

The Diary of Ebenezer Parkman
1719-1728

EDITED BY FRANCIS G. WALETT

PREFACE

THE REVEREND Ebenezer Parkman (Harvard 1721) was the minister of Westborough, Massachusetts, from 1724 until 1782. Even before he came to this young town, Parkman began to keep a detailed journal or diary which he continued throughout his long pastorate. Although Parkman destroyed an early part of the diary himself, and some of his descendants lost other parts, the great bulk of the manuscript is preserved in the libraries of the American Antiquarian Society and the Massachusetts Historical Society. Through the cooperation of these two institutions this virtually unequalled record of the social history of a typical eighteenth century New England town will be printed and made accessible. A small segment owned privately and published in 1899 by the Westborough Historical Society will be incorporated in this work. Parkman sometimes failed to record events in the diary but certain of these gaps have been filled by material from his "Natalitia," a small book of birthday reflections, owned by The American Antiquarian Society.

The diary is important for a variety of reasons. In the first place, it illuminates in unique detail the life of a country parson and the history of the general area in which he lived in the colonial period. Parkman recorded a mass

of facts about the routine of work and play, the problems and vexations as well as the joys of everyday life. Occasionally great figures are mentioned in the diary, a fact that will interest various scholars. Students of local history and genealogy will find this a most important source of information. For those who are concerned with the development of language and eighteenth century English usage this record will be helpful. Subjects that are treated by Parkman in a significant way include the Great Awakening, manners and morals, health and medicine, and numerous theological disputes.

The first part of the editorial task has been the transcription of the diary. This in itself has been a sizable job because of the length of the document and the microscopic handwriting of the author. Parkman had a system of writing with innumerable abbreviations and frequent variations in spelling. The policy of the editor has been to write out almost all abbreviated words using Parkman's spelling when this could be determined, and in general to preserve the original spelling. A major part of the editorial work has been the identification of the many people who appear in the diary. Not all persons could be, or probably should be, identified. The determination of the names and titles of authors and books that are mentioned has been an interesting phase of the work. The editor has succeeded in most of these instances, but a few references have been too vague and elusive to be identified. It has been necessary at times to supply additional information to clarify the text of the diary, and occasionally obsolete or obscure expressions have been explained.

It is the intention of the Society to first publish the Parkman diary serially in successive issues of the *Proceedings*. Thereafter the collected parts will be published in book form.

CAMBRIDGE AUGUST 24, 1719

Blessed be the name of the Lord that I am Continued unto this very Day. Nevertheless all my Backslidings from his Testimonies are commissions of So many great and heinous Sins as I have been guilty of The Mercy of God is Still lengthened out unto me and I receive the favours of life and Health and as I hope enjoy the day of Grace and Opportunity of getting good for My Immortal Soul; which must be first and Chiefly by Faith and Repentance. In order to which I do profess the Faith and Belief contained in the Nicene In the Apostolick Creed. . . . And according to the direction of the Sacred Word of God, and particularly According to the Direction of Mr. Robert Russell¹ have long purposed to make a Collection of First The Great Mercys That the Mighty ЖЕHOVAH has favoured me with. And First, In That He, at My Birth (In the Year of Christ, 1703, September the fifth on Sabbath day Morning, between Six and Seven of the Clock) Caused me to See light; and that it was not Among Pagans, nor Mahometans, nor Jews, but among Christians; and That In (Boston) a place where the Grace of God, bringing Salvation, hath Appeared; and of Religious Parents also, by whom I was well Educated; being first Sent to the reading, and in the Year 1711, to Writing, to Mr. John Cole and having continued there almost two Year (which was till the founding A Grammar free School at the North end and near My Fathers dwelling) I went to Mr. Recompence Wadsworth,² to learn Lattin. This was on the twentieth of April in the Year 1713, and Mr. Wadsworth dying, Mr. John Barnard³ (Afterwards an ordained Minister of the Church of Christ at Andover) was Settled in his place. And October in the Year 1714 I was visited with a Low fit of Sickness beginning with a fever and attended with the Meazells, and after that with great weakness and Infirmities as also great pain, which Set me upon thinking upon what would be the Estate, the Condition of My

¹ The English divine, of Wadhurst, Sussex.

² (Harvard 1708). Clifford K. Shipton, *Biographical Sketches of Those Who Attended Harvard College*, V (Boston, 1937), 461-463. Subsequent reference: *Sibley*, V, 461-463.

³ (Harvard 1709). The minister at Andover, 1718-1757. *Sibley*, V, 475-479.

Soul after my Dissolution, which was apprehended by all to be Nigh, often in My Mind repeating the Psalmists words Blessed is he whose Transgression is forgiven whose Sin is Covered, Heartly wishing and praying that My many and great Iniquities might be all so pardoned and washed away in the Blood of the Lamb of God that taketh away the Sin of the World, promising also that if God would in his great Mercy Spare my Life I would Spend it more to the Glory and praise of his great Name thro his grace assisting me; and God was pleas'd to look upon my Affliction and my Pain and to remember me in my Low Estate, . . . and the Lord Raised me from my Bed of long Sickness and Languishing renewing also my Strength So that in the Latter end of December I went to School again and continued So doing till by the Often persuasions of the Reverend Mr. John Webb⁴ and My Brother William⁵ My Father Sent Me to Harvard College Cambridge where I was admitted on August 22, 1717, and had Pain,⁶ Davis,⁷ Champney⁸ for my Chamber fellows for the first year; removing the Second I had Jenison,⁹ Pierpont¹⁰ and Wyman¹¹ (for my chamber fellows) In both which Years I had Mr. Hezekiah Gold¹² for my Particular friend for whose instructions advice and inculcations both in Temporalls and in Spiritualls, I Shall have occasion of praising God Throughout Eternity. On April 19 I had Some Strivings and Motions of the holy Spirit to turn and live, and on December 27 also but they Soon vanished as the Morning Cloud and as the early Dew. The Blessing of My Mother, the Advice of my Brother William, and the instructions of Mr. Webb, are I hope not quite (though I fear almost) fruitless.

⁴ (Harvard 1708). The minister of the New North Church of Boston, 1714-1750. *Sibley*, V, 463-471.

⁵ Ebenezer Parkman's eldest brother.

⁶ Stephen Paine (Harvard 1721). *Sibley*, VI, 510-511.

⁷ Simon Davis (Harvard 1721). *Sibley*, VI, 469.

⁸ Joseph Champney (Harvard 1721) was Parkman's future brother-in-law. *Sibley*, VI, 437-438.

⁹ Samuel Jennison (Harvard 1720). *Sibley*, VI, 389-390.

¹⁰ Thomas Pierpont (Harvard 1721). *Sibley*, VI, 547-549.

¹¹ John Wyman (Harvard 1721). *Sibley*, VI, 591.

¹² (Harvard 1719). Later the minister at Stratford, Conn. *Sibley*, VI, 311-314.

That I had the Reverend Mr. John Leveret¹³ for my President and Mr. Thomas Robie¹⁴ for my Tutor is no Small blessing.

Thro the deceitfullness of my heart I Neglected this work (the Collection of Mercys) to my great Shame and Sorrow till February 19, 1719/20. When again I was awakened out of my Sleepy Security of Sin, I was roused out of my Sloth, and the awakenings of my Conscience, which had for a long time been Quiet, giving me but now and then a touch and a Small hint that I remained in my unconverted State, began afresh upon me, the Divil and my own wicked and abominably Sinfull and polluted heart persuading me that there was no hopes of Salvation lest That the Door of Mercy was Shut and the Day of Grace over—and that No man had Bakslidden or apostatized as I had done; till Barrett put me in Mind of one passage in Scripture Jer. 3, 6, 14, 22 together with the following Hosea 14, 4. I was little encouraged, utterly ashamed of my self and hating my self I resolved I would return, and that I would once more Seek to God by Prayer. This I did, but soon grew Lookewarm Neither cold nor hot wherefore I might justly have been Spew'd out And Yet, through the Abundant, the Infinite grace and unparallel'd Mercy of the Eternal JEHOVAH I have such privileges Yet, the Lord knows how long they may be continued for there Never was any in the world So unworthy as I am.

ANNO 1723

DIURNA: or An Account of the Remarkable Transactions of Every Day: No. 7. Being a Continuation of a Design form'd in the Year 1719/20, February 19th.

AUGUST [1723]

1. I got to Cambridge by noon, return'd my Horse, paid $\frac{1}{2}$ a Crown to Mrs. Fessenden.¹ Mr. Bridgewater² was at College. I

¹³ (Harvard 1680). John L. Sibley, *Biographical Sketches of Graduates of Harvard University*, III (Cambridge, 1885), 180-198. Subsequent reference: Sibley, III, 180-198.

¹⁴ (Harvard 1708). *Sibley*, V, 450-455.

¹ Sarah Fessenden, who was licensed to sell intoxicating liquors at retail. Lucius R. Paige, *History of Cambridge* (Boston, 1877), p. 227.

² Probably Edward Bridgewater (Harvard 1718) who was in Cambridge in August, 1723. *Sibley*, VI, 231-232.

went to Boston about 5 P.M. Met at Barrett's.³ Green⁴ was absent. Barrett pray'd first. I read part of a Discourse from I Sam. 16, 7, and concluded. I lodg'd at my Fathers.

2. I bid farewell at home in the Morning, and walked up to Cambridge in my Boots and Spurs in order to go to Worcester. Mr. Sturgeon⁵ of Watertown (a Scotch minister) his Case pleaded to Day at the Cambridge Sessions. I din'd at Mrs. Bordman's.⁶ Just after Dinner in the College Yard I met with Young Mr. Thomas Rice⁷ from Worcester to accompany me up there. I prepar'd and rode away to Mr. Champney's,⁸ where with sitting, etc., we tarried till near 4 o'Clock before we Set out. We reach'd to Lieutenant Jones's⁹ at Weston (where I lodg'd) just before Dark.

3. In the Morning about 8 (having been Kindly entertain'd) I again Set out for Mr. Jenison's¹⁰ where I had appointed to Meet Mr. Rice, From thence I had more Company, viz. Mr. Golding¹¹ (brother to Mrs. Jenison¹²). We set out about 10. We stop'd at Sundry Taverns (which particularly I do not remember) before we got to Mr. Bricks¹³ of Marlborough; here I was well received though I never was in the least acquainted with the Gentleman til now. N.B. we arriv'd here by $\frac{1}{4}$ after one and Set out between 3 and 4, having stop'd Twice or Thrice more, jolted and tired, I

³ Samuel Barrett (1700-1772), son of Deacon Samuel Barrett of Boston. A classmate and lifelong friend of Ebenezer Parkman. First minister of Hopkinton. *Sibley*, VI, 428-432.

⁴ Joseph Green (Harvard 1720) of Boston. Minister at Barnstable, 1725-1770. *Sibley*, VI, 385-387.

⁵ Robert Sturgeon, minister of an independent Congregational Church, Watertown, Mass., 1721-1722.

⁶ Probably Mary Bordman, who was licensed to sell liquors.

⁷ Thomas Rice (1701/2-1785).

⁸ Samuel Champney, Sr., Parkman's future father-in-law.

⁹ Lieutenant Josiah Jones, one of the founders of the town of Weston.

¹⁰ William Jennison (1676-1744) of Sudbury. Later he moved to Worcester and became Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

¹¹ Either Windsor Golding (b. 1675) or Thomas Golding (b. 1678).

¹² Elizabeth (Golding) Jennison (1673-1756).

¹³ Reverend Robert Breck (1682-1731), (Harvard 1700). Minister at Marlborough, 1704-1731. *Sibley*, IV, 515-518.

entered Lieutenant Lee's¹⁴ house at Worcester where I was Kindly received by Deacon Haywood,¹⁵ etc. With Pains in my Head and a Sore Throat I went to Bed.

4. In the Morning I was much Better, but my Sore Throat continued. I preach'd all Day on I Sam. 16. 7. I din'd at Deacon Haywoods. I was obliged to retire to finish my Sermon at Noon Time. Sundry Persons (as Mr. Flagg,¹⁶ etc.) came in to see me in the Evening.

5. Towards Night to my Great Joy and Reviving came Colonel Winthrop¹⁷ and Colonel Minot,¹⁸ and with them Mr. Adam Winthrop¹⁹ of College.

6. Prayers and Breakfast Ended we took pleasant walks to See the Farms those Gentlemen had in the Town. While the Colonels and Lieutenant Lee were further Engaged about their Particular Country Managery, Mr. Winthrop, Mr. Flagg and I walk'd to a fine Brook and Fish'd. We Caught Salmon-Trouts, etc. These were very well taken; and we din'd richly on them, Colonel Minot himself dressing them. According to my own Assigination, there came the same young Mr. Rice that accompanied me up, with purpose this Afternoon to go over to Sutton to visit Mr. McKinstry.²⁰ Thus I was obliged to leave this good Company and take my Ride, and we made no other Stop than at Mr. Rice's Lodging, a little. We did not gain Mr. McKinstry's House till just Dark, though twas counted but 6 Miles. I found them in good Health, and I was well Entertained. Here I lodged very pleasantly, (considering, ——). [Word crossed out].

7. It rain'd all this Day which prevented our Return home.

¹⁴ Lieutenant Henry Lee.

¹⁵ Daniel Heywood (1695-1773). An early settler of Worcester, selectman for 20 years, and an officer in an early military company. William Lincoln, *History of Worcester* (Worcester, 1837), p. 42.

¹⁶ Either Benjamin Flagg (1662-1741) or his son Captain Benjamin Flagg (1690-1751).

¹⁷ Colonel Adam Winthrop (1676-1743), (Harvard 1694), Councillor of the Province. *Sibley*, IV, 209-214.

¹⁸ Colonel Stephen Minot (1662-1732). Justice and selectman of Boston.

¹⁹ Adam Winthrop (1706-1744), (Harvard 1724). Son of Colonel Winthrop. *Sibley*, VII, 446-447.

²⁰ Reverend John McKinstry (1677-1754). First minister of Sutton, Mass. William A. Benedict and Hiram A. Tracy, *History of Sutton* (Worcester, 1878), pp. 691-693.

Mr. McKinstry walked with me to his Meeting house, and to Lieutenant Kings²¹ (a Sensible Man in the Neighborhood) and thus droll'd off the Time, without much Discourse on any head at all.

8. There was a Raising of an House, a Suiting Diversion for Mr. Rice, while Mr. McKinstry, his wife and I took a Ride to Oxford to See Mr. Cambell.²² This is Six Miles and $\frac{1}{2}$. This was very diverting, and I found Mrs. Cambel²³ in pretty Good Humour. We had a good Contrivance in or going to a Water Melon house, for Mrs. Cambel must ride upon the Easyest-going horse which was Mr. McKinstry's, and So my old Friend must ride with me. This was a lucky Stroke to bring me an opportunity to discourse of Matters and things formerly in Requests. She was more Contented with her Irish Mate than I expected to find her. She said he was a good-natur'd Soul indeed, and She wanted Nothing on Earth but to be a little nearer her Friends. She Desir'd I would come and live at Worcester, etc. Mr. McKinstry, his Wife and I returned to Sutton just about Dark. N.B. We pray'd in the Family by Turns.

9. Returned to Worcester. We call'd to See Captain Jones²⁴ but he was not at home. Here I had the Information by a Dispensation of Providence in the Burning of the House of Captain Keys²⁵ of Shrewsbury with 3 of his Sons and Two workmen finishing the house in it. It broke out about Midnight. I visited Mr. Gershom Rice²⁶ (the Man that first Invited me up) and Thence Strait home. Old Mr. Gray²⁷ and Mr. Flagg were to see me.

²¹ Lieutenant Jonathan King who had come to Sutton in 1717.

²² Reverend John Campbell (1691-1761), first minister of the First Congregational Church, Oxford, Mass., 1721-1761. George F. Daniels, *History of Oxford* (Oxford, 1892), pp. 49-52.

²³ Esther Whittle, Wheatly, or Whately of Boston, who married the Reverend Mr. Campbell, Feb. 6, 1722. Daniels, *Oxford*, p. 426.

²⁴ Captain Nathaniel Jones.

²⁵ Captain John Keyes (1675-1768). The three sons were Solomon, John and Stephen. The carpenter's apprentices were Abiel Bragg and William Oakes. See *The Boston Newsletter*, Aug. 15, 1723.

²⁶ Gershom Rice (1666-1768), the second settler of Worcester, who arrived in 1715. Lincoln, *Worcester*, pp. 40-41.

²⁷ John Gray, an early proprietor.

Lieutenant Lee being gone to Boston, It was very lonely During his Absence, for he was Sociable.

10. In the Morning I revolved [?], in order to prepare for the approaching Sabbath. While we Din'd, Mr. Joseph Dana²⁸ came in.

11. I preached all Day. Din'd as before at Deacon Haywoods. As I returned home I had the Benefit of very Heavenly Conversation from old Mr. Gray. Mr. Flagg was with me all the Evening. We had News by a Post that rode through the Town to day that a Number of Indians were coming to Scout from Canada to those out Towns under the Command of one Captain Nathaniel.

12. Lieutenant Rice²⁹ call'd to See me to Day. I went over to Mr. Grays. At Night Sundry Men of the Town, viz. Lieutenant Rice and his Brother James, The Two Deacons, viz. Haywood and Mores,³⁰ Mr. Flagg and Mr. Joseph Dana together with my Landlord, Lieutenant Lee (just return'd from Boston) treated with me about Settling as their minister, etc. I fix'd Tomorrow to be the Day for my returning to Boston. It was very Late when they Left me.

13. I was very much disturbed through the Peoples not providing a Horse for me to ride down upon, according to agreement. To my Shame I am oblig'd to add that I loll'd off the Day in Indolence.

14. Mr. Lee was very much disturbed for the Same Reason; took his Horse and Rode away to Know the Cause. He did not return till after Dinner. But he told me he had Secured my Journey, and about 3 o'Clock P.M. came Mr. James Rice with a very good horse, and we rode away about 4. He related many Particulars of the Story of Mr. Gardiner,³¹ who had been dismissed from them—his Innocence, etc. We reach'd Marlborough at the Close of the Day. We met with Mr. Breck in the Street. He asked me into his house and to Lodge with him,

²⁸ Originally of Cambridge; later of Oxford and Worcester.

²⁹ Gershom Rice, Jr. (1696-1781).

³⁰ Nathaniel Moore, third settler of Worcester, from Sudbury.

³¹ Andrew Gardner (Harvard 1712), first minister of Worcester, 1719-1722. *Sibley*, V, 638-641.

but that would obstruct our getting down Time enough for Lecture the next Day. We Thank'd him for his Expressions of Kindness, remounted and rode along for Sudbury. It was too late to gain the Town. We stop'd at David How's Tavern,³² and having Eaten part of a Fryed Gosling for supper, prayed, etc., we repair'd to repose. N.B. This was the first Time that I ever Lodged in a Tavern on the Road.

15. Very Early we prepared (viz. by Prayers, Eating, etc.), and Set out. Stop'd at Jenisons.³³ We call'd again at Willsons,³⁴ and next at Warham William's,³⁵ who had been Sick very lately. We din'd at Each's. Thence to Boston, But at Charleston Mr. Rice parted with me. I invited him home with me, but he had Business for an avocation. At home I found My Sister Elius³⁶ (as we Sometimes call her) with a Child that was born the Fourth of this Instant. We Miss'd of being at Lecture, but I walked up to Mr. Edwards's Shop to hear the News, and see my Friends. At Night our Society Met at Barretts, at which I first pray'd and Mr. Eliot³⁷ Discoursed from James 1, 5, and I Concluded. Thence I went to my Father's where I Lodged.

16. Mr. Barrett and Mr. Rice (My Companion down) came to See me; and they acquainted me with the Sad Story of Mr. Willard³⁸ and Four Children of Mr. Stevens³⁹ of Rutland taken Yesterday by the Indians. In the Close of the Day I walked to Cambridge.

17. Being Saturday, Mrs. Elizabeth Nutting⁴⁰ and I rode to

³² The Wayside Inn of Longfellow fame, in Sudbury, built by David Howe in the early 18th century. Alfred S. Hudson, *History of Sudbury* (Sudbury, 1889), pp. 591-599.

³³ Also in Sudbury.

³⁴ Probably Nathaniel Willson in Sudbury.

³⁵ Reverend Warham Williams of Waltham (Harvard 1719). *Sibley*, VI, 361-364.

³⁶ Elizabeth (Weld) Parkman, wife of Ebenezer's brother Elias. The child was Elizabeth.

³⁷ Jacob Eliot of Boston (Harvard 1720), minister of the Third Church, Lebanon, Conn., 1729-1766. *Sibley*, VI, 380-382.

³⁸ Reverend Joseph Willard, while out hunting game, was killed by the Indians, Aug. 14, 1723. *Sibley*, VII, 650-651.

³⁹ Deacon Joseph Stevens. On Aug. 14, 1723, two sons, Samuel and Joseph, were killed, and two others, Phinehas and Isaac, were taken captive. Francis E. Blake, *Rutland & the Indian Troubles of 1723-1730* (Worcester, 1886), p. 7.

⁴⁰ Mrs. Jonathan Nutting of Cambridge.

Concord. We baited at Muzzie's⁴¹ at Lexington. Our visit was to Major Prescott,⁴² where we were well received. I had a Note in the Evening to preach all Day tomorrow from Mr. Whiting.⁴³ But though press'd very hard by the Major and Madame also to Comply, I wholly and vigorously Deny'd.

18. Mr. Whiting preach'd all Day. Mrs. Prescott went to her Sons in the Evening. The Major went to Sudbury and remain'd there, having in the Morning emitted a Warrant for a press for men to go against the Indians. We were very pleasantly Entertained by Mrs. Rebecca Prescot,⁴⁴ etc.

19. This Day Everything was managed Suitably to the Relation they bore to each and their own Figure. In the Afternoon we concluded to go back, and the Horse balked. We (though with Some Difficulty through the Immoderate Kicking) mounted and rode about a Mile, when we met with Sir Sparhawk,⁴⁵ by whose Earnest Desire we went back to Major Prescotts and remain'd another Night.

20. Mr. Sparhawk, according to Appointment, came to us in the Morning and we remounted; and coming to the house where Mrs. Nutting was, Mr. Whiting came up to us, and passing his Compliment, told us he was Glad to Meet such Company, etc. He rode with us. We came to Lexington, baited, and left Sir Sparhawk. But Mr. Whiting was our Pleasant Company to the Top of an eminent Hill in a Farm of his, whence we had one of the most Delightfull Prospects that ever I had in my Life. From this Hill we Sunk a little to a Country House—into which this Good Gentleman Conducted us and bid us Welcome. Here we din'd and thence rode with very good Speed till we were obliged to Stop at an House upon Cambridge Common, being overtaken with an heavy Shower of Rain. But we reach'd home before Night. I went back to College and Lodged there.

⁴¹ Benjamin Muzzy (1680-1764).

⁴² Jonathan Prescott of Concord.

⁴³ Reverend John Whiting of Concord (Harvard 1700). *Sibley*, IV, 532-535.

⁴⁴ Mrs. Jonathan Prescott.

⁴⁵ Deacon Nathaniel Sparhawk, a selectman of Lexington.

21. In the Morning came Mr. Shattuck⁴⁶ of Westborough to Invite me to preach in That Town. After a Pause of about an hour and Debating with him, I agreed; and took an Horse that he Said he had brought Down; and rode down to Boston to prepare for going with him. There were Three Score Mohawks arrived at Boston just before Noon. I returned to Cambridge and rode over to Champneys⁴⁷ where my Horse was taken care of. N.B. Mr. Shattuck was sent over to Mr. Champney to Inquire for me.

22. I Set away for Larnard's⁴⁸ at Waterton where I had appointed to meet with Mr. Shattuck at 12 o'Clock. He was not Come. I Sat down and waited for him till he came. We began our Journey from this Tavern about $\frac{1}{2}$ after 12; to Mr. Willsons where by Two. Thence at $\frac{1}{2}$ after Two to Mr. Swift's⁴⁹ by 4. Thence at 5 to My assign'd Landlords, Mr. Maynard's⁵⁰ by dark. Prayers Ended I went to my Bed and Lodged (with Mr. Chandler of Concord, a House Carpenter, at work in finishing the Meeting house) very comfortably.

23, 24. There was nothing Remarkable these Two Days that I remember more than my Miscellaneous Discourses with this Chandler (who seems to be an Understanding Man) and my preparations for Sabbath Day.

25. I preach'd first at Westboro all Day. My text was 1 Samuel 16, 7. N.B. I set the Psalm.

26. I expected Barrett and was very Impatient that he did not come. In the Evening Mr. Ward⁵¹ (as I remember) and one or two more were to See me, and he Appointed to go with me tomorrow to Hopkinton. Accordingly on the

⁴⁶ Isaac Shattuck.

⁴⁷ Samuel Champney, Parkman's father-in-law.

⁴⁸ Thomas Learned, tavern keeper.

⁴⁹ Reverend John Swift of Framingham (Harvard 1697). *Sibley*, IV, 387-390.

⁵⁰ David Maynard, an original settler at Westborough. A manuscript volume of Westborough Church Records, kept by Ebenezer Parkman and later ministers, is preserved by the Westborough Historical Society. At the beginning of this Parkman made a list of the first settlers of the town. The list is printed in Heman P. DeForest and Edward C. Bates, *History of Westborough* (Westborough, 1891), p. 46.

⁵¹ Increase Ward.

27. My Landlord having borrowed me an horse (of his Neighbour Mr. David How) Mr. Ward and I rode away. We first call'd at Mr. Woods⁵² but he was not at home. We rode to Mr. Barretts Lodgings but he was not there. We rested a While Smoak'd, etc., and took our Horses and went out to Meet him. Mr. Wood was riding with his Wife. Mr. Barrett we Saw, and brought Them home. I Lodg'd with Mr. Barrett. I had his very Strong Pressures to take up with Westburgh, etc.

28. I went out a hunting with Mr. Barrett, a Young Faun having been Seen not long Since—and Flocks of Turkeys. We Search'd the woods but Saw Nothing but Pigeons. We brought home Seven or Eight of Those. Towards Night Mr. Wood came to See us, etc. Lodg'd with Mr. Barrett.

29. At Mr. Woods—din'd there—they entertaining us handsomely. Went home alone.

30. Read Dr. Prideaux⁵³ and Spectators. Visit divers Neighbors. See Ammi Printer at Captain Fay's.⁵⁴

31. Prepar'd for the Sabbath (but my Sermon already made.) N.B. On the 23 of this Month Deceas'd that Venerable Man Doctor Increase Mather, in his 85th Year.

26. I was sent for in the Evening to visit a sick Young Woman at Mr. Tomlin's.⁵⁵ I went and pray'd with her.

*I walked to the Meeting House with a Pistol in my Hand by reason of Danger of the Indians. When I return'd was much affrighted with the Sight of an Indian as I suppos'd; but drawing nigher I perceiv'd it was my Landlord. In the afternoon about 4 o'Clock, there was an Alarm in the North and people hastened with their Arms, But it came to little.

⁵² Captain John Wood of Hopkinton.

⁵³ Humphrey Prideaux, D.D. (1648-1724), Scots scholar. The work may have been *The Old and New Testament Connected, in the History of the Jews and Neighboring Nations* (London, 1716-1718), 2 vols.

⁵⁴ Captain John Fay, town Clerk of Westborough. See George H. Johnson, *Fay Family Tree* (Columbus, 1913).

⁵⁵ Deacon Isaac Tomlin.

*No date given.

(1 7 2 3) S E P T E M B E R . A T W E S T B O R O .

1. Preach'd all Day on 1 Cor. 3. 11. In the Evening visited Mrs. Tomlin. In the Night I was very restless.
2. Came away from Westborough.

D E C E M B E R . 1 7 2 3

1. Mr. Thatcher¹ A. M. Mr. Webb² P. M.
6. Mr. Prince³ preach'd a Lecture.
8. I preach'd all Day at Newton for Mr. Cotton,⁴ on 1 Sam.
16. 7. N. B. Mr. Joseph Champney⁵ and Mr. Cotton.
15. I rode from Cambridge over to Waterton and preach'd at the Old Meeting house, both A and P. M. on 2 Cor. 3, 11. Entertain'd at Lieutenant Coolidges.⁶ Return'd at night to Cambridge.
18. The Reverend Mr. Gee⁷ was ordain'd Colleague Pastor of the Old North Church with Doctor Cotton Mather.

J A N U A R Y . 1 7 2 4

1. To Day it was very Stormy or I should have (according to appointment) visited Mr. Breck.
2. Fair Pleasant Weather invited me to Visit Mr. Breck. I rode my Landlords horse. The Conversation was very instructing and very Pleasant. We Sat up very late discoursing of many Things miscellaneously. I read Edifying Letters of the Jesuits, Missioners to the East Indies; after I was a bed.
3. Mr. Breck oblig'd me to offer the morning Sacrifice. After Sundry Colloquys we took a Walk to Merchant Woods'.¹ I borrow'd the Spectator of him (volume 9). I din'd at Mr. Breck's.

¹ Reverend Peter Thatcher (Harvard 1696), of the New North Church, Boston. *Sibley*, IV, 303-308.

² Reverend John Webb (Harvard 1708), of the New North Church. *Sibley*, V, 463-471.

³ Reverend Thomas Prince, of the Old South Church, Boston (Harvard 1707). *Sibley*, V, 341-368.

⁴ Reverend John Cotton (Harvard 1710). *Sibley*, V, 510-524.

⁵ Parkman's classmate (Harvard 1721). *Sibley*, VI, 437-439.

⁶ Lieutenant Richard Coolidge, a representative of Watertown.

⁷ Reverend Joshua Gee (Harvard 1717). *Sibley*, VI, 175-183.

¹ Benjamin Woods of Marlborough.

After a Dinner, a Pipe, and Some Discourse, of Mr. Ickyl's² Seat at Stow, of Westboro, etc., I repair'd home.

4. I prepar'd (partly) for Sabbath. In the Afternoon came Mr. Elmer³ and Mr. Goddard⁴ of Shrewsbury as they were passing to Sherborn. Mr. Elmer invited me in Mr. Barrett's Name to meet Mr. Barrett and the Company with his Wife, down at Framingham next Wednesday.

5. I preach'd at Westborough all Day. My Text was Math. 28, 6. In the Evening I was visited by Mr. Thomas Forbush.⁵

6. Town Meeting. In the Evening Captain Fay and Mr. Oliver Ward⁶ with Mr. Daniel How were with me. Mr. Eliot and I nominated. Messers. Baker⁷ and Holoway⁸ committee.

7. I rode home, P.M., with Mr. Elmer who came to See me this morning. Upon Seeing Mrs. Elmer in lonely and dejected Circumstances I made many Reflections concerning my own Manner of Living in Future Times, etc. I went to Mr. Cushings⁹ to See his Library and Discourse about Dr. Manton's¹⁰ Works, 5 Volumes, which he had talk'd of Selling to Me. I rode back to Mr. Elmers, and (though by this Time it was very Dark) I rode home alone.

8. In the Morning came the Committee to treat with a Minister, to acquaint me that the Town had nominated Mr. Eliot with me in order to Choose one of us Minister for This Place. I was moved with the Thought and manifested to them the Sense

² A Mr. Jekyl, an Englishman residing at the lower village in Stow, gave the town a small bell to hang in the meeting house in 1722. *Stow, Mass., 1683-1933* (Stow, n.d.), p. 11.

³ Reverend Daniel Elmer (Yale 1713), who preceded Parkman as minister at Westborough. Dissension arose and Elmer was dismissed. He moved to Springfield in 1724, and in 1728 was ordained at Fairfield, New Jersey. DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, p. 51. Franklin B. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College . . . 1701-1745* (N.Y., 1885), pp. 110-111.

⁴ Edward Goddard.

⁵ One of the first settlers and selectman of Westborough. See Frederick C. Pierce, *Forbes and Forbush Genealogy* (n.p., 1892).

⁶ A selectman of Westborough.

⁷ Edward Baker.

⁸ William Holloway.

⁹ Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury (Harvard 1714). *Sibley*, VI, 45-46.

¹⁰ Thomas Manton, D.D. (1620-1677), Presbyterian divine, whose numerous works appeared in various editions.

I had of the Weightiness of the Affair, And in Truth I was at a Stand (though I did not express any extraordinary hesitation) considering My incapacitie on Every head. But my Eyes and my Heart were directed to the Father of Lights from whom descends every Grace Sufficient that I might be endow'd and prepar'd in Some measure for which his providence might call me. Mr. Cushing by this Time was come and waited for me below. The Committee retir'd and I prepar'd to Ride. Mr. Cushing and I rode to Mr. Whoods to gain Intelligence. We were directed to Mr. Swifts. We rode down and got there about Dark. The Company was not arrived till 8 o'Clock. Mr. Barrett and his Wife, Two Fathers, Brother Thornton Barrett¹¹ and Sister Greaves.¹² Mr. Tilestone¹³ and Son James¹⁴ were there. Mr. Tylestone informed me of the Death of Uncle Clough¹⁵ and Mr. John Mountfort¹⁶ at Boston. We Sup'd very plentifully and for Rarity had a Pea-Hen roasted. I lodg'd there with Mr. Tilestone and Mr. Thornton Barrett.

9. In the Morning Mr. Swift oblig'd me to pray, and to return Thanks after Breakfast. Mr. Morris and Deacon Barrat¹⁷ went Back to Boston. By the Deacon I convey'd a Letter to John Hicks¹⁸ for me. Between 12 and 1 o'Clock we Set out from Mr. Swift's for Hopkinton. We stop'd at the Tavern (Maynards)¹⁹ where there was a great Number of Hopkinton People, and at Mr. Jones's²⁰ we stop'd also. Colonel How²¹ was in the Company and with great Ceremony congratulated me. We rode together on the Journey to Hopkinton, and he Gave me to Understand that he had been at Westborough at his Son Agar's where he was informed how Affairs were carry'd on. And the Colonel told me

¹¹ Of Hopkinton.

¹² Perhaps Rachel Graves, wife of Joseph Graves of Framingham.

¹³ Probably James Tileston (1678-c. 1740) of Boston.

¹⁴ James, Jr. (b. 1704), son of above.

¹⁵ Ebenezer Clough, father-in-law of Ebenezer Parkman's brother, Elias.

¹⁶ A prominent merchant of Boston.

¹⁷ Samuel Barrett, father of Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

¹⁸ Of Cambridge.

¹⁹ Jonathan Maynard's tavern in Framingham.

²⁰ Colonel John Jones, then in Hopkinton (now Ashland).

²¹ Thomas Howe of Marlborough.

of the Opposition Mr. Thomas Ward²² endeavour'd to raise, of which I believe more may be Said hereafter. At Hopkinton there were very plentiful Provisions made, And there were many People. In the Evening we Sang a Psalm, the 128 by Mr. Deming²³ and Sundry Psalm Tunes. I had a great Deal of Discourse with Mr. Barret, of the Country, etc. Mr. Deming, Mr. Cushing and I rode home with Mr. Whood. Mr. Deming pray'd. Mr. Cushing and I lodg'd together.

10. In the Morning I was appointed to go back to Mr. How's (upon Mr. Cushing's Horse) to Bring Madame Greaves in Company with Mr. Barrett and Madame, Old Mr. How²⁴ and his Wife. We din'd at Mr. Whoods Upon roast Goose, roast Pea hen, Bak'd Stuff'd Venison, Beef, Pork, etc. After Dinner we Smoak'd a Pipe, read Governor Shute's²⁵ Memorial to the King and Mr. Cushing and I rode home. This Eve I visited Old Mr. Rice.²⁶ Ensign Newton²⁷ was with him. I borrow'd an Horse of him for my Service to Marlboro and to Stow. I returned Mr. Pratt's²⁸ Horse, which I had Us'd through all these Frolicks, by his young Son. In the Morning I rode to Marlboro. After Dinner (upon Roast Beef) with Mr. Breck, and our Concerting Measures upon Changing, Mr. Breck rode away for Westborough.

11. I preach'd all Day at Marlboro from 1 Sam. 16, 7. In the Evening Mr. Breck returned.

12. In the Forenoon Mr. Breck and I rode to Stow to Mr. Gardners²⁹ and over to See Mr. Ickyls Seat. We arrived again at Marlboro about Seven, Evening.

13. [no entry]

²² One of the first inhabitants of Westborough.

²³ Probably Daniel Deming (Harvard 1700) who had been minister at Needham, Mass., and was later supply pastor at Lyme, Conn. *Sibley*, IV, 518-519.

²⁴ Captain Thomas Howe of Marlborough.

²⁵ Governor Samuel Shute of Mass.

²⁶ Thomas Rice of Westborough. See Andrew H. Ward, *A Genealogical History of the Rice Family* (Boston, 1858).

²⁷ Thomas Newton of Westborough.

²⁸ John Pratt of Westborough.

²⁹ Reverend John Gardner (Harvard 1715). *Sibley*, VI, 88-90.

FEBRUARY [1724]

28. I receiv'd the Vote of the Town of Westborough in which I am call'd to the great and arduous Work of the Gospel Ministry among them.¹

JUNE [1724]

5. Answer'd the Town of Westborough in the Affirmative, relying upon their Christian Goodness and Generosity (Since they Shew such fervent Affection to me) to maintain and Support me among them, according to which this Office they call me to shall require.

JULY [1724]

1. Commencement. Happen'd to be the Day I receiv'd my Master's Degree.¹

AUGUST [1724]

1. I prepar'd for the Sabbath. Mr. John Prat came to Me concerning my Hay. He had bargain'd with me to take it by the Halves. But his Business now was to tell me that he had found that was like to be but about 7 Loads and he thought I had better profit all for my own Spending. He said he had got Two loads of it in Cock for me. I Should be welcome to his Labour therein and he would help Me in Mowing another Day if I could procure him Company. I was very thankful to his kind Disposition and determin'd to accept. About nine this Evening we had an Alarm all over Town but heard no Cause.

¹ See DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, pp. 62-63. On Jan. 6, 1724 the Westborough town meeting appointed "a Commeete to Go to Sum Reverend ordained Elders that are a quanted with Mr. Ebenezer Parkman and Mr. Jacob Eliot, Both of Boston, and Candi-deats for the ministry, for their advice and Recommendation in order for Election as the Law Directs." In February Parkman was chosen minister and the town voted a yearly salary of £80, and £150 for "a settlement," the latter to be paid in three equal annual installments.

¹ Parkman married Mary Champney, a daughter of Samuel and Hannah Champney of Cambridge on July 7, 1724 in Cambridge. See Paige, *Cambridge*, p. 507 and *Cambridge Vital Records*, II, 299. DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, p. 71, incorrectly give the place and date of the marriage as Boston, Sept. 14, 1724.

2. I preach'd all Day. My Text: Acts 2, 37, 38.

3. Rainy Weather. I went out to get Men to Mow and Make my Hay. I was at Mr. Rice's. His son Beriah¹ agreed. At Mr. Prats his Son agreed, and the old Man himself engag'd to See to the Making. This was very kind. But I got Mr. Clark² to help him. I was at Mr. Aaron Forbushes³ and Bakers. Returning home I was caught in the Rain and was very Wet. Went into Mr. Prats to Dry and get a Coat. Thence home. The Next Day I was at the

4. Fast at Hopkinton in order to Ordination. Mr. Baker A.M., Mr. Dor⁴ and Mr. Swift P.M. They Read a Paper of Meeting to Pray and Confer, etc. N.B. We met in Mr. Barrett's New House. Immediately after Exercises I rode away for Cambridge and got down about Eleven. N.B. Mr. Hobby⁵ speaker at Hopkinton.

5. Brother Hinds⁶ talked very hot about Living at Westboro.

6. I rode round to Boston but did not get there till Lecture was over. The News was Malden Emerson's⁷ House was Burnt last Friday Night. Four Men taken at Rutland, 3 kill'd and one Captur'd.⁸ There was one more wounded. I rode up to Cambridge to Night though it rain'd all the way.

7. I rode to Framingham. Lodg'd at Mr. Jones's.⁹ I visited Increase Ward.¹⁰

8. In the Morning I rode to Hopkinton. Mrs. Spencer here still. I read severall fine Poems, etc.

¹ Beriah Rice (b. 1702), son of Thomas Rice.

² *Westborough Vital Records* (Worcester, 1903) do not give any record of a Clark in this period.

³ An early inhabitant of Westborough.

⁴ Reverend Joseph Dorr (Harvard 1711) of Mendon, Mass. *Sibley*, V, 574-578.

⁵ William Hobby (Harvard 1725). Later minister of First Church at Reading, now Wakefield, Mass. *Sibley*, VII, 530-537.

⁶ Perhaps Jacob Hinds (1685-1764?) who lived at various times in Brookfield, Marlborough, Shrewsbury and West Boylston.

⁷ Reverend Joseph Emerson (Harvard 1717) of Malden. *Boston News-Letter*, Aug. 6, 1724. *Sibley*, VI, 170-175.

⁸ *Boston News-Letter*, Aug. 6, 1724. The three men who perished were James Clark, Joseph Wood and Uriah Wood. Eleazer Ball was wounded. The name of a boy captured is unknown. Blake, *Rutland and the Indian Troubles*, pp. 10-11.

⁹ Colonel John Jones.

¹⁰ The only Increase Ward noted lived in Westborough.

9. I preach'd at Hopkinton; Mr. Barrett at Westboro. My Text was Rev. 3, 20, and John 15, 14. N.B. The first (through forgetfulness) I preach'd the Second time in this place.

10. Mr. Barrett's Wife and Mrs. Spencer rode with Me to White Hall.¹¹ In the After noon we gathered Hazelnutts. Towards Evening rode home.

11. In My Study of King on Church.

12. Visited Landlord Maynard. He not at Home.

13. I rode to Marlboro Lecture. Mr. Cushing preach'd. After Lecture Mr. Gardner of Stow came to Mr. Brecks. Captain Fay¹² and Mr. Prat rode home with me.

14. Read Martin Mar Prelate, and prepar'd for the Sabbath this and

15th Day.

16. Preach'd all Day. Acts 2, 37, 38.

17. I rode to Cambridge through Framingham on Mr. Samuel Hardys¹³ Horse. Met Deacon Haven¹⁴ on the Roade. We Call'd at Captain Goddards and at Mr. Swifts. Here was Mr. Brintnal.¹⁵ I asked him to help me. I got down in the Evening.

18 and 19 it rain'd so I was detain'd at Cambridge.

20. I rode to Boston. Mr. Sewall¹⁶ preach'd. He is Chosen president of Harvard College. In the after noon I was at Mr. Gee's where were Mr. Thomas Foxcroft,¹⁷ Mr. Wigglesworth,¹⁸ Mr. Prince (Nathan),¹⁹ Mr. Turell²⁰ and Mr. [blank], a Gentleman from the Bank. I return'd to Cambridge in the Evening.

¹¹ A large pond in Hopkinton.

¹² Captain John Fay.

¹³ Of Westborough.

¹⁴ Moses Haven of Framingham.

¹⁵ William Brintnall (Yale 1721), schoolmaster of Sudbury, 1722-1726. Dexter, pp. 244-245.

¹⁶ Joseph Sewall (Harvard 1707), D.D., minister of the Old South Church, Boston. *Sibley*, V, 376-393.

¹⁷ (Harvard 1714). Minister of the First Church in Boston. *Sibley*, VI, 47-58.

¹⁸ Edward Wigglesworth (Harvard 1710), D.D., Professor of Divinity, Harvard College. *Sibley*, V, 546-555.

¹⁹ (Harvard 1718). Tutor and fellow of Harvard College. Brother of Thomas Prince, the historian. *Sibley*, VI, 268-279.

²⁰ Reverend Ebenezer Turell (Harvard 1721), minister of Medford. *Sibley*, VI, 574-582.

21. I rode away for Westboro. Met Mrs. Martha Clark²¹ and Sister with Mrs. Lasten by riding to Newton. Farther on the Road I met Mr. Bartlett²² of Brookfield by whom I learnt Something Considerable of the Town. I stopt at Merchant Woods²³ at Marlboro. He walked with me to Mr. Brecks.²⁴ Mr. Breck I found ill. I lodged here. Early to Westboro in the morning (22) to prepare for the Sabbath.

23. Preach'd all Day. Tit. 2, 12. News that Captain Harmon²⁵ had slain 5 or 6 Score Indians at Norridgewock with Sebastian Ralle²⁶ the Old Jesuit and brought in his and 26 or 27 Scalps besides and Delivered Three Captives from the Enemy. Among those that were Slain of the Indians Bummageem was one. His wife and Two Sons were taken Captive and brought to York and Piscataqua. And in all we lost not a Man but an Indian, a Cape Fellow. *Deo Opt. Max. Gloria Triumphi.* Captain Harmon (it is storied) found an Iron Chest with the Jesuit which had many Letters in it, Some from Gentlemen at Boston (O Horrids) Betraying our Country.

25. I rode Early in the Morn to Marlboro. Mr. Breck ill yet. Then rode (with Deacon Peters) over to Stow to the Association²⁷ at Mr. Gardners. A Thin Meeting, Mr. Swift and Cushing, Mr. Jenison,²⁸ Mr. Barrett²⁹ and Mr. Brintnall. Mr. Ickyl, etc. up at Stow.

26. Mr. Barrett Preach'd but Mr. Jenison prayed. Good entertainment, but no great Matter of Business done. I rode

²¹ Mrs. Uriah Clark of Framingham.

²² Thomas Bartlet.

²³ Benjamin Woods.

²⁴ Reverend Robert Breck of Marlborough.

²⁵ Colonel Johnson Harmon.

²⁶ Father Sebastian Ralé, head of the Jesuit mission at Norridgewock, Maine. See James P. Baxter, *The Pioneers of New France in New England* (Albany, 1891).

²⁷ The accepted date and place for the formation of the Marlborough Association of ministers is June 5, 1725, at the house of Mr. Breck in Marlborough. From this entry in the Parkman diary it is clear that an association was in existence before that time. Levi A. Field, *An Historical Sketch of the First Congregational Church in Marlborough, Mass.* (Worcester, 1859), pp. 16-18. Joseph Allen, *The Worcester Association and Its Antecedents* (Boston, 1868), p. 5.

²⁸ William Jennison (Harvard 1724), later minister of the Second Church of Salem, Mass., 1728-1736. *Sibley*, VII, 371-374.

²⁹ Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

away with the Rest about 5 o'Clock P.M. Mr. Brintnall to preach for Me. I rode to Cambridge. Cousin Sarah Champney³⁰ at Uncle Champneys.³¹ Between 10 and eleven o'Clock.

27. Not very Well. I could not go to Boston.

28. I rode to Framingham; preach'd. The Text was John 15, 14. Deacon Robie lodged with me.

29. Mr. Brintnall came. We rode to Captain Goddards and to Westboro.

30. Mr. Brintnall preach'd for Me but he would not pray at all Save after the forenoon Sermon. He said he was indisposed. Indians at Northhampton and Westfield.

31. Workmen about the Chamber.

SEPTEMBER [1724]

1. Those that were Members of the Committee¹ met at Mr. Pratts.

2. In the Morning I rode with My Landlord² over to Hopkinton to Mr. Barrett's Ordination. We met in Mr. Barretts New House. Mr. Appleton³ Pray'd First; Mr. Webb of Boston Preach'd; Mr. Dor then pray'd; Mr. Swift gave the Charge; Mr. Brown⁴ of Reading the right Hand of Fellowship; and Elder Lyman⁵ Set the Psalm. We din'd handsomely. Mr. Cushing, Mr. Thornton Barrett,⁶ Cousin Charles Coffin and I all Lodg'd at Mr. Woods. N.B. Mr. Webb, discourse in the Evening, of the Doctors of the Church. Viz. Tillotson, Scott, etc.

3. Mr. T. Fowle and Mrs. Spencer came over to us at Woods. We had a good Dinner. Mr. Cushing and I carried the Ladies home to Mr. Barretts and return'd to My Lodging at Westboro. Mr. Cushing Lodg'd with Me.

³⁰ Daughter of Joseph and Sarah Champney of Cambridge. Sister of Parkman's classmate, Joseph Champney.

³¹ Joseph Champney, Sr.

¹ This meeting reached the decision to organize a church in Westborough. DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, p. 69.

² David Maynard.

³ Reverend Nathaniel Appleton (Harvard 1712) of Cambridge. *Sibley*, V, 599-609.

⁴ Reverend Richard Brown, Jr.

⁵ Deacon Caleb Lyman of the New North Church, Boston.

⁶ Of Hopkinton.

4. Mr. Cushing went home P.M. The Members of the Church, with those that had offered themselves to join, Came to See me and acquainted Me with their Meeting last Tuesday, with their most happy Union; and to See what I thought necessary further to be done. Our Consultation lasted til sundown. We concluded with a Prayer.

5. I prepar'd for the Sabbath. O My own Inconstancy and instability in these unsettled Times!—when Steadiness is so much demanded.

6. I preach'd from Luke 10, 42 and James 1, 22.⁷

OCTOBER [1724]

1. Dr. Mather¹ preach'd the Lecture, which was upon the Death of Gurdon Saltonstall, Governour of Connecticut. Mr. Green² was in Town but I could not come to Speak to him. I waited upon Mr. Webb³ at Mr. Bromfields⁴ for the covenant of our Church at Boston. Just at Night my consort and I went over to Charleston. She was very much affrighted indeed, But Mr. and Mrs. Appleton⁵ were in the Boat. My Horse was put up at Boylstons.⁶ We visited Mrs. Larkin.⁷ I came up to Cambridge, though a little late.

2. I came up to Westboro. I din'd at Mr. Williams' (Weston).⁸ I asked him to preach my Ordination Sermon. He made Some Provisos. I left him now by $\frac{3}{4}$ past 3, But got up to Mr. Brecks by Daylight in. He was very ill. He invited me to tarry with him tonight, but I had appointed to meet our Church at my Lodging and therefore left him. In riding thence home I met

⁷ On Sept. 24, 1724, a fast was held in Westborough preparatory to the gathering of a church and the ordination of Mr. Parkman. On Sept. 28 it was voted in town meeting to hold the ordination, Oct. 28, 1724.

¹ Cotton Mather.

² Joseph Green of Boston.

³ Reverend John Webb of Boston.

⁴ Edward Bromfield, selectman of Boston.

⁵ Probably Reverend and Mrs. Nathaniel Appleton of Cambridge.

⁶ Richard Boylston of Charlestown.

⁷ Probably Mrs. Edward Larkin of Charlestown.

⁸ Reverend William Williams (Harvard 1705). *Sibley*, V, 295-300.

with a Sad Mischance. My Cloak (and van Mastericht wrapt in it) broke from my Portmanteau as it was buckled behind me. And it was very dark, but Still I thought it best to alight and look back for it. (I was not so far as Captain Wards). I did so; and keeping my horse in my hand, with my Eyes near the Ground, and Swinging my Cane for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Mile back, I at length found it. I therefore did not get home till the people were gone. I got a very bad Cold and Sore Throat, But

3. I prepar'd for the Sabbath And

4. preach'd all Day from Josh. 24, 15.

5. In the Afternoon the Church Members met together.

6. I had my Landlords Horse to Ride to Marlboro to See Mr. Breck. I acquainted him with our Management and with Mr. Rice⁹ and his Concern, etc. Mr. Breck said he did not Expect that he should be with us, however he had no thought of any such thing as Excepting against Mr. Rice. I call'd in at Merchant Amsdens.¹⁰ Here were Captain Willard¹¹ of Sutton. Mr. Bailey¹² of Lancaster and Mr. Wilder.¹³ N.B. Captain Willard concerning Mr. Cushing and I. I rode to Mr. Samuel Hows¹⁴ in my way to Mr. Swifts.¹⁵ I lodg'd at Mr. Swifts.

7. Mr. Stone¹⁶ came to See Mr. Swift in the Morn. I inquir'd of Mr. Swift concerning a form of Letter to Send to Churches to request their Help in Ordination but was not satisfy'd. I rode to Mr. Jones¹⁷ where I heard of Mrs. Barrett¹⁸ and the Death of her Child. She had been in Travail a long time and very hardly escaped herself. I rode up to Hopkinton and was in good Season for the funerall. A Sorrowful Time! I rode to Mr. Woods¹⁹ and lodg'd there.

⁹ Probably Thomas Rice of Westborough.

¹⁰ Captain Isaac Amsden of Marlborough.

¹¹ Jonathan Willard.

¹² Benjamin Bayley or Bailey, constable.

¹³ Probably Ebenezer Wilder, also of Lancaster.

¹⁴ Of Framingham.

¹⁵ Reverend John Swift of Framingham.

¹⁶ Probably Thomas Stone, selectman of Framingham. Josiah H. Temple, *History of Framingham* (Framingham, 1887), p. 708.

¹⁷ Probably Colonel John Jones of Hopkinton (now Ashland).

¹⁸ No indication of a Barrett death at this time in *Hopkinton Vital Records* (Boston, 1911).

¹⁹ Captain John Wood of Hopkinton.

8. I return'd to Westboro. I call'd to see Mr. Increase Ward to discourse with him about his Entering into the Church, baptism, etc.

9. My Business about this time was reading Ordination Sermons and wherever the Minister's Duty was Explain'd, Especially van Mastricht, *De Ministaris Ecclesiastico*.

10. According to Mr. Barretts Desire I rode over to Hopkinton. On the road met Captain Fay and his Wife going to Mr. Woods.

11. I preach'd at Hopkinton and Mr. Barrett at Westboro. My text, Heb. 12, 1; James 1, 22. Mr. Barrett went and return'd to Day. Mr. Fowles good Company Here.

12. I return'd to Westboro. Mrs. Wood²⁰ at her house discours'd about Some Methods for the people in their provision for Ordination. In the Evening came a Committee to treat with my Landlord about providing, etc. There was much Caring about bringing up my Goods.

Memorandum. I formed Letters (by the Towns Desire) to be Sent to Severall Churches, (viz. Boston to Mr. Webb, Framingham Mr. Swift, Marlboro Mr. Breck, Lancaster Mr. Prentice²¹ and (a Letter from myself to ask him to preach), Sudbury Mr. Loring,²² and Mendon Mr. Dorr. These were drawn up on the 9th Day.

13. I read Sermons, etc. Mr. Edmund Rice²³ with me in the Evening.

14. This Day I Solemnly Dedicated to Humiliation and Prayer to prepare myself (by the grace of God) for the Awful Time approaching.

28. This was truly the Greatest Day I ever Yet Saw—The Day of my Solemn Separation to the Work of the Gospel Ministry and my Ordination to the Pastorate in Westborough.

The Solemnity came on and proceeded in the manner following. In Order to the gathering the Church, a Covenant was pre-

²⁰ Mrs. Benjamin Wood.

²¹ Reverend John Prentice (Harvard 1700). *Sibley*, IV, 529-532.

²² Reverend Israel Loring (Harvard 1701). *Sibley*, V, 75-83.

²³ Of Westborough.

par'd before hand; read, and consider'd by the Candidates for Membership, and was Sign'd.

N.B. An Ecclesiastical Council was form'd, and they having got all Things ready (as they apprehended) proceeded to the Meeting House.

N.B. Reverend Mr. Swift was Sent to, but he was detain'd by Sickness in his Family. Nevertheless the Church sent two Delegates, viz. Colonel Buckminster²⁴ and Captain Goddard.²⁵

Reverend Mr. Breck was also Sent to, but he was himself so ill (of the Strangury) that he could not attend. Those ministers being Absent, the Council, with Consent, Admitted and requested Reverend Mr. Williams of Weston to Assist.

Being come to the House of God, the Reverend Mr. Dorr of Mendon open'd the Solemnity with Prayer. The Reverend Mr. Prentice of Lancaster preach'd a Suitable Sermon from 2 Cor. 12, 15. Afterwards The Reverend Mr. Williams of Weston aforesaid pray'd and gather'd the Church. There were 12 besides the Pastor Elect, who sign'd the Covenant and answered to their Names in the Assembly.

The Reverend Mr. Prentice gave the Solemn Charge.

The Reverend Mr. Loring of Sudbury the Right Hand of Fellowship.

The Ordain'd appointed the Psalm (part of the 68th) and gave the Blessing.

I wish Every Day throughout my Life, may bear a Suitable proportion to this Day! That I may be Strong in the Grace which is in Christ Jesus, and that I may grow then into the Glory of God and the Edification of His Church! Amen!²⁶

S E P T E M B E R , 1 7 2 5

My Mother rode up with me to Westboro.

14. This Morning was very Cloudy, Not only abroad as to the weather but in the house with respect to my wife who for

²⁴ Joseph Buckminster of Framingham. Temple, *Framingham*, p. 490.

²⁵ Captain Edward Goddard of Framingham. Temple, *Framingham*, p. 566.

²⁶ See DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, pp. 81-84, and Westborough Church Records.

about Three hours was in great Extremity. I thought I had not been earnest enough with God yet, notwithstanding what passt last night, etc. Then again Engaged in a Short but fervent Devotion, and Ten Minutes past Eight my wife was delivered of a Daughter. I cried unto God most high, unto God who is a very present Help in time of Trouble and performeth all things for us, and He brought Salvation. He put joy and Gladness into our Hearts; and O that we may never forget his Benefits!

17. My Father came up to us.

19. The Child was Solemnly given up to God in Baptism (My Father holding it up). I call'd it (by my wife's Name) Mary.

28. My Father and Mother rode to Boston. My mother stopt at Marlboro being ill.

OCTOBER [1725]

4. Mother Champney came up, being brought up by Father Champney.

My wife a very Sore Breast.

Breast Broke under Mrs. Whitcombs Care.

Breast Broke a Second Time.

NOVEMBER [1725]

8. I rode down with Mother Champney to Cambridge.

9. I went to Boston with Sister Lydia.¹ My horse was carried back to Cambridge by a Boy. I Supp'd at Brother Alexander's² (who was married Last month, just after my Father left home for Westborough).

11. Mr. Thatcher³ preach'd the Publick Lecture. The Boy having brought Back my Horse, I toward night prepar'd, and understanding, by Sister Lydia, that Mrs. Dorcas Bows⁴ (my wife's Kinswoman) would ride up to Westboro with me, and that Mrs. Dorcas waited for me at Charleston, we went over by Ferry

¹ Lydia Champney, Parkman's sister-in-law.

² Alexander Parkman (1699-1747) married Esther, widow of John Pilkins and daughter of George and Rebecca Walker, Oct. 1, 1725.

³ Reverend Peter Thatcher of Boston.

⁴ Mrs. Nicholas (Champney) Bowes, Mrs. Parkman's cousin.

and we overtook her at Neck o' Land. We proceeded on Horseback with good pace; and Sister alighting at a place whence she Could with much Ease walk to Sister Hicks'.⁵ I returned and took up Mrs. Dorcas and by these means we got up Comfortably.

12. Brother Champney⁶ and Sister Lydia accompanied Mrs. Dorcas and Me to Westboro; and we got home in good Season. I was forc'd to ply myself to finish my Preparation for Sabbath, which besides what I could do at Boston must needs be Thought to take up the whole Thirteenth Day of the Month.

14. I preach'd A.M. and P.M. from Eccl. 9, 10.

15. I was call'd out to see Mrs. Tomlin⁷ who was in Travail and in terrible Fits. She continued in them in a very awfull and Ghastly manner. The Infant was Dead at the Birth. When I return'd home I found Mr. Cushing⁸ at our House.

16. Mrs. Tomlin dy'd, a Sore Trial to the Young Man, Who in such a mann'r Lost his First wife and Child.

17. Brother and Sister return'd home to Cambridge. Mrs. Tomlin Buried. Mrs. Dorcas rode with me to the Funerall and after it we went up to Captain Fays.⁹

20. I rode down with Mrs. Dorcas to Cambridge.

JANUARY [1726]

1. Besides my making my preparations for the approaching Sabbath, I have little to remark concerning this Day, as it looks as if very many kindred and most of my Dayes have rolled away without anything worth noting upon them. Some are left Blank because of the Confusion I am put into by *Diem perdididi*; or because with all my Desire to Improve my time, I prove but of little importance either to Myself, or anyone Else.

I had through the whole of this Day crowds of imperfect Reflections upon the Consumption of Time and the misimprov-

⁵ Mrs. John (Champney) Hicks, daughter of Samuel and Hannah Champney of Cambridge.

⁶ Samuel Champney, Parkman's brother-in-law.

⁷ Mrs. Isaac Tomlin of Westborough.

⁸ Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

⁹ Captain John Fay of Westborough.

ment of my Talents. Late in the Evening when I had finished my Sermons, as my manner has often been to look into Myself and view the State of my Heart, that I may be in some Measure prepar'd for the Holy time and solemn Employments coming on; at this Season, I say, my Thoughts run more free from those Confusions and interruptions just mentioned, than in the Day, but were chiefly engag'd upon my grievous Neglect of the Affairs and Concerns of my Soul and preparations for Eternity, and particularly upon my omission of this Method of keeping a journal (or Diary) so long as I have. And I regret that when I did make a Business of it, there was so much time and pain spent in Vanity. I fix'd a Resolution to prosecute other Aims and purposes, and to confine myself more severely and strictly to Studies of Grave and Serious Subjects, to Enquirys into my own Deportment, and to such observations on the Demeanour and Conduct of these as that thereby I may learn the most Suitable regular method of forming my own Thoughts and Actions.

2. My Early Thoughts were upon the Revolutions of Time which will, none knows how soon with me, be swallowed up in Eternity, And upon the wondrous Grace of God in Continuing the Day and means of Salvation. Our Entertainments for this Day was raised from 1 Cor. 16, 22. Mr. Nehemiah How¹ and Mr. Joseph Wheeler² din'd with us. The Evening Reflections were much the Same as Last Night.

3. I began, in a Serious Manner, with the above said purpose of numbering my Dayes; and I beseech God to aid me by his Holy Spirit, that I may do it aright, and that I may apply my Heart to true Divine wisdom. And there is so much and more need of Dependence upon God, because I am very suspicious that without Such preternaturall power and assistance lent me, what through my wretched Inconstancy, Inadvertence and want of Resolution against which would interrupt the Affair, would either altogether Drop or loose its principal Design.

4. I went to Mr. Bakers,³ Captain Fay and to his Brothers.

¹ Of Westborough.

² Of Westborough.

³ Edward Baker of Westborough.

At the Captain's we were much engag'd about the circumstances of my delivering my Quit Claim to Mr. Elmer's⁴ Land to Captain Goddard,⁵ etc.

5. My Chief Concern lay with the 1 volume of the Occasional Papers and with Sir Matthew Hale's Contemplations.

6. Captain Fay (with his Team), Mr. Charles Rice,⁶ Mr. Miller,⁷ Mr. Grow,⁸ Mr. Baker, Mr. Campbel, Mr. Samuel Fay's Son, and an hand from Rice, came to Cut and Sled wood for me.

7. 8. Prepar'd for the Sabbath (that is with the Preparation made in the former part of the Week). I bought a Bearskin Muffler. Mr. Rice was with me about keeping his Man.

9. A.M. Our Contemplations were on Job 28, 28, and P.M. on John 17, 3.

10. Neighbor Clark dress'd Flax for me, and his Son thrash'd Oats. Mr. Rice brought his Mare to my Stable. Mr. Whood sent me a Peacock and Peahen.

11. I rectified Sundry of my Accounts.

12. A Spaniard, Oko Smiths, of Valencia came and offered himself to my Service. In the Evening I rode abroad to Captain Byles⁹ who Complain'd much of Pains and Lameness. I pay'd him for four Barrells and a powdering Tub made for me. Thence I rode to Neighbor Brigham's¹⁰ Whose Son and Daughter were ill. N.B. This Morning my Peacock dy'd.

13. Hannah Warren¹¹ had my Man to go to Boston.

14. 15. Prepar'd for the Sabbath.

16. I preach'd upon Col. 3, 2. I observ'd a general delinquency in our people in coming to meeting, through which I am oblig'd to wait near half an hour or altogether, as it has Sometimes prov'd before I could begin the Exercises of Evening.

⁴ Reverend Daniel Elmer, formerly of Westborough.

⁵ Edward Goddard of Shrewsbury. Andrew H. Ward, *History of Shrewsbury* (Boston, 1847), pp. 283-284.

⁶ An early inhabitant of Westborough.

⁷ James Miller of Westborough.

⁸ Samuel Grow of Westborough.

⁹ Captain Joseph Byles, an early inhabitant of Westborough.

¹⁰ David Brigham.

¹¹ Of Westborough.

17. Last night was Exceeding Cold. This Morning One of my Summer Piggs I perceived was frozen to Death. Mr. Barrett¹² came to see us, and with Heavy Tidings of my Fathers being so very ill that my Brother by him sent me this word, that there was Ground to fear My Father would never go abroad again; and therefore it was much desir'd I would immediately go down. Hereupon I went first to Mr. David Maynards and then to Mr. Pratts¹³ for an Horse, mine being not yet returned, but I succeeded not till Eleazer Pratt¹⁴ went to Mr. David Goodno's and Obtained His. My Walking so far in the Cold, together with my Troubles and fears, and the Worries of my Mind, were such that I felt very uncomfortable, and I had an Uneasy Night, a bad Cold and grievous Head ach. And a Tedious Journey at this Season in Prospect, Besides the Melancholly Expectations of what I was altogether unprepar'd for.

18. Three quarters after nine in the Morning, I mounted from home upon a very poor dull Horse, which was another Affliction to meet this time. At Mr. David Hows¹⁵ I saw Mr. McKinstry¹⁶ of Sutton with his friend Briton. Very Snowy. In Weston I met my own Beast and it much rejoic'd me to Change. I got to Father Champney's¹⁷ in good Season to have gone to Boston, But the Storm was so violent, the wind very high and no less Cold, and very Slippery Riding, Besides that I was so tired and faint that I was necessitated to tarry all night here, though my Resolution had been very Strong to have seen my Father if alive before I left. Father Champney was very melancholy and Dejected, a great Alteration from a few Months ago.

19. I got into Boston before noon, and joyfull to tell, my Father I saw Sitting up and in some Hopefull Way. *Soli Deo Omnipotenti Gratias ago maximas qui hodiernas preces matutinas audiebat et a tanta miseria et Calamitate quanta involutus fui*

¹² Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

¹³ John Pratt.

¹⁴ Of Westborough.

¹⁵ At the Wayside Inn in Sudbury.

¹⁶ Reverend John McKinstry.

¹⁷ Samuel Champney, Sr.

Eiexit. I visited Mr. Thatcher in the Evening. Mr. Webb¹⁸ came in, and the Conversation turned upon the Kingdom of Christ, the calling of the Jews, etc. I observ'd Mrs. Thatcher¹⁹ to discourse with a great deal of pertinence and Solidity as well as Zeal upon the Side of the millenists. By and by Madame rose up and to Mr. Webb we'll go if you please Sir from the Jews to Spanish and Polish at which game [?] they play'd till near nine when I left them and went to Captain Boyse's²⁰ to see Cousin Dorcas Bowes. He was presently very Earnest about the Late Transactions at the wedding of Miss Sarah Champney²¹ to John Lowell,²² who were married the 23 of Last Month. To Day Mr. Lowell ordained at Newbury.

20. Mr. Gee²³ preach'd the publick Lecture on Psalm 122. I went in the Afternoon to Mr. Lewis's to see Mrs. Edwards, but she herself was so ill with a broken Breast, and her son was apprehended to be dying, that therefore I could not see her. Captain Storey²⁴ convers'd with me about his Sons living with me. His words were these about the Conditions of our Discourse. 'Take the Lad, Sir, Till about May, when I expect to return from Sea, but if it please God to prevent me, if you like the Boy keep him till he is 15 or 16 years old, when I would have him put to apprentice. All I Desire is that you keep him warm, and feed him Suitably. Instruct him Christianity. My main Expectation and hope is that you'll give him Education proper to such an One. Let him Serve you as he is able, impose not on him those heavy burthens that will either Cripple him or Spoil his Growth. But in all regards I am willing he should Serve you to his Utmost. Upon my Consenting to this he said he has no Hatt. Let him have one of yours, and if it should so happen that he doth not remain with you I'll pay for it.' Upon all which I got him a Hatt at my Brothers and took him with Me at the Entrance of the

¹⁸ Reverend John Webb of Boston.

¹⁹ Wife of the Reverend Peter Thatcher of Boston.

²⁰ Samuel Boyce of Boston.

²¹ Daughter of Noah and Sarah (Tunnell) Champney.

²² Reverend John Lowell (Harvard 1721). *Sibley*, VI, 496-502.

²³ Reverend Joshua Gee of Boston.

²⁴ Probably Rowland Storey of Boston.

Evening. It was very Cold and for the Sake of the Boy I was forc'd to call in twice by the way to Cambridge. We got up to Father Champney's in good Season, but very Cold.

21. It was near Eleven before I could Mount for home. I Stopp'd and Din'd at Captain Brintnalls,²⁵ and got home before Day Light in. Engag'd in My Preparations for the Sabbath, which were now to Begin.

22. I was bound very Strict to my Study, and very little time for Reflections or Meditations.

23. I finish'd my Sermons before meeting time which were a further prosecution of my Thoughts upon Col. 3, 2. It was a very Extreme Cold Day, Especially the forenoon. Captain Fay din'd with me.

24. I visited Mr. Thomas Newton²⁶ who had been ill some time. I am thankfull to Mr. Pratt who came to my Family to assist them in my Absence, and to see what might be done for their Comfort, and today came himself and went to Mill for me. Much foul weather, frequent Snows.

25. In the Evening I was full of Reflections upon my Negligence and in Trouble upon that account. The Circumstances of my Family are such that I can't avoid innumerable interruptions and impediments as it has prov'd all this winter, that I have been much obstructed in my Studies. I pay'd Mr. Goodeno 15 shillings for Labour in last Hay time.

26. I visited Mr. Jonathan Howard²⁷ who has been ill. His Mother likewise was Some little time agoe much afflicted with a Tumor in her Throat. Returning I call'd in at Mr. Eager's²⁸ and supp'd there.

27. 28. 29. My Time was these Dayes taken up with Enquiries into my Subject for Next Lords Daye's Sermons and preparing them.

30. Our Text was Heb. 10, 25. Forenoon particularly was very Stormy and a great deal of Snow fell.

²⁵ William Brintnall of Sudbury. Hudson, *Sudbury*, pp. 299-301.

²⁶ An early inhabitant of Westborough. DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, pp. 46-47.

²⁷ Of Westborough.

²⁸ James Eager, an early inhabitant of Westborough.

31. In the Evening I went down to see Lieutenant Forbush²⁹ who yet remains in Sad Circumstances and much pained. I Entertained My Self with St. Augustine of the City of God with the Notes of Ludovicus Dives. This Book to my Conceiving is of Superiour Value and usefullness.

FEBRUARY [1726]

1. A Clear Day, except the first part of it, but the wind very high and blew the Snow about very much, Especially towards and in the Evening Exceeding Vehement and Cold.

I read likewise the account given of Madame De Maintenon by the Guardian.

2. This morning was bitter Cold. We have hitherto had a very Severe Winter as we have Scarcely had for many Years. I began my preparations for the Sabbath. I read the notes of Rescomen on Horace in part.

3. 4. 5. I was Employ'd upon my Subject consulting Dr. Merlock, Mr. Charnock,¹ etc.

6. I preach'd on Heb. 10, 25. In the morning I was put into great confusion and astonishment while Engag'd in the first prayer, to Such a Degree that it was with much difficulty that I proceeded, for I Entered upon the Sacred Employment with trembling and fear from the meditations I had all the morning upon my unworthyness and Sinfullness, my Slothfullness, negligence and unprofitableness in the most Exalted Trust and with Some of the highest Advantages. And the lively apprehension hereof so fill'd and possess'd my mind in the Holy Exercises that I could Scarce regard anything besides. I consider it as a righteous Castigation of God for my unfaithfullness to him in the great work to which he has called me, and I would humble myself before him and Implore his pardon through the Blood of Christ, and his grace to quicken and assist me. Both at noon and at night I Sadly reflected hereupon and offered prayers to God for Reconciliation and mercy.

²⁹ Thomas Forbush of Westborough.

¹ Stephen Charnock (1628-1680), an English Puritan theologian.

7. Neighbor Clark² related the management of the Church of Stow in the Case of Richard Temple, a Member thereof. We got out a parcell of grain that was so full of Tares it was Scarce fit for use.

8. I was abroad at Mr. Oliver Wards and reckoned household with him. In the Evening Mr. Thurston³ and his wife were here till it was Late. We reckoned etc.

9. I was at Mr. John Maynards⁴ about noon. In the first of the Evening came Mr. McKinstry of Sutton and Mr. Walker,⁵ one of his parish and they lodged with us.

10. 11. 12. I was chiefly taken up with my Sermons. Very pleasant weather because thawing.

13. I again preach'd on Heb. 10, 25.

14. I rode to Marlboro to Mr. Brecks.⁶ We walk'd to Mr. Woods.⁷ I paid up my account with Mr. Woods. We went into Mr. Amsdens⁸ and Mr. Thomas⁹ came in. My Full purpose was to return home, but Mr. Breck was so very Urgent with me, Since I had not been there for the Space of 3 months, that I tarried there all night.

15. After Dinner Mr. Breck appointed to go to his Daughters with me. I went to Mr. Edward Rice's¹⁰ Shop and there, taking leave of Mr. Breck, I rode to Williams's¹¹ To see Mrs. Williams,¹² it being the first of my being in Town Since she was married. Returning home I call'd at Captain Wards¹³ to warm me it being

² This person appears often in subsequent entries. Neither the Westborough town records nor the town history records any Clark in this period. Also Clark and Clarke genealogies do not reveal further information about this man.

³ Joseph Thurston.

⁴ Of Westborough.

⁵ Lieutenant Obadiah Walker.

⁶ Reverend Robert Breck of Marlborough.

⁷ Benjamin Woods of Marlborough.

⁸ Captain Isaac Amsden of Marlborough.

⁹ William Thomas of Marlborough.

¹⁰ Of Marlborough.

¹¹ Colonel Abraham Williams, a prominent resident of Marlborough. Charles Hudson, *History of Marlborough* (Boston, 1862), p. 470.

¹² Elizabeth Breck, daughter of the Reverend Robert Breck, married Abraham Williams, Dec. 22, 1725.

¹³ Nahum Ward of Shrewsbury. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, pp. 457-459.

Cold and to spend a Little time in Conversation with the Captain but he had taken a fortnight ride into Connecticut.

16. I read Dr. Mathers Directions to a Candidate of the Ministry which pleased me very much.

17. I read Ned. Wards Trips to New England and Jamaica, P.M. The Evening I Enter'd upon my Sermons on which the reading Mr. Watts¹⁴ Guide to prayer I Employ'd the 18th and 19th Dayes.

20. I preach'd upon Gen. 12, 8.

21. 22. 23. I was oblig'd to Strict attention and Study. I sent Mr. Ward to Mr. Barretts but he was from Home, and therefore no Dependence to be had upon him.

24. We had a Lecture upon 2 Cor. 5, 17.

25. 26. I us'd utmost Diligence to prepare myself for the Approaching Solemnity, yet I was somewhat put to it to finish before I went to Bed on Saturday Night.

27. It was very Stormy and Consequently few Communicants to be Expected and 'Twas not without much Difficulty that my Wife surmounted the Wind and Snow. But I hope we all had much Reason to rejoice in the presence of God that we Enjoy'd at the Holy Supper of the Lord, which I administered, having preach'd upon Psalm 84, 1. In the Afternoon I again Discours'd on Gen. 12, 8. Our Exercises were very short.

28. I rode as far as Mr. Warrins and Mr. Amsdens. Mr. Amsden, upon Occasion of his Horse and a great number in the Neighborhood besides, and in every Town about us, gave out various Reflections upon the Sad Mortality and Destruction of Horses; and the sore visitations in the Extreame scarcity of Corn and Hay at this Juncture, through which Multitudes are sorely Distress'd.

MARCH [1726]

1. 2. Mrs. Whood and her Son with a Sled came and fetch'd away their Hay out of my Barn.

3. Mr. Cushing came to see us, and Mr. Woods of Marlboro

¹⁴ Isaac Watts, D.D. (1674-1748), the famous English hymn writer.

was here at the same time. A Swine (given us by Mr. Holloway¹) kill'd for us by Neighbor Clark and David Maynard. Mr. Cushing Lodg'd here. He gave us an account of Mr. Elmer and his Enfield People, etc.

4. He Returned Home. I in part prepar'd a Sermon.

5. I went on with my preparation till Noon, when I rode to Shrewsbury, and Mr. Cushing rode back my Horse to Westboro.

6. I preach'd at Shrewsbury upon John 12, 26, A.M. and P.M. Captain Keyes² over to see Me.

7. Mr. Cushing came in the morning to Me. We went over to Mr. Keyes's, where we had a strange Report about Mr. Breck's going to Merchant Wood's. Old Mr. Joslin³ of Marlboro, a very grave and good man buried there. I wrote to Boston by Lieutenant Leonard⁴ of Worcester. I return'd home.

8. Mr. Williams of Marlboro here to ask me to preach Mr. Brecks Lecture next Thursday.

9. I went to Captain Byle's and to Mr. Brighams to see his dau'ter in Law who continues Sick. At her Desire I pray'd with her. Mr. Brigham came home with me to prune my Trees. I went over to Neighbor Pratts to the Raising of his Barn.

10. This morning, tho not very good weather, I went to Marlboro to Lecture, But Mr. Cushing both pray'd and preach'd notwithstanding I was sent to, for I was not very well and I was glad I could persuade him. His Text was Mat. 11, 12. We went down to Mr. Woods and it became very Stormy and rain'd hard. Mr. Thomas was with us with many of his diverting amusements and adventures in London. Mr. Woods presented me a Girdle. Mr. Cushing Lodg'd with me at Mr. Brecks.

11. Captain Brigham⁵ came in and gave us all an Invitation to Dinner with his Troop the last Tuesday of this Month. When we had din'd we left Mr. Brecks. I return'd home by way of Deacon Rices.⁶ It was most Tedious Riding by the breaking in

¹ Adam Holloway of Westborough.

² John Keyes of Shrewsbury. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, pp. 340-341.

³ Nathaniel Joslin died March 5, 1726.

⁴ Moses Leonard.

⁵ Nathan Brigham of Marlborough. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 334.

⁶ Caleb Rice of Marlborough. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 435.

of the Horse. We were run into some Difficulty about going to Mill thro it being So long Stormy. But William Clark on the 12th went for us. Neighbor Clark brought Three Cows and Mr. Oliver Ward an Horse to my Barn.

13. My Text this Day was Math. 6, 6.

14. 15. There is Need of again and again Remarking the Extream Difficulty and Distresses of People For themselves and their Beasts for want of Both Corn and Hay.

16. I was abroad at Mr. Increase Wards, Captain Fays,⁷ etc., about my Spring Business, to hire Labourers, and make Enquiry after a Man to Live with me.

17. 18. 19. I further pursu'd my Subject of Secret worship and accordingly

20. I preach'd on the same Text as Last Sabbath. Jason Badcock an illegitimate born Child presented by Mr. Joseph Wheeler was Baptiz'd. That I might warrant this practice by Suitable Defence thereof I consulted our gravest New England Divines, Increase Mather, etc., First, and then Foreign most Judicious as van Mastericht (as well as those of our own Nation) Ames, etc.

21. 22. 23. I made it my Business to Enquire into the State of the Land and to Study the Causes of the Divine Judgement and what God is Demanding of Us by his Severe hands upon us. It is a Distressing time. Multitudes under heavy Sufferings for want of Hay for their Creatures.

24. A Publick Fast. My Text was Jas. 12, 4, A.M. and P.M. I Labour'd hard. When Exercises were over my mind was possess'd with it that God would be favourable to us this Year Ensuing.

25. 26. Very Strictly Engag'd in my Preparations.

27. I preach'd upon Ps. 25, 11.

28. About This Time Neighbor Green⁸ was urgent with me to sell him part of my Land.

29. Mr. Rice Sundry Times visited me upon account of his Mare. Mr. John Pratt with me about my Meadows, etc.

⁷ John Fay of Westborough.

⁸ John Green.

30. No whither can one turn but the Calamity of the times are felt, Everyone Complaining and Lamenting. My Neighbor Clark tho a foreigner I could not but Comiserate, and I actually did put forth Myself to my utmost to succour him Every Way, By Grain, Hay, keeping Creatures, Money, etc. *O Miserere Deus!* Corn was Sold at Oxford for 8 shillings per Bushel, and in other places.

31. I rode down to Captain Wards to Engage Robert Henry to Live with me and I did so and Silence Bartlet, one for 23 t'other for 8 pounds per Year.

APRIL [1726]

1. William Wilson of Concord, a poor Shiftless man Lodg'd with us Last night, and about the same time Simon Tainter¹ (who had been with me some time agoe) was with Me in a very Heavenly and Devout Time, Conversing of his State and preparations for his admittance into the Communion. I was upon My Preparations as also the 2nd Day.

3. I preach'd upon the Same Text as last Sabbath, Ps. 25, 11. John Whood of Hopkinton at Dinner with us. He rode home his Horse which I had had to keep.

4. One of Mr. Ward's Cows went home. What man would not think it worth Noting that [he] has Seen the mighty Contests and Brawlings that are often made about the most inconsiderable things of this kind, and the Reflections cast upon the honesty and uprightness of those of Sacred Character (because they ought to be Examples to observe), if there is not a peculiar preciseness and Exactness in making up the minutest part of an account.

5. Silence Bartlet came to Live with us. Two of Neighbor Clarks Cows went away. My Hay growing very short, or my Tenderness towards this man would not have suffer'd me to Send them away.

¹ Of Westborough. He was admitted to the church, April 3, 1726. Westborough Church Records. Simon Tainter, who later became a deacon, and who lived until 1763, was a good friend of Parkman. Harriette M. Forbes, *The Diary of Rev. Ebenezer Parkman* (Westborough, 1899), pp. 11-12.

7. Mr. Rice's Mare went away after Lecture. I preach'd this Day on 2 Cor. 1, 12. I very Eagerly expected Mr. Barrett,² having sent to him in good Season, but (as it has happened these Three Times with him) I was disappointed.

8. Another of Mr. Wards Cows was Sent home.

9. This Day the Last of Mr. Wards Cows and his Horse went away. N.B. The 5th and 6th Neighbor Clark and his Son ploughed (with my Mare and Mr. Wards Horse) my Stubble, and the 8th and 9th Neighbor Clark with my Boy went on (as aforesaid) in ploughing and sowing of Wheat and Rye and Barley.

10. This Day was our sacrament. I preach'd upon Lamt. and 2 Cor. 1, 12. I have great Reason to express all gratitude to God for his presence with me, inasmuch as I trust I had much of the presence and spirit of God with me.

11. Robert Henry came to live with me. Neighbor Clark Sow'd My Oats, and Some Peas. William Clark Harrow'd till Eleven o'Clock and then Robert took the Work.

12. I rode down to Association at Marlboro. Present, Mr. Swift,³ Mr. Breck, Mr. Prentice,⁴ Mr. Loring,⁵ Mr. McKinstry,⁶ Mr. Cushing,⁷ Mr. Gardner,⁸ Mr. Cook,⁹ Mr. Barrett, Mr. Burr¹⁰ and myself. Mr. Swift opened the Association with prayer, and Mr. Thomas McKinstry¹¹ propos'd a Matter between himself and one of his parish, in which he requested our Sentiments and advice concerning the best Manner of Managing it. He had preach'd a Sermon from these words in Eph. 5, 20: "Giving

² Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

³ Reverend John Swift of Framingham.

⁴ Reverend John Prentice of Lancaster.

⁵ Reverend Israel Loring of Sudbury.

⁶ Reverend John McKinstry of Sutton. Benedict and Tracey, *Sutton*, pp. 33-35. He was not a member of the Marlborough Association. Allen, *Worcester Association*, pp. 5-7.

⁷ Reverend John Cushing of Shrewsbury.

⁸ Reverend John Gardner of Stow.

⁹ Reverend William Cooke (Harvard 1716) of Wayland. *Sibley*, VI, 134-138.

¹⁰ Reverend Isaac Burr (Yale 1717) of Worcester. *Dexter*, pp. 163-165.

¹¹ This should be Reverend John McKinstry.

Thanks alwayes for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." In which Sermon he maintained that we ought to give Thanks to God not only for Prosperous but Even Adverse Dispensations. One Putnam (and Sundry others Combining) had been Set Against, and Still manifested uneasiness at Such Doctrine and this man was Resolute to make a stir about it. He had alwayes been Discontented with Mr. McKinstry but now Charges him as inorthodox. We therefore wrote a brief Declaration according to Mr. McKinstrys Request in This Wise.

Application being made to us the Subscribers, conven'd at Marlboro April 12, 1726, by the Reverend Mr. John McKinstry, Setting forth that he had delivered certain Doctrine as follows, viz., that the Children of God ought to give thanks to God at all Times for all his Providence to us, Whether they be prosperous or Afflictive, and the Doctrine was Dissatisfactory to some of his Brethren. Our Opinion hereupon being Desired we freely Declare that we judge said Doctrine to be agreeable to the Sacred Scriptures and Sentiments of the most Judicious Expositions of Orthodox Divines. Sign'd by Ebenezer Parkman, John Swift, Robert Breck, John Prentice, Israel Loring, Job Cushing, John Gardner, William Cook. Having din'd, Mr. Axtil¹² of Marlboro Desir'd advice of the Association in his Case, who for irregular Behaviour and Discourse with respect to one Tabitha Rice¹³ (who had laid a Child to his son), and the Church, likewise in Managing the Affair, was suspended. But his Infirmary of understanding rendered him incapable of the plainest Counsell and Direction which from Everyone given him. Mr. Cook also Propos'd a Cause between Two of his Parish who were uneasy with one another in a Bargain they had made about some Land. But some other Business Engaging me I took little notice of it,

¹² Thomas Axtell. Axtell was the subject of several discussions by the Marlborough Association. See Allen, *Worcester Association*, pp. 12, 19-20.

¹³ The daughter of Edward Rice of Marlborough. There is no record of the birth of her child close to this date, but there is a record of a daughter, Sarah, born to Tabatha Rice, July 10, 1723. Tabatha Rice married one Nathaniel Oakes or Oke, Feb. 20, 1726/7. *Marlborough Vital Records* (Worcester, 1908), p. 160, p. 304.

Seeing it was not in my Power to advantage it any manner of way.

Association Breaking up, I rode with Mr. Barrett as far as Mr. Eagers¹⁴ of the Town where my Horse broke, but Lighting upon Mr. McCollisters¹⁵ Son upon a Horse I rode home. My Beast was Safe at my own Barn. Brothers Champney¹⁶ and Hicks¹⁷ were to see us.

13. Our Brethren went to Hopkinton and so home. Neighbor Green Bought part of the South Side of my Land. In the Evening we gave writings.

14. Mr. Barrett came to see us.

15. 16. Gloomy Weather for the Season. We had Cold Storms for most of the week.

17. I preach'd upon 2 Cor. 1, 12 and Ps. 25, 15. I was Ex-treamly Tired in my Body so that I could not only not keep off the Bed but Scarce lye on it.

18. Neighbor Clark had my Beast to plough for him.

19. Neighbor Clark's last Cows went home.

20. I heard of Severall more Creatures Dead.

21. Neighbor Green paid me forty pounds upon first bonds. Planted Apple Trees.

22. Bright, warm, after long Cold Rainy Weather.

23. We were in a sad Comotion by the Hills being fir'd. Robert was Exceeding unfortunate to burn the Brush after long uneasiness through my fears of his persuasions. I gave him leave to set fire to the most Distant Heap and the last in the wind, but the Leaves were drie and the wind fresh so that it put us to great Labour to carry it. It burnt about 20 Rod of my fence and would have Consum'd without a period if I had not receiv'd Neighbor David Maynards Help, and been very Diligent my Self. But before Neighbor Maynard came, it raged to such a

¹⁴ Either Zachariah Eager or his brother Zerubbabel, both of whom were residents of Marlborough at this time.

¹⁵ Probably John McCollister of Westborough.

¹⁶ Samuel Champney, Jr., of Cambridge, Parkman's wife's brother.

¹⁷ John Hicks of Cambridge, Parkman's brother-in-law.

Degree that we grew so hot and faint as Severall times to give up and Robert¹⁸ Lay'd himself down in an Expiring posture, till quickened by a New Resolution. It got Lead upon the Fence before Help came. Through Divine favour we put a stop to it to our great Joy att about noon. It continued to burn indeed, but not to run and Spread. We were oblig'd to have an Eye over it continually, and I was not, manytimes, without fear of its catching again because Towards night there were great Gusts of Wind, Thunder and Lightning and very little if any Rain. This was the more terrible as happening in the middst of my Preparation for the Sabbath. But God was very Gracious.

24. I preach'd upon James I, 2I, both A. and P.M. I baptiz'd Josiah Newton's¹⁹ Daughter Mary.²⁰

25. I Catechized the Children at the Meeting house. Number above Twenty.

26. Mr. Ward came with his Cart and We Carted out 20 Load of Muck. I made up accounts with Mr. Ward.

27. Again Carted 12 Load of Muck.

28. I rode down to Marlboro and preach'd the Lecture from Acts 16, 24. After Lecture I paid Colonel How²¹ £3. 10 for Beef I had of him and Mr. Wood 20£, which (with 10£ at one time and 20£ at another before) made up the 50£ which I borrowed of him last Year. I paid him the Interest also which was 1£ 25 Shillings. I made up with him also for Sundrys had in his Shop. Here was Mr. Thomas. Mr. Wood presented Me a Dozen of long Pipes, and Mr. Amsden presented Me a pair of Tobacco Tongs. It was between 10 and 11 when I got home. Bass and Shadd sent to us.

29. Rob was Employed about Setting up New Fence. But I was taken up with my Preparations for the Sabbath.

30. Went on with my Compositions. Robert plough'd for Planting.

¹⁸ Robert Henry, Parkman's hired hand.

¹⁹ One of the first inhabitants of Westborough.

²⁰ Born April 20, 1726.

²¹ Thomas Howe of Marlborough, an Indian fighter, Justice of the Peace, and representative of the town. Hudson, *Marlborough*, pp. 382-383.

MAY [1726]

1. I preach'd on James 1, 21 A. and P.M. I receiv'd Asher Rice¹ into our Communion. N.B. Captain Fay offer'd to Say Something concerning the Congregations tarrying to Such admissions, but having given Sufficient Notice in my Conversations of my whole Purpose and practice in these Regards I put a stop to him imediately and said no More.

2. I read Miscellaneously. Robert Plough'd part of the Day. Put up some Fence in 1st part.

3. Mr. Breck came to see me. Robert plough'd again till towards night, when (after I had been with Mr. Breck to Mr. S. Maynards) I rode with Mr. Breck to Shrewsbury where we lodg'd.

4. We walk'd to Mr. Cushing's house and thence to Mr. Smith's² (who kept our Horses last night) where we decently Entertained. We returned to Mr. Wards³ to Dinner after which Both Mr. Breck and Mr. Cushing rode with Me to My house at Westborough. They parted a little before night. Robert did somewhat more at ploughing this afternoon.

5. Finished his Ploughing.

6. 7. He planted Indian Corn, But I confined myself, and for want of Some inspection it was so furrow'd I could have been Glad to have had it to have done again.

8. I preach'd upon James 1, 21, A.M., and on Phil. 3, 13, P.M. I baptized Neighbor Prat⁴ Junior his Daughter Betty.⁵

9. I rode (with my Wife) to See Mr. Thomas Newton⁶ for whom (and for the widow Record Ward⁷) Prayers were Yesterday

¹ Asher Rice was the son of Thomas Rice. In 1704, when eight years of age, he was captured by the French and Indians. Four years later he was recovered by his father. Asher was an eccentric who retained some habits acquired when living with the Indians. He later moved to that part of Leicester which became the town of Spencer in 1775. DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, pp. 37-40. See also *The Story of the Rice Boys* (Westborough, 1906).

² Peter Smith of Shrewsbury, a founder of the church there. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, p. 431.

³ Captain Nahum Ward, a prominent resident of Shrewsbury.

⁴ John Pratt.

⁵ Born May 8, 1726.

⁶ An early resident and militia officer of Westborough.

⁷ Widow of Increase Ward. Mother of Oliver Ward, selectman of Westborough.

publicly Desir'd. We were in also at John Pratt Juniors and P.M. at Neighbor Josiah Newtons. This Last gave Me a pair of Shooes for my Self and a pair for My Lad.

10. 11. Robert got Rails. I began my Sermon.

12. Captain Fay came to our house. I fell upon a Discourse about his Speaking in the church as above mentioned, without Notice given Me concerning it, etc., etc. Mr. Cushing came to see Me.

13. 14. I was Strictly Engag'd upon My Subject.

15. We were Entertain'd upon Phil. 3, 13, 14, A.M. and P.M. The widow Ward died.

16. Robert Went to Work at Mr. Oliver Wards, whose Mother, Record Ward was this Day Buried. I was at the funerall all 4[?] P.M., and then My Wife and Child I carried with me to Mr. Brecks Who we found was not Well, and did not go to Meeting yesterday in the Afternoon. We lodged here.

17. We rode to Cambridge. Call'd at my wives Uncles about 3 P.M. Convers'd and refresh'd and went to her Father's.⁸ Here we lodg'd. I was not well after Evening prayer in the Family.

18. I rode to Boston. My Mother not well. My Brother John Tyley⁹ return'd from Honduras, having been taken by Ned Low the Pirate. Towards Evening I went back to Charlston for my Horse at Boylstones,¹⁰ where I met Mr. Cotton¹¹ of Newton and a Company of his Neighbours, Mr. Ephraim Williams,¹² etc., who had all been out a fishing. I rode with them to Cambridge and then parted to go to Father Champneys where I lodged.

19. In the Morning I got on my Journey home. I lit of one [blank] of Lancaster who behaved himself very handsomely and bore my Expenses of Eating and Drinking and oats at the Tavern. I stop'd at Mr. Swifts whose Family (Severall of them being very ill and the rest not well) was much afflicted. I got home seasonably but much fatigued.

⁸ Samuel Champney of Cambridge.

⁹ Parkman's brother-in-law, husband of Elizabeth Parkman.

¹⁰ Richard Boylston of Charlestown.

¹¹ Reverend John Cotton.

¹² Colonel Ephraim Williams who moved to Stockbridge in 1739.

20. 21. Strictly Employ'd in My Preparations. My Lip broke out and was very troublesome. Captain Ward here about Robert. Robert came from Mr. Oliver Wards.

22. I preach'd all Day upon Prov. 3, 6. Mr. Willard¹³ of Hassenimisco's Child Hannah¹⁴ was baptized.

23. In the morning about 7 or 8 I set out for Cambridge. I call'd at Neighbor Thurstons,¹⁵ he being agoing out waited for his Horse. I tarried an hour and half and then went away without him, as far as Mr. William Johnsons,¹⁶ where he came up with me. We rode to Mr. Swifts but did not 'Light. Mr. Swift very ill, Hence we went to Natick but Mr. Peabody¹⁷ not at home. Madame persuaded us to tarry for him Since he would not be at the Election, and Seeing Mr. Hale was with him. They came in the Beginning of the Evening, and we had a very pleasant time till Two o'Clock in the Morning, when we forc'd our Conversation to break up. (N.B. The Family had Liberty to repose about 10 in the Evening and Neighbor Thurston then retir'd from us). I had the afflicting account of poor Mr. Osgood¹⁸ our Classmate, his Recess from Topsfield. In the Morning we Sung a Psalm and I was call'd upon (for I refus'd it last night and Mr. Hale was desir'd thereupon) to perform the address to Heaven. Then we Walk'd about Mr. Peabodys Farm. We convers'd, we smoak'd, and we (hardly) parted. Mr. Hale with us we proceeded as far as Mr. Ephraim Williams of Newton, but he was not at home. From this Place we Urg'd our way to Father Champneys (Mr. Hale dropping us at the verge of Waterton) and thence to Boston, My Wife being carried thither by her Brother this Morning. I sent back my Horse to Cambridge.

¹³ Major Joseph Willard went to live at Hassenemisco, an Indian village, in 1717. He was a founder of the town of Grafton. Frederick C. Pierce, *History of Grafton* (Worcester, 1879), pp. 49-50, 604.

¹⁴ Born May 22, 1726, according to Westborough town records.

¹⁵ Joseph Thurston.

¹⁶ Of Marlborough.

¹⁷ Oliver Peabody (Harvard 1721). Later minister of the First Congregational Church (the Indian church) in Natick. *Sibley*, VI, 529-534.

¹⁸ William Osgood (Harvard 1721) had begun preaching in Topsfield in the fall of 1725. In July, 1726, he was dismissed by his congregation. *Sibley*, VI, 508-509.

25. Mr. Thatcher¹⁹ preach'd an Excellent Sermon from those words Psalm 77, 20 "Thou leddest thy People like a Flock by the Hand of Moses and Aaron." But I was much interrupted by a Lip full of anguish that put me to great Trouble. I was not at the publick Dinner for this Reason, that our Family were gathered together at my Fathers and I was Obliged to dine with them. And this, and my Lip detained me from the Convention.

26. I was at the Convention (at Mr. Sewalls²⁰). Mr. William Williams²¹ of Hatfield preach'd. After it we din'd at Holmes's. Much Discourse of a true Representation of the affair of the Synod Concerted last year. Dr. Mather²² acquainted us he had Sent some letters hereabouts, but I had no perfect account being absent yesterday, as aforesaid. I sent for my Horse but it was late and then I was Easily prevailed with to tarry till the Morning.

27. Mr. Coffin and Mr. Lee came in just before we Left Home. The Last walked with me to the Ferry. My wife was very Timerous. I waited for one Boat after another before we ventur'd. It was near 10 o'clock ere we mounted. We rode to Cambridge to Hick's and Fathers. Bundled up, Din'd a little after 12 and (with our Brother Champney) Set out. Call'd at My Wive's uncle Champney's²³ and Every now and then Stopt in the Road to fix the Child. We parted at Livermores,²⁴ where Mr. Breck,²⁵ Mr. Woods²⁶ and Rasto call'd us, and we rode (after Sevrall Hesitations for Mr. Breck and on account of the Child) to David Hows²⁷ where we tarry'd Several Hours. Notwithstanding (coming by the Farms in Marlboro) we reach'd home before Day Light in.

28. We Rested. Brother returned home.

29. Early in the morning I rode to Hopkinton, met Mr. Bar-

¹⁹ Reverend Peter Thatcher of Boston.

²⁰ Reverend Joseph Sewall (Harvard 1707) of the Old South Church, Boston. *Sibley*, V, 376-393.

²¹ Reverend William Williams (Harvard 1683). *Sibley*, III, 263-269.

²² Cotton Mather.

²³ Joseph Champney, Sr.

²⁴ Joseph Livermore of Framingham. Temple, *Framingham*, p. 625.

²⁵ Reverend Robert Breck of Westborough.

²⁶ Benjamin Woods of Marlborough.

²⁷ The Wayside Inn in Sudbury.

rett a little on this Side his house. I preach'd all Day from Acts 24, 16. Mrs. Barrett did not make a Dining. I waited for Mr. & Mrs. Barrett (for Drugs for my Child) till it was too late to return home. Mr. Barrett Baptized Jedidiah²⁸ the Son of Peres and Lydia Rice.

30. I returned home. Robert began to weed the Corn. He had Mr. Oliver Wards Rocket and Horse to assist him. I read Bradleys General Treatise on Husbandry and Gardening and Extracted Observations.

31. I read Dr. Cotton Mathers *Ratio Disciplinae Fratrum Nov. Anglorum*,²⁹ a Book which I have long wish'd for, or something of this Kind. I apprehend there was great need of the Publication here of [it] and I have a great value for it. Before it I knew not where there was anything fixt and stated for our Regulation in the Lesser Circumstances; or what to do about Severall Modalities in our Ministrations. For My own Part, I hitherto had governed My Self Chiefly by what the Assembly at Westminster had given me; but for more minute Articles I consulted what was customary with the best men among us and as far as they agreed with my Sense I followed them in My Management. I have Likewise Laid before me our own Platform and Confession of Faith, and various other Books I have Consulted for the Formation of my Directory. Where there was Honey to be Extracted I have not refused to Suck even the Common Prayer Book of the Church of England. But the Book above mentioned has proved the most illuminating and Instructing Especially in Circumstantialls.

Silence Bartlet³⁰ not well. She went to the Doctors.

JUNE [1726]

1. Robert came between 1 and 2 P.M. to Hoe for me.
2. Robert still at Howing. Perhaps there may be many more Tedious and Chafing things in Hirelings than ever Mention has

²⁸ Of Westborough. Date of birth in town records is May 29, 1726.

²⁹ Published in Boston, 1716.

³⁰ Mrs. Parkman's young helper in the house.

been made of. Silence Bartlett being much indispos'd went to Marlboro to take advice of the Phicician.

3. Robert at the Same Business still with William Clark to assist him. I was at my Preparations. In all my Wayes, outward or Secular Wayes as well as Spirituall I acknowledge God.

4. It was very hot all Day. We have had a very fierce Sun and but little Rain for Some time. In the Evening I went down into my Cellar thin clad as I had been in the Day and got a bad Cold.

5. I rose much indispos'd. I went to public Worship which my wife urged very much against. I was very faint when I Entered the house, but (with much difficulty) I went thro the Exercises of the forenoon. In the Intermission I was still worse. I tarry'd at home, and sent Mr. Symms's¹ Sermon to delaying Sinners to be Read. Neighbor Thurston and Mr. Tomlin,² I was told, pray'd. I grew very ill, having pains thro my Limbs, oppression and sharp pains at my Stomach that caused much faintness. Just the way of Divine Providence I would acknowledge God.

6. My illness increased. My Wife was not well nor any Child. I sent John Storey to Marlboro for Silence Bartlett. Robert wrought for Neighbor Clark.

7. I sent for Mr. Barrett.

8. Robert had not finish'd Howing till 11 o'clock. And then I order'd him to get up my Mare and carry Silence Bartlett to Brookfield. After they were gone Mr. Barrett came to see Me.

9. Mr. Ward³ Sent his Daughter Dinah to us. Robert returned just within Night.

10. 11. This week was a weary time. What I could read chiefly was the Arch Bishop of Cambrays Telemathus, by Boyer. Dinah Ward went home.

12. I could not go to Meeting. I would humble myself before God for my former Negligence and unfaithfullness on this Blessed Day which justly Deserves the Divine Frowns. I Besech God

¹ Thomas, Symmes, *A Monitor for Delaying Sinners* (Boston, 1719).

² Deacon Isaac Tomlin.

³ Oliver Ward of Marlborough. Dinah (b. 1709) was his eldest daughter.

to assist me by his Grace to greater Diligence and Zeal and Constancy in his Service, especially in my Great work on this Day for the Future.

I Sent a sermon to the meeting house but there being but 3 or 4 Men there they returned to my house. Most of the people were gone to Meeting in neighbouring Towns. There were Worcester people here for Mr. Burr⁴ was ill. It was doubtfull whether there would be any Meeting at Shrewsbury for Mr. Cushing⁵ Broke his Arm some Time since and has not been able to preach for 2 Sabbaths. The Time look'd very Melancholly. It show'd in a Lively Light the great Priviledge of Comfortable free Enjoyment of the Lords Day.

13. I read Drydens Virgil from the 7th Aneid.

14. Training Day. The Officers sent importunate Addresses to me to have me dine with them. I rode as far as Mr. Maynards⁶ (the next house) and it made me more chearfull. It was Town meeting also, in the Afternoon upon account of our Sutton neighbours that would be Set off to us.⁷ Robert was at Moulding up my Indian Corn. He did not make that Heavy Business of the First part that he did before. I prosecuted some preparation for Next Sabbath.

15. I read in Sir Matthew Hales⁸ Contemplations. Rebecca Paddison came to Live with us.

16. N.B. We kill'd our Calf. The inability and negligence of Robert! An Exceeding Dry time.

17. Most of us were ill with Colds, and many round about us also.

18. I finished my Preparations. I had Sundry Reflections upon my past unserviceableness that might Righteously detain me from Gods house not only a Day or Two, but forever.

19. I preach'd A.M. on Prov. 3, 6; P.M. on Eph. 5, 16. Cap-

⁴ Reverend Isaac Burr of Worcester.

⁵ Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

⁶ David Maynard of Westborough.

⁷ See DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, p. 101.

⁸ Hale (1609-1676) was the famous English jurist. His *Contemplations Moral and Divine* (London, 1676) appeared in numerous subsequent editions.

tain Willard⁹ din'd with me and Mrs. Holloway.¹⁰ Concluding Exercises in the Afternoon, I was very much Spent. I was very Faint and my knees trembled very Sensibly and so I continued till I had rested my Self some time at home. I had in the Evening a good Season of Serious Enquirys unto my Self. God grant me more such and bless them to me.

20. I rode as far as Mr. Tainters¹¹ to raising his Barn. It was a pleasant time, but not altogether without Trouble and Toil.

21. I grew Weary of Robert Henry; having set me up Some Lengths (perhaps a Score) after his Manner, I made up accounts with him and gave him his Liberty.

22. Robert Henry went away. I reckon'd with Neighbor Clark. N.B. After a long time of Drought God in Mercy remembered us, and Last night and this morning (with not a little Thunder and Lightening) Sent us plentiful Showers of Rain. I remain faint thro pains in my Stomach which often Oblige me to desist Studying. Yesterday Rebecca Paddison, apprehending Some Dangerous Tumour in her Breast, returned to her Mother. Brother Champney¹² came up to See us.

23. Brother returned home. I felt much pain in My Stomach, which made any work very Heavy.

24. I Employ'd the Chief of this Week in My preparations for the Sabbath, for my Indispositions allow'd me but very little Liberty without a Respit and avocation.

25. Mr. Tainter and Bowman of Sutton mow'd for me.

26. I preach'd all Day and Administer'd the Sacrament, But I Scarce went thro the Business.

27. This Day, for want of all other Help than my little Boy, I rak'd and turn'd my Hay till just before Night. Neighbor Clark sent his Son to assist in making it up.

28. This Morning we had many refreshing Showers, which I look upon as a great Mercy notwithstanding I had near two Load of Hay Expos'd in it. Hannah Paddison came to live with us.

⁹ Benjamin Willard, father of Major Joseph Willard.

¹⁰ Mrs. William Holloway of Westborough.

¹¹ Simon Tainter of Westborough.

¹² Samuel Champney, Jr., Parkman's brother-in-law.

29. 30. We pol'd in our Hay. Neighbor Green¹³ and William Clark, My Self and Boy. My Self and Neighbor Green.

Notwithstanding such Exercise last mentioned was my Diversion and Choice, yet I found it sometime tir'd me very much. It set me into Reflections upon the unhappy times we are fallen into and the Ingratitude of most of the people of the Country to their Ministers, very few besides the Boston ministers being able to Support themselves with what they Receive from their People. Certainly they are straight handed and if they Reap Sparingly no wonder since they Sow very Sparingly. He that would be just will attribute hereto and not to the want of Either sufficient parts or Eager Inclination if there are not so great men among us as were famous in New England in the Dayes of Fathers. Most ministers do groan under their pressures and it is an addition to the weight that Sinks them that the Generality of People are of the Sort and Spirit that it Scarce ever can prove to the Advantage of men to complain, but it is best to Suffer patiently, to obtain relief. They Desire to be left to their own Generosity, the Extent of which is Enough Demonstrated. This Reflection is the more melancholly when it is Evident Such Evil conceits are daily propated to the Dishonour of God with the Disparagement of his Ministry. For, trifling as the following observation is, it is true: That their [blot] inward Respect is much proportion'd to our Externall appearance; when therefore it becomes mean thro their neglect it will be in Danger of becoming worse thro their Contempt. But (*Christo gratias*) I have had little Experience, as yet.

JULY [1726]

1. 2. Whatsoever I have done in the former part of the Week in Reading Either Commentarys or sermons upon my Subject, or collecting observations thereon, yet these Days I would spend in strictest Engagement in writing and reviewing my preparations for the Public.

3. I preach'd A.M. on Eph. 5, 16., P.M., on Jer. 4, 14.

¹³ John Green of Westborough.

4. I rode away to Mr. Brecks,¹ who acquainted me with what was done last association. Especially referring to Mr. McKinstry's² Cause, and Mr. Barretts³ with Mr. How. Thence I rode to Mr. Woods. Thence to Mr. Cooks where I din'd on fry'd Pigeons. Thence to Livermores, from whence to Father Champney's.⁴ My Journey hither was very Tedious but I proceeded to Boston. Thro my illness I was very much tired. Brother John,⁵ I was informed was ready to sail for Dublin in a vessel belonging to the Family. Brother Alexanders⁶ wife Last week was Delivered of a Daughter.⁷

5. I was about various Concerns but I was very faint and incapable of Business. I was at Mather Byles's⁸ and he show'd me (at my Request) his Poem to Mr. Dowding on his Verses of Eternity, Sent in a Letter to Sir Byles. This Poem was published in the Courant No.—.⁹ He repeated his own and Mr. Adams's¹⁰ Poems on Captain Winslow¹¹ deceas'd with all which I was very well pleas'd. I was at various places but I was not well in Either. I was very much afflicted with the Oppressions at my Stomach. I was with Dr. [Louis] Dalhonde.

6. Commencement. I was much of a stranger at College, but my indispositions much prevented my making my Observations. The Batchelours had their Degrees in the Meeting house in the

¹ Reverend Robert Breck of Marlborough.

² Reverend John McKinstry of Sutton. Benedict and Tracey, *Sutton*, pp. 32-35.

³ Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

⁴ Samuel Champney, Sr., Parkman's father-in-law.

⁵ Parkman's brother-in-law, John Tyley.

⁶ Parkman's older brother, Alexander.

⁷ Esther Parkman, born June 29, 1726.

⁸ Mather Byles (Harvard 1725), poet, humorist, minister of the Hollis St. Church, Boston, 1732-1776. *Sibley*, VII, 464-493. For information on Byles' poetry see the Introduction by C. Lennart Carlson in the 1940 facsimile edition of Byles' *Poems on Several Occasions* (Boston, 1744).

⁹ *The New England Courant*, No. 237, published in Boston. Dowding may have been Joseph, b. 1702.

¹⁰ John Adams (Harvard 1721), poet, minister and classmate of Parkman. *Sibley*, VI, 424-427.

¹¹ Captain Josiah Winslow (Harvard 1721) was the commander of a fort on St. George's River in Maine, and was killed in an Indian engagement April 30, 1724. *Sibley*, VI, 587-589. Byles' poem was printed in his *Poems on Several Occasions* (Boston, 1744), and Adams' in his *Poems on Several Occasions* (Boston, 1745).

Morning. But there was so much rain at noon that the masters Disputations were in College-Hall and their Degrees given them in the Afternoon. I was at Sir Bridghams¹² Chamber at Dinner but I was not fit for any Conversation thro my Lifelessness. I was desir'd by Mr. Barrett to Meet here with our Association upon Mr. McKinstry's Cause, But no body came. Mr. Breck led me to Sir Saltonstalls¹³ Chamber where there being little Company I had most Quiet. It was a very rainy Time which kept the Town full of People, full of Jollitys and no one knows what. At Night having borrowed a Large Sturdy Coat I ventured over to Father Champney's but it was very wet, uncomfortable. Here was Cousin Dorcas Bows¹⁴ and Susan Champney.¹⁵ We lodg'd Comfortably. But a little after midnight Mrs. Jerusha Fairweather and Mrs. Mary Gain Came over. I was awoke but they concluded I was asleep, and therefore I was never Troubled.

7. In the Morn I found that Two Young Gentlemen had waited upon the forementioned Ladies but Despairing of Room in the House, never Enquir'd and roll'd into the Barn. Yet one was Sir Clark¹⁶ one of the Orators; the other Mr. Woodbridge,¹⁷ son of Governor Woodbridge¹⁸ of the Asiento Company in the West Indies. It was Dark weather but pleasant Company particularly Mrs. Gains, with whom I chiefly confin'd my Conversation. About Ten I return'd over to the Town. I met Mrs. Porter who had just before had a turn of Illness and was coming out of Colledge to take the Air. She Desir'd me to walk with her. I embraced the opportunity, and (with her Sister, Two Miss Charnocks¹⁹ and their Gentlemen Mr. Baxter²⁰ and Mr. Baker²¹)

¹² James Bridgham (Harvard 1726). *Sibley*, VIII, 7-10.

¹³ Nathaniel Saltonstall (Harvard 1727). *Sibley*, VIII, 263-265.

¹⁴ Mrs. Parkman's cousin.

¹⁵ Susanna Champney, daughter of Joseph Champney, and Mrs. Parkman's cousin.

¹⁶ William Clark (Harvard 1726), later a Boston physician and political writer. *Sibley*, VIII, 12-19.

¹⁷ Benjamin Woodbridge (Harvard 1728). *Sibley*, VIII, 533-535.

¹⁸ Judge Dudley Woodbridge of Barbados.

¹⁹ Elizabeth and Mary, daughters of John and Mary Charnock of Cambridge or Boston.

²⁰ Joseph Baxter (Harvard 1724). *Sibley*, VII, 304-305.

²¹ Thomas Baker (Harvard 1724). *Sibley*, VII, 294-295.

we walk'd round the Common, a long walk for an ill Man and a woman but half reviv'd. We lodged Safe at Sir Balch's²² and I bid them Adieu for I was Oblig'd to hasten to Boston, to finish the Rest of my Business. I did so and Returned back to Cambridge. I waited on Sir Clark, and gave up the Cause. I retir'd to Father Champneys again and was much Diverted by the Facetious Company of Mrs. Gain.

8. About Ten (as I remember) I took horse for home, Mother Champney²³ being with me. I was become much better and my Journey was Much Easier than I (fearfully) Expected it would be. We came home very Safely. (*Deo Optimo Salvatori Gratas quam plurimas*). Asher Rice had been here at work (Mowing). When I had been at home sometime and had Contented my Self with my appointment with Mr. Cushing to Change. I was Surpriz'd to hear that his Arm was very bad and he gone or going to Narragansett, upon which I was driven to Compose Discourses for Sabbath Day. But I was in a flutter and could write but four lines. I Examined myself concerning my Negligence. I considered my Journey as Necessary to seek advice touching my Health; that I had no Opportunity or Strength; and the Divine Providence intervening and removing the means of my assistance I had the more Solid grounds to proceed to Entreat the Divine Help.

9. Anyone will suppose me most strictly Engaged in My Study to Day. My first Sermon I finished and Some part of my Second before I Slept. I made addition both in the morning and at noon.

10. I preach'd all Day upon Jer. 4, 14. My Wife was Taken with a shivering and Trembling while in the afternoon Exercise, but Showed nothing to me till I was come out of meeting, when She walked very Slow and look'd more pale and sunk than I had ever seen her on any occasion that I remember. But she made a shift to get home and then grew somewhat better. I concluded it to be issue proceeding from the Procidantia Uteri which she had

²² William Balch (Harvard 1724). *Sibley*, VII, 296-304.

²³ Mrs. Samuel Champney, Parkman's mother-in-law.

been Troubled with. This accident put us upon Weaning the Child which this Night began.

11. I went out to see my Hay; Mr. Rice²⁴ came to see me and he with my own people (Two of them) got it into Cock. The Boy, first with me and then the men, poled it in, there being appearance of foul Weather nigh, and the cocks standing round the Barn, very Easy at hand. Now and in the next Morning together we carry'd in above Thirty.

12. My Wife Rode with me to Mr. Cushings whose arm Continues very Stiff and Troublesome. Yet Patient Job was good Company. What a favour of heaven to have the mind Stock'd with wise, with Divine Principles whereby it is fortify'd and kept Even. My Wife Seem'd to have a comfortable Time, and I made my Observations upon the Pleasure she seem'd to take in this Ride. Yet I understood afterwards that while at Mr. Cushings She was not very well.

13. I read Sundry Poeticall Pieces as the Temple of Death essay on the Spleen[?]. I pursued my Preparations.

14. I was much taken up with Looking out for Labour about my Barley Harvest. Isaac and Hezekiah Pratt²⁵ mow'd it in the first of the afternoon. I was some time in Conversation at Neighbor Clarks with him and Mr. Rice. [Blot] Molly²⁶ not well.

15. My Wife Complaining of weakness. Neighbor Maynard came to make up my Barley and get it in. My Studys minded.

16. My Barley Secur'd by Neighbor Maynard and his son. Molly was much indispos'd and I sent Yesterday to Marlboro for Mrs. Williams but she was not there. To Day I sent Hannah Peterson to her house, but she sent me Reasons she thought Sufficient for her not coming. We were very low at the news my wife being oppress'd with Every illness: The Procidencia, etc., the turning of her Milk, Her Mouth Obstructed, pain in her Breast, and great pain and weakness in Every part.

17. My Wife rose out of Bed but exceeding ill, bound together with her Excessive pains; came down; I'm afraid took Some Air

²⁴ Asher Rice of Westborough.

²⁵ Both of Westborough.

²⁶ Mrs. Parkman.

at the Door; grew much worse. I got her up Stairs in order to go to Bed again, but she almost swoon'd away. Recovering a little from her faintings, She demonstrated to us that she was in grievous agonies. She undress'd and with the Tenderest Help [of] her Mother and myself She was assisted to Bed. But Every maladie was Enraged, by Every weakness and discouragement left almost Lifeless. I walked a little in the Room, her mother holding in one hand her hand, her other laid upon her Head. I cast my Eyes now and then upon her and Concluded she was drowsing, but I went to her to look upon her, and Spoke to her. Receiving no kind of Return Her Mother put her hand to her mouth. I urg'd Some Testification or sign, but none being given; but she lay in a profound stillness when as tho had hitherto been vigorously struggling Her Teeth were set, her Limbs Cold, her Eyes Distorted, and very Little Life any where perceptible, when her Mother gave me the word that She was Dying. How I felt outgoes Description. I hastened the Maid to Mrs. Forbush. My Wife Lay for the space of 3 quarters of or altogether an hour I suppose in such a Condition. O Dismal Hour, wherein the Struggle with my heart for her Division was like the Rending the Soul from the Body! It was truly a most gloomy Time! Mrs. Forbush came just when She spoke, a Galbunum Plaister was taken off which was too strong for her. Something was given her and She Revid'd a little but Continued in the Last Extremitys. It was a Reprieve but it Seem'd a Short one. We Expected we must be Rent asunder this Day! It grew more and more Intolerable! I was full of prayers and anon I had Some Hope. I grew more Confirmed in Hope. It brought fresh to my Mind all the Bitter Sufferings of her Dark friday, Ever long, about nine Months before, wherein I had the Same prospects. The Salvations of God then, strengthened my Trust in him. She became more sensible. We Encouraged ourselves in the Lord and He show'd us his Mercy. While We have any being let us praise the Lord! It grew very Late, but Leaving her under the Divine Protection, and to the care of Mrs. Forbush and Madame Maynard I repair'd to the House of God. Our Devotions, if they

were fervent, they were short. Mrs. Peterson came and by various Applications she grew more Easy. I was full of Thankfulness and went again to the public worship, Mrs. Bayles tarrying with her. Our Text A.M. and P.M. was Jer. 4, 14. She continued extream bad. I sent Daniel Hardy²⁷ to Mr. Barrett. Mrs. Peterson watch'd. I have almost utterly forgot what became of me that night. (Now I recollect). Mr. Barrett came. He said and did very little. He gave us an account of what Mrs. Whitcomb had sent. He gave us better Balsom of Fennel for her violent Fever, gave her some Tent wine.²⁸ He pray'd with us. We lodg'd together.

18. Molly was further revived, and tho she was very weak, yet she was all Day much more comfortable. Mr. Barrett went away about 8 o'Clock. Mrs. Maynard watch'd.

19. Molly grew worse by a vomiting and flux; the Morning very grievous. I sent Phinehas Hardy²⁹ to Mr. Barrett who sent us Some plaisters and more Tent. She was somewhat better in the Afternoon; by various Applications the Flux Stay'd till night. Mrs. Thurston³⁰ watch'd. These Dayes I could do little besides reading Mr. Shepherds Sincere Convert³¹ and Dr. Edwards Exer-citations Critic. Philosoph. Historic Theog. on Some S.S.³² Martha Becom an Indian came.

20. And this morning Joshua Misco³³ and his Squa howed my Corn. I went in the Afternoon to seek Labourers. At Peres Rice's³⁴ was one Stearns³⁵ of Sutton, who was full of inconsistance about the Affairs of Mr. McKinstry and the Doctrines he had delivered. When I came home my wife had been (tho' without

²⁷ Of Westborough.

²⁸ A deep red wine of low alcoholic content obtained chiefly from Spain.

²⁹ Of Westborough.

³⁰ Mrs. Joseph Thurston of Westborough.

³¹ Thomas Shepherd, *The Sincere Convert, Discovering the Small Number of True Believers, and the Great Difficulty of Saving Conversion* (Cambridge, 1664).

³² One of the works of John Edwards, D.D. (1637-1716), the English divine. Parkman possessed several of the books of Edwards. See DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, pp. 73-75.

³³ One of the Indian proprietors of Hassanamisco.

³⁴ Perez Rice of Westborough.

³⁵ Either Ebenezer Storns or Samuel Stearns.

any the least Reason) very much affrighted with the Indians, and full of fear of what they might do. And yet there was no greater peace and good Temper than they Demonstrated and went away soberly to their Lodging in the neighbourhood. She was not well pleas'd with her Mother; and left with me Notwithstanding Necessity call'd me forth; and I took a Season when Company was with her. But the Weakness of her Body brought strange apprehensions in the mind.

21. Asher Rice mow'd a part of the day. Fitting weather. The Indians finished my Corn and went off.

23. Father Champney came up.

24. I preach'd in the morn on Jer. 4, 14. Afternoon upon Prov. 29, 1. My wife recovering.

25. It was Father Champneys Design to have carryed Mother Home, yet She could not Safely leave her Dauter. My Father made up my Hay. I rak'd myself I suppose an hour. And before noon he went away for home. Whitcomb here all night.

26. Mr. Bowman³⁶ came again to Mow for me. Mr. Cushing here. Bowman pol'd what Remained of my Hay. Mr. Cushing returned home.

27. I read Occasionall papers, Vol. 2.

28. I preach'd a Lecture at Shrewsbury. My Text was 1 Cor. 16, 22. I was with Captain Keyes³⁷ at his Sons who treated us with Brandy and Brandy punch. I returned in the Evening. Neighbor Clark reaping my maslin.³⁸

29. William Clark reap'd half the Day and this finish'd my maslin. Nothing obstructed my Diligent application to my Preparations.

30. The frequent showers so Engaged Everyone about his Corn and Hay that it was no Easy matter to Obtain Help. It was with great Difficulty I got Neighbor Clark and his son to Shock my grain, which having layn long in the Field in all weathers and a threatning storm nigh, I was Restless till the Grain my Chief Dependance was upon [was] Secur'd. Shall I note here

³⁶ Probably James Bowman of Westborough.

³⁷ John Keyes of Shrewsbury.

³⁸ Mixed grain, especially rye mixed with wheat.

the Answers given by Two persons that my wife remark'd when she sent to Neighbor Clarks for assistance. Neighbor Clarks grain was upon Spoil and he was reaping it. He had Many (I think Ten) load of Hay that had been very long in cock in the Meadows and must be Tho't to be rotting. Himself lame in his hand, besides his comon lameness in his Leggs. His Son, who was all his Help, had hurt his ancle, and therefore he directed the messinger to ask Neighbor Maynard who had his own, his sons David, Jesse, Josham, Jonathan and Ebenezer's Help, tho one or Two of the last were not like the others. His Business in Good forwardness. He [Maynard] Replys when my Grass and Corn will move into my Barn without hands I'll leave it to Help Mr. Parkman—not before. The Messenger returns to Neighbor Clark. He answers what shall I do? My own is really Suffering and Everything is backward for want of a Team, for I have none and can get none, But he is Labouring for our Souls and why Shall I refuse? and came away.

31. I preach'd A.M. and P.M. on Prov. 29, 1. I was very weary at noon, and I had the Toothach. Neighbor Grove din'd with me. At Night I was much more weary. Our Repetitions were omitted.

AUGUST [1726]

1. I stir'd myself pritty much about my Hay, raking, etc. Just before Even I walk'd down to See Neighbor John Maynard who lay ill. I pray'd with him.

2. Our Mother Champney with my Child rode to Cambridge, stopping only at Livermores.¹ Got down about 5 P.M. tho we set out at almost 10 A.M. We had a comfortable Journey. But we found sister Ruth ill. Brother Samuel Parkman happened to come up here and return'd again. Sister Lydia² and I walk'd over to Brother Hicks'.³ She went to the Docters and then we returned home.

¹ Joseph Livermore of Framingham.

² Lydia Champney, Parkman's sister-in-law.

³ John Hicks of Cambridge, Parkman's brother-in-law.

3. I rode to Boston. Brother Samuel Parkman rode my Beast to Cambridge. I was at Mr. Bakers,⁴ Demings, Greens⁵ and Boyce's.⁶

4. I bought Mr. Willard on the Catechism,⁷ price 55 Shillings. My appointment was to go back to Cambridge this morning and to proceed as far on my Journey as the Time would permit. I sat tediously waiting for my Horse, but not coming I neither went to Lecture nor any whither else all Day. About Sun setting Brother came and then I came to Cambridge.

5. Leaving Sister Ruth⁸ very ill I rode as far as Captain Brintnalls⁹ where I waited for his Son some time, but not coming I hasted to Marlboro. I din'd at Mr. Woods.¹⁰ Was at Mr. Brecks¹¹—for there was no little need of Resting, it was so exceeding hot. Thence (Gladly) home. But here the Evening was very disconsolate! My Wife was on the Bed lonely but sadly weeping, oppress'd and discourag'd with her own Pains and ills, and with the Sicknesses of many in the Town. Sarjeant Rice,¹² and Son Eleazer,¹³ Neighbor Maynard, Asher Rice, and Jeduthan Fay¹⁴ all suddenly taken and very bad each with scorching fevers.

6. My Wife was better. I rested myself, till Mr. Cushing came in the Afternoon. I rode to Shrewsbury. Very hot indeed all the last 3 dayes.

7. I preach'd A.M. on Eccl. 11, 8; P.M. on Rom. 1, 20. The Heat to Day also was very Tedious. But after Exercises the Heavens grew Black and we had great Rains till Sunset when I rode Back home.

⁴ Thomas Baker (Harvard 1724).

⁵ Probably the home of Parkman's friend Joseph Green (Harvard 1720).

⁶ Samuel Boyce of Boston.

⁷ Samuel Willard, *A Compleat Body of Divinity in Two Hundred and Fifty Expository Lectures on the Assembly's Shorter Catechism* (Boston, 1726). Sibley, II, 13-36.

⁸ Ruth Champney, Parkman's sister-in-law.

⁹ William Brintnall of Sudbury.

¹⁰ Benjamin Woods of Marlborough.

¹¹ Reverend Robert Breck of Marlborough.

¹² Edmund Rice, an original settler of Westborough.

¹³ Eleazer Rice lived in southwestern Marlborough but was admitted to the church in Westborough.

¹⁴ Son of Samuel and Tabitha Fay.

8. I went to see Mr. Maynard and then Mr. Rice and his Son with all which I pray'd.

9. I was Requested to Mr. Rice's to assist him in settling his worldly Estate and Setting his house in order. Here was his Brother Joshua Rice.¹⁵ I pray'd with him and his son.

10. I was at Mr. Rices again to finish his Last will and testament. Here was Captain Brigham¹⁶ and Deacon Rice.¹⁷ I pray'd here again. I call'd in to see Neighbor Maynard as I went home, and I pray'd with him likewise. In the Afternoon I rode out to See the Sick in the other parts of Town—Peres Rice and Jeduthan Fay.

11. Another, one Nathanael Child, taken ill.

12. Finished my Preparations. Very Sickly in Mendon and severall other Towns. Phinehas Hardy mow'd in my Lot for himself.

13. Very Rainy. My wife not well.

14. I preach'd all Day upon John 2, 1. Edward Baker was propounded to the Church.

15. I was sent for to Mr. Rices. They apprehended him (according to his own phrase) near winding up. When I came to him the Springs of Life were very weak and Low. He could speak Yea or No but I had no Answer from him to many Questions I asked him. I pray'd Earnestly for him; I discoursed to his Wife and Children and Friends about the Bed and then Solemnly bid him Farewell. He gave me fervent tokens and I Left him. He dy'd about an hour after. Captain Fay¹⁸ and Two Sons came to take care of Some Hay which Phinehas Hardy and Thomas Forbush, Junior¹⁹ mow'd to Day for me.

16. In the Morning Prescott²⁰ a Young Scholar and my wife's remote Kinsman came to See us, but tarried but an hour or Two.

¹⁵ A proprietor of Worcester who later (unknown date) removed to Marlborough. Lincoln, *Worcester*, p. 45, 47.

¹⁶ Nathan Brigham of Marlborough.

¹⁷ Caleb Rice of Marlborough.

¹⁸ Of Westborough.

¹⁹ Son of the Westborough selectman.

²⁰ Peter Prescott (Harvard 1730). Son of Dr. Jonathan Prescott of Concord. *Sibley*, VIII, 772-774.

Mr. Edmund Rice's Funerall, after which I visited Nathaniel Child and Asher Rice (sick).

17. I prepar'd for my Lecture. Phinehas and his Brother Daniel²¹ mow'd for me to Day. Captain Fay came and Two Sons (but one finding himself not well returned home) and with his Team and got in part of my Hay. He left his Team with me. My Wife rode away from us for Cambridge (the Lad John before her).

18. Captain Fay came again and Lieutenant Forbush to get up the Rest of my Hay. Mr. Thomas Forbush²² lent them his hand after Meeting. I preach'd a Lecture from Rev. 22, 20.

19. 20. Having had Such avocations this week, no one can think me Idle these Two Dayes, seeing a Sacrament approaches.

21. Sacrament Day. I preach'd A.M. on Heb. 10, 22. Captain Willard,²³ Dr. Matthews,²⁴ Hezekiah Ward²⁵ and Mrs. Grove of Greenland Communicated with us. P.M. I preach'd upon 1 John 2, 1. Many Marlboro people, Mr. Breck I concluded to be absent.

22. So many of my Friends absent I was very lonely. I walk'd down to Neighbor Greens.²⁶ I read miscellaneously. I kill'd 8 Pidgeons (and how many more I know not) at a shot.

23. In my lowly State I wrote a letter to my wife which I never Design'd to Send. I had great opportunity to Discourse with my Maid servant of things of an Everlasting Importance. I improv'd it in some measure, but found she had received but very barely in her Education, being very unacquainted with the Principles of Religion, and not able to so much as to return any Answer to the Catechism taught our Smallest Children. Alas! The Irreligion and Ignorance of many (professedly Christian) Families among us of this Country, notwithstanding the Care universally taken for their Instruction!

²¹ Hardy brothers of Westborough.

²² Selectman of Westborough.

²³ Benjamin Willard of Grafton.

²⁴ Dr. John Matthews, physician of Marlborough and Southborough.

²⁵ Of Marlborough.

²⁶ John Green of Westborough.

24. Phinehas Hardy went to Boston. I wrote diverse letters. Several: to my Father, Deacon Henihman. I was at Lieutenant Forbushes.²⁷

25. I read various things. Very Impatient Except when I was immers'd in Thought. I went down to Lieutenant's again expecting the Young Man, but he came not. Neighbor Clark with me in my Return home.

26. I receiv'd from Boston. Mr. Willard on the Catechism brought up to me.

27. I have been finely at Liberty this Week for my Preparations. Yet not finish'd till within Night sometime.

28. I preach'd again upon 1 John 2, 1, A. & P.M. I was much wearied at noon, and very unactive. Aged Mrs. Holloway²⁸ was Suddenly taken ill this morning. At Midnight Mr. Holloway came to me and desir'd me to rise and ride to his Mother. I did so. When I came to her she could Scarce Speak, but her understanding was Strong. I pray'd after which She Reviv'd and spake a great deal to me alone of her former Desires and the Comforts She had lately received from Deacon Keyes²⁹ of Shrewsbury, etc.

29. About 4 o'Clock I went up and went to Bed. I return'd home about nine. I sent for Mr. Oliver Ward's Horse and about 11 Rode away for Cambridge. It was past one when I left Mr. Amsden³⁰ yet I got to my Father Champneys³¹ whilst the Day light was visible.

30. Brother Champney³² with us. We set out near Night, and without stopping at any Tavern we came to Westborough presently after sun-down.

31. My Corn Stalks were Cut (in part). My Child not well, she now breading her Eye Teeth.

²⁷ Lieutenant Samuel Forbush of Westborough.

²⁸ Mother of William and/or Adam Holloway of Westborough.

²⁹ Deacon John Keyes should not be confused with Captain John Keyes, another resident of Shrewsbury. The ancestry of both is unclear. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, pp. 339-341.

³⁰ Captain Isaac Amsden of Marlborough.

³¹ Samuel Champney, Sr., of Cambridge.

³² Samuel Champney, Jr.

I have had very Sensible Perception of the Truth of the Apostles Saying 1 Cor. 7, 31. The Fashion of this World passeth away. Truly a very Slender observation makes it Obvious. Everything in Nature being in incessant Motion; and we living by Changes The Age Wears off and Time is at last to be small ow'd up in Eternity.

SEPTEMBER [1726]

1. Brother Champney went from us. I went over to Neighbor Pratts¹ in the Eve, where was Neighbor Charles Rice, and Neighbor Baker² both under great Difficulty for grinding (the Mills about us being dry), and fearing they must be Oblig'd to go as far as Providence. William Clark cutt Stalks till noon.

2. Neighbor Pratt kill'd a Calf for me. In the Afternoon He Cutt the remaining part of My Stalks. Sundry Persons taken Sick among us of a burning ague: Neighbor Isaac Pratt and his wife, Noah Rice,³ etc.; and Some of the Distemper (distinguish-ing from the former and) call'd the Fever and ague. My Con-templations were Governed by the Times and

4. I preach'd upon Hosea 4, 12. In the Eve as I had infinite Reason I reflected on my unusefulness and unprofitableness and my vile Ingratitude to God in Continuing in so [illegible] Com-mission of Sin and perfunctory Superficial performance of Duty.

5. This Day being my Birth Day (when I enter'd into my 24th year) I had a great variety of Contemplations of the vol-ubility of Time of the vast importance of making preparation for Eternity the great Business of Life. And I am urged to be the more Speedy and fervent by the Consideration of the Tender-ness and infirmity of my naturall constitution through which I have long been much obstructed in my great work. But what have my Strongest Resolutions Many times come to? and what is my own sufficiency without assistance of Divine Grace? O that I may Live to Christ, and by the Faith only of the Son of God, that I may have the honour and Happiness of doing Some

¹ John Pratt of Westborough.

² Edward Baker.

³ Youngest son of Thomas Rice of Westborough.

service to his interest, that I may be wise to win souls, and when I have preach'd to others may not be myself a Cast away.

6. Our Child was very ill, and especially at nights very unquiet.

7. We were in great Concern about the Child.

8. We Sent to Dr. Matthews for Little Molly ill with a fever and violent flux. The cause was from her breading her Eye Teeth. We have Sometimes been up with her till after midnight. My wife has not had a Comfortable night's Rest this week. I reflected upon Davids case when his Child was Sick.

9. My Babe I hope is better and in some method of Recovery.

10. The Season of Strict Engagement. Mr. Baker, whose Desires I had before receiv'd and propounded openly, brought his Relation.

11. I preach'd all Day upon John 3, 19. Mr. Baker was admitted into our Church.

12. Dr. Matthews came in to see the Child, which was ill yet, but thro the Divine Goodness in a more hopefull Condition than heretofore.

13. I rose very Early, sometime before Day, and more than $\frac{3}{4}$ before sunrise was mounted on my horse and rode to Shrewsbury. With Mr. Cushing⁴ I went to Lancaster where Ministers were Asociated. Severall persons were here besides the members: Mr. Andrew Gardner,⁵ Mr. Cook,⁶ Mr. Trowbridge,⁷ Mr. Frink,⁸ Brintnall,⁹ Samuel Willard,¹⁰ etc. What was of greatest moment that I remember was advice to Mr. McKinstry¹¹ concerning the Management of his Cause.

14. Mr. Loring¹² preach'd Excellently on the Text Ps. 119, 18. It was very stormy, so that We did not return home.

⁴ Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

⁵ Formerly the minister at Worcester.

⁶ Reverend William Cooke of Wayland.

⁷ Reverend Caleb Trowbridge (Harvard 1710) of Groton, Mass. *Sibley*, V, 545-546.

⁸ Reverend Thomas Frink (Harvard 1722) of Rutland, Mass. *Sibley*, VII, 69-75.

⁹ Reverend William Brintnall, minister and schoolmaster at Sudbury.

¹⁰ (Harvard 1723). The preacher in the Stony Brook region of Marlborough and later the minister at Biddeford, Maine, 1730-1741. *Sibley*, VII, 281-287.

¹¹ Reverend John McKinstry of Sutton.

¹² Reverend Israel Loring of Sudbury.

15. Most of us mov'd off in the morning but Mr. Cushing and I tarried till after Dinner, and then came away together as far as Deacon Keyes, Some little way on this Side [at] whose house I turned away for home. The Weather was not Settled yet, but I got to my house Comfortably.

16. 17. I Employ'd myself only on my Preparations for the Sabbath approaching, When

18. I preach'd again A.M. and P.M. on the Same, John 3, 19, and baptiz'd Mr. Isaac Shattucks child Mary.¹³

19. Now I am Enter'd into a Busy Time and active wherein my Heart has often Trembled within Me, that is of assisting the sick in their preparations for Eternity. Mr. Isaac Pratt and his wife, and Mr. Tainter¹⁴ and his wife ill. I visited and pray'd with them.

22. Mr. Pratt dy'd, and

24. was Buried.

25. I preach'd A.M. on 1 Pet. 4, 3 and P.M. likewise. In the Evening I formed Severall Designs (in my Secret Reflections) about my future more Extensive serviceableness and particularly in my Fathers Family when I go to Boston (from one time to another) to assist their Spiritual Welfare.

26. 27. 28. And this Week is full of Employments, my providing and preparing for my Lecture and Sacrament. And wonderfull is the Goodness and favour of God in carrying me so comfortably thro' hitherto; tho I have many times had more unavoidable Avocations than I hope others of my Brethren in the Ministry. On the 27, Mr. Maynard¹⁵ of Shrewsbury brought in my Colt which had rang'd the Woods the Summer past.

29. I preach'd a Lecture on Acts 8, 21, preparitory to the Holy Communion. When the Sacred Exercises were over I Stop'd the Brethren to propose to them a Method of Supporting the Elements at Sacrament by a Contribution every Sacrament. For in time past they had proceeded in a Way that being more

¹³ Of Westborough. The birth day is recorded as August 10, 1726.

¹⁴ Simon Tainter of Westborough.

¹⁵ Simon Maynard.

agreeable to what they were brought up in, they were urgent with me to allow, but it had frustrated the purpose.

30. I was Diligent in my Great Work, but God forgive my unprofitableness and Negligence! (I have reason to say so tho I have been never so Diligent). O that his Grace may Supply where I am insufficient.

OCTOBER [1726]

1. The Sacrament drawing nigh it was much my Care to provide not only for the ordinary Sabbath Exercises, but for the Solemnity of that special Ordinance of Christ.

2. I preach'd A.M. on Heb. 10, 22 and Administered the Sacrament of the Lords Supper. P.M. my Text was 1 Pet. 4, 3. [Two illegible, blotted lines follow.]

3. Mr. Cushing was at our house before his Journey to Hingham. We began our Indian Corn Harvest, and I sent my Apples to the Cyder Mill at Mr. Forbush's.¹ I went down to Mr. Forbush's myself before the Team (which was Mr. Warrens²) came along. Neighbor Green assisted in a Lesser Third part of what I planted of Corn.

4. We Husked Corn. I myself did little besides.

5. I finish'd the 2nd Volume of the Occasional Papers and Sent it by Neighbor Green to the owner Mr. Woods of Marlboro.

6. 7. I made some preparation tho I expected Mr. Cushing. Captain Keyes of Shrewsbury lodg'd with us last night.

8. Mr. Cushing came to me according to our appointment on Monday Last, and I went to Shrewsbury.

9. I preach'd at Shrewsbury on Phil. 3, 13, 14, A.&P.M. Mr. Cushing came up on my Mare.

10. We walk'd over to Mr. Gershom Keyes'. It rain'd all Day but I went down to Mr. Eagers³ and Sojourn'd. I read great part of Mr. Penhallow's History of the Wars of New England with the Eastern Indians.⁴

¹ Jonathan Forbush of Westborough.

² Daniel Warren of Westborough.

³ James Eager of Westborough.

⁴ Samuel Penhallow, *History of the Wars of New England, with the Eastern Indians* (Boston, 1726).

11. Mr. Breck⁵ and Two of his Deacons (Rice⁶ and Keyes) came to our House. Mr. Breck lodg'd with us.

12. I rode with Mr. Breck to Sutton where was form'd an Ecclesiasticall Council by the Desire of Mr. McKinstry, the Pastor of the Church of Sutton and the aggriev'd Part of the Town and Church upon occasion of their Differences. The Council consisted of 7 Churches, viz., Framingham, Marlboro, Lancaster, West and East Sudbury, Weston and Shrewsbury, The Pastors and Delegates. The Reverend Mr. Swift⁷ of Framingham, Moderator; The Reverend Mr. Prentice⁸ of Lancaster, Clerk. The Public Hearing Lasted for this Day till nine at night. Ministers were Entertain'd and lodg'd at Mr. McKinstry's; the Delegates in the Town.

13. We were again at the Meeting house and the former part of the Day was spent in further hearing. The Contending or opposing (I had rather than aggriev'd) party was very Resolute to use their Utmost to Carry their will, But very unhappily Expos'd themselves (especially Some few of them) very much. The Council had a great deal of Patience because they would guard against Every Exception that might render their Result invalid with any one. The Council Sat the Latter part of the Day and till 2 in the morning. I Spent Time with Mr. Campbell,⁹ Mr. McKinstry, My Sister (who was here at her Brothers) and in the Evening with Mr. Dike¹⁰ (a man of great understanding) and others of the Standing Party (as they Stil'd themselves), among whom I had many circumstances open'd much to my Content.

14. The Council Sat again this Forenoon. After noon the Result was publish'd, which advis'd them to methods of Pacification, when it had pass'd Censure upon the various allegations on both Sides. Mr. McKinstry manifested his acquiescence.

⁵ Reverend Robert Breck of Marlborough.

⁶ Deacon Caleb Rice of Marlborough.

⁷ John Swift.

⁸ John Prentice.

⁹ Reverend John Campbell of Oxford.

¹⁰ Nathaniel Dike of Sutton.

Mr. Johnson,¹¹ Mr. Putnam,¹² etc. demonstrated dissatisfaction and Passion. The Council urg'd them to Consider and weigh what was done, but they were wholly intractable forward. And such was the Frame we left them in. I got home (safe) a little before night.

15. I Carry'd on my Preparations. Yesterday Mr. Brigham¹³ (having gather'd my Corn the Day before) brought five Fat Creatures to my Pasture. Yesterday (or the Day before I know not which) Mr. Forbush Sent my Cyder home, 5½ Barrells. Neighbor Clark help'd me put it into the cellar.

16. I preach'd A.M. on 1 Pet. 4, 4; P.M., 1 Pet. 4, 17.

17. I finish'd Mr. Penhallow's History.

18. I was abroad in the Neighbourhood at Mr. Peres Rices¹⁴ where I discours'd with one Mr. Robins whose dauter my Wife would have to live with her. At old Mr. Rice's,¹⁵ etc.

19. I was much indispos'd with a Cold, but went to Lieutenants.

20. My Cold increas'd and I had much Trouble from a Sore Throat, so I was Oblig'd to keep Close. I study'd the Blessings of [blotted] and the Mischiefs of Divisions among People and this I continued the 21 and 22.

23. I preach'd all Day upon Heb. 12, 14. But I had much difficulty to go thro the Exercises by Reason of my being Stuff'd with my Cold.

24. [no entry].

25. I rode to Marlboro, it being Ministers Meeting. We were generally together. Mr. McKinstry ask'd what advice we could give him to direct his future Behaviour and Managements. Upon his Request the Eleven Ministers assisted him With Their Counsel. Mr. Swift (Mr. Cushing having pray'd) discours'd upon a Sower went forth to sow. I rode with Mr. Cook and Mr. Frink and Sister Hicks to Sudbury. I lodg'd at Mr. Cook's.

¹¹ Elisha Johnson.

¹² Elisha Putnam.

¹³ David Brigham, a neighbor of Parkman.

¹⁴ Of Westborough.

¹⁵ Probably Charles Rice of Westborough.

26. I rose early, at day break, mounted my horse and rode away without disturbing anyone of the house (as I had premonish'd them). I came to Cambridge about Ten, and thence to Boston about 2 or 3 o'Clock P.M. I was with Mr. Samuel Mather¹⁶ this Evening. He read to Me a Letter of his Father to Lord Chancellor.

27. Mr. Thatcher¹⁷ of Milton preach'd the Lecture, on Ps. 63, 5. I was after Lecture with Mr. Byles,¹⁸ and very well Satisfy'd with his Improvements especially in Poetry. Deacon Coffin¹⁹ of Newbury was at My Father's. My very Good Friend Mr. Isaac Greenwood²⁰ returned from England about a Week or Ten Days Since and was now in Town; but all My Diligence and Eagerness could not bring me to a Light of him. It was Windy and Cold I declin'd returning back upon my Journey as I had propos'd. I bought Dr. Mather's Christian Philosopher,²¹ Sermons on Prayer with a Pamphlet or Two, of Mr. Gerrish.²²

28. It continued very Cold yet in the Afternoon I ventur'd out upon my Journey to Cambridge.

29. I returned home, Stopping only at Mr. Swifts and at Captain Goddards.²³

30. I preach'd Two Sermons I had about a Twelve Month or more before upon Eccl. 12, 1, which I appriz'd My audience of in a Brief Sentence immediately after I read my Text. Old Mr. Rice din'd with me.

31. My Employment various.

¹⁶ Samuel Mather (Harvard 1723), the son of Dr. Cotton Mather, and later minister of the Second Church in Boston, 1732-1741 and the 10th Congregational Society, 1742-1785. *Sibley*, VII, 216-239.

¹⁷ Reverend Peter Thacher (Harvard 1671), minister of Milton. *Sibley*, II, 370-379.

¹⁸ Mather Byles of Boston.

¹⁹ Deacon Nathaniel Coffin, also the town clerk of Newbury for nearly 40 years. John J. Currier, *Ould Newbury: Historical and Biographical Sketches* (Boston, 1896), pp. 170-171.

²⁰ (Harvard 1721). Classmate of Parkman and later the first Hollis Professor of Mathematics at Harvard College. *Sibley*, VI, 471-482.

²¹ Cotton Mather, *The Christian Philosopher: a collection of the best discoveries in Nature, with religious improvements* (Boston, 1721).

²² Samuel Gerrish, town clerk of Boston, and a well-known bookseller.

²³ Edward Goddard of Framingham.

NOVEMBER [1726]

In my Seclusion from most of those Objects which Engage the Busy and active part of the world I find not daily such a number Observations to be made upon what is round about me where I am not plac'd in the midst of the Crowds, Employments and accidents that must be always before hand with the mind; we cannot have so many rare accounts as in those places of Concourse and action, that we are in Retirement chiefly taken up about our Domestick affairs, and personal concerns. And it is very rare that we can have any matter of very great importance or weight to interest the world in, when under Confinement to so narrow a Sphere of motion. Here Likewise it might be added that much of the time revolving is consumed in much the Same manner, the Same Business or Amusements; and other parts of it may be Equally divided by so great a number of Engagements that it may be hard to say which took us up most, and it would be too great a Labour to insert all. Indeed sometimes there is a close Relation and Dependence one upon another, and then the giving one may give us all, an hint being Sufficient to bring the whole circle of actions or accidents into our minds and view again. And it is not alwayes an action that may be accounted of itself of the greatest importance, that is of the greatest moment and Necessity to be mention'd as an hint of the Rest that was done. For that which is but a Trifle above, may best Serve to direct us to the whole Series.

The First 4 or 5 Dayes of this Month I do not remember anything worthy my Observation in this place. Except that on the 4 I rode out in the afternoon, a thing I hitherto have never done before.

6. I preach upon Luke 5, 32, A. and P.M.

7. 8. Very Busy in preparing for the Solemnity approaching. I was at Mr. Wards at Supper after the Raising his Mill. N. B. We sang Ps. 128th after Supper.

9. Mr. Ward sent his Man with a Load of Wood, and he carted another Load for me.

10. Public Thanksgiving. I preach'd on Ps. 100, 4, 5. Many

Private (as well as public) Mercies call forth all Expressions of Gratitude. Remember July 17, Last, with many other signall appearances of God for me.

12. Mr. Wheeler¹ brought Old Mrs. Holloway to Me. I hope God has had Compassion on this aged person, her Confessions, etc., appear very Cordial. The work of God appears manifestly in her. I would praise the Name of God if he has made me any-way instrumental for her Souls advantage.

13. I preach'd A.M. on Heb. 10, 22. Administer'd the Sacrament, but imediately before sacrament I admitted Mrs. Holloway into the Church. I preach'd P.M. on Luke 5, 32. I hope this has been a Good Day. The Grace of God be magnify'd.

14. I rode to Marlboro. I met Mr. Cushing a little before we Came to Mr. Brecks. We were Disappointed in our Visit to Mr. Breck, He being gone to Boston. We went to Mr. Woods',² and to Mr. Thomas's,³ the last having been very ill, and continuing under Confinement. Mr. Cushing went away for Lancaster when I went into Colonel Hows⁴ to clear off my Beef Score, and thence I returned immediately home.

15. 16. I gave my Self very much to my Subject, being persuaded I shall be Depriv'd of Opportunity to study in the Latter part of the Week.

17. In the Morning I rode to Shrewsbury to Mr. Cushing. There was Captain Baker of Brookfield. Mr. Cushing rode with me to Lancaster. Mr. Prentice was come out to go to Meeting. He had Some Expectation of my Coming. He gave me his Bible and I preach on (a Text I had not Design'd to, but I was straitned for Time and Could not Look over the whole of any Sermon and I therefore Chose one I had frequently and somewhat lately preach'd) Acts 16, 24. We tarried all night at Mr. Prentice's, and had good Entertainment.

¹ Joseph Wheeler of Westborough.

² Benjamin Woods of Marlborough.

³ William Thomas of Marlborough.

⁴ Thomas Howe of Marlborough.

18. After Dinner we returned home. Mr. Samuell Fay⁵ and his Son⁶ Cut and Carted me $\frac{1}{2}$ Dozen Load of Wood.

19. I was very Strictly Engaged.

20. I preach'd all Day upon Mark 3, 33.

21. 22. I read and wrote some remarks upon a Book entitled Reliquise Anti Baxteriance.

23. Captain Keyes of Shrewsbury was here to see Me.

24. 25. 26. I was very much afflicted with Toothach and an ague in My Face. Alas how Small a Matter will discompose and Obstruct those, who in the best plight have but just Sufficient powers to perform any Service at all! N. B. 24. I married Ebenezer Savage⁷ and Mary Hamilton of Rutland, Mr. Parsons⁸ Mr. Burr,⁹ and Mr. Cushing being absent.

27. I was grievously exercis'd all last night with pains in my Face. In the morning I was easier and went to Meeting. The Text A. and P.M. was Eph. 2, 5. We were Inform'd that Mr. Breck Yesterday buried his Youngest Child.¹⁰ It dy'd very Suddenly. Mrs. Willard,¹¹ Mrs. Maynard, Mr. Behman¹² and his wife Din'd with us.

28. I read the Occasional Paper vol. 3.

29. Mr. Cushing came to see Us and lodg'd with us.

30. Mr. Cushing return'd home. Mr. Thomas Forbes, Junior was with me upon the Business of his Admission into our Church. He made some Hesitation about Making a Relation, But I satisfy'd him of the usefullness of the Practice if well observ'd and therefore the Expedience thereof. He was So well persuaded that he presented me one to be Read to the Church.

⁵ One of the earliest settlers of Westborough and the younger brother of Captain John Fay.

⁶ Either Samuel, Jr. (b. 1705), Jeduthan (b. 1707), or Ebenezer (b. 1713).

⁷ Given in *Westborough Vital Records* as Ebenezer Savige and Mary Hambleton, and in *Rutland Vital Records* as Ebenezer Savage and Mary Hambleton.

⁸ Reverend David Parsons (Yale 1705), minister of the First Congregational Church of Leicester, Mass. Dexter, pp. 36-37.

⁹ Reverend Isaac Burr of Worcester.

¹⁰ Anna Breck (b. March 13, 1725).

¹¹ Probably Mrs. Martha Willard of Hassinimisco.

¹² Probably Eleazer and Hannah Beemon or Beamon of Westborough.

DECEMBER [1726]

1. 2. 3. I Employ'd myself almost wholly upon the Subject I Design further to Entertain my people with.

4. I preach'd A. and P.M. on Eph. 2, 5. It was a very stormy Day and I had but few hearers. Mr. Jedediah How set the Tune and read the Line, P.M.

5. Mr. Thomas Forbush, Junior's youngest Child¹ dy'd very suddenly this morning, as I hear many Young Children in severall Towns round here. In the Eve my Little Dauter was ill, But

6. Thro the Divine Favour She was this Morning well recovered. In the Afternoon I was at the funerall of Mr. Forbush's Child.

7. I rode over to Mr. Eagers upon the Affair of my absent Heiffer, But he was gone to Marlboro. Hearing Mr. Thomas Ward² was at Mr. Allens³ Mill I went Thither and met with him. Mr. Allen requested me to go in and see his Wife. I did and had an hour or Two's Discourse with her. I both found and left her in a poor Melancholly, dejected, distressed Condition. Frome hence I rode to Marlboro. I went down to Mr. John How's (who I heard had my Heiffer) first with Two Young Men, Nathaniel Oak⁴ and Joshua Goardin, and then with Mr. Ward (who had kept the Creature all Sumer and winter Last) to prove it mine, if they were able to give Testimony. They said (upon Seeing her) that they were not only able but ready, if call'd thereto, to give oath it was mine. But these all not satisfying Mr. How we went over to Mr. Woods and Chose him and Mr. Jedediah Brigham⁵ to Determine between us. Upon hearing us it fell with full Consent to me and I gave Mr. How 10 Shillings for keeping her.

¹ Thomas, Jr.

² Of Westborough.

³ Ephraim Allen who lived in that part of Westborough which became Northborough in 1776.

⁴ Nathaniel Oak (Oaks, Oakes), Jr. of Marlborough, later a resident of that part of Lancaster which became Bolton in 1738.

⁵ Son of Samuel Brigham of Marlborough and the proprietor of a tannery in that town. Hudson, *Marlborough*, pp. 334-335.

After this (it being Somewhat after nine o'Clock) I went to Mr. Brecks where I Lodg'd.

8. Mr. Breck walked with me to Mr. Woods's. Here was Old Mr. How⁶ of Hopkinton who told over the Manner and Methods of Mr. Barretts⁷ coming into Hopkinton and Settling there. Mr. Woods went up with us to Mr. Brecks where we din'd upon a Turkey. When Near night I came away, but meeting Mr. Jacob Amsden⁸ I went in with him into his Father Behmans,⁹ and thence I came home with Mr. Amsden.

9. 10. My Sermons took up the whole of my Time. I sent John and Nathaniel Oak to Marlboro, and in the morn they brought the Heiffer home.

11. I preach'd again All Day upon Eph. 2, 5. Old Mrs. Forbush,¹⁰ Mr. How¹¹ of Hassinemisco, and his wife, Mrs. Newton,¹² Mrs. Goodeno¹³ din'd with us. An Exceeding Cold Day.

12. Very Cold. Our schoolmaster, Mr. Townsend¹⁴ came into Town, and the School began.

13. I was at Captain Fay's,¹⁵ Mr. Pratts,¹⁶ etc., to get hands to Cut wood and kill my Swine.

14. Neighbor Pratt and Maynard¹⁷ came and kill'd Two of my Swine. P.M. it was Stormy, Snow, etc. Mr. Ward Reckon'd with me.

⁶ John How who was prominent in the establishment of the First Congregational Church in Hopkinton in 1724. *Manual of the First Congregational Church in Hopkinton* (Boston, 1881), p. 20.

⁷ Reverend Samuel Barrett, first minister at Hopkinton.

⁸ Of Marlborough.

⁹ Jacob Amsden married Sarah Beaman, daughter of Thomas Beaman of Marlborough, October 28, 1719. Jacob Amsden, son of Isaac Amsden, Sr., of Marlborough lived in Westborough as early as 1722.

¹⁰ Probably the wife of Deacon Thomas Forbush.

¹¹ Nehemiah How.

¹² Either Mrs. Thomas or Mrs. Josiah Newton of Westborough.

¹³ Mrs. David Goodenow of Westborough.

¹⁴ Joshua Townsend of Brookfield was engaged for £18 to teach six months in three parts of Westborough. For twelve or thirteen years he continued to be the schoolmaster. DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, pp. 96-100.

¹⁵ Captain John Fay of Westborough.

¹⁶ Probably John Pratt, a neighbor of Parkman.

¹⁷ David Maynard.

15. Very high Winds and Sharp Cold. Mr. John Pratt, Junior and his Brother Came and Cutt Several Load of wood for me. An High German Doctor was here.

16. I finish'd Mr. Addison's 3d volume containing His Dialogues upon Medals, The Present state of the War, 1707, and of the Christian Religion.

17. Upon My preparations.

18. I preach'd all Day upon Luk. 6, 46. Mr. Simeon Howard din'd with us.

19. Very Stormy. High winds and Rain.

20. William Clark Thrash'd Oates for me. Mr. Barrett¹⁸ expected according to word sent us but Came not. Mr. Peres Rice here with Complaints against his uncle, Mr. Samuel Fay, etc. He told me Some in the Town were Examining whether my marrying the Rutland couple was according to Law. Mr. Breck sent home my Political State 12 volumes, and a Pamphlet, by his son Mr. Robert and young Rice¹⁹ of College.

21. Very Cold and we but Short firewood.

22. In the morning I sent for Neighbor Clarks cart for my Lad to bring home wood upon. But there Came some young Men that both Cut and Carted a good supply (of 7 Load). Captain Fay's 2 sons and Team, Peres Rice's Servant and Nathaniel Child²⁰ were my men.

23. 24. My whole time is taken up about my subject, and I Desire no other Employment on these Dayes.

25. I preach'd upon Luk. 11, 26 A. and P.M. Mrs. Holloway²¹ din'd with us.

26. A.M. I read Lowth's²² Directions for Reading the Scriptures. P.M. I read the Clergyman's Vade mecum.

¹⁸ Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

¹⁹ Caleb Rice (Harvard 1730), youngest son of Caleb Rice of Marlborough. Later the first minister of Sturbridge, Mass., 1736-1759. *Sibley*, VIII, 774-775.

²⁰ Nathaniel Child of Westborough.

²¹ Either Mrs. William or Mrs. Adam Holloway of Westborough.

²² Probably the popular work *Directions for the profitable reading of the Holy Scriptures* by the English theologian, William Lowth, D.D. (1660-1732). The work first appeared in a London edition of 1708. Numerous other editions followed.

27. I rode to Mr. Barretts. Here was Mrs. Ford²³ and Mrs. Leasingby.²⁴ O'bed I read Mr. Moodys²⁵ Memoirs of Joseph Quasson and Just Sentiments on the protestant Religion. I likewise dip'd into Mr. Cooper's²⁶ Account of Mr. John Coney.

28. Very Stormy and Cold, but notwithstanding the women, out of their humourousness and gaiety Rode along with me to Mrs. Woods.²⁷ I brought home my peacock, and got home well tho it was a difficult Time, for the Riding, the Cold Storm, and it being in the Evening.

29. The storm Continues very hard. I read in Mr. Coney's Life and it very much affected me as I very well knew the man. I could not but have the Saddest Reflections upon my Self when I see what men of far inferiour advantages attain to; and under no such bonds as I am by my Solemn Consecration to God, in my holy ordination.

30. Mr. Barrett, Mr. Burnay and Wood came over with Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Fowl²⁸ and Leasingby to our house, and they returned in the Evening.

31. Very backward in my preparations but as the Year Concluded, the week and the Day my Sermons were brought to a Sufficient Length (if Every Discourse could be as good as it is Long).

1727

JANUARY

1. This Morning I preach'd upon [blank] And on the Same text in the Afternoon. It is very Necessary I should Strengthen my Resolutions and mend my pace in the Christian Course, if I

²³ Probably Mrs. Stephen Ford of Charlestown.

²⁴ This name appears several times but extensive search reveals no clue to the identity of the person.

²⁵ Samuel Moodey or Moody, *A Summary Account of the Life and Death of Joseph Quasson, an Indian* (Boston, 1726).

²⁶ William Cooper, *The Service of God . . . Preach'd on . . . the Death of Mr. John Coney [An Appendix, Containing a Further Account of Mr. John Coney, Collected from his Private Writings]* (Boston, 1726). Cooper (Harvard 1712) was minister of the Brattle Street Church in Boston, 1716-1743. Sibley, V, 624-634.

²⁷ The home of Captain John Wood of Hopkinton.

²⁸ Probably Mrs. John Fowle of Charlestown.

would finish Well. Alas! how many Seekers are those who trifle in vain Efforts; when it is our great Duty to Strive to Enter in at the Strait Gate. A Strait Gate truly is the Gate of Life (and so it ought to be) but do I not prove my Self the Author of many of the Difficulties that add to its Straitness? O that I might obtain the quickening Grace of God to inspirit me, and make me fervent and Constant to the End of my Life! but particularly this Year I am now Entering upon that I may have a more Comfortable reflection upon it, and account to give of it, than of the Year past. And as I beseech the Influence of the Divine spirit and Grace in My Soul, I would likewise the Divine Conduct in the Blessing upon my bodily and secular Affairs, that I may do and Enjoy Nothing but to the honour of God.

2. I rode to Mr. Swifts¹ according to appointment made with Mr. Barrett and Mrs. Leasingby to meet them there at one o'clock. And tho I was precisely at the hour, they did not wait for me. However, they were not So long gone before Me, but that I caught up with them a mile or Two further down. We were in at Livermore's² and din'd there. It was heavy riding and sometimes rainy; so that it was somewhat tedious! I lodg'd at Father Champneys.³

3. I rode to Boston and found my Fathers family comfortable (Thanks to God).

4. Towards night I went to Mrs. Edward's (the widow of my good Friend John Edwards⁴) and pay'd the Ballance of our Account. Thence I went to Deacon Greens⁵ printing house and paid him for my years news, etc, etc. I had design'd to have been upon my Journey home, but it continued such dark and wet weather that I defer'd it.

5. I went to Lecture and heard Mr. Prince⁶ Excellently preach on Prov. 27, 1. I met with my dear friend Mr. Greenwood after

¹ Reverend John Swift of Framingham.

² Joseph Livermore of Framingham.

³ Samuel Champney, Sr., Parkman's father-in-law.

⁴ Of Charleston.

⁵ Bartholomew Green (1666-1732) of Boston, printer of the *Boston News-Letter*.

⁶ Reverend Thomas Prince of the Old South Church.

his long absence from me and was made acquainted with his Design of Setting up an experimental Course of Mechanical Philosophy. I hope it will be followed with the Divine Blessing and all his other good Designs succeeded. Mr. Gee⁷ invited us to dine with him. I spent a part of my Afternoon with a great deal of Delight (there being other very good Friends there) but I was oblig'd to Engage my Self in my Necessary affairs. It was raining but I was much constrain'd to go as far as Cambridge and I reach'd there.

6. Brother Champney⁸ and Sister Ruth⁹ rode with me home. It was very Serene weather but as heavy travelling as I can remember thro the Late Excessive Rains. We got home very timely and I found my Family well. God has carry'd me thro many a Difficult Journey, and given me great occasion to magnifie his goodness, extended in this Last.

7. Mr. Barrett had appointed to Change on the Sabbath approaching, but I have heretofore met with so many disappointments there, I was very full of concern lest I should be put to some Difficulty. However I rode over to Hopkington, which when I came to I was wel Satisfy'd in finding him ready to ride to Westboro. Here was Elder Barrett¹⁰ and Mr. Charles Coffin, which made me to be Cheerfull again.

8. I preach'd at Hopkington (in their new Meeting house) on Phil. 3, 13, 14 A. and P.M. After the Exercises I found it necessary to return home, they having no Hay at all at Mr. Barretts and severall Horses to provide for.

9. It continues (as it has been ever since Friday) very foggy and rainy weather. Brother Champney much afflicted with the Tooth ach.

10. 11. 12. I was variously Employ'd in reading Mr. Joseph Addison's Works, vol. 1, 12, etc, etc. Captain Fay came desiring me to visit his son, but my circumstances would not allow me.

⁷ Reverend Joshua Gee of Boston.

⁸ Samuel Champney, Jr., Parkman's brother-in-law.

⁹ Ruth Champney, Parkman's sister-in-law.

¹⁰ Samuel Barrett, Sr., of Boston, the father of the Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

13. Brother Champney went home.

15. I preach'd on Luk. 13, 24, A. and P.M.

16. A fierce storm of Snow.

17. Mr. Holloway Sent his Lad for me to [see] his Child.¹¹ I rode over and found it but alive. I pray'd with them for it, and then the Child Chang'd and Expir'd while I continued to Instruct, Exhort and Support the Heavy and Sorrowfull Parents under the grievous Loss, it being a fine son of his own Name and in its 3d Year. Mr. Cushing¹² to see me and lodg'd with us.

18. I was at the Funeral of Mr. Holloways Child. I rode upon Mr. Holloways Horse both Yesterday and today. It was raw, bleak Weather and I find I caught a Cold. I could not go to the Grave but turn'd in at Mr. John Pratt Juniors.

19. I had a Sore troublesome night of the last, having the Teeth ach and ague in my face. Mr. John Fay, Junior sent a Man and horse fore me, but I was so ill and the weather so Wet that I was prevented.

20. Mr. Simeon Howard¹³ and his Man with his Team came to get me a Supply of wood. I join'd William Clark with them.

21. I was pretty well recovered from my indisposition. Mr. Balley¹⁴ came to our house Expecting to Meet Mr. Jenison,¹⁵ whom they had engaged to preach at that part of Marlboro call'd Stony Brook,¹⁶ but he came not.

22. I preach'd A.M. on Luk. 13, 24; P.M. on Heb. 4, 1. The Lord Graciously forgive my unprofitableness!

23. Mr. Pratt brought me his horse to ride to his Brother John Fays. I went up accordingly and found him in grievous pains. I pray'd with him and used my Endeavours to Comfort and Relieve him as far as Means so poor as those I am impower'd with, might be Effectual.

¹¹ William, Jr., son of William Holloway of Westborough.

¹² Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

¹³ One of the original settlers of Westborough. In *Westborough Vital Records* the name is spelled Howard, Haywood and Hayward.

¹⁴ Benjamin Bayley of Marlborough. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 321.

¹⁵ William Jenison (Harvard 1724), later minister of the Second Church, Salem, Mass., 1728-1736. *Sibley*, VII, 371-374.

¹⁶ In 1727 this part of Marlborough was incorporated in the new town of Southborough.

24. Mr. Cushing came to see me. I find next to inconceivable Benefit by having frequent Conversation with my friends, especially with my Brethren in the ministry. But I am griev'd they can have no greater advantage by me. The Father of Light communicate Wisdom to me but especially make me wise in the Things of God! Mr. Cushing lodg'd with me. Mr. Cushing return'd home. P.M. I was much affected with what I read in the Life of Mr. Mat. Henry, of his wonderfull Labours and Serviceableness. Example seems to have a far greater influence upon me than precept, since it so gratifies my under powers, my imagination, and curiosity; and thereby captivates my affections. Its sad that my understanding and Judgement are no more Employ'd upon the purity and perfection of the Divine Laws, and the infinite Justice, Supremacy and goodness of my God that enjoins their observance! But I am glad I can any way be wrought upon, and brought to my Duty.

26. Attended to my Subject. Phinehas Hardy¹⁷ came and first back'd my Colt.

27. Mr. Samuel Willard¹⁸ of Boston Merchant was brought here by his Kinsman Mr. Simon Willard¹⁹ of Hassenamisco. I noted well his excessive antipathy against Mr. Thomas Smith²⁰ (a Preacher) with whom he was formerly exceeding intimate. There is Sad work when Such sort of Companions fall out and rake into the Dirt and Dung hills of their Conversations to blaze the Mystery of iniquity about the world when it is Shamefull so much as to think of what is done of them in secret. But I hope God has given his grace to Mr. Smith and that he has truly repented of all his Youthfull Sins. God Grant Mr. Willard the Same, and I would not forget my Self. But I am Oblig'd to acknowledge the Goodness of God in the Restraints granted to Me, So that I never was carried to the prodigious Enormitys of Such

¹⁷ Of Westborough.

¹⁸ (Harvard 1723). Later minister at Biddeford, Maine (1730-1741). *Sibley*, VII, 281-287.

¹⁹ Son of Benjamin Willard, one of the original proprietors of Grafton, Mass.

²⁰ (Harvard 1720). Son of a Boston merchant and later minister of Falmouth, now Portland, Maine, 1726-1795. *Sibley*, VI, 400-410.

Men. Yet God forbid I should Pharisaically Say I am not as other Men.

28. My Heart in the Evening too indifferent and Slightly [?] in my Examinations. O Lord Quicken thou me in thy Way! To the Dust my Soul cleavest fast.

29. This was a good Day in Several regards. I was much affected with the Sermons I Delivered from Ps. 95, 7. Today if ye will hear his voice. But it had been better if Mr. Willard of Boston and others at my house had not at noon been so full of unsuitable Discourse. God forgive wherein I in any ways countenanc'd it by my Criminal silence. The Evening I would not let go off without some very Serious Enquirys what if this be all the Day that Ever I shall hear the will of God in? What if I should die before another Morning? Let me now put My Self into some actual Readings for my Last hour.

30. What I did Chiefly was in the Clergymans Vade Mecum Volume I.²¹

31. I rode to the South part of Marlboro (call'd Stony Brook) to Dr. Bellus's,²² to see Mr. Willard, and here was his Kinsman that had been up with me. I tarried here till near night and then rode up to Mr. Brecks.

N.B. Captain Willard's Characters of Mr. Ebenezer Gee²³ and Mr. John Mountfort²⁴ at Boston.

FEBRUARY [1727]

1. Mr. Willard and his Kinsman, the Chearful Captain¹ came while we were at an Excellent Dinner on Roast Turkey, etc., at Mr. Brecks. Near Sundown I was very Eager and Earnest to come home. Mr. Breck urged Exceedingly to stay but I resisted his most pressing Importunity and took my leave. I mounted and my Business leading Me down to Mr. Woods's,² Messrs.

²¹ [John Johnson]. *The Clergy-Man's vade-mecum: or an account of the ancient and present Church of England* . . . Third edition (London, 1709).

²² Isaac Bellows.

²³ (Harvard 1722). *Sibley*, VII, 76.

²⁴ (Harvard 1722). *Sibley*, VII, 101-102.

¹ Captain Benjamin Willard of Grafton.

² Benjamin Woods of Marlborough.

Willards would walk thither. Mr. Wood treated us handsomely and we all Sang the more chearfully. Here I rose up not a few times to return home but Captain Willard hung upon Me and would by no means let me have my way. Mr. Jonathan How³ (the Tavern keeper) came up from Boston while we were at Mr. Woods's and having several Haddock I bought one for my Wife; and we returned to Mr. Brecks, where We had Sad and Melancholly News of a Young Man Mr. Simon Bradstreet that last friday fell down very suddenly on Mr. Greenwoods wharf at Boston and next morning dyed. The News Letter had given an account of the very Surprizing and most Sudden Death of Mr. Samuell Hirst⁴ A.M. of Harvard College, who not long Since fell down Dead on the long wharf at Boston, being in perfect Health (to appearance) the moment before. And one Lewis⁵ Sometime publisher of the Boston Gazette, the same afternoon was taken with an Apoplectick fit and dy'd in Two Hours. O that I may also be ready, and that all Young Persons might fear and prepare, Since So many die in full strength, etc., to Demonstrate to us that in an hour that we think not our Lord cometh! I lodged at Mr. Brecks tonight also.

2. In the morning Jonathan How came and invited us to a fish dinner. Accordingly we all went up to his house and Din'd with him on Haddock. Here his Brother Hezekiah⁶ of Westboro happen'd very Lukily, whom I implor'd to carry home my Fish and some necessarys. When we came from Mr. Hows, we parted with Mr. Breck and rode to Mr. William Jonson's⁷ and thence up to my house, Messrs. Willards being with me. They lodg'd with us.

3. Messrs. Willards went to Stoney Brook, while I confin'd my Self in my Studys as also

4. This Day. It was exceeding Stormy and Snow'd hard.

³ Of Marlborough.

⁴ (Harvard 1723). *Sibley*, VII, 190-192.

⁵ Thomas Lewis.

⁶ Hezekiah Howe was an original settler of Westborough.

⁷ William Johnson of Marlborough.

5. I preach'd on Heb. 3, 14, both fore and afternoon. The hard weather allow'd me but a small Congregation.

6. My Brethren Elias and Samuel⁸ came (with Lieutenant Samuell How of Framingham their Conductor) to See us.

7. Mr. How went home after Dinner. My Brethren acquaint-ed me that my Sister Susanna⁹ had been Twice publish'd to Captain Josiah Willard of Salem. A cold Season.

8. It being Somewhat warmer, my Brethren went away for Boston. Towards night came the Willards and lodg'd with us.

9. Mr. Willard preach'd my Lecture from Prov. 27, 1. I besech God to grant this Young Gentlemans Endeavours may [be] [illegible] and accepted. He has undertaken for nine Sab-baths at Stoney Brook and I pray his Labours there and Every-where besides may be Succeeded for the great good of many! After Lecture they went away. Mr. Jonathan How of Marl-borough and Jedidiah How of This Town came to Sing. Mr. Bradish¹⁰ came to Request my Prayers and Assistance in a Mat-ter grievous and Burthensome to him respecting his Oath of Administrator to an Estate of a Kinswoman of his (when living) of Boston.

10. My Heart is so backward I fear my Preparation for the Sacrament Approaching will be none of the Best. I find all my Sufficiency must be of God.

11. It was Violently Stormy, Blustering Cold Snow, Extream Tedious and Difficult. The Snow Deep.

12. I was much afraid the Sacrament must have been put by, and Captain Fay¹¹ mention'd its being So; but provision being made and a Very Considerable number of Communicants present I proceeded tho truly it was a Very Severe Season. I preach'd on 2 John 8, A.M. and on Heb. 3, 12, P.M. I trust in the Meritts and advocation of Christ, but I'm sure my performances, some of them can recomend Me to God.

⁸ Elias and Samuel Parkman of Boston.

⁹ Susanna Parkman of Boston.

¹⁰ James Bradish or Braddish, an original settler of Westborough.

¹¹ John Fay of Westborough.

13. I began to Read the Synopsis Criticism¹² on the New Testament for a Morning Exercise. Captain Willard call'd here.

14. 15. I read miscellaneously. Chiefly Mr. Willard¹³ on the 5th and 7th Commandments and the Art of Speaking.

16. I was Employ'd on my Subject as This is my Business and Employment, and such an one as calls for great Constancy and patience. So God grant I may So continue in it as in some measure to Deserve the Approbation and Comendation I Know thy services.

17. Mr. Cushing came to see Me. I would fain reap Some Benefit of Every Such Conversation.

18. I was taken up with my preparations.

19. I preach'd upon Heb. 3, 13 A. and P.M.

20. 21. I early (in the Week) began my Studies for my Sermons. I conceive many advantages would accrue by it, and I'm Sure not a few Disadvantages would be avoided by it.

22. 23. 24. Mr. Ball (Junior) cut wood for me. I could make but Slow progress in my Business because of my Affliction by the Toothach.

25. My Toothach continues; but I finish'd my sermons (to a very small matter) by almost an hour before Sunset, when Mr. Cushing came and requested me to go to Shrewsbury. But my indisposition Oblig'd me to tarry all night.

26. In the morning I rode to Shrewsbury and A.M. preach'd on Ps. 95, 7; P.M. on Phil. 1, 27. In the Even, Captain Keyes¹⁴ visited me. I read Mr. Hancocks¹⁵ Ordination Sermon by his Father,¹⁶ and Mr. Ward Clarks¹⁷ by his Father in Law.¹⁸

¹² This may have been *Synopsis Criticorum aliorumque S. Scripturae Interpretum*, 1678.

¹³ Reverend Samuel Willard (1640-1707), vice-president of Harvard College.

¹⁴ Captain John Keyes of Shrewsbury.

¹⁵ Reverend John Hancock (Harvard 1719), minister of First Church of Braintree (now Quincy), 1726-1744. He was the father of the patriot John Hancock, first signer of the Declaration of Independence. *Sibley*, VI, 316-319.

¹⁶ Reverend John Hancock (Harvard 1689), minister of Lexington, 1698-1752. *Sibley*, III, 429-439.

¹⁷ Reverend Ward Clark (Harvard 1723), minister of First Congregational Church of Kingston, N.H., 1725-1737. *Sibley*, VII, 156-158.

¹⁸ Clark's ordination sermon was by John Odlin (Harvard 1702), minister of Exeter, N.H. Odlin was not Clark's father-in-law, for Clark married Mary Frost, the daughter of Charles Frost of Kittery, Maine. *Sibley*, V, 168-172 and VII, 156-158.

27. After I had gone with Mr. Cushing to his house, din'd, etc., I returned home. Many of the Town came in to see me, it having been Town meeting. Mr. Ball (Nathan)¹⁹ brought me Tobacco.

MARCH [1727]

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. Notwithstanding the preparations I made for last week yet I proceeded to other. I preach'd on Phil. 12, A. and P.M. I rode to Stoney Brook, to Mr. Willard.¹ With him was Mr. Brintnall.² The last rode with me to Mr. Swifts. I was design [?] to Boston, but receiving a Letter from my mother by Mr. B. How at Framingham meeting house, I turned back. I rode to Mr. Hows³ and lodg'd there.

7. In the morning I rode to Marlboro. Din'd at Mr. Woods (with Deacon Wilder⁴). I went with Mr. Breck⁵ to his house and (it storming hard) I remained here all night.

8. The storm continued, but yet after dinner I removed. Mr. Breck went with me to his Son Williams⁶ (his daughters⁷ lately lying in). Thence I returned home.

9. Very high winds. I my Self Sleded home wood with my own Team (mare and sled).

10. 11. Considering my Appointment to go to Boston next week, I Employ'd my Self in preparing Sermons to serve one on the following Sabbath, for I had finished for the approaching Sabbath.

12. I preach'd all Day on Phil. 2, 12.

13. My Wife had Designed to go to Boston with me but it was so rainy that she was obliged to give up her intention. About Eleven it held up and I set out. I was at Mr. Coles⁸ (the shoe-

¹⁹ An early settler of Westborough. _____

¹ Samuel Willard, the preacher at the Stoney Brook part of Marlborough.

² Reverend William Brintnall of Sudbury.

³ Probably at the Wayside Inn in Sudbury, kept by David Howe.

⁴ Deacon Joseph Wilder of Lancaster.

⁵ Reverend Robert Breck of Marlborough.

⁶ Reverend Breck's son-in-law, Abraham Williams, a prominent resident of Marlborough.

⁷ Elizabeth Breck, daughter of Reverend Robert Breck, married Abraham Williams.

⁸ Probably Samuel Cole of Framingham.

maker) where I saw Distracted Mrs. Bowtel.⁹ I got down to Cambridge between 7 and 8.

14. I rode to Charleston with Father Champney, (it being Court Time) and thence over to Boston with Brother Hicks.¹⁰ I spent my Time at home.

15. We had very joyfull news from my Brother John.¹¹ In the Evening I was at Mr. Greenwood's¹² Lecture which was upon Projectile Motion. I can't but Conclude these Exercises by Experiments are the most beneficial as they Reduce all to Sensible Demonstration. When I return'd I went in with Mr. Greenwood to Dr. Clark's.¹³ At home I saw Captain Willard¹⁴ of Salem.

16. Mr. Sewal preach'd the Lecture on John 15, 5. I din'd at Brother Williams. In the Evening My Sister Susanna was marry'd to Captain Josiah Willard of Salem by Dr. Mather.¹⁵ The Ceremony over we Sang Psalm [blank] and the Doctor had many uncommon Observations upon the Concluding words of the psalm and explained Several other Texts in that millenary Scheme. I must observe here that I had very much Concern upon my Mind lest Every Thing throughout this transaction should not be to the Glory of God, and devout in the Eyes of Men. But last of all did I Suspect my Self.

17. My Brother Elias gave me one of Mr. Webbs¹⁶ books on the 4 Last things; and Deacon Henschman¹⁷ gave me the Extraordinary binding. I visited my friend Mr. John Adams.¹⁸ In the Evening we had much more Company than I thought of.

⁹ This was perhaps a woman who had married one of the Boutwells of Reading, Mass. In 1728 Samuel Cole of Framingham married a Sarah Boutwell of Reading.

¹⁰ John Hicks of Cambridge, Parkman's brother-in-law.

¹¹ Parkman's brother-in-law John Tyley.

¹² Isaac Greenwood, Parkman's classmate and later first Hollis Professor of Mathematics at Harvard College.

¹³ John Clark (Harvard 1687), a physician of Boston. Professor Greenwood married Clark's daughter Sarah. Sibley, III, 375-379.

¹⁴ Josiah Willard.

¹⁵ Cotton Mather.

¹⁶ Reverend John Webb of Boston. The work was *Practical Discourses on Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell. In Twenty-four Sermons* (Boston, 1726).

¹⁷ Daniel Henschman, publisher and bookseller in Boston.

¹⁸ (Harvard 1721). Of Boston. A classmate of Parkman.

Mr. Secretary Willard,¹⁹ our Cousens, Mrs. Sarah Porter and her Sister, Mrs. Dorcas Bows,²⁰ etc., etc. I have grievously and Sadly reflected upon my Levity this Evening. I am very much afraid that in the Eyes of Some of the Company my Demeanour was not altogether becoming. But there was nothing criminal in my Conduct with one that considers what a time of Joy it was with us. However I think I might have spent more time with the graver people, especially have improv'd the opportunity of acquainting my Self better with the Secretary and perhaps it had not been to my Disadvantage.

18. I had additional Trouble by some Discourse my brother Samuel had with me upon the articles of my tarrying no more in Boston when I went down; for it was very stormy weather and I was urgent to return home. It rain'd till between 10 and 11, when holding up a little I left home, truly with my heart full of Sadness. *Veruntamen in quoquo peccavi, vel mete vel oculo, vel oloquiu Sanguis pratiofus Jesu Mei per totum purgabit!* It was one o'clock (as I remember) when I set out from Cambridge. I lit upon Mr. Tainter²¹ riding up with Hannah Warrin.²² I rode to Dr. Bellows of Marlboro, Stoney Brook, where I stop'd, Mr. Willard being gone up to Westboro. I was not well, or I should have reach'd home, and there was almost Sunrise to have gone by. I went to Bed not very Well. I was exceedingly fatigued and very faint. But what Surprized one very much in the morning Mr. Willard came in—for my wife Expected that if I returned from Boston at all I should reach home though it were 12 at night first. He soon went back to Westboro and I preach'd at Stoney Brook (the South part of Marlboro) A. and P.M. on Prov. 3, 6. At Even I returned to my own house. I found all things Comfortable. *Deo Opt. Max. Grates.*

20. Mr. Willard left us to go to his Lodgings.

22. I had not very well got over my Journey yet. Mr. Cushing

¹⁹ Josiah Willard (Harvard 1698) of Boston, college tutor, preacher, shipmaster and Secretary of the Province. *Sibley*, IV, 425-432.

²⁰ Sarah (Champney) Porter was evidently either a cousin or a niece of Mrs. Dorcas Bows, who was Mrs. Parkman's cousin.

²¹ Simon Tainter of Westborough.

²² Mrs. Hannah Warren of Westborough.

(I understood) brought home his wife. I a little wonder'd why I was not sent for but Time will open the Cause.

25. I received a Letter from Mr. Cushing which invited me to go to his house on the 21 to Meet his Wife, and the Letter was written some considerable Time ago, but miscarry'd till now.

26. I preach'd on Phil. 2, 12, A. and P.M.

27. 28. 29. I was closely and Strictly Engaged in My Sermons and in my Enquiries into [blot] of the Land and of my People, particularly that I might prepare my Self for the Solemnity drawing nigh. But it is to be remark'd that the 27th was a very Tempestuous, Cold, Snowy Time, at which my Brother John Parkman was Shipwreck'd at Cape Ann. The Thirtieth was Publick Fast. I preach'd upon Ps. 51, 10 all Day and Endeavour'd to improve the Day also as preparation for our Sacrament.

31. I apply'd my Self to my Study only.

APRIL [1727]

1. I was Strictly Employ'd in my preparations for the Sabbath approaching.

2. Sacrament. I preach'd all Day upon 2 John 8. After Meetings my Wife gave me the Heavy Tidings of the Death of my Brother John Parkman, but I had no very certain account.

3. I went up to Mr. Fays¹ and Engaged him to go down with me, my Wife and Sister, But

4. On the Day appointed it rained hard and put all things off.

5. I sent to Mr. Fays but was disappointed, and in the afternoon I went away alone; To Mr. Swifts² first, the Association not being dispers'd. Thence I rode to Mr. Peabodys³ with Mr. Baxter⁴ and Wife,⁵ and Mrs. Peabody and Mr. Bucknam.⁶ At Mr. Peabodys was Major Quincy⁷ of Braintree.

¹ Probably Samuel rather than Captain John Fay of Westborough.

² Reverend John Swift of Framingham.

³ Oliver Peabody, minister of the Indian Church of Natick.

⁴ Reverend Joseph Baxter (Harvard 1693), minister of Medfield, 1694-1745. *Sibley*, IV, 146-153.

⁵ Baxter's third wife, Mercy Bridgham.

⁶ Reverend Nathan Bucknam (Harvard 1721), minister of the First Church in East Medway (now Millis), 1724-1795. *Sibley*, VI, 434-437.

⁷ Edmund Quincy (Harvard 1699), Councillor and justice of the Superior Court. *Sibley*, IV, 491-495.

6. I rode to Boston to gain Information concerning my Brother, and I was Certify'd that on the 27th of the Last Month My Brother John Parkman was coming in from Anguilla (having been at Barbadoes to which port he came from Cork) in a Vessel built by him at Dighton, And with the Building, fraughted rigged and mann'd at his Father's his Brethren's and his own charge. He was now laden with Cotton, Rhum and diverse valuable articles, no small quantity of Gold, but the Heavy and greatest part of his Lading was Salt. But that this (27th) Day proving very Stormy they were driven near Cape Ann and finding that all that remain'd for them to do was to shift for their Life because of the Dangers they were come into upon the Rocks, especially being nigh Normans Woe (a great Rock So call'd which they now drove upon). My Brother endeavoured by the help of the Fore tack, and taking the advantage of the heaving of the vessell, to swing off from the Vessel, if possible on upon the Rock. But the vessel unexpectedly and Suddenly hove back and brought him into the deep. The Tumultuating and raging Sea foaming upon him, and frustrating all Endeavours to recover him (tho they threw out Ropes to him that slip'd thro his hands and tho the Mate had him once by the hand as he came along by the fore Chains) Swallow'd him up, and he perish'd in the Deep. Alas! My Brother! that Sucked the Breast of my Mother, that was brought up with me, is Separated from me and his Eyes clos'd in the night of Death. But I would not utter my complaints as if I mourned without hope. I trust that Living and Especially that Dying he was the Lords. Neither would I do otherwise than humbly own and Submissively acknowledge the Sovereign Power and Dominion of God, and bow my Self down before the unsearchable wisdom, the reproachless holyness, and with all the infinite Goodness and Divine Tenderness of my heavenly Father, and would dutifully and reverently Say that it is the Lord—and since it is he, Let him do what Seemeth him good. His wayes tho full of wonder yet holy are they all, and righteous are they all, and Every of his Works for the honour of his glorious Name, and all his Dispensations towards us for our highest Benefit if we

will duely Improve the Same. How broken was his Body and batter'd against the Rocks when the people of the Place found the lifeless Corps on the fatal shore in the morning! When I see the Blood afresh trickling down from his wounds my heart is again Set ableeding, and when I see his Ruddy Countenance and his athletick Constitution so soon triumph'd over and Subdued! But let me go back again and See what comes of the Rest of the Company and not let all my Care waste itself here. They were wondrously Sav'd on the large Rock (on which they had dropt from the Bowsprit of the vessel before She stove) and here they remain'd through the night tho in the greatest Danger all the while of being wash'd away with the Sea that broke over them. The vesell being broken to pieces Some of the Goods were wafted along by the Rock and the Men Sav'd Some Baggs of Wool. The rest of the Cargo Goods, etc. was Lost. On the 29th our People receiv'd the Message in the Evening. On the 30th (being Fast Day) My Remaining Brethren went to Cape Ann but could not get there timely enough to do anything to purpose. On the 31 They Solemnized the Funerall, and buried him in that Town. On Saturday (April 1) they returned home. This is a Brief and Melancholly account. I Beseach God to make it Spiritually advantagious, though outwardly it is So grievous to us.

7. 8. I Attended Mr. Thatchers⁸ Lecture. Mr. Waldron⁹ desired me to preach for him. I would fain have flattly Deny'd him, but my Father was by, and I knew his mind was Set. I did not dare to refuse. I was obliged to Study very hard to prepare my Self for the Publick Exercises. With much Labour I finished my Sermon before Bed time. But I could not but be greatly concern'd about So hasty Compositions.

9. I attended at Mr. Thatchers in the forenoon, therein embracing an Opportunity to Communicate with the Church I had relation to. It was a Sacred joyfull Season. I would hope my Soul was refresh'd therewith. I din'd at Mr. Waldrons and preach'd (tho in a poor, lame manner truly) to his Congregation

⁸ Reverend Peter Thatcher of Boston.

⁹ Reverend William Waldron (Harvard 1717), first minister of the New Brick Church of Boston. *Sibley*, VI, 214-219.

upon the Text 1 King 13, 30. It met with some kind acceptance in the Family and at their Request I repeated it in the Evening.

10. I Spent the Time chiefly in the Family.

11. I rode to Reading to Mr. Burts¹⁰ to obtain his Daughter to Serve in our house. From thence I rode to Salem, to Brother Willards and lodged there.

12. It being Lecture at Mr. Stantons¹¹ I tarried beyond my Design in this Town. I din'd at Mr. Stantons where was Mr. Blowers,¹² Mr. Fisk,¹³ Mr. Ward,¹⁴ Mr. Chever¹⁵ of Manchester, and Mr. Jeffords,¹⁶ the last of which preach'd on Mat. 11, 30. Presently after Lecture Brother Willard and Mrs. Grafton rode with me to Boston.

13. Mr. Foxcroft¹⁷ preach'd at the Publick Lecture. Sister Willard¹⁸ went to make Salem her home, diverse of the Family with her, to accompany etc. I rode from Winnesimmet to Cambridge and there was taken very ill.

14. I continued so ill all Day that I scarce got up. I was confin'd to the Bed in the Day but in the Evening was worse. Mrs. Burt¹⁹ by appointment brought her daughter.

15. The journey home look'd very discouraging I was so ill. But riding an Easy horse and Father Champney²⁰ with me, with the Girl, we reach'd home. I was very much unfitted for publick Service.

¹⁰ Thomas Burt, Jr. His daughter was Sarah (b. 1711) who later married Joseph Gilbert of Boston.

¹¹ Reverend Robert Stanton (Harvard 1712), minister of the Second Church of Salem. *Sibley*, V, 647-648.

¹² Reverend Thomas Blowers (Harvard 1695), minister of First Church at Beverly, 1701-1729. *Sibley*, IV, 225-228.

¹³ Reverend Samuel Fiske (Harvard 1708), minister of the First Church at Salem, 1718-1735. *Sibley*, V, 413-424.

¹⁴ Reverend Robert Ward (Harvard 1719), minister at Wenham, 1722-1732. *Sibley*, VI, 350-352.

¹⁵ Reverend Ames Cheever (Harvard 1707), minister at Manchester, Mass., 1716-1743. *Sibley*, V, 326-329.

¹⁶ Reverend Samuel Jeffords (Harvard 1722), minister at Wells, Maine, 1725-1752. *Sibley*, VII, 83-85.

¹⁷ Reverend Thomas Foxcroft of Boston.

¹⁸ Parkman's sister, Susanna.

¹⁹ Of Reading.

²⁰ Samuel Champney, Sr., Parkman's father-in-law.

16. But resting well thro Divine Goodness I rose enlivened and repeated to my Congregation (with Some Additions and a few alterations) what I delivered last Sabbath upon the Death of my Brother. At night I was considerably better Still.

17. So that in the Morning My Wife and Child rode down with our Father Champney. I was concern'd that the Stubble was not plough'd for planting, according to agreement made with Mr. Hezekiah Ward,²¹ nor was there any ploughing for Sowing.

18. I got Mr. Thurston²² to plow and sow my Barley, and Mr. Hezekiah Ward ploughed part of the Stubble.

19. And again he ploughed in the Stubble.

20. And he ploughed a Morning Spell more.

21. Sometime after Sun down Lieutenant Forbush²³ came and requested me to go down to See his Wife who they thought was drawing near her End and wanted to See Me. I went down. When I Entered I Said Mrs. Forbush I am Sorry to See you So ill; I am come at your Desire; which way can I become the most Serviceable to you? She reply'd She was under apprehension of the approach of Death and she could not but be under fears on So great an Occasion. Upon which I proceeded to enquire into the grounds of her Fears telling withal that I should endeavour to remove them and (receiving Some very generall answers) to promote the matter the more readily I began to Say Something concerning true Repentance, universal Obedience and the unfeigned Love of God and to the People of God which finding in her might Shew to her the Truth of Grace to be wrought in her, which being demonstrated must necessarily make all things bright and clear and comfortable. But this process I managed in such an easy and familiar manner as this following.

1. I am hoping (Mrs. Forbush) you have freely repented of any sin that you have known your Self guilty of. She answer'd that She trusted she had, and was heartily willing to, of all that she

²¹ Of Westborough.

²² Joseph Thurston of Westborough.

²³ Samuel Forbush of Westborough.

had been chargeable with that she had not particularly known of, etc.

2. You have told me heretofore that you have us'd your utmost to keep the Commands of God universally but especially now Since you have openly dedicated your Self to God, and join'd your Self to the Communion of the Lords people and waited upon Christ Table I conclude you have much ground for Satisfaction and Comfort. (You Should have if you have Sincerely and uprightly done your Duty). To which she [said] It has indeed been a Comfort to me and I am now glad that I have not that work to reproach my Self with the commission of, (or in these words) I am glad havn't that work to do now (having some reference I believe to the Trouble that many have been in at such an hour that they had never obey'd the Comand of Christ.) etc., etc., etc.

3. Well, Mrs. Forbush but to let you see things more plainly Still. Let Us a little further enquire. Don't you find in you Such a Love to God as has made you both repent of Sin and Obey his Comands from a Desire of his Glory? etc. etc.

But to find out some further proof of all this and to have some stronger evidence of your Love to God and Christ, have you a pure love to the Godly; do you love the Disciples of Christ, those that you think bear the Image of God unfeignedly?

She. I hope really that I do.

N. B. Mr. Thomas Forbush²⁴ and wife, Captain Byles²⁵ and wife, and Jedediah How²⁶ were in the Room, besides the family. But the person being look'd upon as near expiring I thought not to thrust those persons So well acquainted with the woman, as nearer She has not (except one), out of the room, and Seeing my discourse was generall and what anyone might hear. Yet when under any of those heads any particular private matters have occur'd it has then been usuall with me to desire the Company

²⁴ Slectman of Westborough, brother of Samuel.

²⁵ Joseph Byles, an original settler of Westborough.

²⁶ Of Westborough.

to withdraw. But here I apprehended would be such things spoken as might be very profitable and suitable for all that heard, as I concluded these near Relatives were gratify'd not a little by them. However, upon some account or other it Seems Old Mr. Forbush²⁷ is displeas'd and tho at the most awfull time when every thought was profoundly Serious and solemn Yet he thinks fit to [illegible] upon us in a sad passionate manner upon the last Sentence, spoken thus. Sir, We are grown folks. I turned about in great Surprize and calmly looking upon him and then as calmly Speaking asked what he had said. He repeated the Same words as before. I asked him what then? (Now raising my Self up in my Chair) why then (says he) we understand these things already have read in the Bible and Some other Books, and ourselves know these things being grown folks and come into years. Here up I Spoke the words following (his Wife, his Sisters, especially the apprehended Dying person besought him not to open his mouth any further, they being astonished as well as I and the woman declaring it much to her Comfort and benefit that I had proceeded as I had and that it was the End of her sending for me, etc.). Mr. Forbush, I am astonish'd at such an interruption at such a season, when I come upon my Commission and Charge to minister in the name of God to a Servant of his ready to leave the world, etc., etc. Says he, If I had been in your place I would not have asked Such Questions. I reply'd in defence of them. He Said Mr. Breck would not ask Such. I answer'd I was not now to enquire what Mr. Breck would ask, but I was able to affirm that the most Learned, the most pious and the most Judicious ministers would. I therewith pray'd him to Say which were improper and wherein. He appear'd not able to tell so much as what any one Question was that I had asked. Well, Said I, Seeing you won't or can't tell me which, etc., I'll endeavour to recollect all that I have said, though I did not Study before I came down what I should say, nor had I time; neither did I confine my Self strictly to any Method but Said what I thought of the greatest weight in the Case before me. I then recapitu-

²⁷ The oldest Forbush in Westborough at this time was Thomas Forbush.

lated and demanded as I went along what exceptions he had to make and wherein they were so grossly injudicious as to be foundation enough for his So Strange interposition. 1. He Suppos'd She had repented before now and she had examin'd her Self before this time o'Day often and often no doubt. And then I had liv'd in the house and knew the woman long ago. So that I had no need to ask Questions now. Besides I had or Should have ask'd her when She was admitted into the Church. Truly, said he, if it was my wife you Should not have asked her whether she had repented of her sins. We hope She has done it long ago. To which I Said, This Person I knew So Well as that I Saw no danger from my asking generall Questions. She has had nothing Scandalous in all her Life that I know of, neither could any one think that I desir'd to rake into all the particulars of her past conversation in the world and managements in the Familie (not but that If I had made Such enquiries She might I believe have produc'd what would have been very instructing). Were I examining a person that had been notoriously vicious and demanding a particular confession and before So many witnesses it had been another thing; but I have been endeavouring to assist this person in preparing actually to give up her account to the great Judge, and though she may have view'd it numberless times and we may have review'd and examin'd it together yet now at the awfull juncture before delivering it into his hands we act most wisely to look all over as carefully as possible to find out whatever escapes or flaws there may be, Since it can never be done after, throughout Eternity, and Eternity depends upon this account. Mr. Forbush those Questions appear injudicious to you; yet they are so far from being a reflection upon your Sister that the most advanc'd Christian that is on Earth won't Scruple to ask them and they are the very questions therefore that the gravest and profoundest Divines in the Christian Church do put in these Cases, etc. etc.

2. You ask (Say'd he) whether she had not comfort in her having been at the Sacrament. How needless that question. What do you think She went to it for, Sir? I admire at you Mr. For-

bush. Your Sister's End was to testify her Obedience to the Command of Christ, and to obtain of her Lord Divine Grace and Support under all Troubles and difficulties, to Engage Gods mercifull presence in a time of Extremity, especially when Death approaches. She has been I Say, for these great and important things and now when She needs them most of all I ask whether she has got her Errand and how she is Sure She has these things and This is impertinent, etc., etc.

3. And You asked whether She lov'd the Godly? What a Question that is! I know what you mean whether She loves all that Appear professedly to be Christians. I havn't a Charity for everybody because they make a profession. There is some that I know of that I won't have a Charity for tho they have join'd to the Church. To which I rejoin'd Mr. Forbush in trying whether true Grace be in the heart love to Christ's Disciples is always enquir'd into. I doubted not but your Sister doth So, yet it is ask'd to make all things as clear and fair as possible. By Christ's Disciples I mean the Same as Saint John doth by the Brethren by which are understood all that any way bear the Image and Resemblance of Christ, and Mr. Forbush notwithstanding what you have last Said as to your Charity I'll tell you mine is So extensive that there is not a person in all Westboro but I would charitably hope he may be a subject for the Divine Grace to work upon. Well, he would not, etc. It was time I should do what I could for the woman. I told him he had prevented me and unfitted me, etc., but I turn'd about and went on. Mr. Forbush ask'd I'd forgive him if he had said anything wrong but he thought he would not ask Such questions. So that I So far lost my labour with him. I told him if he was So much disturb'd about them, I would submitt them to the Judgement to whatsoever ministers in the Country he should Choose. I pray'd him to consider his sister. He was willing with all Saying that he knew not how soon he should need me on the Same account and therefore again desire me to forgive his bluntness, but yet He could not desire me if ever I should to ask him such sort of Questions. Thus did he in a strange manner keep up the flame

by throwing in oil when he pretended to cast in water to quench it. No, Mr. Forbush Said I with some earnestness, I'm afraid you would not care that I should deal feelingly with your soul. I now told him of my being oblig'd in Conscience to do my utmost for persons when as his Sister, etc. I shall take no further notice of the Strange reply he made me nor the long discourse he further occasion'd. I was griev'd heartily to See So much of his ignorance and passions. It grew very late. It was well the woman (it may be through her fright) was reviv'd. We came into So amicable a Composition as to go to prayer and we parted Friends. But both my Head and heart were full. It was Twelve when I got home. Sister Ruth discern'd my Trouble. I went to bed but could not Sleep for a long time. I beseech God to quicken me hereby in my work, and make me more diligent to accomplish my Self lest I meet with worse trialls than this. I remember and would take notice of it that the Suddenness and lateness of Lieutenant's coming for me prevented my usual address to heaven before such Ministrations. I would be humbled for my Sin and take the Punishment God inflicted for it.

22. Mr. Ward came with his Team and carted out Muck upon my Corn grounds. Mr. Ward in the afternoon plough'd a spot for flax and went home.

23. I preach'd on 1 Pet. 2, 11.

25. I went to Shrewsbury to see Mr. Cushing²⁸ after his Marriage though truly it has now been some time since. But the reason was his Letter which he Sent me just before his bringing his wife home miscarried.

26. Mr. Thomas Newton²⁹ came to see me and Mr. Townsend³⁰ the Schoolmaster.

27. Very stormy.

28. One of my Boars was cut, a somewhat dangerous adventure, but 'twas now cool after the storm.

30. I preach'd on 1 Pet. 2, 11.

²⁸ Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

²⁹ Of Westborough.

³⁰ Joshua Townsend of Westborough.

MAY [1727]

1. I went abroad to Mr. Josiah Newtons, etc. When I return'd I found my wife brought home by her brother.¹
2. Brother carry'd Sister Ruth² down home.
4. Mr. William Nurse³ came with his Team and plough'd for me for planting but he was late in the morning and many hindrances So that not much was accomplished.
6. Mr. Green⁴ ploughed.
7. I preach'd on Ps. 119, 9.
8. Captain Fay⁵ ploughed. All this before we could plant. And it was but 2½ Acres. I was at Mr. Bakers.
9. It rain'd So that Mr. Baker⁶ could not come.
10. Mr. Baker and Mr. Charles Rices Son came and planted for me. I was afflicted with a Boar I lately Cutt, for there was Hazard So late. N. B. Lecture put by.
12. 13. My Child was very ill. In the morning I found the Boar dead.
14. I preach'd on Song 2, 3 and Administer'd the Sacrament; P.M. on 2 John 8.
15. I went to see Mr. Tainter⁷ and Mr. Jonathan Forbush⁸ who was sick. I Sent Some Hair to Boston by Mr. Baker.
16. I went down to Marlborough. I acquaint Mr. Breck⁹ with my trouble with Mr. Forbush. He said tho he was known to be the plainest and bluntest Man, yet he wondered at his extream Ignorance, unguardedness, etc.
17. Mr. Stone,¹⁰ Mrs. Goddard¹¹ and her son David were here.

¹ Samuel Champney, Jr., of Cambridge.

² Ruth Champney of Cambridge, Parkman's sister-in-law.

³ Of Westborough. Not listed as one of the original settlers of the town.

⁴ John Green, Parkman's neighbor.

⁵ John Fay, the prominent early resident of Westborough.

⁶ Edward Baker of Westborough.

⁷ Simon Tainter of Westborough.

⁸ The younger brother of Thomas and Samuel Forbush of Westborough. He changed the name to Forbes. He became a deacon of the church and died in 1768.

⁹ Reverend Robert Breck of Marlborough.

¹⁰ Lieutenant Isaac Stone of Shrewsbury, selectman of that town. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, pp. 423-424.

¹¹ Probably Mrs. Edward Goddard of Shrewsbury.

21. I preach'd on Ps. 119, 9.

22. I rode over with my Wife to Mr. Ephraim Allens¹² to see his poor afflicted wife. I had hair of her which I Sent to Boston by Mr. Hezekiah Ward for we returned by the way of Mr. Brighams.

23. In the Night I marry'd Mr. Daniel Warrin¹³ to Mary Wetherby.

24. It was very Cold. Tis the Day appointed or the ordination of Mr. Amos Throop¹⁴ at Woodstock. Gods presence be in his Church and with his Servant.

25. 26. 27. I had Sufficient Business with my Sermons, considering especially what my avocations may be next Week.

28. I preach'd again on Ps. 119, 9, A.M. but P.M. on Ps. 25, 7. I beseech God to bless these Courses of Sermons not only to the young people of this Town, but to me who stands in the greatest need of assistances of these kinds!

29. Early in the morning I rode to Mr. Brecks upon my Journey to Boston, but the weather being various he detain'd me till after dinner when I left him. I hit upon Judge Meinzie's¹⁵ and had his Company to Cambridge. He was very civil and generous to Me on the Road, though his Conversation I had no great Esteem of. I turn'd out of the Road to go to Father Champneys and thence proceeded to Boston, and was not much after nine at my Fathers House.

30. I was not abroad much, except among my Relatives.

31. Mr. Joseph Baxter of Medfield preach'd the Election sermon from 1 Tim. 2, 1, 2. Mr. Stimpson,¹⁶ Mr. Greenwood,¹⁷ Mr. Turell¹⁸ and I din'd with the officers of the Town Militia

¹² Of that part of Westborough that later became Northborough.

¹³ Captain Daniel Warrin or Warren was an original settler of Westborough. His first wife was Rebecca Garfield.

¹⁴ (Harvard 1721). Minister of the First Congregational Church, Woodstock, Conn., 1727-1735. *Sibley*, VI, 572-574.

¹⁵ John Menzies, a Justice of the Peace of Middlesex County.

¹⁶ Joseph Stimpson (Harvard 1720), of Charlestown. Later minister at Malden, 1735-1744. *Sibley*, VI, 410-411.

¹⁷ Isaac Greenwood, Professor of Mathematics at Harvard College.

¹⁸ Reverend Ebenezer Turell (Harvard 1721), minister of Medford, 1724-1778. *Sibley*, VI, 574-582.

and the company of Cadys which waited upon his Honor the Lieutenant Governour.¹⁹ Mr. Turell Pray'd and it fell to me to return. The Afternoon was in greatest part Spent at Mr. Henchmans²⁰ Shop with Mr. Greenwood, Turell, Prince,²¹ etc., etc. We went to Mr. Sewalls²² to the Convention. In the Evening I was with Mr. Lowel²³ and his Wife²⁴ first at his and then at her Fathers. I was also at Captain Kings where Mr. Joseph Parsons²⁵ was with Mrs. Porter. I invited him to lodge with me. Accordingly he did. He told me sorrowfull News of Mr. Samuel Coffins²⁶ being far Spent in a Consumption and his Life dispair'd of.

JUNE [1727]

1. In the morning (family exercises and breakfast ended) we walk'd up to Mr. Sewalls. Mr. President Wadsworth¹ preach'd in the Convention from Hagg. 1, 13. The Devotions over though there had been long contests and debates about the phrasing of the address drawn up by Mr. Colman² to be Sent to his Majestie from the ministers in New England. Yet there were very hot and very long oppositions today also. And upon no other than the calling themselves the Ministers of the Churches, and whether it should not be the Teaching Elders, etc. Mr. Williams³ of Deerfield was chosen to preach the Next Year. We din'd at an house Some little way below Mr. Sewalls in the Same Street.

¹⁹ Lieutenant Governor William Dummer was acting governor at this time, pending the arrival of Governor William Burnet.

²⁰ Daniel Henchman, publisher and bookseller in Boston.

²¹ Nathan Prince, tutor at Harvard and brother of the famous historian, Thomas Prince.

²² Reverend Joseph Sewall of the Old South Church, Boston.

²³ John Lowell (Harvard 1721) of Boston was the first minister of Newburyport, 1725-1767. *Sibley*, VI, 496-502.

²⁴ Lowell married Sarah Champney, a cousin of Parkman's wife.

²⁵ (Harvard 1720). Minister of Bradford, 1726-1765. *Sibley*, VI, 393-396.

²⁶ Brocklebank Samuel Coffin (Harvard 1718) of Newbury. *Sibley*, VI, 234.

¹ Benjamin Wadsworth, President of Harvard College.

² Dr. Benjamin Colman (Harvard 1692), minister of the Brattle St. Church, Boston, 1699-1747. *Sibley*, IV, 120-137.

³ Reverend John Williams (Harvard 1683), first minister of Deerfield, 1686-1729. *Sibley*, III, 249-262.

2. It was late in the morning before I could set out from Charlston upon my Journey. I din'd at Father Champneys. At Mr. Learned's⁴ was Mr. Cheney of Brookfield and his wife; and thither came Breck⁵ from College. We all rode up within the bounds of Marlboro together where I parted from my Company. I got home seasonably.

3. I was much Engag'd and Employ'd that I might make up my preparations for the Sabbath.

11. King George dy'd at his Brother Ernest's Palace at Osnaburg.

14. The sad News of the Kings Death arriv'd at Richmond and George II was proclaim'd at Leicester House.

JULY [1727]

3. My Little Dauter Molly was extremely ill So that we thought between 9 and 10, She would have expir'd.

4. Mr. Jonathan Howard¹ dy'd. My Child was very bad about noon and continued So, Sometime. But it was Some Comfort that Captain Whooods Widow was with us.

17. I went to Cambridge.

18. To Boston and return'd to Cambridge.

20. I came home and our Mother Champney² with me.

AUGUST [1727]

1. 2. It was exceeding hot So that I could scarce mind my Business; but was oblig'd to make Some preparation for my Lecture.

3. Mr. Cushing and his Wife happened to come to See us upon this Day. But he had no Notes with him and I had not finished my Sermon, so that I was debarred their Company very much.

⁴ Thomas Learned was a tavernkeeper in Watertown.

⁵ Robert Breck, Jr. (Harvard 1730), son of the Reverend Robert Breck of Marlborough. Breck, Jr., was later minister of the First Church of Springfield, 1734-1784. *Sibley*, VIII, 661-680.

¹ Of Westborough, although the death is not recorded in the *Westborough Vital Records*.

² Mrs. Samuel Champney, Sr., Parkman's mother-in-law.

I Lectur'd on 1 Chron. 28, 19. Mr. Cushing pray'd: His Wife not at Meeting. After Meeting I had information that Mr. Tomlins¹ Dauter was dead. A Young Woman that had lain confin'd ever since I had been in Town; and dy'd unbaptis'd. (*O Jesu Misericors ne mihi imputatur*). I went over to the house and discours'd with Mr. Tomlin and with the family, etc.

4. She was buried. I was full of Concern. God Sanctifie her Death to others of her Age and Circumstance.

5. It continues very hot, and parching weather.

6. I had appointed on this Day to administer the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, but we were disappointed, the Elements not being brought up nor the Person (Thomas Ward) that went for them, return'd. God graciously forgive wherever he has Seen Guilt, and whatever Unpreparedness in his Servants that Should provoke him to debarr us therefrom! I preach'd on 1 Chron. 28, 9, A. and P.M. It was very hot and I was very faint and weary when the Exercises were over.

7. I went to Mr. Thomas Newton's, who had a great deal to Say about Mr. Peres Rice² and wanted much that he Should be brought under Church censure, Seeing the Court of Judicature had found him guilty of violating the Civil law, in the act against Selling drink without License. I was at said Rices also but not to Discourse with him, nor did I upon anything besides coming to Mow for me.

8. Father Champney came up to See us. It is a favour of heaven that we can hear of the welfare of our Friends, and ought to be thankfully acknowledged.

9. Mr. Bradish³ came and by his Help we got in near a load of Hay which was mow'd by Nathaniel Child last Saturday.

10. Father Champney return'd from us. Near Night Captain Goddard⁴ came. It has been a time of parching Drought, but God mercifully remembers us and sends us Rain.

¹ Isaac Tomblin was an early settler of Westborough. The *Westborough Vital Records* do not give the death of this person.

² Son of Thomas Rice, one of the original settlers of Westborough.

³ James Bradish, an original settler of Westborough.

⁴ Captain Edward Goddard of Shrewsbury.

11. Rain by the Divine Mercy.

12. Mr. Thomas Weld⁵ came up to us.

13. Mr. Weld preach'd A.M. on Ps. 63. 3. I administered the Sacrament of the Lords Supper. Mr. Weld preach'd P.M. on John 9, 4, former part. The whole of his performances were laudable. God make him an eminent Instrument of his Glory in his Church.

14. I accompanied Mr. Weld as far as into the Mendon Road (beyond Mr. Eams of Hopkinton) he being determined to go to Mr. Dorrs.⁶ I was at Mr. Jonathan Forbes' where there were not a few Sick. Mrs. Forbes was not Recovered. Three of their Dauters had a strong fever and Rebecca Paterson lay very ill.

15. I went to see Mr. Amsden⁷ who was Sick and had desired praying for him.

16. I read in Wollastons Religion of Nature.⁸ I take it to be a very Excellent Piece.

17. I Study'd the Works of God beginning with Gods Efficiency in generall.

18. 19. I forwarded my preparations, considering my wife's Hour was before her, and in Expectation of it immediately. I had the News of the Kings Death.

19. In the Afternoon my wife was pained, but no great Complaint till the Evening when She grew very ill. I went to Bed Somewhat late but could lie but a very few minutes. I rose and (being, as I gathered about midnight) rode to Mrs. Forbush and brought her up But she was not very much Employ'd till morning.

20. I rode for Mrs. Byles and sent for other neighbouring women. My wife had many pains, But I Saw Liberty to go to Meeting at the proper hour. I delivered the morning Sermon upon 1 Chron. 28, 9. In the Afternoon I preach'd upon Rom.

⁵ (Harvard 1723). Later minister of Upton, 1738-1744, and Middleborough, 1744-1749. *Sibley*, VII, 273-277.

⁶ Reverend Joseph Dorr of Mendon.

⁷ Jacob Amsden of Westborough.

⁸ William Wollaston, *The Religion of Nature delineated* (London, 1725). Numerous other editions followed.

11, 36 wherein I had occasion to Mention the Kings Death, and to give fair hints at the Circumstances of my Family. When I came home at Even my wife was Still full of pains but no imediate apprehension that she should be delivered. But, a little more than half an hour after sunset (having been no long time in Extremity) She was Delivered, and the will of God was to favour me in a very high Degree. God gave Me a Son, which I have set up for my Ebenezer, for hitherto the Lord hath Helped Me. We have indeed a great deal of Reason to praise and magnifie the name of our gracious God who So Signally and mercifully appears for us, and lays us under ten thousand the strongest obligations to him. O that I may never forget his Benefits! But O that I may both Live and Speak Gods praises! Were comfortably carry'd thro the night. Blessed be God!

21. I went down to Mr. Thomas Forbes⁹ and was intending to marry his Dauter¹⁰ to Mr. Cornelius Cook,¹¹ but they could produce me No legal certificate But I discoursed to them of their unhappy Circumstances and their Sin and urg'd to serious unfeigned Repentance. Mr. Cook I advis'd to go and get another Certificate, while I tarried there. He went away but a storm coming up and night hastening on, and my people at home extremely prone to be very much Scar'd, I left them and walked home, leaving word that Mr. Cook should bring home my Horse, which He did. It was a very Awfull and terrible night and we had very little Rest (the Thunder and Lightening were So sharp) till near Day break.

22. I again rode to Mr. Forbes' and married Cornelius Cook and Eunice Forbush (so they will Spell their Name). I hasted home, a storm arising as it did last night. I went to Mr. John Maynards and brought up his wife to watch with mine. It was a very terrible storm and far louder Thunder than the night before, but lasted not so long. By nine o'Clock it abated.

⁹ Thomas Forbush did not change his name to Forbes as did his brother Jonathan. Parkman was confused at this point.

¹⁰ Eunice Forbush.

¹¹ Also of Westborough.

23. Major Prescott was here to See us and informed us that Mr. Thomas Forbush, Junior¹² his Barn was Shatter'd by the Thunder last night.

24. My Wife and Infant through the Divine Goodness in very hopefull and favourable Circumstances. Little or nothing that was difficult with us.

25. Colonel How¹³ and Mr. Woods¹⁴ of Marlborough visited me.

26. If on Saturdayes in Generall I am professedly more employ'd than on any other Dayes I am Surely to be thought to be more on this, and I Endeavour'd to possess my Thoughts in all Seriousness, of the Weighty and Solemn Transaction of Dedicating my Son to God, and I would in the Fear of God Undertake this Sacred Business.

27. I Sincerely comitted the great Article of offering my Son unto God and implor'd the divine direction and assistance, with Confession of my Sins and Thankfull acknowledgements of all especially his Signal Mercies. I then proceeded to the Exercises of the Day, and preach'd in the Morning on Mat. 19, 13, 14, 15, as I did in the afternoon likewise on the Same. And then (I hope in the integrity of my Heart and with Souls Desire of the Glory of God and the invaluable Spirituall Blessings of the Covenant) I baptiz'd My Son Ebenezer and put him into the Arms of the Saviour that He might Bless Him according to the gracious Encouragement given to His People. And I hope I found Favours with the Lord. Mr. Joseph Wheeler presented His Son Aaron¹⁵ at the Same time. The Lord has done great things for me for which I was filled with Joy and Gladness. O that Gods Grace may be given me that I may alwayes walk in a suitable manner Before Him. At this Season I improv'd the Opportunity [to] renew the Dedication of my Self and My Dauter Mary and all mine unto our glorious God in the Covenant of Grace.

28. I Catechiz'd the Children and I happen'd to appoint the Same hour and Place that the Town meeting was warn'd, but I

¹² Also of Westborough. Later a deacon and selectman for many years.

¹³ Thomas Howe of Marlborough. Hudson, *Marlborough*, pp. 382-383.

¹⁴ Benjamin Woods.

¹⁵ Born July 7, 1727.

was Earlier than they and they waited till our Exercise was finished. Diverse persons were at my house in the Evening. I heard Yesterday and again today that my sister Tyley¹⁶ was very ill after Delivered in childbearing.

30. I took an opportunity by Mr. David Maynard¹⁷ to send down to Boston.

31. A Letter was written by Mother certifying me of the Dangerous Circumstances of my Sister, desiring me (if by any means I could) to go down and See her in her last hours in Some measure triumphing over Death and rejoicing in hope of the Glory of God.

[SEPTEMBER, 1727]

[No entry].

[OCTOBER, 1727]

October 29. After 10 o'Clock at night the Sky clear, the air cold, there was a very terrible Earthquake which lasted Shaking Extreably about a minute and half,—a trembling continued for a Considerable time Longer. And within 65 minutes 5 More Rumbings and quiverings might be perceiv'd, Especially the last of those 5. But yet this was not Like the First of all. In about 18 minutes more a Seventh, and near Two o'Clock an 8th, and between 5 and 6 in the morning (perhaps 35 minutes after 5) there was a Ninth. The First of all these, if not all the rest were heard (I am ready to think) all over New England.

October 31. In the night Sometime (the weather being Cloudy if not Rain) there was heard by Diverse persons, another Such noise.¹

[NOVEMBER, 1727]

November 1. In the night Likewise, it having been very Stormy Snow in the Day and the Storm not over, there was the same.

¹⁶ Parkman's sister Elizabeth, who married John Tyley of Boston. She died August 30, 1727.

¹⁷ One of Parkman's neighbors.

¹ The foregoing entries for Oct., 1727 were recorded in Parkman's Natalitia.

November 3. My Wife and the Young People of the house asserted that between 4 and 5 P.M. they heard the Like again. The Weather being Rainy or misty. And This was confirm'd by many other persons.

November 4. The Sun Shone thro a Dusky, Smoky Air and generally thro Thin Clouds, the wind Southerly and therefore the weather much chang'd, being pretty warm.

November 5. A Warm Southerly Wind, a very Thick, Smoaky air till night. In the Evening it So cleared away as to be bright Starlight. But it was while I was observing the weather that I Saw a Flash of Lightning. I was not able to discern any Clouds, Yet I am prone to think there was a thick Cloud low in the West. For it Could not be half an hour (I believe, if it was more than a Quarter) before it rain'd, and all of a Sudden beat down in Such mighty Showers that it Startled us very much. However it lasted not long. After a few Such violent Showers it almost Ceased.

The 6th was a Warm, bright, pleasant Day.

The 7th Likewise, the wind blowing, indeed Somewhat Fresh, from the S.W.¹

1728

JANUARY

1. A moderate pleasant day, My heart was filled with Joy before God for his wondrous Sparing Mercy in bringing Me to the Light of this Day beginning another Year which truly, considering the Deserts of Sin and the late threatenings of Providence, it was almost beyond my Expectations to See.

Oh that it might please God, through his abundant Mercy in Christ to remove away those Sins of mine and those of his people of this Land that brought down Tokens of Displeasure in Such distressing and fearfull Dispensations as those of the Last Year, lest if his anger be not turned away his hand Should be stretched out still this Year also, and our plagues be made wonderfull, if we be not brought to utter Desolation.

¹ Entries for Nov., 1727 are from the Natalitia.

As to the Earthquake, being down at Mr. David Maynards in the Evening (requested to visit his 5 Sick children and pray with them) Mr. Daniel Maynard of Marlborough enquir'd whether any of us had heard it, intimating herewith to us that Some persons were afraid they had, and afraid that it had been heard Every Sabbath night Since the great shocks. When I came home I understood by Noah Rice¹ and Daniell Hardy that Mr. James Miller and Nathaniel Whitney² each of them were so apprehensive that they heard it in the night before last that they both got up. The Divine Compassion that Safeguards and Delivers us! O that God would still deliver us. I was not without Some hearty, tho I confess too weak and lame Endeavours after, as the pardon of the Miscarriages and offences of the Last year (particularly of March 17th which Oh that it may be blotted out of the book of Gods remembrance) to Such a Settled pious Disposition that this Year may be Spent wholly to the Glory of God, in a walk that may please him, and in Essayes to promote his Church's interest to the last of my Capacity.

2. I rode to Mr. Hezekiah How's. I went with him to Examine some of the Bounds of the ministerial Lot, that I might make some Improvement of it.

In the Evening Mrs. Mary Whiting³ was with me requesting I would Examine her in order to her joining with our Church. I hope the work of grace is at least begun in her Heart.

3. Reading Mr. Foxcrofts Sermon on the Earthquake (preach'd by him before the Court).⁴ I was mov'd I hope rather with justifiable emulation and ambition than Envy. But verily I was much Excited most of the Day to reflect on the progress and advancement he and Some few other persons of distinguish'd Characters had gain'd in both Piety and Learning. I could but draw up a Resolution that tho my powers are small yet according to my Measures I would by the Grace of Christ, lead a Religious,

¹ Son of Thomas Rice, one of the original settlers of Westborough.

² All of these were young men of Westborough.

³ No record of a family of this name in Westborough at this time.

⁴ Thomas Foxcroft, *The Voice of the Lord, from the Deep Places of the Earth*. . . (Boston, 1727).

Serviceable and contented Life, with Diligence and industry laying in what Store of Knowledge, and especially Striving after as many Divine Virtues to adorn and accomplish me, as I may be able.

Lieutenant Forbush⁵ came to me in the Evening who among other things, Speaking of Samuell Hardy's Case⁶ Express'd himself So as Convinced me I should meet with some Trouble in managing it.

4. Private Meeting at Mr. Pratts. I sent Dr. Increase Mathers Kingdom of Christ is approaching,⁷ etc., by Mr. Thurston. Deacon Fay⁸ and Mr. Abner Newton⁹ and others came to see me in the Evening. Very cold. Mr. How brought me Store Geese.

5. Very Sharp Cold. Mr. Nathaniel Whiting came to be Examin'd in order to his admission to the Lords Supper.

6. The First of my Discourses on Ps. 60, 1, 2 took me up (tho began in no improper Season of the week) till 3 P.M. of this Day When I began the first of those Discourses on 1 Cor. 6, 9, 10, 11, and it was prepar'd before it was over late in the night. I Suppose it not much after Eleven when I was actually in my bed. It must be remembered that my Choice was determined upon the Subject tho I had not so much as laid my Scheme before the hour abovesaid.

⁵ Samuel Forbush of Westborough.

⁶ The Westborough Church Records, Feb. 11, 1728 contain the following details. "Another Affair was also brought before the Church at this meeting. The Pastor took their Advice in what would be most warrantable and Regular to be done in the Case of Samuel Hardy and his wife who desir'd baptism for their Child born Three Dayes within Seven Months after the parents' Marriage. No opposition was made to proceeding to grant the Privilege, the Circumstances of the fright it was declar'd the mother was in, occasioning as was believed the hasty birth, together with their Serious Declaration that they were innocent, being all the Satisfaction the Church could have in a Case of this Nature." Parson Parkman may not have been convinced that this was the right decision. At any rate he brought this matter before the Marlborough Association where the advice given was that the child "be baptized." Allen, *Worcester Association*, p. 12. Finally on April 28, 1728, the Reverend Mr. Parkman baptized Elizabeth, the daughter of Daniel and Tabitha Hardy.

⁷ Mather did not publish a work with this title. Possibly Parkman was referring to *The Glorious Throne: or A Sermon Concerning The Glory of the Throne of the Lord Jesus Christ, Which is now in Heaven, and shall quickly be seen on the Earth.* (Boston, 1702).

⁸ Captain John Fay was one of the first deacons chosen by the Westborough church, Oct. 12, 1727. The other was Isaac Tomblin.

⁹ The son of Thomas Newton.

7. I preach'd on the footnotes on 1 Cor. 6, 9, 10, 11, in the Afternoon on Ps. 60, 1, 2.

11. The Church (at my appointment) came together and I entertain'd them with a Discourse from Acts 6, 6 but I left the method we should proceed in to the Church's Consideration. Afterwards they came down to my house whereby Mr. Asher Rice¹⁰ was no small [illegible] about Mr. Josiah Newton.¹¹

13. A very Violent storm of Snow. Just before dark Mr. Campbel¹² of Oxford came in, being on his journey home. He lodg'd here.

16. David Farrar, Thomas Kendal, Phinehas and Aaron Hardy cut wood.

21. I preach'd both fore and after noon from 1 Cor. 6, 9, 10, 11. I rode to Mr. Pratts and to Mr. Increase Wards¹³ and Balanced with Constable Warrin.¹⁴ Mr. Collister¹⁵ came with his complaints and witnesses.

22. I rode to Mr. John Pratt junior where was Captain Fay. With him I had discourse concerning the Sad Broils in the Town. We went to Mr. Thomas Rice's¹⁶ where it was continued till Evening. I rode over to see Mr. Shattuck¹⁷ (which was my purpose in coming out) he being in a low state. We return'd to Mr. Rices and then I came home. There I found Father Champney¹⁸ and Sister Lydia.¹⁹ The Town is in great uneasiness and ready to fall together by the Ears for the management of their military officers but mostly for receiving money for writs and Summons

¹⁰ Son of Thomas Rice, one of the original settlers of Westborough.

¹¹ Josiah and Thomas Newton were cousins. Both were original settlers of Westborough. See DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, pp. 46-47.

¹² Reverend John Campbell.

¹³ Increase Ward operated a saw-mill in that part of Westborough that became Northborough.

¹⁴ Daniel Warrin, an original settler in the eastern part of Westborough.

¹⁵ John McCollister of Westborough.

¹⁶ Believed to be the first settler of that part of Marlborough that became Westborough. DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, p. 20.

¹⁷ Isaac Shattuck.

¹⁸ Samuel Champney, Sr., Parkman's father-in-law.

¹⁹ Lydia Champney, Parkman's sister-in-law.

when he had none of the Justice. Hezekiah Pratt and Eleazer Ward cut wood.

23. Father Champney return'd. Mr. Ward sledded the wood, the young men Cut, Several Load.

24. Mr. Campbel preach'd in the forenoon from Jer. [blank]; in the Afternoon from Acts 16, 30. On the occasion of the Earthquake. Mr. Thurston came and Sledded 4 more.

25. Mr. Campbel left us. A great noise like a gun was heard in the air between 1 and 2 o'Clock P.M. in most Towns about us as in ours. The young men came to set up a society. We first pray'd and then I gave them Some Articles to Sign and they Sign'd them. I gave them what Counsel I was able and dismiss'd them.

26. Mr. John Pratt junior and his brother Eliezer, with Mr. David Goodenow came, two to cut and one with a Team, to Sled wood and they Sledded 15 Small jaggs (their Team being Small But the Team did not tarry till night.)

28. Diverse young men were with me requesting advice and instruction touching their setting up a private society. I desir'd 'em to come again on this Sennight. This Eve Mr. Asher Rice and Mr. Josiah Newton were again with me endeavouring something towards their reconciliation, but all means were in vain. Instead of healing new work was made for, Mr. Rice having charg'd Mr. Newton with having (not only deceived in the article they were upon) but a principle of falsehood in his heart, which was so high, and beyond his real intention to Speak, he acknowledg'd it was wrong to Speak So of his brother and was Sorry for what he had said. The Cause was rais'd to a difficult pitch, and little prospect of Concord or Composition. Extream cold. The Earthquake was heard as was reported and Some say, felt this Morning about or just after Break of Day. I preach'd again upon 1 Cor. 6, 9, 10, 11. In admitting [illegible] Tomlin²⁰ to the Church I was So much employ'd in my thoughts by incorporating the Baptismal Covenant and Church Covenant together that I forgot to go to prayer before I baptiz'd Him, which

²⁰ From the Church Records it appears this was Hezekiah Tomlin.

I remain'd thoughtless about till I went up into the Pulpit from the Basen. It put me into a Consternation. I went to Prayer in which I lamented the miscarriage and enlarg'd the Prayer with those petitions that might be proper on this occasion. But I desire to lay my Self low before God for so grievous an omission and would learn hence forward to be more carefull and watchfull but especially more strongly relying on the Divine aid.

29. Deacon Tomlin²¹ was with me entreating me to do something about Mr. McCollisters cause with Mr. Newton, before the next Sacrament.

30. I rode to Mr. Behmans,²² and thence (with Mr. Wheeler)²³ to Marlboro. At Mr. Williams,²⁴ Mr. Breck²⁵ was, and imediately asked me whether I had heard the Earthquake about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour before (it being then after Two o'clock). I had not heard anything of it. It was heard and felt also by most persons. The Sound was great, and, with many, a shake was distinctly perceiv'd. Some were ready to say that it was heard every day for 4 or 5 dayes last past. Unto the Lord from whom cometh our help.

I had something of Difficulty in my trading with Mr. Williams.

I lodg'd at Mr. Brecks. We discours'd upon the Signs of the Times. We rode to Mr. Woods. A wedding was Solemnized at Mr. Brecks. Samuel Eday²⁶ was joined to Elizabeth Bellows.²⁷ I was compell'd to bear Some part.

31. The morning was very stormy, snow and Rain. But after dinner I rode Home. My Wife told me Mr. Ashur Rice had been here again with a great deal to say about peoples uneasiness at my refusing at least deferring to have a Church Meeting on the account of accomodating the Differences.

[At a later point in the diary Parkman inserted several entries for January, 1728, as follows].

²¹ Isaac Tomblin.

²² Eleazer Behman or Beeman of Westborough.

²³ Joseph Wheeler, an original settler of Westborough:

²⁴ Colonel Abraham Williams.

²⁵ Reverend Robert Breck of Marlborough.

²⁶ Samuel Eady or Eddy of Oxford.

²⁷ Daughter of John Bellows of Marlborough.

28. it was heard by very many, and
30. almost all people heard it and many felt it shake the houses.

FEBRUARY [1728]

1. I am in great Concern respecting first my own Spiritual State and fearing the Earthquake that great and terrible operation of the Divine Hand has not been so Suitably regarded by me as to produce a due Effect, and The impressions that were made I fear May be Sadly wearing off; and my preparations to meet my God are very low and Scanty.

Secondly. I am concerned in my mind about the Troubles that threaten in this Town. I See my Self unable to manage a Quarrell and very much indispos'd towards it; but especially I would be afraid of the Interests of Religion Suffering; I would dread the Sins and mischiefs my people may be rushing into; and Contention has the blacker aspect in the Day wherein we see Such evident manifestations of the Divine Displeasure upon us.

Whereupon I, in the fear of God, would Set apart this Day, therein to seek the face of God, to avert the Evils threatening, to give me his Grace to quicken me, and savingly to Convert me unto him, to give me a sealed pardon of my sins, and assist me to walk before him according to his most Blessed will; graciously to interpose for his people of this Town and restore peace and unanimity to us (which Blessings, Gods name be praised, that we happily enjoyed so long; and O that God would forgive our misimprovement of them). However, to prepare and accomplish me with wisdom from above, and vouchsafe his imediate assistance and Conduct thro all that may be before me; and grant the Issue may be his own Glory. And now the Lord be with me in the Dayes work and Show me his favour for his mercies Sake. Let also these my Endeavours contribute not a little to fit me for waiting upon God in the Solemnities of the Supper of the Lord. I religiously observed the Day according to the abovementioned appointment of it, till I was interrupted by Mr. Tainter¹

¹ Simon Tainter.

who came from the Private Meeting (about 3 P.M.) desiring me to go to their Assistance in the Exercises. I went and Entertained my hearers with my Discourse (Sometime Since publicly deliver'd) upon Hoseah 4, 12. So that I had nevertheless, Opportunity to carry along the Private Designs abovesaid. At least they (I took care) were not forgotten or neglected. I had design'd for the Sake of promoting peace among my Brethren, to have gone to them in the Evening and I therefore Desired them to take all Suitable Methods for pacification and Reconciliation. Mr. Newton² was gone home but Asher Rice immediately Step'd forward full of his bitter case, but was almost immediately oppos'd by Ensign Newton, and then almost everyone in the Room engag'd in an unsuitable Clamour, which it was hard to lay. The Subject was that a Church meeting would alone help our State and was the only method that could be taken. But at length by Mr. Bradishes³ urging it that "inasmuch as it could not be Expected to have a Church Meeting before the Sacrament he thought our present Duty was to Endeavour if possible to obtain that Christian Disposition that might qualifie us to come acceptably to God and comfortably to ourselves; or however to prosecute these Ends as far as we could in doing what was to be done, and after the Sacrament if need were he would advise to discourse about a Church Meeting or what else was Suitable." I thought it Sage and Sat in with it and entreated for a composure and sedateness of Spirit as considering how holy the order we were to put our Selves into preparation for. I ask'd whether they were so disquieted that they could not in a Christian Temper Sit down at the approaching ordinance. Tho I had no direct answer yet I found that many of the Church would be disquieted if Mr. Newton should be there; and Some, on the other Hand, would be disquieted if Mr. McCollister and Rice⁴ should be present. I advised and Entreated therefore that a person or Two Should be with those three men together and improve the Time and their utmost Skill to compose them, And if no Methods

² Josiah Newton.

³ James Bradish.

⁴ Asher Rice.

could be Successfull, I desir'd those 3 persons to absent themselves from this administration rather than disturb the whole communion. And so requested nothing more might pass among us this Night but what might be of an healing and salving nature. And this met with universal acceptance and thereupon we broke up. So that I hope there was Some happy issue and Effect, notwithstanding that unlikely view I had in the foregoing part of the Evening. To God be the Glory of any Good enabled from him to do. And I hope it was not altogether without Benefit and Comfort in my own Soul that this Day has been set apart; though too much reason to reflect on my own unstableness and inexpertness, thro' which if it had not been, perhaps I had reap'd more the Mercy of God thro the Merits of Christ vouchsafe Remission.

2. 3. Prepar'd for the Sabbath but not without Troublesome casts doubting of a Reconciliation between those foresaid Dissenting persons, and Sorrowing that Things should be brought to that pitch among us already that any of us should be oblig'd to withdraw from the Sacrament through want of Peace and Christian agreement. Tabitha Hardy⁵ with me.

4. I preach'd from [blank]. Mr. Newton withdrawing (the other Two I believe were not at meeting) was a melancholly Sight to me. I administer'd the Sacrament. I hope God was convers'd with. For any Communications I would praise his Name But I would humble my Self that I receiv'd no more Spiritual Benefit. In the Afternoon I preach'd upon the Same Text.

10. Mr. Jonathan Forbush came and requested I would go See his Son in law Isaac Shattuck before He dy'd, and gave me his sons Earnest Desire to see me. Accordingly I went. Found him low and decay'd in Body, almost beyond all Hopes, But with great Encouragement touching Eternall matters. Having discours'd and pray'd with him I took my leave.

11. I preach'd upon Isaiah 1, 4 A. and P.M. After the Exercises Sister Lydia rode with me to see Mr. Shattuck. Found

⁵ Mrs. Samuel Hardy of Westborough.

him living and that appear'd to be all. Scarcely Speaking but manifesting great ground of hope thro the almighty grace of God thro' the merits of Christ. We thought he began to Change. We pray'd recomending him to God and his family to the Divine grace and protection in as brief an address as possible. I took my last leave. Returning Sister Lydia fell from the horse but more surpriz'd than dammag'd. At our house was Mr. Bows⁶ who had preach'd at Southborough on the Day past.

12. I rode down with Mr. Bows to Cambridge, dining at Mr. Jonsons⁷ of Southborough and calling in likewise at Mr. Briton's⁸ of the Same Town and at Mr. Williams⁹ at Weston.

13. Mr. Isaac Greenwood¹⁰ was inaugurated in the College Hall, the overseers and a great number of Gentlemen being present and handsomely entertain'd at Dinner after. In the Exercise Mr. Flynt¹¹ first pray'd and then made a Latin oration. The statutes of his founder read. The oaths were administered and he made his Declaration according to Mr. Hollis's Statutes that he would religiously observe them, and Mr. Greenwood made an handsome Oration in Latin. Mr. Flynt renunciated or openly declar'd Mr. Greenwood Professor of Mathematicks and Naturall and Experimental Phylosophy according to Mr. Hollis's institution. Mr. Appleton¹² pray'd and we in Conclusion Sang Ps. 104, the 1st and 2 last Stanzas of Tate and Bradys Version. It was a Day of Solemnity and great Joy, and I hope Glory was given to God. I tarried at College chiefly with Mr. Greenwood till time to repair to Lodgings at Father Champney's. I was at College at Mr. Greenwoods over a Dish of Tea, Stay'd till Sundown and then I went to Boston. Kept my Horse at Mr. Gold-

⁶ Nicholas Bowes (Harvard 1725), later the first minister of Bedford, 1730-1754. *Sibley*, VII, 455-457.

⁷ William Johnson resided in that part of Marlborough that was incorporated as the new town of Southborough in July 1727.

⁸ John Britton of Southborough.

⁹ Reverend William Williams (Harvard 1705), minister at Weston, 1709-1750. *Sibley*, V, 295-300.

¹⁰ First Hollis Professor of Mathematics at Harvard College.

¹¹ Henry Flynt (Harvard 1693), Tutor at Harvard College. *Sibley*, IV, 162-167.

¹² Reverend Nathaniel Appleton, D.D. (Harvard 1712), minister of the First Church of Cambridge, 1717-1784. *Sibley*, V, 599-609.

thwaits. The Great Dr. Cotton Mather dy'd this morning 4 A.M. after Suffering of an asthma.

15. Mr. Colman¹³ preach'd Dr. Mathers funeral Sermon from Gen. 5, 24. I went in the Evening to Mr. Gerrish's¹⁴ Retail. Here was Mr. Sewal,¹⁵ Mr. Prince,¹⁶ Mr. Cooper¹⁷ and Mr. Foxcroft. After Candle Light I rode out of Town, to Cambridge upon my journey home. Here I found my wife and Son who were brought down yesterday by William Clark of Westborough. It rain'd So I was detain'd. Now I had opportunity to see much of Father Champney's Methods which were much out of due Course through the violence of a Fever many years agoe. Great grief and Concern in the Family.

17. It Storm'd So that I was utterly prevented moving from the house, either to Westborough or to Boston.

18. Mr. Appleton A.M. on Eccl. 7, 2, for That is the End of all men. I preach'd P.M. from Acts 24, 16. Supp'd at Mr. Appletons. Mr. Marston Gibs and Fitch¹⁸ of Piscataqua there, and afterwards Mr. Remington,¹⁹ Mr. Wigglesworth²⁰ and Sir Rogers.²¹ I return'd to Father Champney's at nine.

19. I rode to Boston to Dr. Mathers Funerall. It look'd very Sad—almost as if it were the funerall of the Country. A very Sad Breach. Oh for Sufficient portions of Gods Spirit upon surviving ministers! Vast Concourse Exceeding long Procession and numberless Spectators. Every heart Sad. This Evening at cousin Dorcas Bows²² where was Mrs. Rebecca Adams and by and by Brother Samuell Parkman.

¹³ Reverend Benjamin Colman of the Brattle Street Church.

¹⁴ Samuel Gerrish, the bookseller.

¹⁵ Reverend Joseph Sewall of the Old South Church, Boston.

¹⁶ Reverend Thomas Prince also of the Old South Church.

¹⁷ Reverend William Cooper (Harvard 1712), of the Brattle Street Church, 1716-1743. *Sibley*, V, 624-634.

¹⁸ John Fitch (Harvard 1728) of Portsmouth, N. H. The son of the Reverend Jabez Fitch. *Sibley*, VIII, 426-427.

¹⁹ Jonathan Remington (Harvard 1696), Tutor at Harvard College, a judge, and Councillor of the Province. *Sibley*, IV, 300-303.

²⁰ Edward Wigglesworth (Harvard 1710), Professor at Harvard College. *Sibley*, V, 546-555.

²¹ John Rogers (Harvard 1728). *Sibley*, VIII, 480-481.

²² Mrs. Dorcas Bowes, cousin of Mrs. Parkman.

20. An Appointment to go to Salem. Brother Elias and his wife went over. I rode from Charleston to Mores at Lyn, where I met them. But sister Willard²³ being gone to Boston we returned back. Dr. Delhond, etc., in Company.

21. Stormy. But yet I rode to Cambridge with Father Champney who ferry'd his horse over though it was grown Dark.

22. I was much detain'd the forenoon by making writings, Deed, Bonds, etc. Father Champney bying woodland of Cousin Daniel Champneys Children. I stop'd at Mr. Williams's a little while, but it began to Snow and I hastened. The Storm increas'd greatly So that night coming on also I turn'd away to Mr. Winchesters,²⁴ and lodg'd there.

23. The Morning was much worse till near Eleven, and though the wind was very high and the snow blowing very much, yet the Clouds began to grow thinner. He rode with me into the Road, the Paths being very much blown up and indeed the Roads too. I met with great Difficulties. I hardly reach'd Mr. Moss's where I had refreshment for my Self and horse, and a Young Man offer'd to ride with me. We reach'd Mr. Nathan Brigham's,²⁵ refresh'd again, and Mr. Brigham rode up into this Town. But it was a Sad time to be abroad in, the Snow being very deep and great Danger if happening out of the Path and yet the Path almost wholly blown up. But thro the Divine Goodness I arrived without Damage and found my people well. *Deo opt. nostro grates.*

24. I went on with my Preparations.

25. Ps. 60, 1, 2 both A. and P.M. Isaac Shattuck died last wednesday was Sennight. A good Character of his last minutes. Mr. Barrett²⁶ and presently Dr. Gott,²⁷ came to see me. Dr. Gott left us this Eve.

29. Mr. Barrett return'd home.

²³ Parkman's sister Susanna, wife of Captain Josiah Willard of Salem.

²⁴ Probably Ebenezer Winchester, prominent citizen of Framingham. Temple, *Framingham*, p. 752.

²⁵ Captain Brigham of Marlborough.

²⁶ Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

²⁷ Benjamin Gott, a physician of Marlborough.

MARCH [1728]

3. I preach'd on Is. 1, 4, both A. and P.M. I was not a little affected in the afternoon. I request of God to make these sermons profitable to my Self as well as to others that I may deplore my own Iniquities with which as I have been laden with the guilt of them. So God grant that I may be after a godly Sort weary and heavy laden, so under a sense of them that I may be a true mourner for the Sins of others and lament over the Calamities of the Land!

4. My wife and Child brought home by brother Champney. It was a warm Day, the Snow therefore Soft and the wayes heavy and tiresome, but (Thanks to God alone) got home well. Dr. Gott here but not a long time.

5. I was at Mr. Newtons¹ where was The Ensign² and we had pritty much Discourse about our Troubles in Town and the Ensign Said Things had never laid Easy with a certain person ever Sins [sic] Our church Covenant was chosen and my refusing a Quitclaim to Mr. Elmer,³ which that person had himself written and offer'd me to sign; and that Things Still lay brooding, etc.

6. Brother Champney went home. In the Afternoon Mr. Thomas Forbush⁴ was here on the Business of his Children, parted quiet though there had been Some warm Discourse. Just after I was got to Bed (about $\frac{3}{4}$ after Eleven) we were afrighted by the awfull sound of the Earthquake. All that were awake heard it. I lay awake an hour and half, but hearing nothing I Compos'd to sleep. God be prais'd from my Soul for his wondrous Deliverances. Let me never forget his Benefits.

7. It being Family meeting at Mr. Forbush's and earnestly desir'd by him to be present thereat I went to Mr. Forbush's and repeated a Discourse from John [blank]. After the Exercises Mr. McCollister and Asher Rice requested a Church Meeting which I comply'd with, that is to See whether the Church

¹ Josiah Newton of Westborough.

² Thomas Newton, cousin of Josiah.

³ Reverend Daniel Elmer, formerly a preacher at Westborough.

⁴ Prominent early settler of Westborough.

would consider and Act upon it seeing it is a myl^ll. concerning a Visited Lieutenant's wife who was very low. (Riding from Mr. Wheeler set forth the uneasiness people were in, on the account of Mr. Newton,⁶ and that some, truly, could be scarcely kept from falling upon my Self Seeing I would not let it come to words, whereas I had always declar'd that I waited for nothing more than to have it brought into a proper fitness for the Church to hear. Captain Fay⁷ and his wife, Wheeler and James Ball stop'd at my house.

8. 9. I was full of Concern and hearty Prayer on account of the threatening Evils.

10. Not very well in the morning and at noon, but God's enlightning I went thro the Exercises. Preach'd A. and P.M. from Isa. 1, 5. Church meeting appointed. Full of hearty Concern and I hope mainly for the Glory of God and the Interests of the Souls of Men, for I find no great value for whatever (Unprofitable) Interests I can find in this Town.⁸

11. The Church met. I had great fear of disorder but by the favour of God we went on smooth. Mr. Forbush just before meeting began, told me I should have wisdom to take Care of my Self but people said now Mr. Parkman's undone. But this person has frequently enough shown that his Passions would hinder. Speak what makes much mischief, tho' the most unprofitable. I having given a Serious Discourse to keep us all upon our guard in all Church matters and Read the Platform Ch. 10. I did open the case and advis'd first to an arbitration. It was accepted by all. The chief trouble was to find arbitrators. Mr. Bradish excepted against Peres Rice.⁹ Said Mr. Newton had brought me had got Mr. Parkman and Mr. Bradish of his Side and I could not for all the Church besides. This Information he said came from John Flames of Hopkinton. Mr. Newton declar'd he spoke

⁶ Samuel Forbush.

⁷ Reference to the quarrel between Josiah Newton and Asher Rice.

⁸ John Fay of Wetherborough.

⁹ In the Church Records of this date it is indicated that a number of people were complaining of Josiah Newton's deceiving them in his administration in the office of Minister-Clerk.

¹⁰ Son of Thomas Rice, an original settler and brother of Asher Rice.

no such thing nor had he seen John Eames. I openly declar'd my Self from being of either side and by Gods Grace I will remain impartial. The Arbitrators went out and took up the Time. When they came in they declar'd it their Opinion, that if Mr. Newton had taken the money by deceit he should return it, but they enquir'd whether they ought to bring it to Trial whether he had deceiv'd, etc. I reply'd their work was yet to do. I desir'd they would go on and finish it this Evening or Some day Speedily for they ought to clear off all that was of a Secular Nature in the Cause. It grew Dark. There was opposition by Peres Rice that the witnesses ought to be sworn, etc. I dismiss'd this Business and propos'd another affair for the Church's Consideration, Advice and Concurrence in. That is the Case of Samuel Hardy and his Wife, etc. I desir'd the Brethren would give me their minds and make what opposition they would ever offer. When one or Two had spoke Peres Rice (who gave more Trouble than any one this meeting) Said he thought we must either wait till the Civil part of the Case was dispatch'd, till either the Court had done with it or rather till it had been put to an arbitration (reflecting upon the manner of managing the other Business of his Brother Asher and Newton), but (though there's difficulty in keeping our Selves under Salubrious Command under such girls) I calmly assur'd him it was a far different Case, etc.

The Church gave their Consent to my Proceeding with the said persons and granting them Priviledges if they should Seriously declare their Innocence, etc., upon which we clos'd the Meeting. After prayer Asher desir'd it might still go on that He might be heard in what he had of a Distinct Case to be Heard. I told him the meeting was over. What if the Brethren Should hear it? I am indispos'd but they may mediate between you when I am retir'd home. It Satisfi'd him and the Church might, etc. His Speaking the word church confirmed me in it that he thought it would be as much the Church that would act in the Evening upon anything he should bring before them (as much as they) as before the prayer and Blessing and dismissal of the

meeting, and as much in my absence as when I was there. So that my Reply was thus, viz. But observe, it hasn't been known that a Church can act (as a Church) without the Pastor, or make acts without the Pastor, which dash'd the whole and I returned home desiring the Arbitrators to finish their work as [soon as] possible and give me notice of it and when they Should desire it there might be (if needfull) another Church Meeting. Diverse came into my house with me. Mr. Tainter Supp'd with me. He agreed to keep my mare, I being short of Hay. Thus finish'd this troublesome Day. My Soul praise the Lord for his gracious assistances and Restraints; and the Lord forgive Every offence by me, and all the offences of my Brethren this Day! For Scarcely do any come off innocent when involv'd in Dis-sensions.

13. I sent my Mare to Mr. Tainters to be kept at his Stable. In the Evening at Mr. Forbush with demands upon Samuel Hardy and his Wife touching their Child, and upon the midwife, etc., etc. Call'd to see Lieutenant's wife.

Read Dr. Sherlock on Divine Providence.¹⁰

14. Mr. Eager¹¹ with me in the Evening till late. Discourse the Quarrell with Mr. Newton. It was to have been our Lecture but, the above Said Troubles happening, and Mr. Barrett who was to have assisted me Sending word that He could not attend it, but Especially my Seeing reason for deferring the Sacrament, I put it by.

17. I preach'd on Mat. 10, 29, 30.

18. It appears to me of the Last Importance for the people of this Province to take heed to them Selves when they are proposing Holy Dayes to be kept unto God, for without they are duly observed they are Such grand pieces of Solemn Mockery that I cannot but Think God is greatly provok'd by them. They are Loathsome to him and he is weary to bear them. I cannot but conclude that one of the great Reasons of the Lords Controversie with this Land is taken from Hence. O therefore that

¹⁰ William Sherlock, *A Discourse Concerning the Divine Providence* (London 1694). Numerous other editions were printed.

¹¹ James Eager of Westborough.

Care may be taken about the Approaching Fast that it may not be in vain but a Fast that God hath Chosen!

21. Publick Fast. I preach'd all Day upon Hosea 13, 9. I would Lament that there are So many others that profane these Dayes of our Solemn Assemblies, but I have chiefly Reason to Reflect upon and Condemn my Self who have not been suitably prepar'd for, nor have been So full and Sincere in my Humiliation to Day as I ought to have been.

22. Mr. Coolidge¹² (having preach'd at Southborough yesterday) came up to see me, being Conducted up by Mr. William Johnson, Junior,¹³ who last night as he was, with Mr. Bigolo, at their Saw-Mill, was Surprised with a very Conspicuous Aurora Borealis. Mr. Coolidge desir'd to Change with me the Sabbath Approaching and truly it was not unacceptable to me Seeing the Labors of this week have been already very great. And a person Sick at Mr. Thorntons whom I was requested to visit yesterday. When Mr. Coolidge left me I rode from home to see Mr. Thorntons Daughter who was very Sick. At Mr. Eagers was Mr. Benjamin Flagg of Worcester who inform'd me of Mr. Elmer's Death.

23. Josiah Newton and John McCollister came to our house to hear the Arbitration of their Case, which the Arbitrators had sent by Edward Baker this morning. They (after I had discours'd a while with them) were heartily and lovingly reconcil'd (as things appear'd). I had some difficulty with Mrs. Byles¹⁴ about her sons Child, as I told her of the various objections I met with to oppose my Baptizing it as Deacon Tomlins,¹⁵ Mr. Wheelers¹⁶ and Bakers,¹⁷ etc. Mr. Coolidge being come hither I rode to Southborough and Lodg'd at Mr. William Johnsons.

24. I preach'd at Southborough in the forenoon from John 15, 14. Din'd at Mr. [blank] Johnsons. I preach'd in the afternoon from Ps. 95, 7. Mr. Coolidge came to Southboro in the Evening.

¹² Samuel Coolidge (Harvard 1724), schoolmaster at Watertown. *Sibley*, VII, 326-331.

¹³ Of Southborough.

¹⁴ Wife of Captain Joseph Byles of Westborough.

¹⁵ Isaac Tomlin.

¹⁶ Joseph Wheeler.

¹⁷ Edward Baker.

25. Mr. Coolidge and I rode to Marlboro. Upon the Road he gave me some account of the Sin and Misfortunes of Mr. Samuel Jeffords¹⁸ at Wells. I lodg'd at Mr. Brecks.¹⁹ I took advice of Mr. Breck touching our Affairs at Westborough.

26. Return'd to Westboro.

27. Great Disquietments among us. I had trouble enough Every Day and Yet all that came to Me had the Reconciliation of our Two Brethren-read to them (as those Brethren desir'd it might be) and Every person went away with the greatest Satisfaction. It was Suspected that I favour'd Mr. Newton which (if I can judge) I acted against, and was full in it that he ought to give Satisfaction to those he had offended for the wrong done them by Him.

28. I Rode (with my wife) to Shrewsbury upon my Young Horse, and being disappointed by both Mr. and Mrs. Cushings²⁰ absence from Home we presently returned to Westborough, but not home, we having determined to Visit Mr. Paterson. We went not only there [Entry ends incomplete at this point].

APRIL [1728]

MAY [1728]

[Blank pages with headings for these months were left, but no entries were recorded].

JUNE [1728]

- 13. Thomas Kendal began to work for me.
- 15. Thomas Kendal had my Mare to go down to Lexington.
- 16. [no entry].
- 17. [no entry].
- 18. I preach'd at the Young mens meeting at Mr. Wards.

¹⁸ Reverend Samuel Jeffers of Wells, Maine.

¹⁹ Reverend Robert Breck of Marlborough.

²⁰ Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

JULY [1728]

1. [no entry].
2. [no entry].
3. My wife and Children were brought up in a Calash with brother Champney¹ and Sister Lydia.²
4. I lectur'd on Isa. 26, 9.
5. Brother and Sister rode down in the Calash.
6. My interruptions have been very great; but God graciously assists me.
7. I preach'd all Day upon Phil. 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, and in the forenoon I administered the Sacrament of the Lords Supper.
9. Mrs. Burt³ came for her Dauter.⁴
10. Mrs. Burt carry'd away her Dauter. A great Affliction to us.
11. 12. 13. It was a time of much Trouble and Concern with us respecting our weakhandedness.
14. I preach'd all Day on Phil. 3, 8, 9, 10, 11.
15. I rode to Cambridge with Neighbor Green.⁵ Found nobody at Father Champneys but sister Hannah⁶ just when I was going away and there came two men that would go in for Cyder. I went in again and tarried till they went away. I rode with them to Boston. Trouble Brother Samuell⁷ and Mr. Dorcas.⁸
16. 17. I visited my Relatives and acquaintances. At Mr. Thatchers.⁹
18. Mr. Sewall preach'd Excellently from Ps. 119, 115. Occasion, Phillips and Woodbridge Duel.¹⁰ At Mr. Wilsteeds in the

¹ Samuel Champney, Jr. of Cambridge, Parkman's brother-in-law.

² Lydia Champney, Parkman's sister-in-law.

³ Mrs. Thomas Burt of Reading.

⁴ Sarah Burt had been Mrs. Parkman's helper.

⁵ John Green.

⁶ Hannah Champney, Mrs. Parkman's oldest sister.

⁷ Samuel Parkman of Boston.

⁸ The reference (clearly legible) to a "Mr. Dorcas" is a bit puzzling. Parkman was probably referring to Dorcas Bowes, who married Samuel Parkman Jan. 29, 1729.

⁹ Reverend Peter Thatcher of Boston.

¹⁰ Henry Phillips (Harvard 1724) killed Benjamin Woodbridge in a duel on Boston Common, July 3, 1728 and escaped to France. The affair caused much excitement and produced several sermons in Boston and elsewhere. *Sibley*, VII, 424-429. See Samuel G. Drake, *The History and Antiquities of Boston* (Boston, 1854), pp. 579-580.

Eve. Here was Mr. Joseph Green¹¹ of Barnstable. The Governours¹² coming in Everyones motions. His Excellency's Family came to Dr. Cooks this Eve.

19. A very great Day. His Excellency's Entrance into Boston was truly very Stately and Splendid. I was at Mr. Eliots.¹³ I din'd at Holmes's.¹⁴ Sister Lydia rode with me to Cambridge. Earthquake at Newbury, etc.

20. I rode up home. Got home a little after noon. Prepar'd what I could for the Sabbath. I praise God for his goodness this Journey.

21. I preach'd in the forenoon on Phil. 3, 8, 9, 10, 11. Afternoon repeated the Sermon (Numb. 28) on Prov. 10, 28.

22. I rode up to see Mrs. Nurse¹⁵ who Suffer'd by a fall into the Cellar. Earthquake at Boston, at Newbury, as far as York, and many think it was then heard among us.

[In another part of the diary the following note appears].

July 22 [1728]. At Boston a small shock but at Newbury the houses shook. Some thought they heard it among us at the Same time, viz. about break of Day. I am apt to think I heard it myself.

23. I rode to Mr. Barretts¹⁶ but found him not, He being over at Holliston.

24. 25. 26. 27. As much time as I had Spent upon my preparations but I was greatly taken off by the affairs of my house and of this Busy Season abroad.

28. I preach'd all Day on Gen. 18, 25. Mr. Nurse ill and distracted was at our house when meeting was closing, and till our Evening Exercise was over. I was in no little concern of mind about the Earthquakes Continuing.

29. I assisted with my own hands in the Carting, etc.

30. Having got in my Hay, Rice, Barley, and Wheat, I dismiss'd Thomas Kendal for a while. Now we are intirely alone

¹¹ Reverend Joseph Green, minister of Barnstable, 1725-1770.

¹² Governor William Burnett.

¹³ Jacob Eliot of Boston, later first minister of Lebanon, Connecticut.

¹⁴ Ebenezer Holmes (Harvard 1724), a merchant of Boston. *Sibley*, VII, 368-371.

¹⁵ Mrs. William Nurse of Westborough.

¹⁶ Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

having no Servant nor any one in the House. Our Loneliness gives Scope for Thought. God Sanctifie our solitude, and help us to improve in acquaintance with Himself. There was much Lighting in the North almost the whole Evening.

31. A very hot Day. About 11 at Night came up a storm of Rain with Thunder and Lightning.

AUGUST [1728]

1. Mr. Flynt¹ and Mr. Greenwood² (who had taken a Circular Ride) came to See us. Our sisters Lydia and Ruth³ and Kinswomen Mrs. Abigail and Susan Champney⁴ came likewise.

2. Mr. Flynt and Greenwood rode to Marlboro. The rest tarry'd. Sister Ruth and the rest (except Sister Lydia) left us. These Dayes were very hot.

4. I preach'd from Gen. 18, 25, and from Ps. 119, 68.

6. Early in the morning Sister Lydia and I rode (single) to Cambridge, from whence I proceeded to Boston.

7. I went to See Mr. Miles's⁵ Library. His widow show'd me her house and Garden.

8. I entered into Obligation to my Father for the Negro Barrow. My Father gave me 5£. I pay'd him 3£ and gave a promissory Bill to pay 66£, the whole making 74£ which was the price of him.

Mr. Cooper⁶ Lectur'd on Job 37, 16. I din'd at Mr. Coopers, Mr. Thatcher and Mr. Byles⁷ also.

9. I rode to Cambridge, Barrow, alias Maro, running on foot. Tho somewhat rainy, it clear'd away after noon. After 4 o'Clock

¹ Henry Flynt, Tutor at Harvard College.

² Professor Isaac Greenwood of Harvard College.

³ Ruth Champney of Cambridge.

⁴ Abigail and Susan Champney, cousins of Mrs. Parkman.

⁵ Reverend Samuel Myles (Harvard 1684), Rector of King's Chapel, Boston, 1689-1728. The library in question was sent over by the Bishop of London. Sibley suggests that it was "perhaps the best theological library in the country." The remnants of this library were deposited in the Boston Athenaeum in 1823. Sibley, III, 287-293.

⁶ Reverend William Cooper (Harvard 1712) of the Brattle Street Church. Sibley, V, 624-634.

⁷ Reverend Mather Byles of Hollis Street Church, Boston.

I set out, my Self on one horse and the Negro on the other. At Larnards⁸ met Mr. Swift.⁹ Rode to Mr. Swifts and lodged there.

10. We rode home by a little after noon. Prepar'd somewhat upon John 1, 46 and carry'd on the Exercises with the Applicatory Considerations in the Sermons on John 12, 26.

12. I was at Lieutenant Forbes's,¹⁰ his wife being very ill.

13. There arose a storm of Thunder and Lightning in the Night.

14. About 2 in the morning the Thunder and Lightning were very Sharp and terrifying. Neither was it a Crack or Flash or Two, but it continued for (I Suppose) an hour and half exceeding dreadfull. Once it was So hard Thunder that the house Jarr'd in some sort as in an Earthquake.

Mr. Rice was here, and Goddard¹¹ from College. The latter Said the people of Framingham entertain'd disaffections to Mr. Swift. My heart is mov'd greatly; and I think merely for the Cause of God in these melancholly and divided Times.

15. 16. 17. The Remaining Dayes of the Week I abode more strictly by my Preparations for the Sabbath. Late on Saturday Night I was Sent for by Lieutenant Forbes to his wife who departed this Life (a little before 12 o'clock) before I could get to the house. A very meek, patient, Godly person, under the sufferings She bore through most of her Life, by Sickness and weakness.

18. I preach'd from Ps. 119, 68 both forenoon and afternoon.

19. Mrs. Forbes was buried. A Large funerall; many people from Marlboro being up here. Mr. Foxcroft¹² of Boston, Esquire Pool¹³ of Reading and Lieutenant How of Framingham came to our house and lodged with us.

⁸ Thomas Learned, tavern-keeper of Watertown.

⁹ Reverend John Swift of Framingham.

¹⁰ Samuel Forbush did not change his name to Forbes, but Parkman's reference is doubtless indicative of some confusion in the minds of townspeople.

¹¹ David Goddard (Harvard 1731) of Watertown and later the second minister of Leicester. *Sibley*, IX, 40-43.

¹² Reverend Thomas Foxcroft.

¹³ Benjamin Poole, selectman of Reading. Tilley Eaton, *Genealogical History of the Town of Reading* (Boston, 1874), pp. 108, 282, 283.

20. Those Gentlemen rode away to Leicester to be (with others) a Council upon the Difficulties of that people. Mr. Swift of Framingham, Elder Lymen and Mr. Loring of Boston came but rode quickly away upon the lastnam'd Concern. Esquire Pools advice and offers respecting Mrs. Burt.

22. Our Father and mother Champney, with aunt Champney¹⁴ and her son John¹⁵ came to See us.

23. Mr. Winchester¹⁶ came to wait upon his mother in law back to Framingham.

24. Mr. Baxter¹⁷ and his messenger came hither from the Council, with word that they had stood out the hearing but had drawn up no Result—but had appointed to meet at Sudbury to finish the Affair.

25. I preach'd A.M. on Ps. 119, 68, and administered the Sacrament. I preach'd P.M. on 1 Cor. 10, 16. I have no slender Reason to lament my insensibility, indolence and utter unfruitfulness under all Gods Goodness to me; and it is nothing else but the infinite Mercy of God to poor sinners, his infinite Patience and Compassion towards us under our manifest infirmities that has brought me to the Sacrament for my Conduct is Such that my unprofitableness and indifference might utterly debar me and leave me discouraged.

26. Father and Mother Champney returned home.

27. Under the Engagements of my Family by reason of our want of Help, our Negro being New, I am much taken off from my Work, but I trust in God it may be better with me and more leasure ere long.

28. 29. 30. 31. Much Concern in the minds of all people throughout the Province on the account of the Difficulties at Court about settling the Governours Sallery. And no prospect of its being any better between the Governour and the Lower House. Indeed the Governour has always been fair and pleasant and is not willing to make Complaint against the Province. But his

¹⁴ Mrs. Joseph Champney.

¹⁵ Mrs. Parkman's cousin.

¹⁶ Ebenezer Winchester of Framingham.

¹⁷ Reverend Joseph Baxter of Medfield.

Instructions from his Majesty oblige him to move in this Manner and the House think they loose all Priviledges if they comply. Its a difficult Time respecting our Credit in England, but the Heavens do Rule. God gives us Wisdom and turneth the Heart of the King which way Soever He will.

SEPTEMBER [1728]

1. I preach'd upon Isa. 31, 2. I have great experience of the Divine Compassion showed me under my insufficiency and great unworthiness, in that he so graciously assists me in the performances of my Sacred function. God alone have the Praise. God keep me from Vain Glory.

2. Mr. Thomas Weld¹ (having preach'd yesterday at Southborough) came to see me, and lodg'd with us.

3. Mr. Weld rode with me to Framingham, expecting an Association. It was very rainy and very troublesome getting there; and yet we were disappointed thro Mr. Swifts mistake. He had told his Family that the Association would be there next week; and so he went to Sudbury to the Council upon the Difficulties at Leicester. Mr. Cushing was thus Disappointed with us, and we rode away to Colonel Buckminsters² and lodged there.

4. This morning after breakfast we rode from Colonel Buckminsters to Marlboro and din'd at Mr. Woods.³ Thence Mr. Weld and I went first to Mr. Brecks door but he being gone to the foresaid Council we went with Mr. Park⁴ to his Lodgings. With Mr. Park there was Sir Kent,⁵ Schoolmaster at Framingham. Near Sunset we parted and I Came home. On the Road home I had many Reflections upon My Life Past, the unusefulness and unprofitableness of it. I was griev'd at my taking no better notice of the divine Dealings with me. I was jealous of my Self and Suspected whether there was not some undue End in taking

¹ (Harvard 1723). Later minister in Upton, 1738-1744, and Middleborough, 1744-1749. *Sibley*, VII, 273-277.

² Joseph Buckminster, Sr. of Framingham. Temple, *Framingham*, p. 490.

³ Benjamin Woods.

⁴ Probably John Park of Framingham.

⁵ Benjamin Kent (Harvard 1727). *Sibley*, VIII, 220-230.

the accounts in this Book, Seeing this Design had no better Success. I would humbly hope that the Glory of God and my Spiritual Emolument has and shall determine me in the writing this Journal. I was full of Enquiry how I should best Spend the Morrow to the Glory of the God of my Life and my highest Advantage. I resolv'd in the Fear and by the Grace of God to Separate the Day to Seeking the Face of God, and Enquiring out as under the divine Influence, the best Methods for the Conduct of the Future part of my Life, Respecting my whole Behaviour, and proceedings, in my Secret Walk, in my Studies, in my ministrations, and my Several Relations. And the Spirit of God purifie, Sanctifie, Assist and direct me, and grant his Blessing upon me in the Prosecution of this my Purpose!

N.B. See for the 5th Day, the Beginning of the Book entitled Some Remarkable Passages, etc.⁶

[Entries for September, 1728, end at this point. There is then a blank page in the diary, and then the following undated entry].

Several gracious Promises of God. Ps. 32, 8. I will instruct thee, and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine Eyes.

Zech. 10, 12. And I will Strengthen them in the Lord, and they Shall walk up and down in the name of the Lord.

September 5th At Westborough.⁷

This being my Birth Day it may be a most proper Season to look back upon my Life Past, that I may See what account I may give unto the Great Judge of all the Earth. What penitence and Contrition I ought to express for the many Sins of my Conversation in the world the Twenty-five years that I have liv'd in it, and What Praises I owe to the God of my Life for the innumerable and unspeakable Benefits he has most bountifully (though most undeservedly) bestowed upon me. I deem it suitable also and prudent to take this Time especially to renew my Covenant with my God, which I solemnly entered into before Him on Saturday September 5 in the year 1719. Furthermore it is most proper now to be anew proposing methods of future Conduct,

⁶ Another name for his Natalitia.

⁷ The entry for Sept. 5 is entirely in his Natalitia.

that the future part of my Life may be more profitable, and fruitfull than the former has ever been.

Accordingly I committed my Self to God in a solemn address, and besought his direction and assistance in the Several parts of this important work above mention'd. And then I proceeded to look into my Life past where I discern'd innumerable articles that require deep Repentance—among the rest my Sad misimprovement of my Time in my Youth, as appears by the papers that give an account of the past of my Conversation. It must be Judg'd from the Said Papers that my Course of Life has been full of Impertinencies, except I was to Live Some Centuries. Then indeed it might prove more Excusable to take my methods to know men and Things (as my pretence was); or it had perhaps been laudable to Spend a Month or some Small part of ones whole Life in this manner. I consum'd a great part of my Time. I Endeavour'd to affect my Self with Grief herefore and proceeded with Exercises of fervent Devotion, Reading the Divine Oracles and Serious Meditations, I carried on the Day till 3 P.M., when Mr. Wheeler came, and I went with him to Captain Fays to the Private Meeting. I went in while the Captain was at Prayer. Our Exercise was upon Col. 3, 4. Christ who in our Life. I chose this because I would have Christ to be my Life, and I would be quickened and instructed at this season to live to him. God give me Grace to do so! I spent the day throughout as a Day of Devotion, and I beseech God to accept me herein. But I was not able to go thro all my Proposal about Searching out the Suitable methods of future Conduct. These I deferr'd to the first opportunity I may have therefor. Nor did I draw out in writing what I could remember of the mercies of God to me and my Family, But I propos'd to do [so] as Speedily as my Circumstances will favour me. My Covenant with God was not solemnly renewed in that express manner I had propos'd but read over and anew consented to. But a reason of its not being So expressly renewed might be my apprehending it convenient to transcribe a Covenant Somewhat more Correct, which I would Solemnly Sign before God (having some regard to the Directions of Mr.

Alliene,⁸ in his sure Guide to Heaven, Dis: x. p. 127, Edition at London anno 1705, in that affair).

O Glorious God in Trinity, I pray Thee be my covenant God!

I do now Solemnly Take Thee, O ETERNAL FATHER, to be my God, my Father, my Friend, and my only Portion. I take Thee O ETERNAL SON, to be my God, my only Mediator and Redeemer.

I take Thee O ETERNAL SPIRIT to be my God, my Guide, my Sanctifyer and Comforter.

And I Sacredly Devote and Dedicate my Self wholly, Soul and Body, all the Powers and Faculties, all the Members and organs of Each, to Thee, the one onely living and true God, to be Thy Servant, Renouncing all my Sins and Lusts my Self, the world, the Flesh and the Devil, and humbly beseeching the Pardon of all the Violations of all my Former Covenants and Obligations, with all my other Iniquities, through Jesus Christ, I Consecrate my Self to THEE alone. And Promise, by thy Grace, to perform the Duties of my holy Christian Profession, and to Discharge my ministerial work. To ratifie which, I subscribe, with my Heart and Hand, humbly, and I trust, Sincerely, Ebenezer Parkman. Westborough November 24, 1729. Renew'd January 1, 1730 and This Transcript made January 3.

Some Rules for my Conduct in my Religious, Ministerial, Civil, Domestic, and Relative Life.

1. I would that my Eyes and Heart be carry'd to God at first Waking; That every Morning when I awaken I may be Still with God, as God is Still with me.
2. That nothing be undertaken which may defer my early sett, Solemn Morning Devotions to God, that I may be sure to begin the Day with God, set out in his Fear, and Spend it to his Glory.
3. When I rise from Dinner Let the first Opportunity be laid hold of for a solemn Address to God.
4. Let there be some Serious Reflections in the Evening and a solemn Address to God—closing my Eyes with recommending my Self to the Lord my Keeper, who is the Great Keeper of Israel, who never slumbers nor sleeps.

⁸ Richard Alleine, *Heaven Opened, Or a Brief and Plain Discovery of the Riches of Gods Covenant of Grace* (Boston, 1699).

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