled me thus far, May His Grace be perfected!

3. Rain. I attended the Church Meeting at which Mr. Eliezer Rice gave a paper containing his opinion about Original Sin. I made some reply to it which the Church was desired to show their minds whether he should enjoy the priviledge of baptism for his child. No hand was lifted up.¹ N.B. Dr. Gardner returned from Marlboro last Eve to t'other house.

4. Cold and blustering weather. The season is still severe. Read second volume of Secret History of Europe. Mr. Grow here and brought me £12, 12 shillings, Old Tenor. Never were the times more difficult with me than now respecting money when I owe so many and have so little to pay 'em with. This troubles me chiefly that I should be so unrighteous especially when not only a professor but a preacher of Righteousness. Lord deliver me out of this snare!

5. Dr. Gardner would find Horse while I find slay to ride to Mr. Martyn's. His horse proves too untractable. We put in my Mare. It is cloudy and cool and nigh Eve but we got over comfortably and lodged there. N.B. Mr. Martyn has bought Ridgely etc.²

¹ There was some debate over Rice's petition and Parkman opposed it. Westborough Church Records, Feb. 3, 1752.

² Thomas Ridgely, D.D. (c. 1667-1734), a nonconformist English divine, was the author of several works, none of which was published in America. The work mentioned here may have been *A Body of Divinity: wherein the Doctrines of the Christian Religion are Explained and Defended*, 2 vols. (London, 1731, 1733).

6. We feared a Storm but have a very fine Morn. Return home. N.B. Sir Forbes³ has received a call from the town of Waltham and he is come up. Captain Baker was here in the morning to acquaint me that the private meeting is appointed to be at his house today and yet that he must unavoidable be at Worcester—therefore requests me to be in his stead. I accepted and preached there—Jer. 6. 16 from page 13 on. Lieutenant Tainter came home with me. The sorrowful news of Mr. Peabody's⁴ Death which was confirmed,

7. next morning; and t'is said that he is to be buried this Day. Help Lord! May this Death be sanctified to Thee in particular that since I live I may live unto the Lord. Mr. John Witt of Brookfield lodged at my other house last night and is here and meets Sir Forbes today here.

8. Mr. Ebenezer Harrington⁵ of Framingham and his wife here.

9. Read Numb. 34. Preached on Rom. 14.8. P.M. read 1 Cor. 8. Preached on 1 Cor. 1. 30, using mostly the first sermon on 2 Cor. 12. 2. N.B. Daniel Hastings dined here and went at Eve to the other house.

10. My Wife this Day 35 years old. I went over to the other house. Daniel Hastings there. He assisted Ebenezer in killing two swine, one nigh fourteen the other near thirteen score. P.M. Carried Molly over to take her mother's place whilst my Wife and I rode in the slay to Grafton. Mr. Hutchinson⁶ just gone to Sutton. Tarried with Mrs. Hutchinson til nigh night. In returning at Eve it was cold. Called at Mr. Winchesters⁷ and at Mr. Benjamin Fay's⁸ and the presents made us did well reward us for our trouble.

11. My Wife and I rode to Marlboro and carried the child, Mr. William Winter and his Wife and his Wife's Sister at Colonel

³ Forbes did not accept this call but later in the year was ordained at North Brookfield.

⁴ The Reverend Oliver Peabody of Natick.

⁵ A Framingham selectman.

⁶ Aaron Hutchinson of Grafton.

⁷ Benjamin Winchester of Westborough.

⁸ The son of the late Captain John Fay of Westborough.

Williams⁹—the ladys are fleeing to Worcester from the smallpox which is now in Three familys in Boston. I went to Mr. Jacob Felton's. My wife and I dined at Colonel Williams. Visited Mr. Smith and Dr. Samuel Brigham¹⁰ who has marryed our Neece Mrs. Nanny Gott.¹¹ Mr. Smith and Mr. Stone came to us at the Doctor's in the Eve. We lodged there.

12. Cold Day. We dined at Esquire Brigham's, the Doctor and his wife and his Brother Uriah and his wife being there also. P.M. In returning home called at Mr. Jacob Amsdens—found our habitation in peace. To God the Glory!

13. Read Sydenham on smallpox.¹²

14. [No entry.]

15. The School finishes at Mr. Pratts. Masters David Maynard junior and Jacob Rice here P.M. to pay Dr. Gardner.

16. Mr. Martyn¹³ and I had agreed to change if it was not foul weather or very cold, but it proved so very sharp a morning and was so very slippery that I despaired of his coming out; and therefore although I depended much upon changing I did not venture to go, but turned my mare home that my children might come in the slay to Meeting. However in case Mr. Martyn should be o'mind to come I remember 1.) We had agreed that if it looked doubtful whether the other would set out, yet he that was so disposed should stir early and give the other sufficient time. 2.) I know I could take his horse and ride as far as my other house and there take one of my own. (And thirdly) I put myself into all the preparation I well could by reading over my Notes which I designed to deliver to his people, skirting, etc. but we were all of us sure, by what he has said in times past, that it was too slippery for him to ride. Yet at more than half after

⁹ Abraham Williams, the prominent office-holder of Marlborough, was Parkman's brother-in-law. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 470.

¹⁰ The son of the prominent Marlborough citizen, Samuel Brigham, Sr.

¹¹ Anna, the daughter of Dr. Benjamin Gott of Marlborough, married Brigham, Jan. 9, 1752. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 373.

¹² Thomas Sydenham, the English physician, was the author of numerous medical works in Latin and in English. The reference here may have been to Walter Lynn, *An Essay towards a . . . Cure in the Small Pox . . . and a Review of Dr. Sydenham's Works* (London, 1714).

¹³ John Martyn of Northborough.

nine o'clock, Mr. Martyn came—and understanding that I was not dressed, nor did expect to go, he was so moved that if I had not used, not only entreatys but force, he would have gone back. I took his horse as I had purposed and rode to my other house, where I left him and took Ebenezer's mare and proceeded to the north side. Got to Meeting in good Season and broke off in season likewise. A.M. read the chapter of my text, viz. Jer. 31.18.19. 20 which I preached on both parts of the Day. P.M. read 1 Cor. 4. Baptized Eli son of Thomas and Persis Goodenow. I tarried not a great while after Meeting before I returned to my other house, for I was much afraid of the evening cold. Mr. Martyn and Dr. Gardner came to me there; and after some refreshment we parted—but it proved a very sorrowful day to me to see Mr. Martyn so extremely raised for I did not in the least refuse to go; nor was it so late but that I got there in proper season and although he found me at home, yet there was much reason for it, it was also the first time that he had ever come to me thus; whereas I have time after time been at his house before he was in any readiness at all, yet I showed no resentment. No, not when he was lingered and delayed so long that he has made it altogether too late, quite!!, when he began the Divine Service for me. But I fear what this will prove the beginning of! *Deus avertat omen!*

17. Stormy morning. Dr. Gardner lodged over at t'other house—gone p.m. with Molly and Lucy to Mr. Stone's¹⁴ of Southboro. I rode to Mr. Pierce's to see two children sick of the throat distemper.

18. Sent letters to my Brethren at Boston and an advertisement to put my other house and place upon sale. Mr. Pierce's youngest child which I saw last evening is dead; another very bad and two more are taken sick. Dr. Gardner left us and went to Marlboro. Mr. Grow brought £8.10.0 Old Tenor. The weather foul; Snow, Rain, Snow, etc.

19. The weather is become very Fine, but it setts the snow aflowing. Mr. Martyn and his wife came to see us—dined here;

¹⁴ The Reverend Nathan Stone.

Mrs. Nabby Baker made Mrs. Martyn a gown here. P.M. I went to the funeral of Mr. William Pierce's child. Sir Forbush here, being come from Waltham and goes today upon his journey to Brookfield. N.B. I sent £10 Old Tenor to Jeduthun Baldwin per Mr. Samuel Harrington. Mr. Martyn and his Wife returned home at Evening.

20. Mr. Haven and his sister Patty lodged at t'other house, and came here a.m. as did Captain Waters¹⁵ of Sutton and his wife, Dr. Chase and his wife and Mrs. Newton. These last all went away before dinner. Mr. Haven and his sister dined here. N.B. His answer to the South Church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.¹⁶ The Waters flow exceedingly. N.B. Molly brought Breck here, who has canker in his mouth, yet plays about in the house and abroad. N.B. An odd kind of note—Mr. Grows from Mr. Thaddeus Gale for money which I do not owe.

21. Bright and moderately Warm but very windy. Low grounds, especially hollows exceedingly filled with waters, the snow disappears apace.

22. Mr. William Pierce's little son Aaron buried but by reason of the storminess of the weather I could not go to it. This child also died of the throat distemper.

23. Read Numb. 35. Preached A.M. on Thom. 14. 8. P.M. read 1 Cor. 9, and took some notice of the providence of God which has ordered these two Chapters to be read the same day. Preached on Rom 6.21. We took into the Church Messers. Jonathan Bond and Eleazer Whitney, Mary Bond, Margaret Chaddock, and Lydia Twitchell.¹⁷

24. Billy to Mr. Allen's Mill and to Mr. Woods' fulling Mill with a pair of blanketts to be fulled. Came home so late P.M. that I could not go to Mr. Pierce's to see his son William who is sick. In the morning I went to Mr. Ebenezer Rice's and talked

¹⁵ Jonathan Waters.

¹⁶ Samuel Haven (Harvard 1749) became the minister of the South Church of Portsmouth, N. H., 1752-1806. *Sibley*, XII, 382-392.

¹⁷ These new members had been dismissed from other towns as follows: Jonathan Bond and Lydia Twitchell from Watertown; Eleazer Whitney from Waltham; Margaret Chaddock from Hopkinton; Mary Bond (wife of Jonathan) from Mendon. Westborough Church Records, Feb. 23, 1752.

with his wife about her drinking which she denies herself guilty of.¹⁸

25. The weather grows very springlike. I went to Mr. Pierce's. William is so bad t'is doubtful whether he will live or no. Mr. Edward Willson here. Wrote to Mr. Prince¹⁹ of Boston per Mr. Hall²⁰ of Sutton.

26. Although I sent to Mr. Hutchinson to come and help me in my lecture today, yet I was obliged to preach it myself. Text—1 Cor. 1—Used the notes on 2 Cor. 12.2 with a new plan and many alterations and additions. And oh that the Blessings of God may accompany the serious things that were spoken for the highest good of all! That we may both be in Christ and have the great Happiness and Comfort of well grounded Evidence that we are so! N.B. Samuel Bumpso and an hand with him, viz. Elijah Hardy clearing behind the Meeting House. A.M. they dined here. And Sam took a small turn at the same work after lecture.

27. Samuel Bumpso and with him Charles and Abner Rice and Constantine Hardy came and cleared the bushy land behind the Meeting House. My sons Ebenezer and Thomas also came and helped. N.B. Sam and Constantine dined here. P.M. Mrs. Nabby Baker²¹ here and my wife took opportunity to take discourse with her about some reports with regard to my son Ebenezer courting her.

28. Sam, Charles and Abner cleared again. Sam dines here. The others go home. Mr. Hall of Sutton here, bought Two Cloth for Thomas of him. Ebenezer was here at eve.

29. Sam Bumpso brought a parcel of Apples here from Mr. Jonathan Fay's and from Mr. Grout and dined with us but did not work. Mr. Winchester comes from Boston here. Smallpox

¹⁸ Anna, the daughter of Charles Rice of Westborough married Ebenezer Rice of Southborough, March 23, 1743. This couple made their home in Westborough but were evidently not admitted to the church.

¹⁹ Thomas Prince of the Old South Church.

²⁰ Parson David Hall.

²¹ Abigail, the daughter of Squire Edward Baker, later married John Martyn, Jr., of Northborough.

doth not spread as t'was reported. May the Lord Pitty his People! Thus has the Lord carried us through the tedious Winter and the changes of it. Blessed be His Name for all his Goodness to Us!

MARCH, 1752

We begin not only with a Sabbath but a Sacrament day. I read the last chaper of Numbers. Preached on John 1, 41, A. and P.M. It was a rainy day and but few women at communion. P.M. read 1 Cor. 10. Oh that God would please to bless these happy seasons to all our Souls—to my own in particular! Deacon Forbush¹ and Mr. Thomas Kendal² dined with us. Deacon Burnap³ of Hopkinton with us, Mr. Barrett⁴ not well.

2. Town Meeting. I was at Captain Maynard's A.M. but returned seasonably to pray with the freeholders at their assembly. Captain Forbush and Mr. Grout were their messengers. A great deal of company at my house all P.M. and Eve—among the rest Mr. Joshua Townsend⁵—who was extremely full of Talk, and unmannerly with his Hatt, which since he us'd to be our School-master I took the more Notice of and as decently as I could, hinted to him. N.B. Reckon'd with Messers. How and Daniel Garfield, who bought a steer of me last fall. Mr. Grow here and paid me so much in Money and Notes as amounted to above 68£ Old Tenor. Sam Bumpso with Jonathan Grout and Abner Rice clear'd part of a.m.

3. Rainy. Mr. Forbush here from Brookfield.

4. I rode to Mr. Stones; I went by the way of Deacon Matthias Rice's,⁶ who is confin'd by Illness; is doubtless delirious but Shews great Distress of Mind. I pray'd with him. It rain'd yet I proceeded to Southborough, din'd at Mr. Stones. Preach'd his Lecture on Rom. 14, 8. I return'd (in the Rain) at Eve. Call'd at Mr. Amsdens. N.B. Exceeding hollow and miry Roads.

¹ Jonathan Forbush.

² Thomas Kendall of Suffield, Conn., had married Susanna Tainter of Westborough.

³ Jonathan Burnap.

⁴ Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

⁵ See Parkman Diary, Dec. 12, 1726.

⁶ Of Marlborough.

5. Am Reading old Mr. Niles of Braintree against Mr. Briant.⁷
6. The Adjournment of Town-meeting brought much Company and Interruptions Particularly Mr. Kelly⁸ of Hopkinton (of the Church of England) here. Mr. Bezaleel Eager brought Me (from Mr. Davis⁹ of Holden) Mr. John Taylor of Original Sin¹⁰ At Eve came Mr. Grout, Lieutenant Tainter and Mr. Samuel Harrington, who propose to assist me in getting Timber for a Barn, also to help me in breaking up Land for an Orchard.
7. [No entry.]
8. Read Deut. 1, and 1 Cor. 11. Text a.m. Rom. 6, 21. P.M. Rev. 2, 2—hope there were Some good Impressions: but all is with God.
9. Went in the Morning to t'other House. Thence to Mr. Francis Whipples to See him under his broken Bones—but they were newly sett, and he was asleep, I refus'd to have him 'waked. I was at Mr. James Maynards but he was not at home. P.M. Pray'd at the Precinct Meeting. Private Baptism was desir'd for an infant Child of Mr. Solomon Woods—I took the opportunity of the people's being together to go into their Meeting and consulted (such of the Church as were there) upon it. There appeared an hearty Concurrence. I propose tomorrow, 11 a.m. to do it. N.B. Captain Maynard here and talks with me about buying my old place.
10. A.M. very cold. Catechiz'd at the Meeting House. 27 Males: 15 Girls. Rode to Mr. Woods after Catechizing and din'd there, the Child very dangerously ill. P.M. in Presence of a number of the Church and others I Baptiz'd it—the Name was Patience. I introduc'd the administration with Some short Exercise on the Work and Duty of a Parent on such Occasion—and after the Exercise we sung part of the 143 Ps. Concluded with the Blessing. Artemas Ward Esquire¹¹ there and came home

⁷ Samuel Niles, *A Vindication of Divers Important Gospel-Doctrines . . . against the Injurious Reflections and Misrepresentations . . . of the Rev. Lemuel Briant's* (Boston, 1752).

⁸ Richard Kelley.

⁹ Joseph Davis.

¹⁰ *The Scripture Doctrine of Original Sin Proposed to Free and Candid Examination* (London, 1740). There were subsequent English editions.

¹¹ The future major general and commander-in-chief.

with me. It Snow'd very Hard and the Ground soon cover'd. Wrote by Esquire Wards Brother Thomas Trowbridge¹² of Groton, to John Stevens Esquire of Townsend about the Plott of Lott Land.

11. Mr. Forbush from Waltham, here; and wants immediate advice about Brookfield.

12. In the Morning having thought of Mr. Forbush's Case with regard to Brookfield Proposals, I rode over to Mr. Martyns whither he was gone to meet a Brookfield Messenger, Mr. Cutter; and I din'd there. Mr. Forbush prepar'd his answer, which had some Conditions inserted respecting Wood and Sallery—and he sent it by Mr. Cutter. P.M. I rode to Marlborough accompany'd by Forbush who is returning to Waltham. I pay'd Mr. Felton 22£ 5, shillings old Tenor and obtain'd of Mr. Ephraim How to pay him the rest, as he Should want it. I return'd home by Deacon Matthias Rice's who is grown much better.

13. Mr. Thomas Axtell here, and with him Mr. Aaron Hardy. Mr. Axtell here many Hours—he din'd here—with much Ado we came to an agreement. I engag'd him 4 Bushels of Indian Corn for what he had given my Piggs. At Eve I rode to See Mr. Moses Warrins Wife in her low Condition and apprehended to be dying—but she reviv'd. N.B. had Widow Newtons Mare. Lieutenant Tainter from Boston, when I got home.

14. Impossible for me to prepare Two Sermons this Week, have so many Impediments and Interruptions. My mind much exercis'd with it.

15. Deut. 2. Read a.m. and preach'd on Rom. 6, 21. P.M. read 1 Cor. 12. Preach'd on the Death of Louisa Queen of Denmark, King George's Youngest Daughter and improv'd Sermon on Ps. 39, 8. N.B. Widow Child din'd here.

16. The Reverend Mr. Wellman¹³ and Mr. Amos Case din'd here. Sent by Mr. Wellman to Mr. Prince at Boston, and by Mr. Case to Mr. wilkins¹⁴ of Souhegan.

¹² Artemas Ward married Sarah, the daughter of the Reverend Caleb Trowbridge of Groton, July 31, 1750.

¹³ James Wellman of Millbury.

¹⁴ Daniel Greenwood, of the north parish of Sutton.

17. Sorm of Rain and Wind.

18. Storm continues—increases—a considerable Snow—and very Cold.

19. Forbush from Waltham again, and wants further Advice. P.M. I preach'd to Young People from Mat. 18, number 19, 20. At Eve Mr. Abijah Gale here.

20. Sent to Boston by Mr. Jonas Bond of Sutton; and bought 7 Yards Tow Cloth of him. P.M. Mr. Noah How and his wife here to be examin'd—but I am oblig'd in Conscience to put them by and request them Still to take further Pains. We hear that the Small Pox greatly Spreads in Boston.

21. Snow'd a.m. Rain'd p.m. but at 3 p.m. rode to North Sutton. N.B. Ebenezer and William went to Mr. Daniel Matthews with our Barley to be Malted. N.B. Mr. Greenwood of Sutton rode with me at Evening to Mr. Wellman's.

22. I preach'd there on Rom. 8, 7. Mr. Minott¹⁵ Schoolmaster din'd with me. At Eve I rode up to See my Kinswoman Mrs. Fuller¹⁶ who through God's Goodness is yet alive and was able to be at Meeting p.m. There came Mr. Holman and Mr. Fish—they follow'd me with Questions for the Explanation of the Sacred Scriptures till 10 o'clock. I lodg'd at Cousen Trasks,¹⁷ and Master Minott with me. N.B. No Proclamations till to Day. I baptiz'd a Child of William Wait. N.B. Mr. Wellman preach'd at Westborough on Gen. 19, 14, and Ps. 19, 11.

23. My Kindred full of kind Endearments. But we must part. My Kinsman Trask rode with me to Grafton. I proceeded to Mr. Hutchinsons where was Mr. Wellman and we din'd together. In returning home I made a Visit at Mr. Moses Warrins, whose wife is low and weak yet, but is somewhat better. When I came home understood that Captain Witt and Mr. Barns of Brookfield had been here to see Mr. Forbush but he was not here. They seem determin'd to have him at Brookfield. N.B. Mr. Wellman tells me that Cousen Nat Parkmans Wife at Boston has the small pox.

¹⁵ Timothy Minot, a Concord schoolmaster and occasional preacher.

¹⁶ Mrs. Jonathan Fuller.

¹⁷ Samuel Trask was an adopted son of Jonathan Fuller of Sutton. Benedict and Tracy, *Sutton*, p. 735.

24. My Wife went to t'other House and return'd at Eve. Captain Witt etc. here again but it still happens to be when I am absent. Mr. Forbush comes to me still to advise with me in the weighty Case before him: For Brookfield do not accept his Conditions, but do make further proposals to him, which are such as make the Matter no better than it was before.

25. Dr. Samuel Gardner to see us (having lodg'd at t'other House) and din'd here. We hear the Small Pox So spreads that they begin to inoculate in Boston. May God in infinite Mercy Shew his Compassion to the Distress'd Town.

26. Publick Fast on occasion both of the Small Pox and the Season. I preach'd a.m. on 2 Sam. 24, 14. In my preparations I Spent my Time upon the forenoon sermon. P.M. preach'd on Zech. 12, 10, to page 7, and made Some Additions according to the Business of the Day. A rainy Day, yet considerable many People out: I wish it might be to Some good Purpose. N.B. Not only Mr. Seth Rice went out of Meeting from the forenoon sermon, but Mr. Robert Bradish also. N.B. My Dauter Lucy has stay'd at home from Public Worship several Days—she has now an ague in her Face, and has been pritty much troubl'd with it.

27. Exceeding rainy Day.

28. Mrs. Lucy Bowker here A.M. Mr. Winchester from Boston and brings us account that now the Small Pox prevails there very much. I am dissatisfy'd with Mr. Prince's misimprovement of the Materials etc. which I Sent him about Mechoachan.¹⁸

29. Read Deut. 3 and 1 Cor. 13. Preach'd on Rom. 6, 21, last Clause, a. and p.m.

30. Prepar'd Something in reply to Benevolentius in the last Boston Gazette.¹⁹

¹⁸ Sometimes spelled mechoacanna. Any of several plants of the morning-glory family with roots used as cathartics.

¹⁹ The *Boston Gazette or Weekly Journal*, Dec. 17 and Dec. 24, 1751, contained an article entitled "The Cure of Cancers," taken from the *Gentleman's Magazine* for July, 1751. Parkman became involved in a dispute over the nature of phytolacca, poke-weed, and mechoacan. A note from Parkman appeared in the issue of Feb. 18, 1752, in which the Westborough minister asserted "That at New Haven he made a Business of discoursing with Capt. Dickerman; who told him, it was Mechoacan that he used for his Cancer in his Cheek." Another correspondent, "Benevolentius," argued that Parkman was mistaken. *Boston Gazette*, March 24, 1752. The March 31 issue of the paper did not contain Parkman's response and there are no known copies of the next 2 issues.

31. Kill'd a young Sow to Send to Boston, but sold it to Mr. John Beeton, Smith; weigh'd 152. Mr. Beeton to Boston. Sent by him to invite Mr. Stoddard to come up to us this Small Pox Time. Sent by Mr. Richard Kelly the like to Brother Samuels Children and to Dr. Parkmans Widow—to this last because: She had writ to my Dauter Molly that she had rather come here than go to Weymouth. And Sent a Letter to Mr. Kneeland, for the Press,—in Vindication of Captain Dickerman.

APRIL, 1752

1. Rode to Mr. Gashetts about a breaking up Plough, but he was not at home. In my way I call'd at Mr. Bonds—Mr. Martyn Pratts, Chaddocks, Dunlops, Charles Bruce, Bowmans, Harringtons etc. N.B. Ebenezer here when I return'd and took home his Mare. Ebenezer brot about $\frac{1}{2}$ a Load of Swamp Hay from Eliezer Rice, who he had gratify'd with part of a Barrell of Cyder.

2. Ebenezer here again to bring his Mare, and take Care of the Hay brot last Evening—Rain. I rode to Mr. Grouts—See Mr. Phinehas Hardy, Endeavour'd to obtain his son Constantine. Was at old Mr. Whipples. Mrs. Hitty Burnap was here and is gone to t'other House.

3. Mr. Claffland came to digg Stones, but being alone I ran to 3 or 4 near Neighbours for an Hand but in Vain. He was forc'd to return home again. N.B. he was to have brought Mr. William Pierce, but Mr. Pierce was gone to hewing Timber in Mr. Sherbourns Lott for my Barn. For (by Lieutenant Tainters and Mr. Harringtons Means chiefly) a Number of Hands have freely gone and got a considerable Part of the Great Timber—and this Day Lieutenant Harrington brought Two Load of it to place, and Joseph Grout brought another Load—in all 22 Sticks—which is all the Large Timber for the Barn except Two posts, which another person is to provide. A Singular Smile of divine Providence. May God reward them for their Bounty and grant me grace to make a good use of it to divine Glory! The three Carters din'd here with us. P.M. my wife to See Mr. Edwards Whipples.

4. The Weather has been very Cold; and the Nights frosty for Some time. This Morning very Cold. Mr. Winchester returns from Boston—as does Mr. Kelly who was at my Brother Samuels and deliver'd my Letter—but he brought me no Return. Mrs. Hitty Burnap is Still over at t'other House. P.M. Mr. Whitney here.

5. Read Deut. 4. Preach'd a.m. on Mal. 4, 1. P.M. read 1 Cor. 14. Preach'd on Mark 9, 44 repeating sermon on Heb. 9, 27 from page 28 to 36.

6. Mr. Claffland and Mr. Pierce came and dugg Stones out of the Ground I design to break up for an Orchard. Mr. William Rogers junior work'd with Ebenezer at holing posts. Constantine Hardy came to live a little while with us. Mr. Batherick, being disquieted that we sung Mear Tune Yesterday.

7. Mr. Pierce and Elijah Rice work for me partly in digging and drawing Stones, and partly in building Stone Wall at the Front Corner next to the Road. Mr. Harrington came with 4 Oxen, Mr. Simon Tainter came with his Fathers Team with 4 Oxen and brought Mr. Gashetts Plough, Mr. Grouts Son came with 4 Oxen, Mr. Pratt came with a Yoke of Oxen, and all these with my own join'd to them made up a Team to break up, and follow'd it all Day—they broke up a Piece of Ground for a Garden Spott—and a Field in which I purpose to plant an Orchard, but it not being wholly compleated, they agree to come again all of them (but Mr. Grouts Son) tomorrow morning and finish the Work. Mr. Pierce stays and lodges here. N.B. Mr. Joseph Hagar from Waltham here with a Letter from Captain Livermore¹ concerning Mr. Forbush. Mr. Eliezer Rice here and asks for a Copy of the Votes of the Church respecting him. Merodach Baladan Smith² was married to Abigail Bruce.³

8. The Breaking up Team came again this Morning and finish'd their Work. Mr. Ebenezer Nurse's came with his son Moses, viz. 4 Oxen, instead of Mr. Grouts. N.B. Mr. Pratt gives his man

¹ Nathaniel Livermore.

² Merodackbaladin was the son of Jonathan Smith of Marlborough. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 446.

³ The daughter of Lieutenant Abijah Bruce.

Cornelius's Work tother Day in my Cellar and his oxens work yesterday and this morning, but asks pay for one Day for himself. Mr. Nurses Team with Moses tarrys all the forenoon. Mr. Pierce and Elijah Rice at the Stone Wall to Day. My Son Ebenezer first begins to plough for sowing at the old place. I rode to Grafton Lecture and preach'd on Rev. 22, 16. Return'd at Eve. Ebenezer here at Eve and rode home his Mare. N.B. Talk'd of his taking the place to the Halves etc.

9. Billy is forc'd to go to plough at t'other House. Neither Ebenezer nor Constantine Hardy came to Lecture. Mr. Hutchinson preach'd it, from Luke 22, 15, 16. I wrote to Sir Forbush at Brookfield concerning the Contents of Captain Livermore's Letter from Waltham.

10. Receiv'd Two Letters per Mr. Winchester from Brother Samuel Parkman, dated the third Instant—one of them writ by Billy Bows, who with his sister Nabby and Cousen Sarah Tyley were inoculated on the second. As soon as I had read I burnt both the Letters. N.B. Mr. William Rogers and his wife apprehended and carry'd before Justice Liscomb⁴ for Stealing (as it is suspect'd) Flax out of Mr. Jonas Brigham's Barn, and at Night the Man was committed to Jayl.

11. Mr. Richard Kelly brings Word from my Brothers that yesterday the Pox was come out favourably upon Billy etc.

12. Read Deut. 5. Preach'd on John 1, 41. P.M. administer'd the Lords Supper. Read 1 Cor. 15 and with alterations etc. deliver'd the first of the sermon on number 22. My Mind wrought tumultuously through the last Night from a deep Sense of my Negligence, Slothfulness and unfaithfulness—But I humbly make my Flight to the Glorious Redeemer, relying and depending on his Merits and Righteousness for Pardon and Acceptance with God. N.B. Deacon Newton sick of the Throat Distemper. I call'd Brother Tainter to officiate in his Room, which he did. At Eve I visited the Deacon and found him very ill.

13. Old Mr. Dunlop came to work in my New Garden, to dig out the Roots which the plough has left, and prepare it for the

⁴ Samuel Lyscomb of Hopkinton, a justice of the peace.

Rake. His son John also wrought for me. They both came late. John Singled Flax. At Eve at Deacon Newtons—Justice Baker there also—now a bad Fever and is an ill man. N.B. Mr. Maccarty⁵ came to my House and lodg'd here.

14. Thomas and Molly ride to Cambridge to see their Aunt Lydia.⁶ Thomas rode on Mr. Samuel Fay's Beast: Molly on her Brother Ebenezers. I had word from Deacon Newtons that he was worse. Mr. Maccarty, and afterwards Messers. Cushing,⁷ Martyn and Buckminster⁸ rode to Ministers Meeting at Hopkinton but I was oblig'd to stay and visit Deacon Newton, but he not being (as I conceive) altogether so bad as others apprehended, I rode to Hopkinton where I was through the Day and over Night. N.B. The Affair of Father Loring⁹ took us up the Chief of our Time; except what Deacon Mellen¹⁰ and his son Daniel had. N.B. The Night exceeding Cold.

15. The Morning unseasonably Cold. The Ground Froze at an unusual rate. N.B. Mr. Maccarty lodg'd at Commissary Price's.¹¹ He preach'd the public Lecture from Josh. 24, 24. After Exercise Mr. Bridge of Framingham discover'd to me what he heard of Some of the Conduct of Deacon Millen at a certain neighbouring Ministers House, with regard to the late Council at Holliston, calling 'em Numbskulls and Villains etc. whereupon I took opportunity and talk'd with him, and acquainted him with the Vote of the Council there "that he Should not speak again in that Council except he first make an acknowledgement of his bad Conduct etc." As to Mr. Loring it was resolv'd that 2 or 3 of the Association make him a Visit and discourse with him upon his great Disgust with us, and that Messers. Cushing, Barrett and Parkman go to him, and a Day was agreed upon—but I objected against my going, and propos'd Mr. Martyn; but it was not freely accepted. My own private Affairs are at this Time,

⁵ The Reverend Thaddeus Maccarty of Worcester.

⁶ Lydia Champney was the sister of Parkman's first wife.

⁷ Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

⁸ Joseph Buckminster of Rutland.

⁹ Israel Loring of Sudbury.

¹⁰ Henry Mellen of Hopkinton.

¹¹ Roger Price of Hopkinton.

in my new Circumstances, too much incumber'd to pretend to go abroad. Messers. Cushing, Martyn and Maccarty came home with me. Mr. Dunlop has work'd in my New Garden, in digging up Roots, and subduing it; this is now the third Day. Deacon Newton, I hear, is somewhat better.

16. Was oblig'd to do something in the Garden myself. Sow'd a few seeds etc. Am Preparing on the Eighth Commandment. At the Funeral of Mr. Bezaleel Smiths Child.

17. Thomas and Molly return'd from Cambridge. Thomas had drop'd his great Coat from his Horse in Roxbury—and did not find it. Mr. Winchester from Boston informs that many die of the Small Pox there, and Some Number of those who were inoculated: particularly we hear that Mr. Robert Breck being inoculated, is dead.

18. Mr. Bezaleel Smith and Mr. Eleazer Pratt brought Girts for my Barn from Mr. Reuben Maynards that Neighbourhood having join'd together and got 'em.

19. A.M. read Deut. 6. Preach'd on Exod. 20, 15. P.M. read 1 Cor. 16. Deliver'd again the second Sermon on 1 Cor. 15, 22. Stop'd the Brethren and read another Letter from Sudbury agriev'd Sign'd by Josiah Haynes and Samuel Dakin. Dated March 26, 1752, and it was left to Consideration.

20. In the Garden again. Am reading Dr. Youngs Sermons volume 2¹² borrow'd of Mrs. Barrett at Hopkinton.

21. Early in the Morning to Mr. Clafflands, Warrins, and to Mr. Bonds, to get Teams to fetch Rails from Rody Smiths and Elijah Rice's. Visit old Mrs. Dorcas Forbush.¹³ P.M. Catechiz'd at the School House. 37 Boys and Girls. After the Exercise was at Mr. Grows and Harringtons.

22. It has been very Cold, especially the Mornings very frosty—but today the Sun is very Warm, and is the most Spring-like Day we have had this Spring. Mr. Bond brought 35 Rails from Rody Smiths, and Mr. Simon Tainter 50 from Elijah Rice's.

¹² Edward Young (1643-1705) was a Fellow of Winchester College, Rector of Upham and Dean of Salisbury. The work mentioned here was probably *Sermons on Several Occasions*, 2 vols. (London, 1702, 1703). Another English edition appeared in 1706.

¹³ The widow of Thomas Forbush.

Daniel Hastings of Watertown dines with us. Mrs. Parkman is gone to reckon with Patty Pannell and paid her all that was due.

23. Mr. Edward Wilson came, and at last finishes the Topping out of my Chimney—had Cornelius Cook for a Tender. Another very warm Day. I was oblig'd to go to Mr. Jonathan Forbush's for another Bushel of Lime. Was put to Difficulty for Clay to plaister the inside. Try'd at Widow Newtons Clay-Pitts without Success.

24. Ebenezer brought over a Load of Clay from Mr. Hows hither; Mr. Willson came again, to plaister the Chimney; and Cornelius Cook tended. They work'd from a little before noon till Evening—paid Mr. Willson 40/ old Tenor in part. Hot Still, even like in Summer. Ebenezer return'd home after Dinner. P.M. I rode to see old Mr. Rogers who is thought to be near his End. A Letter etc. from Mr. Forbush at Brookfield.

25. Mr. Phinehas Rice of Grafton returns from Boston. Informs that it is a most sorrowful Time. Mr. John Gardner, Brazier, Son of the Reverend Mr. Gardner¹⁴ of Stowe is dead, but tis doubtful whether Mrs. Breck is deliver'd. N.B. remarkable Hot Weather for Some Days but towards Eve of this, chang'd.

26. Read Deut. 7. Preach'd on Exod. 20, 15. P.M. read 2 Cor. 1. Deliver'd the third Sermon on 1 Cor. 15, 22, but from Rom. 5, 12 with some alterations. After Exercises we attended the Funeral of old William Rogers, who was thought to be in his 82nd Year. May God Sanctify it to our aged people of whom we have some Number yet living.

27. Mr. Joseph Gambel work'd for me, and p.m. he employ'd John Frost to help him—but would have it all to be set down, but a days Work. Near Night I marry'd Joseph Far and Eunice Bradish. Ebenezer brought in the Morning a Load of Posts and plough'd at the Island the Ground that was plough'd this Time Twelve Month, and lay Fallow.

28. Ebenezer plough'd there again, and harrow'd it p.m. with Mrs. Newtons Harrow. He had done before Night. Exceeding difficulty to get any Body to Cart Rails which I have bought of

¹⁴ John Gardner.

Rody Smith and Elijah Rice. The Ground by my New House design'd for a pasture lys open to the Flocks of Sheep. A Letter from Mr. Josiah Swan about Eusebius.

29. My Business abroad all lys Still, except, what I can do in Gardening. Chief of my Reading is the Free-Thinker.¹⁵

30. Made Return of Marriages to Mr. Francis Whipple, whom I Saw at Mr. Williams. I din't at old Mr. Rice's. A Dry Time—Signs of Rain, but they Seem to fail and go over. It may put us in mind of our Conduct towards God with many Signs of Graciousness in our Profession, but very barren and unprofitable in our Hearts, and in our Conversation. Mr. Winchester from Boston and his Wife from Cambridge bring News of Colonel Brattle's Lady's¹⁶ Decease by the Small Pox.

MAY, 1752

1. Thro the great Goodness of God we have had a rainy Night, and it showers this Morning to the great reviving of the Earth. Granny Forbush is gone by, to Mr. Stone's, his wife being in Travail. In the Mount, may the Lord be seen! The Day proves chiefly a rainy Day; tho it rains not hard, yet, it wetts steddily. Mr. Joseph Gambet diggs in my Garden P.M.

2. It was too cloudy to view the Eclipse which occurs to Day. At about Sunsetting Mr. John Rogers brought 6,000 of Shingles.

3. Read Deut. 8. Preach'd on Deut. 5, 19. P.M. read 2 Cor. 9. Preach'd on Phil. 1, 27, A Sermon which was first deliver'd in the Year 1725, now with many alterations and additions. At Night, 9 o'clock came Mr. Ezra Taylor of Southborough to desire me to go to the Funeral of Mr. Jonathan Brewer¹ of Framingham who Yesterday Morning cutt his own Throat with a Sickle.

¹⁵ *The Free-thinker, or Essays on Ignorance* was first published serially in London, March 24, 1718, to July 28, 1721. Collected editions in 3 volumes appeared in London in 1733 and 1739.

¹⁶ William Brattle (Harvard 1722) married Katherine, the daughter of Governor Gurdon Saltonstall on Nov. 13, 1727. The Brattles lost five daughters and a son to the throat distemper (probably diphtheria), and Mrs. Brattle was ill with the same disease. She recovered only to succumb to smallpox April 28, 1752. *Sibley*, VII, 10-23.

¹ Brewer, who was in his 64th year, had lived in Framingham since 1717. Temple, *Framingham*, p. 481.

4. I din'd at Mr. Stone's at Southborough. His Wife (who had newly lain in) was exceeding Weak and low. P.M. I attended the Funeral of Mr. Brewer at Framingham. A most Solemn Time! Mr. Barrett there also, and pray'd. N.B. Mr. Bridge² gone to the Ordination of Mr. Haven³ at Portsmouth: and Mr. Stone to the Funeral of the Widow of old Mr. Daniel Newton. N.B. Whilst I was gone to Framingham Mr. Martyn came to our House and had 28 lbs of Sugar which I got for him at Mr. Ebenezer Rice's at 22£ old Tenor per Hundred.

5. Mr. Solomon Baker with my Cart, but his own Oxen brought me 40 Rails from Rody Smiths: and Mr. Simon Tainter 45 from the same. The former of those was gratis: for the Latter Mr. Tainter ask'd 15/ old Tenor. My Wife went to Mr. Jonas Brighams, and met Patty Pannell there. Mr. Zebulon Rice here, and we agree upon the Time of beginning to Frame my Barn. Mr. George Bruce of Mendon and Mr. Hall of North Sutton here.

6. Richard Kelly work'd here instead of John Dunlop. He setts up the Fence from the Meeting House, Northwest. I visited the Widow Rogers who is going to leave us: and the Widow Hannah Rice, Sister of that Mr. Brewer, bury'd on the fourth.

7. Richard Kelly work'd again (for John Dunlop) in Setting up Fence for me etc. Cornelius Cook (on Mr. Hezekiah Pratt's Account) work'd for me in carting out some Muck and ploughing at my Island.

8. Mrs. Mary Johnson, Stay-maker, came to work here. Old Mr. Joseph Sever⁴ of Framingham came to me about the Cancer in his Leg, that he might know how to use Mechoachan or Poke Weed. He din'd here. Mr. Phinehas Hardy setts up Fence for me: and he and his son Elijah (together with my son William) Planted the Grounds at the Island.

9. Mr. Robert Claffland, with my Oxen and a Yoke of Mr. Jonah Warrins, brought 50 Rails from Mr. Elijah Rice's. P.M.

² Matthew Bridge of Framingham.

³ Samuel Haven (Harvard 1749) had been reading theology with Ebenezer Parkman, keeping school and preaching in numerous pulpits in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He was ordained in the South Church of Portsmouth, May 6, 1752. *Sibley*, XII, 382-392.

⁴ Joseph Sever or Seaver, a long time resident, had been a town officer.

Mr. Warrin himself with the Same Team, brought 50 more. Mr. Forbush here—goes to preach at Southborough.

10. Read Deut. 9. Preach'd on Deut. 5, 19. P.M. read 2 Cor. 3. Repeated with many Alterations another sermon on Original Sin (from Rom. 5, 12) in the Discourses on 1 Cor. 15, 22. O that God would please to add his special Blessing!

11. Was early at Mr. Whipples. Lieutenant Tainter and Mr. Samuel Harrington drive Cattle into the Woods at Leicester. They take 3 of mine, 4 other Young Creatures of Mine cannot be found this morning that they might go. Perswaded Mr. Edwards Whipple to Send his Boy with 22 of my Braces for My New Barn, Saw'd at Mr. Maynards Saw Mill. Mr. Zebulun Rice and Samuel Bumpso came; and they began to Frame my Barn. I went over to Mr. Hows and din'd there. Mr. David Maynard assisted with my son Ebenezer in cutting Principals.

12. Mr. Zebulun Rice and Samuel at the Frame. There came also Mr. Phinehas Hardy and Mr. Simon Tainter, and gave me a Day's Work at it. There has been some prospects of Rain; but the most was a Fog or Mist and went off with Cold Raw Weather. Mr. Stephen Maynard here, but without his Account that we might reckon, though I have taken unwearied pains to obtain it. Mr. Batheric and Benjamin How with Ebenezer hew the Principals and Thomas brings 10 of them over.

13. Mr. Zebulun Rice, and Messers Phinehas Hardy, Simon Tainter and Samuel Bumpso work at the Frame, and to Day came likewise Mr. Jonah Warrin. Receiv'd a Letter from Brother Parkman, dated April 28 or 29. I visited Deacon Newton⁵ who is much recover'd. My son Ebenezer brought 10 more Principals. My Wife went to Marlborough. At Night came a Young Man Odoavdo Thomas for Mrs. Molly Johnson, but she went not with him.

14. This Morning came Mr. Zebulun Rice, and Mr. Simon Tainter. Afterwards came old Mr. Charles Rice, and Mr. Jonathan Forbush to the Frame. Mrs. Molly Johnson left us at Evening.

⁵ Josiah Newton.

15. Mr. Zebulon Rice at the Frame. Added to him afterwards were, Mr. Batherick, Mr. Grow—old Mr. Graves, and Mr. Simon Tainter—who work'd and din'd with us. In the afternoon by the help of a Sufficient Number of Hands (about 70 Great and Small) we rais'd the Barn. 30 feet long and 28 wide—and thro the Goodness of God there was no Evil Accident. I had provided only for about a Score, yet I hope no one went away without some refreshment. It was only Cake and Cheese and Butter etc.

16. Billy works at t'other House so that I am alone to take Care of things and put all to rights after the Raising. Wet myself and then took Cold.

17. Sir Forbush preach'd for me a. and p.m. on Jam. 1, 5. May God be pleas'd to Add to his Graces and accomplishments and make him an happy Instrument of Saving Good to Many Souls! May he be abundantly fitted and prepar'd for the very awful and Solemn Charge he will (God willing) in a short Time receive! At Night I was very much indispos'd.

18. In the Morning much better. Blessed be God! The Day was lowery and Misty. A great Favour after much drie Weather. Town Meeting. Chose Esquire Baker⁶ representative.

19. Wettish Weather, but no great Matter of Showers. Visit old Mrs. Dorcas Forbush. Messers. Bliss⁷ and Hobby⁸ at the Door, in their Journey to another Sutton Council.

20. The Reverend Mr. Fish⁹ and his wife here p.m.

21. Samuel Forbush carted Two Load of Boards, Oake and Pine from Mr. Maynards Mill. Disappointed of the help I expected I undertook to preach my Self the Lecture preparatory to the Lords Supper—from 1 Cor. 11, 26. Having no Watch I preach'd too long. Solemnized the Marriage of Mr. Daniel Adams¹⁰ to Mr. Daniel Hardys only Child, at Mr. Hardys. The Weather Exceeding Cold. N.B. Our Kinswoman Mrs. Sally Brigham¹¹ here and din'd with us.

⁶ Edward Baker was a frequent office-holder of Westborough.

⁷ Daniel Bliss of Concord.

⁸ William Hobby of Reading.

⁹ Elisha Fish of Upton.

¹⁰ Daniel Adams of Shrewsbury married Abigail Hardy of Westborough.

¹¹ Mrs. Parkman's sister, Sarah Gott, married Uriah Brigham of Marlborough, July 12, 1750. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 373.

22. Sir Forbush Sends his Chest (containing a number of Valuable Books which I have sold him, viz. Hammond,¹² Saurin,¹³ Edwards¹⁴) by one Ball to Brookfield.

23. I find it impossible under my incumbrances to prepare two Sermons in a Week, in the Manner I conceive they ought to be compos'd and written. But I have, I hope, Some sincerity towards God in what I have done.

24. Read Deut. 11. Preach'd on Mat. 1, 21. Somewhat long but I chose to deliver it all (that I had prepar'd) at once. Administer'd the Lords Supper. Mrs. Molly Johnson here with us. P.M. read 2 Cor. 5, and on Consideration of a number of persons being rais'd from Sickness, and brought to the divine Worship again, Not less than 6 within these 8 Days. I preach'd Eph. 5, 20. After Sermon read Letter Missive from Brookfield, second parish respecting Mr. Eli Forbush's Ordination.

25. Messers. Batheric, Phinehas Hardy and Daniel Adams work'd on the Covering my Barn. Mr. Gashitt Sollicits me to go with him to Mr. Ross Wymans¹⁵ to bind Henry Gashitt, which we did—din'd at Wyman's. P.M. visited Mr. Cushing who was not able to preach yesterday. When I return'd, found Mr. Martyn and his wife here; and that Mr. Stone and Madame Thatcher¹⁶ (his Mother in Law) had been here likewise, having come before Dinner. Mr. Forbush to Brookfield.

26. Mr. Adams all Day. Mr. Batheric p.m. I went to Mr. Rogers and talk'd with him about the Narrowness of the Shingle which I have had of him. N.B. Mr. Edmund Greenleaf of Newbury call'd at the Door, in his Journey to Sutton.

27. The General Election is at Concord, because of the Small Pox at Boston. At Mr. Martyns Importunity I din'd at his

¹² A work by the English divine and Canon of Christ's Church Oxford, Henry Hammond, D.D. (1605-1660). None of his numerous writings had been published in America.

¹³ Jacques Saurin (1677-1730), a celebrated French Protestant preacher, had been the minister of a Walloon church in London, and after 1705 a minister in The Hague. His work had not appeared in an American edition.

¹⁴ Some writing or writings of the great Jonathan Edwards of Northampton.

¹⁵ A blacksmith of Shrewsbury.

¹⁶ The Reverend Nathan Stone of Southborough had married Mary Thacher, daughter of the late Reverend Peter Thacher of Middleborough, May 16, 1751.

House. I rode home in Mr. Martyns Chair which I borrow'd for Ebenezer to go to Watertown. Ebenezer and Thomas plant our South Field over again, it having been rooted up by young Piggs. At Eve it rain'd: Billy did not return from his play at Mr. Martyns. I rode to Mr. Jonah Warrins and brought home my Molly and Mrs. Molly Johnson (who is still at Work here) but Lucy lodg'd there. At Night came old Mr. Fuller of Sutton, in his return home from Middleton and lodged here. N.B. Mr. Winchester from Boston; he has left my Watch still with Mr. Atkinson.

28. Mr. Fuller goes home. The We [?]

29. Ebenezer brought Mrs. Eliza Harrington to dinner here. She was not well. They rode to Watertown in Mr. Martyns Chair. Tis thought he courts her. I earnestly pray that God may be Guardian and Director of my Dear Son in this important Matter before him!

30. I was not So well as usual: and have Such a Weight of Care and Trouble but chiefly on account of my Ministry and Great Account that I am much Sunk.

31. Was much indispos'd last night and to Day. The Weather Cold and Rainy. I notwithstanding went to Meeting both Parts of the Day. A.M. read Deut. 12. Gave some Observations. Preach'd on the eighth Commandment from Eph. 4, 28, first part. P.M. read 2 Cor. 6, and altho I had preparations for the p.m. sermon yet such person or persons as the Discourse would more immediately concern, being absent by the Rain I deferred it—and preach'd on 1 Cor. 15, 22, latter part! being sermon 6 from page 28 to 33. N.B. Mr. Eli Forbush and Mr. Hannah Fish dismiss'd.¹⁷

JUNE, 1752

1. Am weak and feeble, yet keep about. The Parish met to Day in order to Petition the General Court to Establish all their Legal Acts, notwithstanding their Misstep at first setting out

¹⁷ Parkman entered in the Westborough Church Records, May 31, 1752: "The Church was Stop'd and Voted Dismission of Mr. Eli Forbush to the work of founding and Settling a Church in the North East Part of Brookfield, or to the Church there, if there be one gather'd; in order to his being ordain'd the Pastor thereof. And the dismission of Mrs. Hannah Fish (heretofore Hannah Forbush) to the Church in Upton."

(which I'm told was by reason of Justice Wards giving them a defective Warrant for their first parish Meeting). N.B. Mr. Grows account of a slanderous Report of the Frolicking of my sons but I perceive it arose from a Family that were affronted because their Son was not invited to the Wedding of Abigail Hardy. Being so weak and feeble I sent Thomas to Mr. Martyns that he must prepare to preach at Brookfield on next Wednesday. Sister Lydia Champney came up with Ebenezer from Cambridge.

2. Deacon Forbush and Lieutenant Tainter accompany'd me to Bezalleel Eagers, where we were join'd by Mr. Whipple, to go to Brookfield. I was very weak and faint, but hop'd I Should be better by riding. Mr. Martyn and his Delegates join'd us likewise. We din'd at Sergennts at Leicester and got up to Captain Witts in Brookfield before Night.

3. Mr. Eli Forbush's Ordination. A most important Day with one whom I am nearly concern'd for! May God be almightily present with him, and his grace sufficient for him! But it is a Comfort that there is no Objection likely to arise. Captain Ayres¹ does not join, but he does not oppose. We did not form into a Council till it was late in the Day, because the pastors and Deligates of Several Churches did not come Seasonably: and when they came, Several Pastors were unwilling to perform any of the public Service. Mr. Forbush gave the Council to their universal Satisfaction an Account of his Principles; and his Views in undertaking the Ministry. N.B. The Confession of his Faith, contain'd an humble Declaration of his own Hope: and it was to acceptance. N.B. When Mr. Forbush's Call was read, the Church declar'd that the meaning of those Words "While he shall continue in the Work of the Ministry" did mean, as long as he had the pastoral Care of them, and not merely as long as he was able to preach. In public Mr. Jones² of Western began with Prayer. Mr. Martyn preach'd in my stead; his Text [blank]. I gave the Assembly an Account of our Proceedings in Enquiring into the Qualifications of the Candidate, and the regular steps which the

¹ William Ayers or Ayres of Brookfield.

² Isaac Jones (Yale 1742), the minister of Western (now Warren) Mass., 1744-1784. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, p. 715.

people had taken in ripening Matters thus far. To satisfie them all likewise we went over them again, from each party transacting. I gave the Charge. This was the first Time I ever perform'd this Service: and did it Memoriter. Mr. White³ of Hardwick pray'd after the Charge. Sung last part of Ps. 118. I hear there was much order and Decency among the people afterwards. May God accept our Offerrings, and may the Ordain'd especially have Grace to keep the Solemn Charge! Nor may any of us ever forget these solemn actions! Through Gods great Goodness, my feeble Body was sustain'd and carry'd thro in a measure of Comfort. So that my Evening was pleasant. N.B. Mr. Breck⁴ of Springfield—Mr. Pynchon⁵ of Brookfield there.

4. I rode over to Brookfield Town when the Company was gone with Deacon Forbush to visit Lieutenant Aaron Forbush under his terrible Cancer. [N.B. We call'd in to see Captain Ayres.] The sore which Lieutenant is distress'd by has altered him extremely—but he is much Supported. I lodg'd at Dr. Pynchons,⁶ but the Doctor not yet return'd from Court.

5. I preach'd to Lieutenant Forbush on Mat. 24, 44, which may God please to Bless to us all! N.B. I din'd with Mr. Harding⁷ at Captain Buckminsters⁸—return'd at Evening with Captain Witt and his wife to their House and lodged there.

6. Captain Witt rode with me to See Mr. Jedidiah Hows Family. We din'd there.

7. I preach'd at Brookfield for Mr. Forbush and he at Westboro for me. My Text a.m. Heb. 13, 17. P.M. Rom. 6, 13. An Hot Day. At Eve I was very faint—was forc'd to lie down—could not attend family prayer—but Committ myself to God.

³ David White (Yale 1730), the minister of Hardwick, Mass., 1736-1784. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, pp. 419-420.

⁴ The Reverend Robert Breck, Jr., of Springfield.

⁵ Joseph Pynchon of Brookfield.

⁶ Dr. Joseph Pynchon (Harvard 1726), the physician of Springfield and justice of the Hampshire County Court of Common Pleas. *Sibley*, VIII, 90-92.

⁷ Elisha Harding (Harvard 1745), the minister of the First Congregational Church of Brookfield, 1749-1755. *Sibley*, XI, 561-562.

⁸ Thomas Buckminster of Brookfield.

8. Was more comfortable thro the Goodness of God. Undertook my Journey Home. Witt accompany'd me till one Mr. Walker of Brookfield first Parish met us, and then he was my Company to Mr. Eatons⁹ of Leicester. This Man was in much Spiritual Trouble, and wanted to open his Mind to me, and therefore devoted himself to wait upon me. Wish I may have given him any Suitable Direction and Instruction and may God grant his Blessing! N.B. Admonish'd George Harrington for his being in Drink, as we went up to Brookfield last Tuesday, and may God succeed it! Very hot Day. I could reach no further at noon than Mr. David Goddards, where I din'd. At Worcester talk'd with Mr. Sergeant of Leicester joiner about making an handsome sett of Chest Drawers, for Molly. At Mr. Maccartys and altho the Ministers Meeting draws nigh yet I thought it not wise to stay, having been gone so long from home. I rode as far as Mr. Cushings, and a Thunder storm with heavy rains coming up, I lodg'd there.

9. Return'd home in the Morning. Found (through God's Goodness) my Tabernacle in peace. Mr. Forbush preach'd for me last Lords Day, and baptiz'd Two Children. The first was Eli, the other Mindwell.¹⁰ I am inform'd that last Friday, 17 Hands came a.m. and wed my Corn. They were those following—Mr. David Maynard and 2 sons, Mr. Eliezer Rice and his son—Messers. Nathan Maynard and Hezekiah Pratt. Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin and son—Mr. Joseph Woods and Son. Mr. Joslins Boy—Lieutenant Tainter and Grandson—Mr. Harringtons 2 sons—and a Son of Ensign Miller.

10. Great Rains. Mr. Forbush din'd here. My Heart with the Association though bodily absent.

11. I din'd at t'other House with my Children, sister Lydia and Mrs. Molly Johnson.

12. Dr. Samuel Brigham and his Wife here, and din'd with us, as did Mr. John Green of Boston, printer. Hear that Cousen Peam Cowell is dead by small pox.

⁹ The Reverend James Eaton of Spencer.

¹⁰ Eli was the son of Jonas Brigham; Mindwell was the daughter of Samuel Forbush of Upton. Westborough Church Records, June 6, 1752.

13. Billys Hair cutt off. Mr. Winchester returns from Boston and brings confirmation of Cousen Cowell's Death. He brings my Watch from Mr. James Atkinson, but with the Chrystal broke.

14. A.M. but feeble and weak. Yet went to meeting and perform'd the Services both a. and p.m. Nay, in the forenoon went through a double Service, for I not only deliver'd the sermon which I prepar'd for last Lords Day p.m., but added as much more; and it being upon Usury (Text Eph. 4, 28) I exerted myself to the utmost, and deliver'd both at once. Read Deut. 13, P.M. I deliver'd a sermon on James 1 (which I made and deliver'd before I was ordain'd, viz. September 1724) but with many alterations as indeed were very necessary. N.B. read 2 Cor. 7. Was exceedingly worry'd and fatigu'd; with my forenoon sermon especially. Poor Night.

15. Mr. Stone¹¹ and his Delegates going to a Council at Woodstock. Mr. Phinehas Hardy 300 Boards. This Morning early Mrs. Newton takes Mrs. Molly Johnson to her House. I Din'd at t'other House. Sister Lydia lives almost wholly over there. Ebenezer has met with several Checks upon the Field of Indian Corn on the south side of the Road. The piggs rooted it up a while ago so that he was forc'd to plant the chief of it over again: and now as soon as it is come up again a Flock of Sheep has broke in upon it and crop'd it down. P.M. Billy in the Rain went as far as to Mr. Seth Hudson¹² for Tobacco Plants.

16. After a rainy Night, a rainy Morning, and continues wet all Day.

17. Doubtful what the weather might prove, yet (late in the morning) came Mr. Jonah Warrin, Daniel Adams, Batherick and Claffland to covering my Barn. I rode over to Mr. Martyns and din'd there. Preach'd his Lecture on Rev. 22, 16. Return'd home at Eve. May God follow the weak endeavours of the Day with his Special Blessing. May my own Soul have the Light and Comfort of that glorious Morning Star.

¹¹ Nathan Stone of Southborough.

¹² Of Marlborough. Hudson served as a lieutenant in the militia and at one time commanded Fort Massachusetts. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 399.

18. Messers. Adams, Claffland and Pierce at Work on the Barn.
19. Adams and Claffland closing the Barn. At Eve I fell on one corner of the Corn Barn and greatly wounded myself.
20. [No entry.]
21. Lame and poorly: I went to meeting—read Deut. 14. Preach'd on Eph. 4, 28. P.M. read 2 Cor. 8, and preach'd on James 1, 22, a Sermon which I have chose to make from this Text rather than preach the second of those I began with last Lords Day.
22. Mrs. Parkman to t'other House. Ebenezer to Watertown and Cambridge.
23. I rode to Lieutenant Tainters. Din'd at Mr. Whitney's—was at Mr. Grouts, and most of the Houses on this Side.
24. Lieutenant Tainter came and brought an Horse, plough and Lad to plough my Island. Mr. Williams also plough'd, Ebenezer Rice junior led, and Eleven Hands hold—viz. Messers. Grow, Harrington, Jonathan Forbush and Daniel Grout, Joseph Baker, William Stone, James Bowman, Jonathan and Thomas Bond, Abner Warrin came and half hill'd my Corn at the Island; and they finish'd by half after 9 a.m. P.M. came Jeduthun Baldwin. Took up both my notes with him, by giving him one that is of 60£ old Tenor. P.M. Rain.
25. Rainy Day.
26. Lieutenant Bruce here, about the Land at the Island. The Reverend Mr. Hall of Sutton and young Master Minot here. Mr. Phinehas Rice (of Grafton) from Boston brings me Dr. Nathaniel Williams late of Boston, his Method of Practice in the Small Pox.¹⁸
27. I understand that Ebenezer return'd last night from Cambridge and Watertown and has brot up a Lad from Cambridge to dwell with him, viz. John Barrett, junior. It was bright a While in the Morning and Ebenezer begins to mow a little, but it proves very rainy p.m.
28. Thro my Indispositions and Infirmitys of Body, and the many Cares and Troubles which perplex my mind, I prepar'd for
- ¹⁸ *The Method of Practice in the Small-Pox, with Observations on the Way of Inoculation* (Boston, 1752).

only a.m. This was, once more on Eph. 4, 28. N.B. read Deut. 15. P.M. read 2 Cor. 9. Repeated much of Sermon 1 Cor. 15, 22, from page 33 to the bottom of page 38, from John 10, 10, latter part. It was a Time of very great Rain, Thunder and Lightning. N.B. Sister did not come from t'other House.

29. A very Clear Day. Mr. Martyn came here—and (slenderly) din'd with us. At Eve Sent a Number of Letters to Boston, committing them to the Care of Mr. Winchester unseal'd—viz. to Mr. John Breck, Mr. William Winter, Mr. John Phillips, junior, and to Brother Samuel Parkman.

30. Fair, hot:—N.B. Billy assisted a Drover (one Boardman of Exeter) with a Flock of Sheep and went so far with him as put us in great Consternation. I visited old Mrs. Dorcas Forbush and borrow'd Lieutenant's Horse to ride after Billy. Went as far as Mr. Elisha Wards and found him there. He had been as far as Mr. Jonathan Strattons. In returning we din'd at Lieutenant Bruce's. I sent Billy to the other House to help his Brother this Afternoon.

JULY, [1752]

1. Billy at t'other House helping his Brother Ebenezer at night returns. Sister Lydia rode here with my Daughter Molly, and din'd here. At Eve return'd to t'other House. The Weather very hot.

2. Publick Fast on the Account of the Small pox and other Malignant Distempers at Boston and divers other Towns.¹ N.B. We had no proclamation, but read what is inserted in the Boston Gazette. However there was So much Said of there being no Proclamation in the County of Worcester, and that in several parishes there would be no Meeting, as at our North End; at Shrewsbury etc. that I doubted of an Assembly (some number did go to work and came not at all: some came from their work in their Sweat and Dirt). I therefore threw aside my design'd sermon for the forenoon, and took that on 1 Pet. 5, 6 which I deliver'd. But there was So considerable a Congregation that

¹ A study of the extent of smallpox at this time may be found in John Duffy, *Epidemics in Colonial America* (Baton Rouge, [1953]). pp. 57-61.

I took Heart, and p.m. preach'd on 1 Kings 8, 37, 38, and may God please to all his Blessing! N.B. Dr. Willson² of Hopkinton here at Eve.

3. Mr. Batherick mow'd a.m. part of the Island. Deacon Forbush assisted in the Underpinning the Barn posts.

4. Alpheus Newton³ gave an half Day, mowing at my Island—and the great likelihood of foul Weather made me conceive it to be my Duty, part of the p.m. to assist my son William in raking. If the rain should come upon that sort of thing, it would be of very little value: but this was the Chief of the English Hay I should have to trust to. And I was fully apprehensive that I should not be able to prepare more than one sermon for the sabbath.

5. Read 2 Cor. 10 a.m. Omitted reading, p.m. Preach'd a.m. on Mat. 1, 21. Administer'd the Lords Supper. P.M. preach'd on the Same Text, but us'd much of the sermon on 1 Cor. 15, 22, viz. part of page 39 and from page 41 to 45. N.B. Sister Lydia Champney⁴ not at meeting tho Communion Day.

6. Mr. Martyn Pratt work'd for me a.m. and Cornelius Cook for Mr. Hezekiah Pratt till past 10 o'Clock a.m. We got our Hay from the Island—it amounted to one good Load—and we secur'd it in the Barn.

7. [No entry.]

8. I thought it most adviseable personally to see and talk with Mr. Beriah Rice about the Meadow, and therefore rode over to Upton. Din'd at Mr. Rice's. Did not buy the Meadow, but hir'd the Grass for this Year for 20/ old Tenor per Load. Visited Mr. Fish and call'd at Captain Sadler⁵—was mistaken in my Road home—came by Boons and Kellys.

9. Mr. Claffland and Daniel Adams mow'd in the Ministerial Meadow, the Weather hot, and very tedious to hard labourers—but now is the principal Season of Vigourous Engagement. P.M. came up a violent Storm. Thunder and Lightning. N.B. Mrs.

² John Wilson or Willson, the physician.

³ The son of Abner Newton.

⁴ Parkman's first wife's sister.

⁵ John Sadler of Upton.

Mary Steward visited us and left a present in silver (50/ old Tenor) in new linnen Cloth for Shirts for several of my little Children, and in some Rie meal, to the Value of near 5£ old Tenor.

10. Mr. Samuel Williams with my Mare, and with Billy to lead, plough'd among my Indian Corn: and Mr. Eliezer Rice came with plough, Horse and Boy and plough'd likewise, but there were but few Hoers—only Mr. Edwards Whipple and his Boy which made me go to Mr. Clafflands and get Robert to help. The Men broke off about $\frac{1}{2}$ after 10 a.m. The Boys viz. Robert Claffland, Moses Sever and my Billy hoed all Day, but did not finish the work. N.B. Sow'd Rie, which I had of Mr. Hezekiah Pratt, at the Hilling. This work was gratis, as was Alpheus Newton's also, who mow'd at the Island a.m. Mr. Jonathan Bellows (upon hire) mow'd and rak'd at the Meadow, and Mr. Eliezer Rice help'd him rake p.m. changing work with us. N.B. Mr. Eli Forbush here, and paid me 10 Dollars for Books which he has had.

11. Rak'd Hay at the Island. Billy finish'd the Hilling there. P.M. Mr. Aaron Nurse help'd us get in a Load of Hay from the Island. It was very hot and tedious to me to bear—but I think it my Duty to do what in me lies having so large a Family and so little help. At Eve rode to Grafton and Mr. Hutchinson⁶ came here.

12. Preach'd at Grafton on Ps. 4, 7, a. and p.m. Return'd home at Night. [N.B. Mr. Forbush and my Dauter Molly were publish'd at Westborough.] Mr. Hutchinson return'd home likewise. We met at Mr. Abraham Temple's whose young Child is in a Miserable Condition, and has been so from its Birth, by a Tumor on the Back.

13. John Kelly of Hopkinton work'd for me instead of Mr. Martyn Pratt. The forenoon I sent him to work for Mr. Eliezer Rice. P.M. he work'd (with my sons Thomas and William) in raking and Carting home Hay from the Meadow—they got home Two Load this p.m.

14. Rode about for Labourers to work in the Ministerial

⁶ The Reverend Aaron Hutchinson.

Meadow, and to take to the Halves the Grass of Mr. Beriah Rice's Meadow which I have hir'd. Succeeded with Joseph Bruce to take half of this latter. Was at Messers. Daniel Forbush's and Harrington's: at Ensign Millers, Messers. Phinehas Hardys and Grouts—the last two consent to help me next Week, to mow in the Ministerial Meadow.

15. Rode out again a.m. to get Labourers but have little success.

16. I rak'd Hay and Barley p.m. at the other place, and return'd home at Eve.

17. Sermonizing—Except the Time when I was interrupted by Mr. Obadiah Newton who came p.m. to make me a Visit. My Wife gone to Captain Maynards. Benjamin Hastings of Waterton brought her home at Eve.

18. At my Preparations. Joseph Bruce and I step'd down to view Mr. Beriah Rice's meadow.

19. Read Deut. 16. Preach'd a.m. on Mat. 1, 21. P.M. read 2 Cor. 11. Preach'd home at Eve on Job 7, 9, made up of several parts of sermon on John 5, 28, 29 (as See upon the first page). Benjamin Hastings⁷ and Anna Tainter⁸ of Watertown din'd with us.

20. Rode early to Mr. Dunlops to offer them some of Mr. Beriah Rice's Meadow, Seeing Mr. Dunlop had urg'd he might have part. Return'd and visited Mrs. Twitchell. Went over to Mr. Martyns and din'd there. Return'd at Eve. Mr. Batheric joins with John Bruce and they mow in the Rice Meadow.

21. In the Morning walk'd to the Ministerial Meadow, hoping to find a Number of Hands there, but there was only Mr. Phinehas Hardy mowing there. I went to Mr. James Maynards to get a Hand to be with him, but succeeded not—to Mr. Joseph Green junior and prevail'd. He mow'd p.m. I din'd at Mr. Edwards Whipples p.m. I went down into Chauncy Meadows and passed through the Rice Meadow. My undertakers there who rake to Day what they mow'd Yesterday, complaining much of it. Con-

⁷ Hastings married Mary, the daughter of Deacon Simon Tainter of Westborough, April 14, 1726.

⁸ The daughter of Captain John Tainter of Watertown.

sulted Lieutenant Forbush about it. N.B. Lieutenant Forbush complains to me of my strictness in Examining Candidates for Admission into the Church. N.B. My Wife to Mr. Martyns—but return'd home at Night.

22. Aaron Warrin mows, makes, and Carts from Ministerial Meadow. I walk'd there, and to Mr. Greens. Rode his Horse to Mr. Knowltons. His son Henry works in the Meadow p.m. Aaron Warrin got home one Jagg of 11 Cocks—ventures into the Meadow with the Team for Second and getts mir'd, boggled and belated—came home with 8 Cocks in the Rain and Dark—and is sick in the night o'bed. Ebenezer Forbush brings me 12 Cocks from the Rie Meadow and Joseph Bruce helps unload it.

23. Morning Cloudy, doubtfull Weather—but Aaron goes to the Meadow again. P.M. I rode down to Messers. Daniel and Timothy Warrin, to get them to Cart for me Some of the Hay from the Rie Meadow.

24. Aaron and Billy at the Meadow—Two Jaggs of Hay. The Warrins Daniel and Timothy brought, each of them, a Small Load of Hay from Mr. Beriah Rice's Meadow. Aaron at Eve goes to his Fathers.

25. Aaron and Billy to the meadow. Thomas goes there with the Team and carrys home to the other House, a stout Load of Hay from the Meadow. Lieutenant Bruce kindly brought me the last Load from Mr. Rice's Meadow, and this was a large Load of 18 Cocks. So that I have now got all my part of that Hay and my mind greatly reliev'd.

26. I was much impeded by a Cold yet it did not hinder my public speaking, but my Limbs are much pain'd and my Stomach deprav'd—but I desire humbly to place my Confidence in God. Read Deut. 17 and preach'd on Mat. 1, 21. P.M. read 2 Cor. 12. Preach'd on Prov. 3, 9. May God please to add his Blessing!

27. Somewhat poor Night—am stiff and in pain this Morning. So that I don't stirr about without Difficulty. Thomas and Billy rak'd a Load of Hay which Aaron mow'd and carted it to t'other Barn. My wife to Ensign Millers to Mr. Harringtons and Lieutenant Tainters—borrows his Chaise for some of us to go to

Watertown on Mollys Account. Sister Hicks and her Dauter Hannah at t'other House.

28. A poor Night again with pain. A.M. to Mr. Ebenezer Rice's to get Mr. Dunlop to reap, he having long disappointed me, yet it is Winter Rie and suffers. Mr. Jonathan Bellows reaps from about 11 a.m. till night—and p.m. Mr. Dunlop and Short Richard Kelly come from Mr. Ebenezer Rice's and reap. My son Billy also reaps. Sister Hicks etc. are still at t'other House. Mrs. Hannah here at Evening and lodges here.

29. Exceeding poorly—Know not how to go to my intended Journey. Sister Hicks and her Dauter dine here. N.B. Mr. Parsons⁹ of Newbury calls at the Door when we are at Dinner but he will not come in. About 4 P.M. my Dauter and I undertook a Journey in Lieutenant Tainters Chaise.

AUGUST, 1752

[There are no entries in the diary for the period August 1-15, 1752.]

16. A very melancholly Sabbath! I had an exceeding poor Night. Feverish, profusely Sweating, and extreme faint. Yet the Lord upheld me till the Morning, and my pains are much abated. N.B. Ebenezer is published to Mrs. Elizabeth Harrington. Lieutenant Tainter watch'd at home. I was somewhat reviv'd in the Day, But this Day was peculiarly Dark as there was no Preacher. Dr. Willson was to have come, but he was prevented by several Patients. There was a Meeting at our Meeting House a.m. They read Dr. Watts¹ on Job 23, 3, 4. But all the Meeting p.m. was at my House, 5 persons besides my own Family—who pray'd and Read and sung.

17. But a poorish Night, yet my wife tended me. Wrote by Deacon Newton² to Dr. Scammell³ [my wife wrote just before Day]. Ebenezer gets in the last of my Island Hay, and the Flax.

⁹ The Reverend Moses Parsons of Newbury (Byfield Parish), 1744-1783.

¹ One of the numerous writings of Isaac Watts.

² Josiah Newton.

³ Samuel Scammell, the physician of Milford.

The Deacon carries his Dauter Sarah to the Doctors. Less pain a.m. Eat something of Dinner. N.B. Mr. Pierce of Stow his wife and Mrs. Martyn din'd here. P.M. I was very full of pain in my right Knee. N.B. In Deacon Newtons return from Dr. Scammell, I find the Doctor will have it that I have the Gout as well as Rheumatism. Captain Maynard here at Evening. Mrs. Lucy Bowker makes a Coat for Alexander gratis—and watches with me.

18. Another very feverish, Sweating, faint Night the last. Several Neighbours to See me. Somewhat freer of pain. William Woods watches.

19. The best night that I have had since I was Sick. Blessed be God! Sister Lydia and my Daughter Forbush here, din'd and Spent p.m. with us. N.B. Mr. Abiel Richardson here. Mr. Nurse a generous present of Salt Pork. A great Frost abroad. My pains shift from Limb to Limb. John Frost watches.

20. A.M. pritty good night, but the Pain rises in my left Knee. Several of our Neighbours go into Boston. Divers Visitants, of persons in Town and otherwise. P.M. Mr. Martyn he pray'd with me. Mrs. Baker here—my wife discourses with her about Patty Pannells Tattle. Ebenezer came and watches.

21. Not so comfortable Night as lately. My left Knee and Foot full of Pain. I wrote to Dr. Scammell by Captain Tyler.⁴ Alas! how dull and discouraging! I am so wasted, that there appears to me Danger of consuming away. But I would humbly confide in the infinite Goodness of God. Thomas watches.

22. A pritty good Night for Sleep, and yet this morning full of pain chiefly in my left Hip, Shoulder and Foot. Great Frost last Night. Dr. Scammell came while I was at Dinner. P.M. pains increase exceedingly especially in my left Shoulder. May God almighty sustain me and prepare me for his sovereign Will. My little Samuel a Twelve Month old. May he be born again in the Blessed Spirit of God! The Evening and night were most distressing with pain that ceased not, no not in any Situation whatever, a Circumstance which I have not, I think, at any Time

⁴Nathan Tyler of Mendon.

had till now. I put on a Blister upon the upper part of my arm— which by Divine favour gave me

23. By the Morning some Relief. A portion of Rhubarb also which I took last Night works to Day, and I am easier of pain, but reduc'd to be very weak and faint.

A Melancholly Sabbath! a Second Disappointment by Dr. Willson, whom I earnestly sent Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlin to, last Thursday, and had return by the Same on Friday Eve that he would certainly come unless some Case of Life or Death occurred. But the people watch'd till it was late, and then some went to the North End etc. and some attended at the Meeting House the Deacons carrying on both a. and p.m. N.B. they read Dr. Watts on Col. 3, 3. N.B. Mr. Bradish pray'd with me in the Evening, and my Dauter Forbush watches. It proves a Night of Fever, faintness and frequent waking.

24. Freer of Pain, but very weak and feeble. N.B. ventur'd to Shave not having been shav'd since my Confinement till now. Rain. Mr. Daniel Bond here, complaining of my son Ebenezer. N.B. he went to Ebenezer last Saturday to warn him before Two Witnesses not to marry the person he was publish'd to. Child carry'd away to be wean'd at t'other House. Deacon Newton pray'd at Night.

25. Last Night was exceeding tedious not for pains so much as Faintness, especially towards Morning I was exceeding low. My Wife watch'd. The forenoon was of apiece with the Morning. My wife stills a miscellany of Meat, Herbs, Roots, seeds etc. by the Doctor's Direction. But my Eye and Heart are to God to Show Mercy. Dr. Chase waits upon his Father here. P.M. I was more lively and comfortable. D.G. Very free of pain—a better Evening and Night.

26. My wife tends me o'nights and supply's me with Breast-Milk. Rain'd hard last night. The Thumb of my left Hand seiz'd this morning. We presently put on a Blister to my Wrist. Days of deep Affliction and Distress, tho now and then intervals of Comfort. May the Lord look upon me and be gracious to me! P.M. Captain Forbush and divers others here. I sent for Justice

Baker who came to confer with him about Sending to Mr. Minot⁵ of Concord to come and preach next Lords Day. My Hand grows much worse.

27. So that I had a Night of grievous Trouble and Exercise till the Morning. My Hand somewhat easier in the Day, and I was more comfortable and lively. But these are Days of Darkness and sorrow. Mrs. Molly Brigham (Gershom's wife) brot some bak'd Bear with Sauce which I could Eat of tho I have a most deprav'd appetite and have eaten next to no Meat these Two Days. Mr. Baxter visits me and pray'd with me. He tells me Noah Hows has been with him about his Baptism. Mrs. Hepzibah Maynard visits me. A.M. Mrs. Rachel Rice and her son Abners Wife here, but no particular Notice was taken of the latter one way nor another. At Night my Hand still very sore and much swell'd, yet not so as to prevent my sleeping. But a Blister a little below my Knee has more prevented my walking in the Room, thereat almost any Time of late.

28. Somewhat broke off my Rest by Company too late here last Evening. Yet the Day was not very bad. Walk but little because of my Blister aforesaid in my left Hand remains much swell'd, but not very painful. Mrs. Dolly Rice here, and nigh Eve came my Dauter Forbush and sister Lydia and lodge here.

29. A very good Night last, for sleep. D.G. Yet its followed with a Day of faintness. Mr. Beeton carrys a Letter for me directed to Lieutenant Taylor⁶ of Townshend. Mr. Joseph Woods din'd here. Towards Night sister Lydia and my Dauter went back.

30. Another tolerable Night for sleep, yet remain faint and weak only my appetite is Somewhat better. I am humbly waiting the will of God. But it is Another Melancholly, sorrowful Sabbath. A meeting is held at the Meeting House, but few attend it. The School-Master, Mr. Jonathan Ward reads a. and p.m. Dr. Watts on Ps. 42, 2. At Dinner we had Deacon Forbush and old Mr. Bradish. At Eve Mr. Eliezer Rice desirous of Dr. Scammell

⁵ Timothy Minot, schoolmaster and supply preacher.

⁶ Daniel Taylor. See Ithamar B. Sawtelle, *History of the Town of Townshend* (Fitchburg, 1878), pp. 154-155.

(if he Should come here) for his Young Child. The Nights are Cold and frosty.

31. I had a very Good Night—but am weak and faint in the Day. Kind Letter from the Reverend Brother Morse⁷ recommending a Remedy which he had taken with Success. Mr. Francis Whipple tells me he publish'd my son yesterday at the North Meeting House. Thus have I been carry'd thro this Month of deep and distressing Sickness and Pain. May it please God to engage my whole Soul in holy Gratitude and Praise to Him who has been my only Saviour, my Refuge and Support! And might it please him to perfect the begun Mercy in my thorow Restoration and Recovery!

SEPTEMBER, 1752

1. I have Somewhat comfortable Nights, and my Appetite is somewhat reviv'd, yet I am faint and weak, and have an inward Fever attending me, I suppose continually. I humbly wait the Divine Will. I am inform'd that divers Bears are about, and that one lay in my Field at the other Place lately, and has done Damage in the Corn.

2. Somewhat dull and heavy. Yet Mr. Stone and his Wife and Mr. Forbush from Brookfield and my Dauter, were here to see me and din'd with me. Near Night came Dr. Willson and Deacon Burnap from Hopkinton to see me also. Little Samuel brought home from Weaning.

[There are no entries dated September 3 to September 13, 1752 because of the change in the calendar.]

14. I remain feeble, yet I hope recruiting by slow Degrees. Mr. Forbush Studys here to Day, being about his preparations for the Sabbath—Billy has been about the Stalks, which he having cutt, he is gathering and Piking as he is able. By Reason of the late Frosts the Bushes are so Brown'd that the Year is advanc'd into the Fall even more than in proportion to the Alteration of the Date. Rain at Evening.

15. Mr. Forbush takes Leave and goes to Brookfield, appointing to return 4 Weeks from next Monday. P.M. Mr. Martyn

⁷ Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

here and Mrs. Winchester. At Eve I wrote a Letter to Dr. Scammell, Deacon Newton the Bearer.

16. This being the 51st Day in Old Style I would consider as being my Birth Day; and Bless God who has so wonderfully preserv'd me, and graciously born with me thro such a long Space as 49 Years. Vide Natalitia.

[Under the date of September 5, 1752 the following appears in the Natalitia.]

I attended in Some poor, broken manner upon like Exercises with those which have been wont to employ me on these Days. But am now under the holy Frowns of a righteous God afflicting and chastizing me by the Remains of illness, pains and weakness, which may it please God to Sanctifie and remove! And Blessed be His glorious Name, that in the Midst of Wrath he has remembered Mercy; and that I am in Some Measure reliev'd and hope I am in a Way of Recovery. If it shall please Him to restore me to His service, May my Life be devoted to Him and to His Glory at another Rate than ever heretofore! But desire humbly to yield myself to the Sovereign Will and Pleasure of the most high! I will, by his Grace enabling Me thereto bear the Indignation of the Lord for I have sinn'd against Him.

[The entry for September 16, 1752, continues in the diary.]

My Thumb on my left Hand begins to be in Pain; and it increas'd more and more. P.M. Mr. Joseph Manning comes from Concord and informs me that Mr. Minot, to whom I sent to preach for me tomorrow cannot come, it being Sacrament Day there. Deacon Newton brings me Directions and a little vial from Dr. Scammell.

17. Nobody to preach Still. How Melancholly, how Solitary! They read at the Meeting House Dr. Watts on Rom. 1, 16. Mrs. Tainter and Mary Biglo dine here. My hand exceeding full of Pain. At Night I put on a (Ninth) Blister.

18. My Hand much easier. D.G. Young Mr. Minot and Mrs. Bekky Hall¹ dine here, in their Return to Sutton. As did Mr. Daniel Forbush who is laying the Front Door Stone. P.M. I

¹ Rebecca was the daughter of the Reverend David Hall of Sutton.

wrote to the Reverend Mr. Haven of Portsmouth concerning my Townshend Interest—sent it per Mr. Joseph Manning. Ensign Millers Wife here.

19. Ebenezer waits upon his Aunt Lydia to Cambridge in Sergeant Maynard² of Shrewsbury's Chair. Mr. Manning with them. Mr. Wellman³ din'd here. Billy goes to t'other House to take Care of Things and Creatures etc. there. Mr. Samuel Morris of Dudley here.

20. The Weather being clear and Warm I ventur'd to walk out abroad; and the Air was balmy and refreshing. Blessed be God for His great Goodness to me in raising me from so low and afflicted a State to so much Ease and Comfort.

21. My Wife went over to t'other House. The Reverend Mr. Price of Hopkinton now from Worcester, here, to make me an offer about Books of his I had Spoke to him of; but he spent the Chief of his Time with me in vindicating the Church of England. At Eve Mr. Newton—and divers others here to see me. Mr. Winchester brot a kind Letter from my Brother Samuel Parkman and several Presents, therewith. I walk'd abroad again.

22. My son Ebenezer came up from Watertown last Night and brot his Bride, Mrs. Elizabeth Harrington, the Dauter of Mr. Joseph Harrington of Watertown, with him, for they were marry'd yesterday p.m., and Mr. John Rogers came with the Team loaded with her Goods. May God please to make 'em an happy pair! A.M. Mr. Samuel Harrington being here I took the Opportunity to ride a few Rods on his Horse. P.M. Thomas came with a Chair and drove me over to See the New-Married and I din'd with them. He also brot me back before Night; so that I receiv'd no harm as I hope.

23. One Smith of Medfield here, enquiring about the Remedy for Cancers, his Father in Law, one Mr. Hammond having one, which has already destroyed one of his Eyes and now eats his Cheek. Wrote to Mr. Martyn to preach here tomorrow if Mr. Frink⁴ preaches for him. The return was that he must preach at

² Simon Maynard was one of the founders of the Shrewsbury Church.

³ The Reverend James Wellman of Millbury.

⁴ Thomas Frink of Rutland.

Marlboro. I wrote also to Mr. Cushing having been inform'd that Mr. Swan⁵ is to preach for him: the return was that tomorrow will be their Sacrament, but that he will not prevent Mr. Swans coming to us. Billy brot over divers of our Goods from t'other House.

24. Through the great Goodness of God to me I went to His House, and was enabled to perform divine service both a. and p.m. but omitted Reading: I preach'd a.m. on Mic. 7, 9. P.M. (my son Ebenezer appearing Bridegroom) I preach'd a.m. on 1 Chron. 29, 19. Nor was I at Eve Extremely overcome. Blessed be God for His great Goodness and Mercy to me! O that I might never forget His Benefits! and might it please Him to perfect the recovery—that the Soul may be restor'd and have Eternal Life. N.B. Mr. John Martyn junior din'd with us.

25. I am not any thing (apparently) worse for the Exercise Yesterday: but my Knees are still weak, and my Left Hand is not without some Pain and stiffness. Noah Hardy came to plough my Stubble at the Island: but Billy was so late in bringing the Team from t'other House that they did little in the forenoon. P.M. they kept to the Work. The School has been kept several Days at Mr. Eliezer Rice's.

26. It is in General a very dry Time: very little Water in our Well—but there were considerable Showers of Rain last Night. P.M. Deacon Newton here and gives me a distinct account of their late proceedings at the Superior Court.

27. Bears are rife about: another is kill'd in Town. As to myself, I hope I gather Strength in the Main, but it is Slowly. I can read and write longer than I could a while agoe. I desire to be heartily thankful to God for it. May I have the Grace to make a due Improvement of it! I almost daily endeavour something in my Preparations for the Sabbath. Billy goes to Mill to Captain Drurys.⁶ Write to my Brothers. P.M. Mr. Winchester.

28. Constantine Hardy ploughs with my Team the rest of my Field at Cook Island. At Eve Mr. Samuel Harrington here, and

⁵ Josiah Swan, formerly the minister of Dunstable, and now a schoolmaster of Lancaster.

⁶ Thomas Drury of Grafton.

acquaints me that he has brot home one of the three young Cattle that were turn'd into the Woods last Spring. The other two are missing, viz. a Three Year old Heifer and a Two Year old. They were under the Care of one Mr. John Curtis of Leicester, upper part.

29. A Number of men were here who had been hunting Bears which they See the Tracks of in many places about us. Mrs. Hephzibah Maynard to see me.

30. I feel Some pains in my left Shoulder, and Hand, and my Knees are weak. After a considerable Drought there comes a great and plentifull Rain.

OCTOBER, NEW STYLE, 1752

1. It prov'd very rainy and confin'd me at both a. and p.m., a sore Frown of God's holy Sovereign Providence that I am thus chastiz'd. I design'd to have preach'd again upon Mic. 7, 9, but am forbid. May I have Grace to utter my Text my Self! Dr. Watt's sermon 18 of volume 1 read (on Rom. 1, 16). The Weather clears up about 4 or 5 p.m.

2. I rode to Mrs. Newtons (who had handsomely invited me to her House as soon as I Should get abroad again) and I din'd with her. P.M. I went to Deacon Newtons and borrow'd of him 18 Dollars with a View to my Paying Mr. Felton of Marlborough. When I return'd home Mr. Martyn came to see me.

3. I prepar'd my Self to go over to Mr. Martyns, but not having an Horse, I went not. In order to get an Horse I walked to Mr. Nurse's and thence to old Mr. Maynards. I proceeded further to my t'other House. N.B. I was without an Horse because Billy was gone to Mill, and I suppos'd Ebenezer to be gone to Leicester to look up the young Cattle which are missing: but the Cattle at Home were so unruly that he went not—but by that Time I got there it was too late. I rode to Mr. Richard Barns, and made him an offer of Two Thirds of the Lands which I bought of him, if he would procure and pay the Money which remains due by me to Mr. Felton but he would not accept my offer; not tho I repeated it over and over. I din'd with my Children at

tother House and Mr. Grow with us. I return'd home before Night, I hope in safety, tho it was windy and somewhat searching to my poor crazy Limbs.

4. A fine Day. Mr. Daniel Forbush brot me Mr. Samuel Harringtons Horse for me to go and See his Wife who lyes in a low Condition. I went and found her in a gracious Frame, and tho very weak in Body yet I am full of Hopes for her Recovery. N.B. Captain John Tainter¹ There. Mr. Harrington sent his son with a Load of Wood to my House. At noon I rode to my other House and by Lieutenant Maynards urgent Invitation I went to their House, Colonel Ward being there to give out Commissions to several Officers in the New Troop lately rais'd out of Shrewsbury and this Town. Mr. Cushing² there and we had an handsome Entertainment. My Son Ebenezer went this Morning up to Leicester Woods to look up our stray Cattle. His wife rode home with me and thence she rode to her Brother Bonds to tarry a Day or Two there. N.B. Mr. John Oake,³ who has so long been under a terrible Evil of Cancer, was bury'd this afternoon.

5. A fine Day—p.m. I rode to Lieutenant Bruce's and reckon'd with him and his son Ephraim. I am still weak in my Knees and my left arm is somewhat Lame.

6. Another fine Day. I rode to Mr. Jonas Brigham⁴ to see his sister Mrs. Deborah who has been ill for some Time. Thence I went to Marlborough. Settled with Mr. Jacob Felton, paying him the Money which I took up of him last Year to pay Mr. Richard Barns for 4 acres of Land which I bought of him, adjoining to my old Place. Din'd at Colonel Williams's was at Mr. Smiths⁵ and Dr. Brigham⁶. Return'd at Eve. N.B. Ebenezer return'd last night from Leicester and the lost Cattle are brought home. Lieutenant Tainter brought a Load of Wood and a Barrell of Cyder.

¹ Of Watertown. The brother of Deacon Simon Tainter of Westborough.

² The Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

³ Of Westborough.

⁴ The son of David Brigham of Westborough.

⁵ The Reverend Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

⁶ Samuel Brigham, a physician of Marlborough.

7. A Storm of Rain arose towards Night, which grew impetuous.

8. It continued Stormy and rain'd all Day. But I could not bear that the people Should be again Destitute. I wrap'd my Self up exceedingly, had an Horse brot to my Door, and rode to the Meeting-House Door; by which means I attended and perform'd the Public Worship both a. and p.m. My Text Mal. 7, 9. N.B. I still omitt the Reading; and as to naming what Tune to sing, I acquainted the Congregation that the more special End which I had in going into that Custom having been, Some time Since, answer'd I should leave it to him that should sett the Tune to sing what he should think proper. I desire to bless God that at Evening I find no inconvenience by going out to Day. May God accompany the Word with the special Energy of His Holy Spirit—and especially make it profitable to my own Soul; that I may bear the Indignation of the Lord! I have the utmost Reason to because I have sinn'd against Him.

9. This Day was appointed and agreed upon by Lieutenant Tainter and others to gather my Corn at the Island, but the storm continues; and nothing can be done altho there is reason to fear it will rot.

10. The storm ceases a.m. but I am not able to attend the Association at Rutland to Day. Mrs. Martyn din'd with us. P.M. came her brother Marritt⁷ of Cambridge. My Dauter Forbush⁸ here and prepares to go to Cambridge.

11. The Weather Doubtfull and no Money for my Dauter's Journey—but at length the Air was clearer; and Esquire Baker came and lent me some Gold. Molly came but depended on her Brother Mr. Daniel Forbush to go with her, who did not come as expected. She went to his House. After the middle of the Day they Set out from hence to Cambridge and Boston. P.M. Mrs. Witt, my wife's Niece, and her sister Betty, came to us; but return'd to Marlboro.

12. Billy goes with my Team to Mr. Tainters for a Load of Cyder, and brings home a pair of Guinea Fowls from Mr. Daniel

⁷ Amos Marrett was the older brother of Mrs. John Martyn of Northborough.

⁸ Mary Parkman had married the Reverend Eli Forbush or Forbes of Brookfield.

Forbush's and 30 Rails from Mr. James Millers junior. Mr. William Rogers works for me, clearing about the East Part of the Barn Land for tho it is fair yet my Corn is not fit to gather. Mrs. Lucy Bowker here p.m. cutting out several Garments for the little Boys. Mr. Elijah Rice of Shrewsbury here, with a Note from Mr. Nathaniel Livermore of Weston.

13. A Fair and pleasant Day for our Harvest. D.G. Lieutenant Tainter, Mr. Jonathan Forbush, Joseph Bowman and Isaac Miller cut up my Corn; and my Son William with my Team to Cart it; and afterwards Mr. Harrington with his Team; So that they got it all home before noon. Lieutenant Tainter, Joseph Bowman and Isaac Miller din'd here. Mrs. Lucy Bowker lodg'd here last night and is at work here to Day, making several of the Garments which She Cutt out Yesterday. Instead of Brother Samuel who was expected to come up on my Mare, my Brother William came. Brother Samuels Dauter Nabby being dangerously ill. P.M. a number of Hands husk'd out my Corn. Old Mr. Maynard and his sons, Ebenezer and Nathan, old Mr. Rice, Joseph Bowman, Isaac Miller, Mr. Bonds 2 Sons, 2 from Mr. Jonah Warrins, Daniel Grout, Constantine Hardy and some others, made up the Company. The Husking was over by that the Evening came: but they tarried so long as to thrust the Husks into the Barn. N.B. the Widow Newton and Mrs. Molly Johnson here. My Brother went over to the other House and lodged there.

14. Billy with assistance putts the remainder of the Husk'd Corn into the Barns. It was so Spoil'd with the Drought and with the Frost that there is but here and there a good Ear among it. But God is holy and Sovereign. My Brother with me again. Rain p.m.

15. I had not prepar'd, by Means of my Indispositions and Avocations (partly; and partly I fear through my too great Negligence—which may God in infinite Mercy forgive through Jesus Christ)! I took a Text conformable to the general Subject which I had been of late upon, viz. the eighth Commandment—honouring the Lord with our substance: the Text was Ps. 11, 7 and I us'd my Expositions of Mat. 6. P.M. I repeated Sermon

on John 17, 3 to page 12. N.B. My Brothers Expressions (denoting Assurance) in the Morning before we went to Meeting. N.B. he din'd at Deacon Newtons.

16. Tho under Pains and Infirmitys and the Day Cloudy, p.m. and Mr. Fish of Upton here, yet I visited the Widow Pierce: She is very bad, yet no great Signs of Repentence. Her Case very Deplorable! God be Mercifull to her! My Brother returns to Boston.

17. I am troubl'd with Rheumatic Pains Day by Day; especially in my left Arm.

18. Mr. Hezekiah Pratt has brought up my Mare from Boston and left my Dauter there.

19. I preach'd the Lecture. I make a Practice of delivering Sermons on these Occasions, which I have heretofore deliver'd for I cannot, under my Encumbrances and Difficultys, prepare fully, even so much as for the Sabbaths. What I deliver'd to Day was on Hos. 6, 6. Neither my Son Ebenezer nor Thomas were at Meeting; and but few others.

20. P.M. Mr. William Pierce acquaints me that his Mother is dead. At Eve Rain. Mr. Daniel Forbush brings up in his Cart, Brass, Pewter etc. from Boston for my Dauter.

21. A Bright Morning after a Stormy Night. O might I enjoy the like Favour in Spiritual Respects! I was not very well, but it being a bright good Day I ventur'd out to the Funeral of the Widow Pierce of Hopkinton. This prov'd a very great Interruption to my Studys—so that (to my great Grief) under my Infirmitys and Difficultys I can get but one Sermon ready for the Sabbath.

22. Preach'd on Heb. 9, 15, and administer'd the Sacrament of the Lords Supper. P.M. I repeated Sermon on 1 John 3, 23. Mrs. Emma Maynard din'd with us. May God be magnify'd that we have again this Solemnity!

23. I din'd early at home, and Catechiz'd at Mr. Joslins. 13 Children, Boys and Girls together. May God seal the Instruction!

24. I visited old Mr. Samuel Fay⁹—and Mrs. Harrington, they

⁹ Samuel Fay, Jr., nephew of the late Captain John Fay of Westborough.

having desir'd Prayers last Lords Day. The first of them recovers to his usual State; the other languishes. My left Arm grows more Rheumatic Day by Day.

25. I din'd at home, but p.m. rode over to see Mr. Martyn, not having been there of a very great while: yet my pains were Successless: They both, Mr. Martyn and his Wife were gone to Southboro. I soon return'd—it was well I did: my little son Breck was carry'd home lame from School by Mr. Eliezer Rice—tis fear'd his Leg is broke. May God Sanctify!

26. Breck is no easier. Storm of Rain. Mr. Aaron Nurse with my Billy puts up my Husks from the Barn Floor. N.B. Uncommon Storm of Wind and Rain in the Night.

27. Breck's Leg no better: from the Discoverys I could make no Bone is broke, or put out of Joint, but I conceive the Tendons are strain'd, and perhaps the Ligaments at the Ankle. Mr. Grout, and old Mrs. Maynard at my Desire, came to See Breck, being feverish and not able to stir his Leg. I Sent by Mr. William Nurse for Dr. Brigham, who came, and I hope his anointing and bathing him was beneficial. Sent Billy to Mr. Joseph Goodale at Grafton for a pair of Chair Wheels, the time Sett being more than up. At Eve he returns, but without 'em. N.B. Ebenezer brought over part of the Young Cow which he kill'd yesterday—the whole Creature weigh'd 16 Score wanting one Pound. N.B. Mr. John Beton brought a Pair of Andirons for my Daughter Forbush, weigh'd 36 at 4/ per pound. N.B. one of our Guinea Fowls carry'd off in the Night by Some Animal of Prey.

28. My sons wife din'd here and tarried the Afternoon. Mr. Grout came kindly to See Breck, who is much as he was yesterday. I have been so interrupt'd in my studys by Brecks Lameness that I have not been able to touch any sermon for p.m. tomorrow—to my great sorrow and Grief.

29. A very Cold Day, and I have So much Pain in my left Arm, especially have in the Nights distressing Trouble with it, that I am much concern'd about the Event; yet I ventur'd to Meeting both Parts of the Day. Preach'd a.m. on Heb. 9, 15. P.M. I went on with a further Exercise about Alms etc. from

Mat. 6, 4 repeating my Expository Attempts on that Passage from page 6 to 10.

30. The Reverend and Learned Mr. Clark¹⁰ of Salem Village here, in returning home from Sutton, where he, with two more ministers, Mr. Dor¹¹ and Mr. Hobby,¹² had been assisting Mr. Wellmans Church and some agriev'd Brethren to a reconcilment and tis to be hop'd with some success. One Mr. Bartlett was with him and they din'd here. P.M. Mr. Moses Warrin¹³ and his wife here and were examin'd.

31. Mr. Forbush came last Night to the Other House, and hither this Morning—but hastens away to Boston (his wife being still there) and carrys with him John Barrett; he has Mr. Martyns Chair and my Mare. Ebenezer makes an Husking this Evening. I am but lame yet in my left Arm. And we are much put to 't for Wood, but we have some Loggs and we pick about and get one Thing and another. Yet it is difficult because the season is unusually Cold, and I am so infirm. But I desire to trust in the careful faithfull Providence of God!

NOVEMBER, 1752

1. A fine Day. I rode abroad tho my Arm is upon many Occasions thrown into great Pain. Was at Esquire Bakers; visit Mrs. Harrington and din'd there—at Deacon Forbush's, Elijah Rice's—visit Mr. Pierce's Family—his Wife and son Seth sick—the latter very bad. Mr. Pierce was my Company home, and I had some free Conversation with him. N.B. Lieutenant Tainter brought me a Load of Wood. Mr. Moses Warrin another.

2. Messers. Elijah Rice and Martyn Pratt break out and swingle Flax. And Charles Rice and John Frost digg stones. P.M. at Mr. Bradish's, Private Meeting. N.B. There were few there, even tho I waited long for their Coming. It arose from a Mistake about New and Old Style. We pray'd and Sung, but

¹⁰ Peter Clark of Danvers.

¹¹ Joseph Dorr of Mendon.

¹² William Hobby of Reading.

¹³ Moses, the son of Daniel Warrin of Westborough, had married, Jan. 24, 1751, Persis, the daughter of Seth Rice.

the design'd Sermon was omitted. When I return'd home Mr. Martyn was here. He had been to see his son, Mr. John who is now sett up a Corier¹ among us, and begins to work. N.B. Dr. Brigham came to see Brecks Leg, which he can't yet go upon.

3. Billy went with the Team and brought home from Mr. Jonathan Fay's, his present a Barrell of Cyder which Ebenezer Nurse presents me, and further Lieutenant Tainter brought a Barrell of Cyder which Mr. Bowman has given. I desire thankfully to acknowledge the Goodness of God in stirring up the Minds of His People to bestow thus bountifully upon me who am so unworthy. My wife went to Mr. Joseph Batchellors in Grafton. Mr. Ephraim Sherman (come from Boston with his Team) din'd with me.

4. My son Ebenezer draws Stones with my Team, for underpinning the Barn and Billy assists him. Mr. Forbush and his wife tarry at Boston or Cambridge yet.

5. A very pleasant Day. I preach'd a. and p.m. on Heb. 9, 15. N.B. Ebenezer and his Wife went home to the Other House to Dinner. Old Mrs. Whipple din'd here. After the Exercises p.m. I Stop'd the Church and read a Draught of a Letter which I had prepar'd to Send in my own Name to the Committee of the aggrieved Brethren in the West Church in Sudbury. But it was desir'd they might have some Time to take it into Consideration before they discover'd their Thots upon it.

6. Messers Biglo and Claffland came a.m. to underpinning my Barn. P.M. we all go to the Burying of Mr. William Pierce's son Seth, his wife and Two more sons sick of the Same Fever.

7. Messers Biglo and Claffland at work here again, underpinning the Barn and making a Stage or Causey to go into the stable Door. They also face the Well. I visit Mrs. Pierce and her sons. N.B. I was at Justice Bakers to get him to pay Captain Chandler of Worcester for me 20£ Old Tenor and he tells me he will do it.

8. Mr. Forbush and his Wife came from Boston, where my Dauter has been, now a long Time providing for her keeping

¹ Corier (or coriar) was an obsolete form of currier, meaning one engaged in the trade of dressing and coloring leather.

House. They lodg'd at t'other House, as did Mr. [blank] Taylor of Brookfield from Captain Witts with a Team for Mrs. Forbush's Goods.

9. Mrs. Nabby Baker making and altering Gowns for Lucy. She, with Mr. Taylor², Mr. Bartlett³ of Sutton din'd here. My Dauters Goods which are here, loaded up in Mr. Taylors Cart: and he goes to t'other House to lodge. Mr. Forbush etc. here with us, and both dine and lodge here—which is a Rarity!

10. After Mr. Forbush etc. had din'd here they went to Upton to visit Mr. Fish⁴ and his Wife, tho there was great likelihood of Rain.

11. Rain a.m. Mr. Forbush and his wife return'd from Upton P.M.

12. Mr. Forbush preach'd a. and p.m. A.M. on Isa. 64, 6, that Clause "And we all do fade as a Leaf." P.M. on Rom. 16, 7—"Who were in Christ before me," insisting chiefly on those words, "who were in Christ." N.B. My Dauter was not well and did not go to Meeting.

13. So great Rain p.m. especially that we little expected Company. Yet at Eve came a number of persons from Brookfield, viz. Captain Witt, Messers. Bartlett and Abraham How. The two former lodged here. Mr. How lodg'd at Captain Bakers. Several Persons came also to t'other House—viz. Jeduthan Baldwin, who rode in a Chair for Mr. Forbush and my Dauter, and one Mr. Smith. Two others also who lodg'd at [blank]. Mrs. Nabby Baker here making and altering Gowns for my Dauter Lucy.

14. Early in the Morning Mr. Forbush and his Wife, with the Company who came to wait on them together with a Number from us, My Son Ebenezer and his Wife, Thomas and Lucy—Messers. Daniel and Jonathan Forbush and their Wives, took leave of us for Brookfield, designing to dine at Sergeants⁵ at

² James Taylor of Sutton.

³ Richard Bartlett.

⁴ The Reverend Elisha Fish.

⁵ Jonathan Sargent kept a tavern in Leicester. Emory Washburn, *Historical Sketches of Leicester* (Boston, 1860), p. 391.

Leicester: the weather Fair, and Everyone, through Mercy, in Health. Lucy is gone with her sister to tarry with her this Winter. May God be gracious to them, and give them a prosperous Journey by the Will of God! and may their Joys be never diminish'd! I visited Mrs. Pierce and her Children that are sick. P.M. Antoine Cussuc, a Deserter from the French Forces at Chignecto, or from Crown Point, here. At Eve I marry'd Mr. Francis Harrington⁶ and Mrs. Deborah Brigham,⁷ at her Brother Jonas's, and I supp'd there.

15. Ensign Josiah Rice made me a present of a pair of Turkeys and a Bag of Turnips. N.B. Billy, and Mrs. Molly Bond⁸ are all that keep House at my other House.

16. Publick Thanksgiving. I preach'd on Ps. 50, 22. O that we might truly offer praise, so as that we may indeed Glorifie God! and so order our Conversation that we may all See and enjoy the Salvation of God! N.B. Mr. Edwards Whipple who has been wont to set the Tune, having set 100 new at the first singing, Mr. David Batherick was so displeas'd that at the Next Singing he rose up and Set a Tune that would please himself better, and thus likewise at the last Singing, to the great Disturbance of many. At Evening came Messers. Williams, Francis and Edwards Whipple, Nathan Maynard and Mr. Jonathan Ward,⁹ the Schoolmaster to visit me.

17. Mr. Nathan Sergeant of Leicester who has been at Work for me in making some Joiners Ware for my Daughter Forbush in his way to Boston din'd here.

18. The Turkey Cock was Stole away by a Fox as we suppose.

19. On Ps. 11, 7, a.m., and when I nam'd that Psalm to be Sung expressly desir'd Mr. Edwards Whipple would Set the Tune, and added that considering how awful those Words are, may no one presume, on what Pretence So ever to interrupt the Sacred Worship. P.M. repeated Sermon 308 to 310, on 2 Cor. 3, 15, in

⁶ Of Worcester.

⁷ The daughter of David Brigham of Westborough.

⁸ The daughter of Jonathan Bond.

⁹ The son of Hezekiah Ward of Westborough.

one Exercise. And may God please to fasten and ripen the Impressions which arise hereby!

20. Rainy. No one but Billy and Molly Bond to keep House and take all the Care of the Stock etc. at t'other Place. At Eve came Several Brethren of the Church to See me (and it was agreeable to my Desire Signify'd to Deacon Forbush) and converse about the Sudbury Affair. They were Lieutenant Tainter, Ensign Miller, and Mr. Whitney: afterwards came Deacon Forbush. They were of opinion that there was no need of the Church acting any Thing formally about it. The Authors of the Sudbury Letter had requested Nothing but that we would consider of our own Conduct, which it no doubt behoves us to do: Let the Pastor of this Church if he pleases do So much as inform one of them that their Letter has been laid before us. Those Brethren aforesaid made some Business of discoursing about Brother Bathericks Conduct on the late Day of Publick Thanksgiving. They agreed that Deacon Forbush Should go and talk with him—and if he should appear unconvinc'd of his Error, they conceiv'd it must be laid before the Church. But if he was Sensible, and would do so no more, this being discover'd to the Pastor, they were willing it should be passed over. Left Arm so Painful I put on a Blister.

21. Esquire Baker here. Informs me that he has paid Captain Chandler of Worcester 20£, 13, 4, Lawful money, for me. It being for 1000 Clabboards which I bought of him last year. He Signifys to me at the Same Time that Captain Chandler express'd uneasiness at my long Delay. I gave Esquire Baker a note till the first of next April. Sometimes rainy. The Weather exceeding windy—Sour—and therefore So uncomfortable that I am much confin'd whereas I had otherwise gone to t'other House to See how Billy Conducts there, or to Mr. Pierce's seeing another, Francis, lies now Sick among them—Five, in all, now Sick. May God be mercifull to them. At Eve came Mr. Marrit of Cambridge, and smok'd a pipe with me, but he lodg'd I suppose at Justice Bakers.

22. North West Wind very Cold this morning—Tis the Day appointed for the Ordination of Mr. Jacob Cushing¹⁰ at Waltham.

¹⁰ Jacob (Harvard 1748), the son of the Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury, served the First Congregational Church of Waltham, 1752-1809. *Sibley*, XII, 252-257.

May he be strong in the Grace which is in Christ Jesus! Am debarr'd the pleasure of Waiting upon it, but may God be with me in my Solitude! Mr. Joseph Goodale and his Wife, from Grafton, for Boston din'd here. Billy from t'other House informs me that his Brothers return'd from Brookfield last Night. Billy rides p.m. to Mr. Joseph Batchellors at Grafton.

23. The Coldest Morning hitherto. The Earth is now froze hard. P.M. Snows hard. Mrs. Persis Warrin, wife of Moses Warrin, here. At Eve, he himself—both of them that I might gather Minutes from them for their Relation to the Church. My Lameness in my left Arm very troublesome. Can't pull off or put on my Cloths. My Affairs Somewhat perplex'd. My son has not come to me since his Journey to Brookfield and winter is come upon us before I am ready—No place to put up my Cattle o'nights, how cold or Stormy Soever. No small Wood at the Door, but some Pine which being lately cut down is unfit to burn. But my wife went to See old Mrs. Dorcas Forbush¹¹ and get Lieutenant (her son) to let his Team go, and Samuel Forbush now prevail'd with to bring up a Load before Night. May the Lord look on my very Afflicted State and appear for my Help and Relief as he has numberless Times done!

24. The morning bright, and the whole Earth round us in its Winter White. As to me altho I am not able to dress my Self in my upper Cloths, yet I thank God I feel so well in my Stomach and am able to read, write, Study, go to the Door; and So far look after my Affairs. My Confinement however, gives me many Disappointments. May I have the Grace to exercise the Patience call'd for!

25. But may God be pleas'd to grant me a Suitable Frame of Temper under all his Dealings with Me and Mine! At Eve came Three of our Young Kinswomen, viz. Ruth, Hannah and Elizabeth Hicks¹² from Salem and Cambridge in their return Home to Sutton; and lodge here. N.B. This is the first Night of our tying up Cattle in my New Barn. We now put up three Cows.

¹¹ Widow of the late Thomas Forbush.

¹² Daughter of John Hicks of Sutton, Parkman's brother-in-law.

26. Our Kinswomen keep Sabbath with us. I preach'd on Ps. 11, 7, a. and p.m. At Eve our Kinswomen went home with Ebenezer. O that we might be truly righteous that we might have the reward and be blessed with the Righteous!

27. A bright pleasant Day. I walk'd up to Mr. Ebenezer Rice's to reckon with him; but he was not at home. I visited Sarah Newton¹³ lately cur'd of a Polypus¹⁴ in her Nose: Din'd there (at Deacon Newton's) but the Deacon not at Home. At Mr. Nurse's also. In the Eve Ebenezer was here, and we had some talk of our Settling our Affairs—his Labour on the place as taking it to the halves etc. I gave him Two Ridgling Piggs of last Spring, over and above, but we defer the Exact Settling.

28. Our Kinswomen, who have been a Night or Two past at t'other House, return hither and go over to Upton, designing from thence Home to Sutton. The Weather frequently wet: the Day in general Dark, windy and uncomfortable. My Arm I think is somewhat better through the Favour of God, but my Wife dull, disconsolate. May God Himself, Support, Strengthen and Comfort her!

29. I was at Mr. Biglo's and convers'd with Captain Ephraim Littlefield of Holliston there, concerning the present state of the Church there. I din'd at Mr. Elijah Rice's. Went from thence (in the Rain) to Mr. Pierce's. Mr. Barrett¹⁵ there, praying with the sick. I also pray'd with them before I came away.

30. Rainy, but Mr. Hutchinson¹⁶ came and din'd with me, and preach'd the Lecture on Heb. 13, 20. After Sermon Moses Warrin and Persis his wife were admitted into the Church, also Amy Mainard Wife of Ebenezer Mainard. N.B. This was done agreeable to a proposal of it made to the Church and consented to last Lords Day. They were admitted before the Congregation because the Day was So short, and Dark Night soon coming on.

¹³ The daughter of Abner Newton.

¹⁴ A polyp, a mass of swollen mucous membrane.

¹⁵ Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

¹⁶ Aaron Hutchinson of Grafton.

Furthermore, the Brethren were stop'd to see what they would incline to do about the Sudbury Affair. Their Minds were, to let it drop, so no Vote was pass'd about it. N.B. I ask'd the Churchs Minds respecting my appointing or desiring a Person to sett the Psalm, and they voted that they were Satisfy'd with what I had done in it, particularly with my having desir'd Brother Edwards Whipple to Sett the Psalm. I moreover requested that they would Shew their Minds respecting the Tunes which we had usually Sung—Triple-time Tunes were especially intended, viz. Mear Ps. 100 new etc. They voted Satisfaction thereupon. At least I conceiv'd there was a Vote, because nobody objected against it: but otherwise, I am not altogether clear in it, that there was a Majority of Hands.¹⁷ N.B. Mr. Silas Brigham here; and I gave him an Extract from the Reverend Mr. Morse's¹⁸ Letter about him.

At the Close of this Month I would take Notice of the great Goodness of God in that I enjoy Such a Measure of Ease and Comfort as I am favour'd with; having good Appetite to my Food and in my Breast, Strength and Vigor, Notwithstanding that in my Limbs I have Sometime; the Blister I lately us'd upon it having reliev'd me but a little. But my Family Cares are heavy and Perplexing, and especially the deep and distressing Concern for my Everlasting well-being, and that of my dear Wife, Children; and to these I would not fail to add my dear Flock. O what shall I do that this greatest of all Interests may be Secur'd! and that true, Spiritual Religion may indeed flourish among us! Blessed be God that we are still permitted the invaluable Privileges of the Means and Season of Grace, notwithstanding my great unprofitableness; and our indifferency in Matters of Religion in general. O that God would please to pour out His Spirit upon us; and that I might especially myself experience the happy Effects of it!

¹⁷ In the Westborough Church Records, Nov. 30, 1752, Parkman entered: "The Brethren also voted that they were Satisfy'd in the Pastors having desir'd Brother Edwards Whipple to Set the Tune; and in the Tunes which we have been wont to Sing in this Congregation. N.B. These last Votes were occasion'd by Some late Disturbances in our Singing."

¹⁸ Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

DECEMBER, 1752

1. The Rain continues Still. Billy goes to School to Day to Mr. Jonathan Ward at Mr. Eliezer Rice's. Samuel Bumpso Bushel Turnips. P.M. Sun breaks out I improv'd the Day in Study, prayer and Self Reflection. At Eve Mr. Batherick here. Tells me he is sorry for what he did on the late Day of Thanksgiving, and that he will do so no more.

2. Ebenezer and his wife watch'd at Mr. Pierce's last night It remains an House of great Distress. Ebenezer Pierce is now taken ill. Mr. Hezekiah Pratt a Load of Wood, when we were much Straitned. Mr. Grout another.

3. Having finish'd both my Sermons last Night, my Mind is happily freer to Day. Thanks be to God who has enabled me thus far. I preach'd a.m. on Isa. 9, 6, first Clauses. Administer'd the Lord's Supper. Deacon Forbush din'd with us. P.M. on 1 Cor. 6, 9, 10, the unrighteous etc. Shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. This finishes the eighth Commandment. N.B. Deacon Forbush dines with us. The Weather Comfortable a great Favour considering how late in the Year. O might I suitably profit by the services of this Day! Be humbl'd for all my unrighteousness, and repair to and copy after Jesus the righteous, and escape the punishment of the unjust!

4. Mr. John Martyn¹ bore me a Message from his Father desiring me to preach his Lecture next Wednesday. The Town Met to Day at the North Meeting House, to consider and provide Money to pay Town-Debts. N.B. We this Day gave out the Last of the Corn in the Corn-Barn (which was the Island Corn) Nor is there any left of all the Indian Corn that I rais'd here, excepted a few Ears in the Garrett which were trac'd up. Billy gets out Corn for our Eating, at t'other House. At Evening Snows—in the Night the storm prevails, and by Morning the Snow is pritty deep. But God protects and guards Supplys and comforts us.

5. A very Winterlike Morning. The Day bright by 10 a.m. but Cold. I examin'd Some Number of Authorities yesterday and to Day on the ninth Commandment and am writing Some-

¹ The son of John Martyn, the minister of the north precinct.

thing of an Exposition of it. Read also Stackhouse's *Body of Divinity*.² It grows exceeding Cold.

6. Messers. Martyn Pratt and Elijah Rice, get out Flax. Neighbour Eliphalet Adams also. N.B. Mr. Jonathan Forbush brot me about 254 feet of Plank which he had sav'd for my stable and Cow House. N.B. It was So Cold I did not venture to go over to preach Mr. Martyns Lecture to Day. I desire to be humbled under the Frowns of God's Providence whereby I am detain'd and prevented.

7. Rainy, and raw Cold. Lieutenant Tainter and his son Simon, and Neighbour Eleazer Williams kill'd an Hog for me of 253. I catechiz'd at the Meeting-House, but had only Two Children besides 4 of my own. Lieutenant at Evening. Salted up my Pork.

8. Lieutenant Tainter assisted my son Ebenezer in killing and dressing a Cow, at t'other House. I visited Mr. Pierce's Family. Ebenezer Pierce extreme bad. N.B. Mr. Whipple's Mill-stone from Hopkinton.

9. Cold Searching Winds, and very uncomfortable Weather to poor Rheumaticks. Lieutenant Hunt³ of Concord, Brother in Law to Deacon Merriam⁴ of Grafton, here; chiefly on the Affairs of Acton, from whence he wants to be dismiss'd. The uneasiness which he and others have with Mr. Swift,⁵ much the Same with the Sudbury Brethren with Mr. Loring.⁶

10. Extreme high Winds last night. A Cold, uncomfortable Air, tho bright. I preach'd a.m. on Exod. 20, 16. I had prepar'd what I conceiv'd to be Sufficient for both Exercises, but that I might not be So long in the Exposition of this Commandment as I was of the last, I strove hard, and deliver'd the whole in one. P.M. I form'd an Exercise from 2 Cor. 5, 11, first part. N.B. I

² Thomas Stackhouse, *A Complete Body of Divinity . . . Extracted the best Ancient and Modern Writers* (London, 1729). A second edition was published in London in 1734.

³ Simon Hunt.

⁴ Joseph Merriam, one of the pioneers of Grafton, married Ruth Hunt of Concord. Pierce, *Grafton*, p. 532.

⁵ John Swift, Jr.

⁶ Israel Loring.

deliver'd all that related to the Chapter and what was peculiar to the tenth of the Text, without writing. And for the Body of the Subject us'd Sermon on Heb. 9, 27, from page 21 to 28, and 37, 38. And O that the Exercise might prove awakening and instructing unto all of us!

11. The Parish met and made the like Grant of 60£ Lawfull Money, as last Year; and voted to finish the pulpit, ministerial Pew, Stairs, Gallery Floors, and Breast work.⁷ Ebenezer brot over 3 Quarters of the Cow, he with Lieutenant Tainter help kill'd last Week—the 4 Quarters weigh'd 18 score wanting one part.

12. My sons wife goes over to her Brother Bonds to stay a few Days. I walk'd up to Mr. Charles Rice's. Reckon'd with Merchant Rice and I am this Day indebted to him about 12£ old Tenor. Cousen Samuel Trask here.

13. Visited at Mr. Pierce's. Ebenezer somewhat reviv'd had desir'd me to come. I was at Dinner with them. Was p.m. at Mr. Bonds and at Mr. Warrins.

14. Heard of the Sudden Death of Venerable and aged Mr. Hancock⁸ of Lexington. May God be pleas'd to show me convincingly and Effectually that I must also put off this my Tabernacle! At Evening marry'd Joseph Bruce to the Widow Child.⁹

15. A very Cold Morning after a Cold Night. Mrs. Molly Martyn din'd with us. She came over on foot, and p.m. goes up to Justice Bakers. Ebenezer Pierce dy'd about noon in his twenty second Year, accounted the most hopeful in the Family.

16. The Season becomes very Cold, and we are so unhappy as to have but a Small Woodpile: but I desire the Grace suitably to depend upon the kind Providence of God, who has always taken Care of me.

⁷ At this precinct meeting they also voted "to sell the pews; the highest payer in the two years they were building to have the first choice. Chose a committee to mark out the pews and to dignify and set a price upon each pew. Voted that the pew room on the floor next to the walls, and the room where the four hind seats should be, shall be called Pew-Room." DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, p. 137.

⁸ John Hancock died Dec. 5, 1752.

⁹ Sibyl (Cibel, Sibel) was the widow of Jonas Child of Westborough.

17. I provided very sufficiently for each part of the Day, especially for such a Short, Cold Day—but I was afraid my Expositions of this Commandment would take up too many Exercises, and therefore Strove hard to do as last Lords Day, even though I had now more pages than then, and deliver'd it all in the a.m. on Exod. 20, 16. P.M. repeated Sermon on Mat. 25, 46, on the Extremity of Hells Torments. O that God might please to accompany it with his Special Blessing!

18. At the Funeral of Ebenezer Pierce. A Sorrowful Time! This Death Seems to be much lamented. Many more attended it than I expected because of the fears of the people are under of being Seiz'd with the Same Fever. Mrs. Pierce and their Dauter Hannah lies sick yet. O might these Providences issue in the divine Glory, and their, and all our highest Good! And especially may our young people be Suitably awaken'd, and abiding Impressions be made upon them hereby! Alexander to School to Captain Maynards.

19. My Wife and I rode over to Mr. Martyns—din'd there, and tarry'd till almost Evening. Mr. Martyn has lately bought a Variety of New Books. I borrow'd of him Martins *Philosophical Grammar*.¹⁰ At Evening we stop'd at t'other House, and talk'd with Ebenezer¹¹ about his Circumstances and Manner of living there, and gave him what Encouragement I could. I feel a great deal of deep Concern for both his Temporal and Spiritual Good. May God direct me what to do for him, for the Securing both, but especially the latter! N.B. Lieutenant Tainter brought a Load of choice Walnut Wood. My Sons Father in Law, Mr. Joseph Harrington, on his Journey to Connecticut call'd here, while we were absent.

20. Mr. Hezekiah Pratt and Mr. Aaron Nurse assisted in Killing my other Hog. Weigh'd 9 Score and Six Pounds. At Eve Mr. David Maynard assisted in Cutting it out. Mr. Samuel Harrington a Load of Wood.

¹⁰ Benjamin Martin, *The Philosophical Grammar; being a View of the Present State of Experimented Physiology, or Natural Philosophy* (London, 1735). Another edition was published in London in 1738.

¹¹ Ebenezer, Jr., who had married Elizabeth Harrington of Watertown, Sept. 21, 1752, was living in the old parsonage located on the hill where the Lyman School now stands.

21. I went over to t'other House. My 3 sons are trimming over the New swamp the Ground being open and froze. I din'd there. I gave Ebenezer my Yoke of Oxen, and Two Young Heifers coming Two: also a last Year Calf. Alpheus Newton brought Two Load of Wood. Mr. William Rogers cutt up a Parcell of Wood at the Door, which was a Considerable Kindness. Cousen Winchester here.

22. A Cold Day. Old Mr. Dunlop din'd here. Billy at t'other House. They kill'd one of the Ridgling Shoats which have been some Trouble to us. Ensign Rice sent another Turkey Cock to t'other House—price 20/ old Tenor.

23. Raw Cold. Ebenezer brought over in the Team 4 Sticks for Sleepers to lay my Barn Floor, and he hung my Small Door on the South Side of the Barn. Mr. David Goodenow here. He brings a Petition (drawn up by Mr. Martyn) Sign'd by himself requesting a Charitable Contribution for him.

24. Preach'd on Exod. 20, 16 a. and p.m. Mrs. Grow din'd here. N.B. I had Some Discourse with Mr. Richard before I consented to baptize his infant Child. He assures me his wife and he are well reconcil'd, and he promises to walk orderly and soberly as becomes a Christian. P.M. after the Exercises, immediately before giving the Blessing, I read Mr. Goodenows Petition for a Contribution. I desir'd the Deacons of the Church and the Committee of the Parish to meet at my House tomorrow Eve, that I may have their Thoughts about it.

25. I rode to Mr. Amsdens to Mr. Thaddeus Gale's son Jacob who lies Sick. N.B. Dr. Robinson¹² of Marlboro there. Din'd with him at Mr. Amsdens Table. N.B. Instead of Resentments with Mr. Gale, who has been of a long Time represented by Mr. Grow as offended Mr. Gale came to me and thank'd me for my Visit etc. and then presented me with a double Toasting Iron requesting I would come again and See them. At Eve Deacons Forbush and Newton, Lieutenant Bruce and Mr. Phinehas Hardy (who with Deacon Newton made up a Majority of the Precinct

¹² Jeremiah Robinson, who did not have a college education, married Eunice, the daughter of Thomas Amsden of Marlborough. Robinson practiced medicine in Marlborough for many years.

Committee) met here at my Request publickly yesterday, to confer and give me their Thot, what would be best to be done with regard to the Contribution which Mr. David Goodenow had petitioned for. Mr. Grow was also here. They, upon the whole, could not advise to it by Virtue of that Petition, the reason they gave was, he did not appear humble, and blaming himself for his poverty, but the Contrary, and rather casting Blame where he ought not. And they Thought it left that I Should write to him.

26. Deacon Newton returns to me this Morning further to strengthen what was Said last Night. P.M. Deacon Newton carry'd a Letter from me to Mr. Goodenow—he went also to Mr. Martyns. My wife to old Mr. Rice's at Widow Newtons—I went to her at Eve. At Eve Ebenezer here and brings me an Hat which he brought from Mr. Doolittle's. Had still some further Discourse with Ebenezer about his Circumstances—occasion'd by his own Desire to know how he must be settled. Mr. Israel Walker here in the Evening desirous that I would take Boards of him to pay Thomas for a Saddle, or at least in part.

27. Deacon Newton here to give me account of his Journey to the North Side; and Says he saw but little alteration, by his Discourse, with Mr. Goodenow. I read Martyns Phylosophical Grammar. Ebenezer brought 4 more Sleepers for my Cow-House floor. My Wife to Captain Maynards.

28. Mr. Joseph Harrington (my Brother in law) here—Supps with me but goes to Mr. Bonds to lodge.

29. A Severe Storm of Snow. At Eve Sundry Men here; particularly Three of the Committee laying out the Pew Ground in the Meeting House who have been upon that Business to Day. They were Mr. Grow, Lieutenant Bruce, Mr. Jonathan Bond. The other Two of the Committee are Messers. Francis Whipple and David Maynard junior.

30. Billys face remains So broke out that it is very Sore, but goes up to Mr. Winchesters in Grafton. John Maynard tertius brings a piece of Beef. It may be noted and remember'd that I have receiv'd from the people above an hundred Valuable Presents

and kind Assistances, which I have writ down, Since August 3, when I began to be confin'd by Rheumatism. I desire to take a grateful Notice herefor. Would bless God who has inclin'd and open'd their Hearts hereunto. May God be pleas'd to reward them abundantly for all their Bountys, and give me and mine the Grace to make a right use and Improvement of them!

31. I preach'd on Deut. 32, 29, a. and p.m., but could not finish my design as to a full and large Application and especially dilating in the Meditations on our Last Day of Life, and on the Last Day of the World: but must leave it to another Time. However, I went into Some brief Hints hereof to the people, and endeavoured more peculiarly to exercise myself therein in the Evening when the Year was closing up.

JANUARY, 1753

I desire humbly to wait upon God for the Great Grace necessary to make a right use and improvement of the Swift Flight of Time—Time which is So exceeding precious! How prone am I to depend on what I am my Self doing when nothing is or can be vainer! How prone I am also to depend upon having another Year to Spend as I have had the former, whereas infinite Wisdom has advis'd that I boast not of So much as tomorrow, because I know not what a Day will bring forth. As I would heartily praise God for this Day, So would devoutly resign to Him, whether I shall enjoy any more, or how many; and what shall befall both me and mine. Mr. Daniel Hardy brot me a Load of Wood.

2. Mr. Daniel Adams and my son Thomas are at Work upon a Floor in my Barn for my Cattle. Mr. Jonathan Forbush brought a Load of Wood.

3. Mr. Adams and my son Thomas again. N.B. 4 more Cattle brought from my other place to keep at this new Barn. Weather very Cold. Simon Tainter tertius and his Brother (2 Boys) brought a Load of Walnut Wood with their Steers and little Sled.

4. A Storm of Snow. Mr. Adams and Thomas Still. All the Plank laid but the floor not finish'd. We put up 7 Cattle. My

wife and I to the private Meeting at Lieutenant Tainters. Preach'd on Ps. 23, 4. Storm increas'd at Eve.

5. One Mrs. Goold, a Widow, at Mr. Clafflands, Sent for me, She being in a very low Condition in great Distress. Mr. Joseph Manning din'd with us. Mr. Jeduthan Baldwin from Brookfield at Eve, and brought us comfortable News of the Welfare of my Children there. D.G. He Lodg'd with us.

6. Baldwin left us—wrote by him to Mr. Martyn about the Contributions for Mr. Goodenow.

7. Cold Day. I read publickly Deut. 18. Preach'd on Deut. 32, 29. Deacon Forbush and Mrs. Mary Green (wife of Joseph junior) din'd here. P.M. read 2 Cor. 13, and preach'd on number 5 of the Same, making use of Sermon on 1 Cor. 11, 28. O that God would please to grant an abiding Impression!

8. The Weather Cold and Raw. Visited Mrs. Grant, who is ill, and din'd there. P.M. was at Mr. Ebenezer Millers on occasion of the Funeral of his Infant.

9. My son Thomas went to Sutton for shirting. Mrs. Parkman to Esquire Bakers preparing for a Journey. I din'd at Lieutenant Forbush's being on a visit to his aged Mother. Rode his Horse to Lieutenant Bruce's. Deliver'd him an order to Mr. Grow for 60£ old Tenor. At Eve Mr. Jedediah Fay from Ashford with the Flax. I bought 11£ weight of him. Mr. Ephraim Bruce, Collector, here, and pays me (for the first time) 19. 15. 10 old Tenor. N.B. heard that the Reverend Mr. Goddard's Wife¹ is bury'd this Day. May God be with him in drinking the Wormwood and Gall!

10. Mr. Eleazer Whitney a Load of Wood. My Wife to Boston with Lieutenant Tainter in his Whirry. Mr. Grow brought a Guinea Cock to supply the Place of That which (as we suppose) a Fox killed, a while agoe.

11. Sarah has worried through the Night with the Child (tho he has not been well for Some Time). Alexander is at t'other House, and the rest I took into my own Chamber last night in their Mothers Absence.

¹ Mercy, the wife of David Goddard of Leicester, died Jan. 4, 1752/3. Town records incorrectly give 1751 as the year of her death.

12. Exceeding pleasant Day. Fear t'is a weather breeder. William and many more go afishing at the great Pond—they catch a great Number of Pickerell. Sarah is my House keeper and manages very agreeably—But am oblig'd myself to attend more peculiarly to the Family Circumstances. Mr. Grow and his son Whitney here, and bring me another Load of Wood.

13. A Thaw: Southerly Wind and Rain. The Snow goes off apace—fear my Wife with her Fellow-Traveller, has an heavy Journey. About Sun setting Lieutenant Tainter and my Wife arriv'd in Safety. D.G. They lodg'd at Captain Tainters at Watertown the first Night—she lodg'd at Brother Samuels at Boston the Second, and at Brother Harringtons at Watertown the last—they din'd at Colonel Buckminsters to Day, and in general have had prosperous Journey. The Child, Samuel, has also done pritty well with us. N.B. Sorrowful News of the Sudden Death of the Reverend Mr. Ellis Gray² of Boston, being Suddenly Seiz'd with a Numb Palsie last Lords Day morning and dy'd the Same Day, to he inexpressible Surprize and Grief of the whole Town.

14. Exceeding Cold. The Wind very cutting. Read Deut. 19, preach'd on Ps. 78, 36. P.M. read Gal. 1, and preach'd again on 2 Cor. 13, 5, making use of the latter part of Sermon on 1 Cor. 11, 28, with omissions, alterations and additions.

15. Jacob Garfield here; and tho he pretends he has come with great earnestness about the Affair that has lain so long between Mr. Parkman and him and he wants to have it issued and done with, yet can't stay to be examin'd, but must attend upon other Business;—but he thought he would call and see whether it would be now, or no.

16. Billy goes to School to learn to write, the School being kept at Captain Maynards. The Precinct meet to Day to enquire into their Debts and grant money instead of Mr. James Maynards Rates to make up my Sallery for last Year. Mr. Martyn and his Wife came p.m. and tarry over night. At Eve Mr. Stephen White of Waltham and Mr. Walker of Brookfield.

² The minister of the New Brick Church died at the untimely age of 37.

17. Mr. Martyn and his wife din'd here. P.M. I visited at Mr. Daniel Garfields, Noah Hows and Captain Maynards. Was at t'other House—am deeply concern'd about my son and what will become of him—but desire to committ him and his, to the God who careth for us!

18. I visited Mr. Martyn Pratt, who is Sick. In returning I din'd at Mr. Bond's.

19. Difficult Stirring with a Team yet our Wood draws near to an End.

20. Mr. Claffland brot us a Load of Wood, when I began to determine to Speak to the Congregation about it.

21. Read Deut. 20. Preach'd on Tit. 3, 2. P.M. read Gal. 2.

22. Mr. Bond brought Plank for my Thrashing Floor and to fill out what is wanting in the Stable. N.B. Mr. Elijah Rice gave the Timber. Messers. Moses Brigham and Daniel Forbush draw'd the Loggs to Mill; and Mr. Jonathan Forbush saw'd them. N.B. I sell my Turkeys to Mr. Bond for Rye. The Turkeys at 20/ apiece and Rye at 25 per Bushel. I have a more Strong and lively Sense of the Mortality of my Body etc. than usual (for me). O that it might be continued and improv'd! I visited at Neighbour Frosts³—there are 3 of them there—and their sister Ruth. I paid her what I have for some time ow'd her—was at Neighbour Barns's etc. at Lieutenant Bruce's and gave him a Note to Mr. Grow for 54£ old Tenor and to his son Ephraim for 26£ of like money. N.B. Mr. John Rogers at Thomas's procuring, to assist him in providing for a Frame for a Shop. Part of P.M. Cutts Timbers.

23. Lieutenant Bruce⁴ Shewed me the Bounds of the last Survey of the Island. Mr. Stone⁵ came to See us and din'd here. At Eve Mr. Jonathan Ward our School-Master. N.B. I have kept my Mare at the New Barn for Some Time. The Earth Open and Roads heavy.

24. Am reading Martins Grammar Still. A usefull piece.

³ Thomas Frost.

⁴ Elijah Bruce.

⁵ The Reverend Nathan Stone of Southborough.

25. Very rainy. Lieutenant Bruce here—calls in Quarter the Terms of our Bargain, but finds himself under a Mistake, yields, and goes away Easy.

26. Rainy Still. Mr. Hall⁶ of Sutton here, and informs that Brother Samuel Breck⁷ was lately at his House, came from Rhode Island through Upton—was going to Worcester—and from thence home.

27. Our Wood very Short; but a Stick or two left at the Door, and yet a Stormy, raw Cold Day—p.m. Snowy. Lieutenant Tainter came to See how 'twas with us as to wood, and went to Deacon Newtons and Esquire Bakers to See whether they would not bring some—but there came none. But I was oblig'd to make what we had in the House and the few Sticks at the Door, do over the Sabbath.

28. Read Deut. 21. Preach'd on Tit. 3, 2. P.M. read Gal. 3. Mrs. Hannah Pratt din'd here. The Weather is become comfortable. May God enable us to improve our advantages and Comforts to His Glory! Shunning carefully the Sins which his holy word has prohibited and humbling ourselves for what has been Chargeable upon us—as the Sin of Slandering and defaming has been very much So. I had (to God be Glory!) some peculiar Sense of the Vanity of Life, and the Greatness of Things Eternal. O that it might be preserv'd and increas'd!

29. A more than ordinary fine Day. Messers. Jonah Warrin and Jonathan Bond and Joseph Grout, brought, each of them, a Load of Wood. The wood of the two first and partly the Cutting, am beholden to Lieutenant Tainter for. Mrs. Newton Sends Milk again; and from Esquire Bakers a Gallon ditto. I rode out to visit Mrs. Adams (Eliphalet's Wife) and Mrs. Beeman (Abraham's Wife) was also at Lieutenant Bruce's who gave me up my Bond of 145.10/old Tenor and I gave him a new one of 100£ old Tenor. He gave me also a new Deed including 9 Acres and 1 Rod of the Island. N.B. I owe him 1£ 11 s., 8 d, old Tenor, besides the Interest and besides the Remainder of our old Reckoning.

⁶ The Reverend David Hall.

⁷ Parkman's brother-in-law, the physician of Great Barrington.

30. Another very fine Day. My Wife goes to t'other House, my sons Wife being much indispos'd. I reckon'd with Deacon Newton, and gave him a Note for the whole of my Book Debt.

31. After We din'd at home, my Wife and I rode to Mr. Clafflins and celebrated the Nuptials of Alpheus Newton⁸ and Elizabeth Clafflin, after which we had a plentiful Entertainment. The Weather fine and the Company pretty large—but we came away in the first of the Evening and Captain Benjamin Wood of Hopkinton waiting on the Bridegrooms Mother. Thus we finish this Month with much chearfullness and Joy but it becomes us to rejoice as tho we rejoic'd not.⁹

⁸ The son of Abner Newton and his wife made their home in Westborough.

⁹ The remainder of the diary for the Year 1753 cannot be located.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.