

The Diary of Ebenezer Parkman
1745-1746

EDITED BY FRANCIS G. WALETT

JANUARY 1745

We began the Year with a Little Association at our House. Reverend Ministers Cushing, Stone and Smith came up and din'd with me, and Smok'd a Pipe. P.M. There were Two Things I wanted the Thoughts of my Brethen in the Ministry upon. My Circumstances in Westborough at this present Day—as the Town are like to Violate and Destroy the Covenant and Contract which has hitherto been between us. And there are Two Meetings before us, to be within a few Days. A Precinct Meeting to be on the Thursday and a Town Meeting (which is to be partly at my Request) next Monday. I was not willing that there Should be Such Affairs as these transacting among us without acquainting my Friends about Me therewith and Consulting them thereon. This therefore I did.

Another Thing was I found there was like to be some Difficulty arising if I ask'd Mr. Jenison¹ to preach for me, or if I Should recommend him to our North side or Countenance his preaching there as in Years past. Mr. Smith in particular had told me that for himself he Should not ask him—and he conceiv'd that Mr. Cushing would refuse to likewise nor merely on account of his living from his Wife (which had but a bad aspect) but on account of other Conduct in divers respects. This was therefore talk'd over at my House and all present discover'd their sentiments and their Resolutions, which were that he ought to be refus'd, untill those Matters complain'd of were clear'd up—and they engag'd to second and strengthen me if I found it needful to begin with him in a faithful Discovery of My Mind to him.

But N.B. some unhappy Contrast between Mr. Smith and me at Table on the Score of Mr. Hall, and his Letter concerning the revival of Religion in Sutton inserted in the Christian History. At Evening before Mr. Cushing went away I sent my Desire to Mr. Jenison to come and sup with me, Which gave me Opportunity, as it did also Mr. Cushing to deal freely with him; and we improv'd it as we were able. And as far as was discoverable he took it well and was thankfull.

¹ William Jenison. *Sibley*, VII, 371-374.

2. Thus the Year began with Difficult Dutys and Trials, and more follow'd immediately upon them for on the second I rode over to Upton according to my appointment and Message to them. Lieutenant Tainter (whose wife I visited as I went) Mr. Stratton of Waltham, his son Harrington and Mr. Grow, were my Company over. We din'd at Captain Sadlers.² It was Somewhat lowery A.M. but was clearer P.M. Mr. Weld and Mr. Dorr³ at Meeting. I preach'd on James 5, 9, latter part. After Sermon Israel Taft junior who had before hand acquaint'd me with his Right to Church Privilege and his Desire of Baptism for his Child, having Stood up, with his Child ready, I laid his Desires before the Church who manifested their Consent to proceeding—But Reverend Weld objected and after long debatings Still insisted that this was one that had not made him Satisfaction etc. Reverend Mr. Dorr said he thot I ought to abide by our own Result, which granted Privilege. Several Brethren would fain have drawn off but I besought them to tarry. Mr. Matthew Taft in particular, but he said he thot it had as good be Wav'd for the present Seeing So much was Said. As to myself I conceiv'd that being the Young Man publickly acknowledg'd he was to blame in leaving Mr. Weld to hear Mr. Pain,⁴ and was willing to join in what the Brethren did in the Agreement with Mr. Weld previous to his Dismission, he ought to be restor'd and enjoy Privilege but since there was so much uncomfortable Debate and the Sun just sitting I chose to Wave it. And so I proceeded to Prayer, and dismiss'd the People. Mr. Dorr and Mr. Weld went down to Captain Sadlers where Mr. Weld manifested great Disquietment with our last Result as well as the former. But I would not tarry to contest with him. We return'd home. N.B. I supp'd at Neighbour Harringtons with Mr. Stratton and others.

3. The First Precinct had their First Meeting, and chose Precinct Officers, and a Committee to treat with Me. By this Days Transactions all Enquiry whether the Town Submitts to

² John Sadler, a selectman of Upton.

³ The Reverend Joseph Dorr of Mendon.

⁴ Probably the Reverend Seth Paine (Yale 1726), who had been dismissed by Stafford, Conn., and became an Episcopalian. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, pp. 334-335.

the General Courts Act in dividing the Town is Superseded: for this is an actual Submission thereto and proceeding accordingly. This Day therefore I look upon the Contract between this Town and my Self to be Shock'd and Violated. God grant me wisdom proportionable to the Trial!⁵ My Ox bad. Eliezer Rice rak'd him. Sent for Mr. Daniel Garfield.⁶ On the 3 Mr. Daniel Forbush laid an Hearth in my New Study.

4. Bad Weather, yet Mr. William Caruth coming to call me to Visit Mr. Simon Howards young Child, I went over—and having admonish'd them for their Neglect in not bringing it to Baptism, now the third Month—I sent to all those Neighbours round about who could be thot to attend, who accordingly came; Several of the Church, viz. Mr. Nathan Ball, Mr. Livermore, Mr. Townsend,⁷ and others—who all judging and Concluding that the Child⁸ would not live but was near its End, I baptiz'd it by the name of Solomon. After which we Commended it to God. Sang a Psalm and dismiss'd them with the Blessing. Not well when I got home went early to bed. Mr. Garfield came to look at my Ox which grows rather better. He rak'd him.

5. Rose better. Mr. Lull here. I paid him £20 old Tenor. Mr. Stone here on his Journey to Worcester to preach there.

6. A.M. on Consideration of the Very Weighty Affairs which in Divine Providence are before me with relation to this Town I preach'd on Mat. 6, 25, and p.m. on Phil. 4, 6. Mr. Jenison and Mr. Stratton din'd here. It was not difficult for the Congregation to perceive that my Subject pointed at the purpos'd Business before us on the Morrow. The Lord prepare my Heart!

7. I sat up till nigh two o'Clock this Morning in preparing for the Meeting (which was this Day) of the Town, and when the Town had been some Time together they sent a Committee viz. Captain Eager and Captain Warrin to desire me to go to the Meeting House, which I did and deliver'd my mind to them, which being from a written Paper, See. It was a Matter that my

⁵ See DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, p. 131.

⁶ Given as Gafeld in *Westborough Vital Records*.

⁷ Joshua Townsend.

⁸ Neither the birth nor the death is recorded in *Westborough Vital Records*.

Mind wrought in: and I endeavour'd in some measure, to Com-mitt it to God the Fountain of all Knowledge and Grace and the supreme orderer and Disposer of all Events. At Eve I visited Captain Maynard and Mr. Jenison. There were several Neigh-bours—Mr. Francis Whipple, Lieutenant Aaron Forbush, etc. N.B. The Town Meeting was adjourn'd to next Friday.

8. A Stormy Day, otherwise I should have been Expected to be at Southborough where some Ministers propos'd to meet in order to calling our Association together that a public Testimony may be drawn up against Mr. Whitefield.⁹

9. Still foul weather.

10. [No entry].

11. The Town met again about my Affairs. They granted Money at the Rate of £220 per Year for my preaching from June 5 to the 19th of October when the Town was divided into Two Precincts. Captain Fay and Captain Warrin were the Committee to inform Me, to which I return'd a Written Answer. And So now I am after these Things to be thrown upon a Precinct, or out of Doors—our old Covenants and Contracts being nullify'd and dissolved—and this without any Consent of mine, or Opportunity from either the Court or the Town to Shew whether I consented or not. At Eve came Captain Eager, Lieutenant Holloway, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Livermore, Mr. James Ball, Mr. Jesse Brigham, Mr. Nathaniel Oake and Lieutenant Tainter and several of them had not heard the Paper which I read to the Town on the 7th. I did not read it for it was nigh Dark and they were Moving; but I gave them the Substance and enquir'd whether any one had a Mind to say anything about the Things which had been offer'd—upon which Mr. Wheeler and I had a long Conference In which I prov'd the Necessity of Order, but especially of Reasonableness in Societys, and that what the Town had done had been opposite to both; and that especially by the breaking up of our Covenant I was become a great Sufferer. Constable Livermore paid me all.

⁹ Parkman's name was among those of the ministers who expressed their approval of the Reverend Mr. Whitefield's work in a letter to *The Boston Gazette or Weekly Journal*, Jan. 8, 1745.

12. Mr. Othniel Taylor¹⁰ of Worster here. Tells me of great outcrys at Mr. Webbs¹¹ meeting at Boston last Wednesday Eve, at Mr. Whitefields preaching.

13. Preach'd on Phil. 4, 7. Very Moderate and pleasant Weather for the Season, and we had a pritty good Assembly, I Thank God. O that his word might do us Good as it does the upright! O that We might have the Peace of God reigning in our Hearts! and that we may, might it please God to help us to Cast all our Care upon Him and in Every Thing make our Requests known to Him.

14. I rode to Mr. Grouts to pay him £16 Old Tenor for Thomas Winchester and I was in at Mr. Jeduthan Fays. P.M. Captain Maynard kill'd a sow for me assisted by Lieutenant Aaron Forbush and Nathan Maynard—in order to his Carrying it down in his Cart to Boston. P.M. The Committee of the first Precinct, viz. Old Mr. Whipple, Deacon Newton and Lieutenant Thomas Forbush came to me to see whether I inclin'd to Stay in this Parish or no? To which I return'd this Answer that the Parish ought first to manifest whether they desire me to; and this might be Two ways first by public Vote, and then by suitable Provision etc. At eve John Hicks junior here and lodg'd.

15. Captain Maynard to Boston, having my sow in his Team, for the Market. Mr. Aaron Hardy of Grafton here at Evening who acquaints me that they are yet in great and increasing Troubles by means of Mr. Prentice's¹² Conduct and preaching; having no regard to the Result of the Council that sat there, and Says he never did come in with it. He informs me that Mr. Dutton was the most of last Week among them and that Mr. Prentice gave him a very high Commendation on the Lords Day after.

16. Mrs. Stevens¹³ of Grafton here being under Difficultys

¹⁰ A young man who later was a conspicuous opponent of British rule.

¹¹ The Reverend John Webb of the New North Church.

¹² The Reverend Solomon Prentice had been rebuked by an ecclesiastical council at Grafton, Oct. 2, 1744, for his unreserved New-Light preaching. *Sibley*, VIII, 249-250. *Pierce, Grafton*, pp. 173-178. On Jan. 22, 1745, Prentice asked to be dismissed from the Marlborough Association and that body consented. *Allen, Worcester Association*, p. 24.

¹³ Hannah, Mrs. Israel Stevens.

and wanting Advice on a Cause depending between her and Mr. Jacob Whipple¹⁴ of their Church.

17. The world full of Mr. Whitefield (as I hear) who is now preaching at Boston.

18. [No entry.]

19. Captain Maynard made but slender Returns for my Pork, but 11 d. per pound at Boston. But we have more to Say on Town Affairs. N.B. North Side petition the Court again. See the copy.

20. On Phil. 4, 7—beg the word may be bless'd to my own soul as well as to the People. A raw Cold Day. Mr. James Balls wife din'd here. Mr. James Fay after several Sabbaths absence, came to meeting again.

21. A bad Snow storm.

22. At the Request of Mr. Loring,¹⁵ Mr. Cook¹⁶ and Mr. Smith, divers ministers were to Meet at Marlborough in order to draw up and publish a Testimony against Mr. Whitefield. But I sent a Letter by Thomme to Mr. Stone directed to Mr. Smith containing my Reasons why I did not go. See the Letter. Thomme brought home a piece of White Cloth from Mr. Britons fulling mill, 10 yards and $\frac{3}{4}$. The Committee of the North Precinct here again for my answer but was not ready. The first Precinct having done nothing to Effect yet. Deacon Newton and Captain Maynard here in the Evening.

23. At Deacon Newtons in the Evening, to Solemnize the Marriage of his Dauter Mary to Asa Brigham,¹⁷ now an inhabitant of Shrewsbury. N.B. Mr. Goodale¹⁸ of Marlborough awhile there. After supper I return'd.

24. Reading Mr. Hubbards Absence of the Comforter,¹⁹ and diligently at my Preparations.

25. At Eve Mr. Whipple and Ebenezer Maynard here. A Cold Storm of Snow at Eve. Eli rode to Lieutenant Holloways.

¹⁴ Son of Deacon James Whipple.

¹⁵ The Reverend Israel Loring of Sudbury.

¹⁶ The Reverend William Cooke of Wayland.

¹⁷ Son of David Brigham of Westborough. He became the Captain of the South Militia Company of Shrewsbury and later moved to Fitzwilliam. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, p. 236.

¹⁸ Benjamin Goodale.

¹⁹ Nehemiah Hobart, *The Absence of the Comforter Described and Lamented, in a Discourse on Lam. I, 16* (New London, 1717).

26. Mr. Millen²⁰ in his way to Mr. Morse's,²¹ in here. He inform'd me that all the association²² but Mr. Barrett²³ and I met last Tuesday.

27. Luke 12, 15. P.M. repeated the last sermons on John 14, 21. N.B. Mr. Josiah Walker of No. 4 of the Tannick Townships, din'd here.

28. Mr. Millen who had chang'd with Mr. Morse din'd with me.

29. I desire to remember the Wormwood and the Gall; and may my Soul be humbled within Me! Nine Years have roll'd off Since the Lord was pleas'd to bereave me of the Desire of my Eyes by his holy Stroke!²⁴ Jejun. and Consider. At Eve Neighbour Jedidiah How and Neighbour Daniel Hardy here. This Day an Ecclesiastical Council (as I have heard) Sitts At Hopkinton. Eli Forbush went home.

30. I rode to Ensign Newtons²⁵—din'd at Mr. Ebenezer Rice's—visited Mr. Nathaniel Whitneys Family—Mr. Jonas Childs—was at Lieutenant Tainters. (The School began by Mr. Jenison at the South School House.) Conferr'd with Mrs. Martha Warrin (wife of Daniel) touching her Admission into the Church. I call'd also to talk with Captain Bakers wife who was desirous of the Same Privilege. Dr. Gott and Dr. Breck here whilst I was gone and din'd with my wife.

31. Very Cold. Kept Close to my Studys. Mr. Jeduthan Fay made up with me. N.B. Mr. James Fay here and Stay'd out the Evening. Thus finishes another Month of God's Long Suffering.

FEBRUARY [1745]

1. More Moderate Air. Clear and pleasant for the Season tho Somewhat Cold. Ebenezer Maynard came from Boston Yester-

²⁰ The Reverend John Mellen (Harvard 1741), the first minister of Sterling, Mass., 1744-1774. *Sibley*, XI, 40-52.

²¹ The Reverend Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

²² See Allen, *Worcester Association*, p. 47.

²³ The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

²⁴ The anniversary of the first Mrs. Parkman's death.

²⁵ Thomas Newton.

day. Brought up several Pamphletts against Mr. Whitefield—of whom (and Fresh Provisions) he says, the Town is full. Two Essex associations Letters to the Ministers of Boston,¹ and the Determination of the Association at Cambridge. Mr. Nathaniel Henchman² of Lyn, his Letter³ to Mr. Chase⁴ of Lyn End against Mr. Whitefield. But have not yet Seen Mr. Foxcrofts Apology.⁵ The world much divided. *Laudatur ab his Culpatur ab illis*. God grant us Wisdom, Grace and Peace!

2. Pleasant Day tho Somewhat Cold. Mr. George Smith the Taylor brought home a Great Coat which he had made for Ebenezer. His work 11/.

3. On Luke 12, 15. Repeat'd p.m. on Ps. 73, 25. Mr. Jenison and Mr. Tainter and Mrs. Biglo. At Eve Lieutenant Tainters Sister Hastings here.

4. A Beggar whose Feet had been froze, and one Cutt wholly off, the other all the Toes, here, his Name John Green, his Home Hartford. I could not but Sympathize with him. The Lord make me thankfull for my Limbs and faithful in improving them to the Divine Glory. Brother Hicks and his wife here going to Cambridge. Mrs. Martha Warrin here further to Discourse concerning her Admission into the Church. At Evening Reverend Prentice of Grafton, and his Wife, with their son Solomon here. Supp'd with me and return'd to Mr. Winchesters in order to their going Home.

5. I visited Mr. Samuel Fays (Junior) Wife, who lyes Still in her Languishment. P.M. The First Precinct Met to See whether they would by a publick Vote manifest their Desire of my Continuing their Minister; which Vote pass'd by Every one present. Also money for Support till next June, and that the Precinct would

¹ Caleb Cushing, and others, *A Letter From Two Neighbouring Associations of Ministers in the Country . . . Relating to the Admission of Mr. Whitefield into Their Pulpits* (Boston, 1745).

² (Harvard 1717). The minister of Lynn, 1720-1761. *Sibley*, VI, 192-195.

³ *Reasons Offered by Mr. Nathaniel Henchman . . . for Declining to Admit Mr. Whitefield into his Pulpit* [with an introductory note by Stephen Chase] (Boston, 1745).

⁴ The Reverend Stephen Chase (Harvard 1728), the minister of Lynnfield, 1731-1747, was also hostile to Whitefield. *Sibley*, VIII, 382-385.

⁵ Thomas Foxcroft, *An Apology in Behalf of the Reverend Mr. Whitefield* (Boston, 1745).

take upon them the Obligations which the Town were under. N.B. A Considerable Number of the precinct were dissatisfy'd with the Warnings of the meeting, posted upon the Meeting House Door, which stood there on the Sabbath, and therefore did not care to be present—but came to my House; or if they were at the Meeting House at any Time, retir'd from acting in the Affair. Messers. Miller, Whitney, Jonah Warrin, Beriah Rice, Stephen Fay, etc. were of those who esteem'd the notification of the Precinct Meeting to be a Breach of the Sabbath.

6. Zipporah Wheeler⁶ marry'd to Asaph Wilder⁷ of Lancaster. Mrs. Baker here again in order to her joining in full Communion with the Church. A Committee from the first precinct to acquaint me with how far they proceeded at the late meeting—and to Consult me about what Distance from a Meeting House I could be easy with meeting. Training, on the South side. Was Requested by Lieutenant Forbush (Captain Baker being at Court) to be with them at Captain Fays—Pray with them and Dine among them—which I did. Mr. Jenison was there also. N.B. A Young Man there who came from the Town of Preston in Connecticut who was much in Defence of Mr. Pain etc. The Proclamation was read to the Company by Lieutenant Forbush encouraging Men to 'List Volunteers in the Expedition to Cape Breton. But no one 'listed. N.B. Cornelius Cook⁸ talk'd with but in Vain. At Eve in at Mr. Williams's. Conversation turn'd upon the Business of the Precinct tomorrow.

8. I Solemnly Committed to God the Business and Affairs of the Precinct this Day—and besought the Divine Direction in the drawing up my Thoughts which the precinct had desir'd Me to Send them. I drew them up and Sent them by Mr. Abner Newton (one of the Committee). N.B. Captain Maynards Company together afternoon and I pray'd with them. No one 'listed. The Precinct Met also this afternoon, by adjournment. N.B. Those who excepted against the Notification (as above) would not attend. At Eve Deacon Newton and Mr. Francis

⁶ Daughter of Joseph Wheeler of Westborough.

⁷ Son of the late Colonel James Wilder, who had been a deacon of the Lancaster church.

⁸ Westborough's profane and cantankerous blacksmith.

Whipple, Deacon Forbush, Mr. Abner Newton and others came to my House, and Deacon Newton Said that the Precinct had not appointed a Committee to wait upon me, for it was growing nigh Dark, but they desir'd their Moderator and Clark to come and give me an Account of what they had done, and they were now come accordingly. And then he desir'd Clark Whipple to read the Votes which had been pass'd that Day; who comply'd and read that the Precinct had voted £55 of New Tenor money (not Soldier money) to be my Yearly sallery from June 5 next—and that in Case the Meeting House be mov'd above $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Mile from Me, that then the Precinct pay me £500 old Tenor. Upon which they dissolv'd the Meeting. It appear'd to me to be of God that they were so ready to provide for me, as the last meeting they were so universal in their Desire of my Continuance.⁹ At Eve Brother and sister Hicks from Cambridge who inform that Father Champney has been ill, but is better. That Mrs. Susè Champney¹⁰ dy'd at Hingham, etc. etc.

9. Brother and sister went home to Sutton. Mr. Joseph Batchellor¹¹ of Grafton here, Who agreed to take my Son Thomme a Prentice next April.

10. Luke 12, 15. Ps. 73, 25. Granny Forbush¹² din'd here. At Eve Thomas Winchester and Sarah Henry a Taylor, Stopp'd and lodg'd here. N.B. I propounded Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Warrin and appointed a Meeting to be next Thursday at Mr. Solomen Rice's in Upton. Cold Day.

11. Ebenezer who came home on Saturday last return'd to the School again this Morning. Thomas thrash'd Barley and Sarah Henry making a Coat for Ebenezer.

12. Thomas thrashing Barley. Sarah at work. P.M. Mr. A. Hardy of Grafton here.

13. Thomas and Sarah at Work. Visited at Charles Bruce's and Mr. David Brighams. Mr. John Oakes Wife here again in Order to her being propounded and having her Child baptiz'd,

⁹ See DeForest and Bates, *Westborough*, p. 131.

¹⁰ Susanna was the cousin of Parkman's first wife.

¹¹ A weaver.

¹² Widow of Thomas Forbush of Westborough.

but am oblig'd still to delay gratifying her, not finding her acquainted with what is necessary to be known and understood of the main Principles of Religion. At night Thomas and Sarah went home.

14. I rode to Mr. Solomon Rice's, at Upton and preach'd there on Rom. 8, 7. The Lord add his effectual Blessing! N.B. Molly went with me. We design'd to have gone by Mr. Eliezer Rice's, but miss'd my way and went to Mr. Timothy Warrins—and they being at Dinner, we din'd there. But I rode up to Mr. Eliezer Rice's because I had told him of my Coming to his House to Day. When we return'd at Eve I visited Mr. Daniel Forbush's wife who was confin'd and greatly distress'd, and Expecting (at her Time) much Danger and Difficulty as her Circumstances are. Was also at Lieutenant Tainters, and Molly not well, but we (thro Divine Favour) got home safe.

15. Town Meeting to see if the Town would make an Answer to the North side's second Petition to the General Court; and voted it, and Captain Warrin, Mr. Francis Whipple, and Deacon Newton to be the Committee. Mr. Daniel Warrin trimming my Orchard. N.B. My wife has been generally much indispos'd for a Month or Two past, and grows much more uncomfortable—and is particularly very much so today.

16. A Thaw. High South Winds; Misty—the Snow gone. Ebenezer came home.

17. On Luke 12, 15 and p.m. on 1 Tim. 6, 2 those words—Partakers of the Benefit and therefrom repeated part of sermon on Eph. 3, 8th viz. from page 17 to page 24. Mr. Jenison, Mrs. Tainter and Mrs. Child din'd with us.

18. This Day The Committee from the Northside were with me to receive my determinate answer¹⁸ to their Message on December 10 to go over and be their Minister. Lieutenant Holloway

¹⁸ Mr. Parkman declined the offer of the northside people in his "determinate answer" which is printed in Kent, *Northborough History*, pp. 22-23. The northside committee reported Feb. 21, 1745: "we have accordingly applied ourselves to the Reverend Mr. Parkman and he hath chose to Tack the Twelve pound Ten Shillings, and we have accordingly given bond to the said Mr. Parkman of £12. 10s. to be paid by the first Day of May Nexte in sewing."

and Mr. Collister¹⁴ here, but Mr. Matthias Rice did not come. Those who were here gave me their Bond for Security of £12, 10 s. I dealt somewhat freely with them about their last Petition to the Court and warn'd them against Unrighteousness and against Divisions, but wish I had been more faithfull on the Affair of the Petition, notwithstanding that I had it over with them time after Time. Mr. Dan Warrin trimming my Orchards. A Number of hands cutting and Carting Wood for me, viz. Benjamin Whipple with a Yoke of Oxen made up my Team. Mr. Benjamin Fay with his Cart and 2 Yoke of Oxen, and Jonas Brigham with his Cart and 2 Yoke. The Cutters were Mr. Harrington, Dunlop, Edwards Whipple, Noah How, Sam Baker, Silas Pratt, Levi Brigham, [blank] White, Charles and Artemas Bruce, Moses Warren, and Samuel Bumpso. And they got to my Door 50 Load of Wood. N.B. At Eve Samuel Baker discours'd with me touching his admission into the Church, but not without some Disputing on Visible and Real Right to Special Ordinances. Ebenezer return'd to the School.

19. Fine Day. Sarah took Physick. P.M. both Mrs. Whipples here to visit my wife.

20. I rode to Mr. Matthias Rice's, and to Mr. Thomas Goodenows but neither of them at home, I convers'd a while with the women at each House, and then proceeded to Mr. Allen's,¹⁵ Mrs. Allen continuing in a Very disquieted, disorder'd State. I also visited at Captain Eagers to discharge my Duty to both Parents and Children under their Sad Fall, their Daughter Oake having lain in already and got about again.

21. My wife very hardly able to be about. Read Dr. Prestons Life.¹⁶

22. Mr. Upham¹⁷ of Sturbridge here—din'd with us. Trundle Bedstead from Mr. Hows. Was Strenuous to have my preparations for the Sabbath in good Season, yet by Various hindrances much taken off.

¹⁴ John McCollister.

¹⁵ Ephraim Allen of the northside.

¹⁶ Thomas Ball, *The Life of Doctor Preston* (London, 1641). John Preston (1587-1628) was the master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge University.

¹⁷ Ezekiel Upham.

23. Mr. Matthias Rice here to take my Advice about a Preacher for the North Precinct. N.B. Our Conversation about Mr. Jenison,¹⁸ whom I could not recommend to them because of diverse Complaints in Neighbouring Towns. See January 1. Ensign Josiah Rice has been here to request my advice about his and others (Captives as they are Call'd) petitioning the General Court again that they may be Excepted out of the North Precinct. Ebenezer came home. Thomme brought 49 lb. of cheese from Mr. Jabez Rice's.

24. On Luke 12, 15. P.M. on Isa. 5, 4. Old Mr. Bellows and Granny Forbush din'd here.

25. Captain Daniel Ward of Worcester here. Further talk with Mr. Cornelius Cook who remains very disorderly and under bitter prejudices. Ebenezer at Home. Mr. Jenison gone to Watertown. The Committee appointed by the Town to make answer to the North precincts Second Petition to the General Court, went to Boston. I wrote by them to my Brother Parkman.

26. [No entry].

27. Very Cold.

28. Public Fast on Occasion of the Expedition to Cape Briton, as well as the Ensuing Spring. On Joshua 7, 4, 13. P.M. on Isa. 1, 19, 20. Mr. Jenison (Schoolmaster) was not at meeting, being not well.

MARCH 1745

1. Orders having Come to the Captains of the Companys in this Town last Night, to Beat up to Day again for Volunteers to go to Cape Briton the Companys were together, P.M. Colonel Nahum Ward¹ and Lieutenant Willard² (from Lancaster) came. After prayer I went down to Captain Maynards, at his urgent Request. But no man 'listed in this Town. A.M. Mrs. Martha Warrin here—took her Relation from her Mouth.

¹⁸ William Jenison (Harvard 1724) had been dismissed by the East Parish of Salem in 1736. Thereafter he had taught school in Lexington, Worcester, Lunenburg, and Westborough. Jenison was eccentric and intemperate, was not living with his wife, and was opposed "on account of other conduct in divers respects." See entry in this diary, Jan. 1, 1745. See also *Sibley*, VII, 371-374, and Allen, *Worcester Association*, p. 28.

¹ Prominent citizen of Shrewsbury.

² Moses Willard.

2. At night came a storm of Snow; but not so bad as last Year just before Sacrament. The Lord give me strength and Assistance!

3. Sacrament. Preach'd on 1 Tim. 6, 2. Those Words, Partakers of the Benefit. Mr. Jenison did not Stay to Communion. Said he was not very well. I told him I expected him to have communicated. He din'd with me as did also Deacon Forbush and Deacon Newton. Deacon Fay did not. P.M. Repeated sermon on Isa. 1, 20. At Night Very much Tir'd in Body, and much disquieted in my Mind, having had but too lifeless a Time of it. The Lord in much Mercy Pardon, and quicken me! N.B. Captain Tainters³ (of Watertown) Dauter Rebecca here. N.B. Only Mr. Matthias Rice (of Men I think) from the Northside at Communion, though a pritty good Day for Stirring.

4. Though I have had Such a fine wood pile got me, yet I am very much without Loggs. Sent to Neighbour Ebenezer Maynard who came up, with his Brother Nathan and their Oxen and Sled, who, having Cut the Chief of them (and adding my Oxen) got me down 3 Turns of Loggs. The Town met. Deacon Forbush and Captain Warrin came to me from the Town to desire me to pray with them. Mr. Whipple (after Prayer) came to me and deliver'd me a Letter from my Aged and venerable Mother (writ by my Kinsman Elias) complaining of too long neglect, and informing me of Sister Dorcas's⁴ low State. N.B. Our Affair upon which the Committee went down from the Town to the General Court, labours much and goes from House to House, and is undetermin'd. Ebenezer went this morning again to South School, having been taught by me Last Week. N.B. Lieutenant Tainter talks with me about a Chaise that he has bought with some View to me.

5. I visited Mr. Thomas Billings and Family, and din'd with him. Visited also Mr. John Oake and Wife, talk'd with them again touching their owning the Covenant. Rode up to Mr. Asa Bowkers,⁵ and thence I proceeded (Major Keys⁶ my Company

³ John Tainter.

⁴ Parkman's sister-in-law, Mrs. Samuel Parkman.

⁵ Of Marlborough.

⁶ John Keyes of Marlborough.

from thence) to Mr. Cushings His little Dauter Molly (a Second Molly) being bad with the Throat Distemper. As I return'd at Eve, I call'd at Captain Maynards, the Captain going to Boston Early tomorrow morning. N.B. Mr. Francis Whipple. N.B. Talk of Justice Baker⁷ (our New Justice) his judgment of the first Warrant for Precinct Meeting on this side the Town (which was issued out by Esquire Nahum Ward and directed to Constable Abner Newton) that was defective and all that has been done by Vertue of it (of Consequence) invalid. N.B. Brother Hicks⁸ and Mr. Barnard⁹ of Sutton din'd with my wife. By my Absence I could not see them. N.B. John Hicks junior has 'listed to go to Cape Briton.

6. Mr. Morse¹⁰ of Shrewsbury here in his way home from Mendon etc. Mr. Dodge¹¹ of Brookfield here at the Same Time. And by and by Mr. Patteshall in his Journey from Killingley to Cambridge—But he soon went off with Mr. Morse.

7. Catechiz'd A. and P.M. at the Meeting House. 40 Boys, but 10 Girls. I know not whether the Private Meeting this afternoon might not be some reason for so small a number. N.B. Molly had a Ride to Cramberrying with Mrs. Thankfull Rice.

8. Fine Weather. I was induc'd to have Something done at Gardening. Mr. Jonas Warrin of Upton here to be Examin'd in order to his joining with our Church.

9. Captain Maynard, who came up from Boston last Night, brings Me Brother Samuels Mournfull Letter of the Death of his Wife,¹² on Monday Eve last, about 6 o'Clock. The Lord Awaken all of us to a due Sense of his holy Will! May He be very gracious to those more immediately Suffering under So Sore a Bereavement. And may we all be quicken'd to and assisted in all due preparation for our own Decease! Sister Dorcas had been long languishing and wasting, and much Confin'd from Publick

⁷ Edward Baker, Justice of the Peace for Worcester County.

⁸ John Hicks, formerly of Westborough. Parkman's brother-in-law. Benedict and Tracy, *Sutton*, pp. 660-661.

⁹ Isaac Barnard.

¹⁰ The Reverend Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

¹¹ Francis Dodge.

¹² Dorcas (Bowes) Parkman died March 14, 1745.

Ordinances but I have learnt Nothing of the State of her Mind. N.B. Small pox Said to have been at Boston.

10. Greatly Unprepar'd for public Service (as I am any Sabbaths)—go to my work but very dully; my mind crowded with the Composing of my sermon. Preach'd a.m. on John 27, 3, but could not do justice to so grand and important a Subject. P.M. Repeat'd the remainder on Isa. 5, 4. Mr. Jenison din'd with us, as did old Mrs. Byles¹³ and old Mrs. Whipple,¹⁴ and Mrs. Rebecca Tainter of Watertown. Exceeding high Winds.

11. A Letter at Eve by Captain Maynard from Mr. Smith¹⁵ of Marlborough again requesting me to preach his Lecture. N.B. Benjamin Whipple¹⁶ and Nathan Maynard¹⁷ here to desire that Some Neighbouring Minister might preach to their Society, which I very freely consented to.

12. I rode a.m. to Mr. Grouts, by whom I sent a Letter to Brother Samuel Parkman, Mr. Winchesters, Mr. Thomas Whitneys and Mr. Eleazer Pratts. Din'd at Home. Mr. Jonas Warrin here again on his Examination. See the Eighth Day. My Wife ill and in Pain from Day to Day, yet keeps about for the most Part. We are waiting the Will of the Sovereign God.

13. A Storm of Snow. My Wife grows very bad. No possibility of gratifying Mr. Smith in his Lecture: nor does he indeed Deserve it, having Twice Disappointed me, by engaging me to preach, without appointing the Lecture or Sending me Word, So that I went, once part of the way, and the other time wholly to the House expecting to preach, but behold! there was no Lecture appointed. But I am ready to forgive the Injury; and was very much upon going to Day were it not for my wife's Circumstances—and the Storm. Yet I wrote a Letter to give him word and Committed it to Captain Maynard for Conveyance. My Wife gave us the Alarm. I hasted to old Mr. Maynards and got Nathan to go for Mrs. Forbush,¹⁸ who was brought. Nathan

¹³ Widow of Captain Joseph Byles.

¹⁴ Mrs. Francis Whipple.

¹⁵ The Reverend Aaron Smith.

¹⁶ Son of Francis Whipple of Westborough.

¹⁷ Son of David Maynard, an early resident.

¹⁸ Widow of Thomas Forbush. She often served as midwife.

went also for Divers other Women. We got as many together as were needed, before or by 12 o'Clock. By Gods Power and Mercy my wife was deliver'd of her Third but my Sixth Daughter, being my Ninth Living Child about 1/2 past 2 o'Clock. The Glory be to God! May We who are the Instruments of its Natural be under God, of its Spiritual Birth! And may the Lord yet magnifie his Mercy to His Handmaid and recover her to Health and Strength again! Nor We be unmindfull of God's Goodness or of our Obligations to Him therefor! The Women assisting to Mrs. Forbush were the following—viz. old Mrs. Whipple, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Maynard, Mrs. How, Captain Samuel Forbushs and Lieutenant Aaron Forbush Wife's. Our Eating was over before Night—prayer also—and Thomme began to carry Home the Women, tho some of them tarry'd in the Evening whilst others were returning. But Granny Forbush tarry'd all Night.

14. My Wife and Infant Child very Comfortable. Pleasant, warmish Day after the Storm. Mrs. Forbush carry'd Home by Thomme. May others in the Town experience (where they need it) the like Mercy and Power of God that we have done!

15. Brother Hicks (who has been at Cambridge Some time and whom we concluded to have gone Home) return'd, and brings the Sorrowful News that my Honoured Father in Law Mr. Samuel Champney departed this Life on the eighth instant and was bury'd on the thirteenth. May we mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the End of this Man in peace! O what an heavenly mind; what Hours together Spent with God, what a Contempt of the World, what Concern for the true Interests of Religion and of the Land, what value for the truely Godly and pious—was discernible in this worthy Person, above most! May I, and all nearly related have Grace to imitate his Excellent Example in those Respects!

16. One Mr. Daniel Hubbard of Suffield here with Flax. Noah How came p.m. to raise up the west part of my red Fence which had been blown down by the late high winds, but he did not finish it.

17. A.M. Preparatory to the Solemnity of Dedicating my young Child I preach'd on Ps. 51, 15 and p.m. on Gen. 17, 7. It

was baptiz'd by the Name of Susanna. God grant his Covenant may be with me and mine. Messers. Winchester of Brookline sons of old Captain—din'd here. Mr. Jenison not at Meeting. Mr. Martin¹⁹ preaches to the North Precinct.

18. Mr. Martin made me a kind visit, and din'd with me. Mr. Jonas Warrins wife from Upton here and examin'd. Divers neighbours to see my wife—who, and the Child, are very comfortable and Strengthen apace. D.G.

19. Mr. Cushing here and din'd with me. N.B. The Committees of Each Precinct running the precinct Line. Captain Robert Goddard of Sutton, the Surveyor. P.M. I went to Deacon Tomlins,²⁰ who is under much Affliction and under many Temptations by reason of his being included in the North Precinct Line. I had much, and Earnest Discourse with the Deacon against the Baptists, whilst he entertain'd favourable Thoughts of their Tenets. I gave him affectionate Caution in such a Day of Temptation, and Strong Exhortation to Steadfastness, etc. His son Mr. Elisha Newton there—who was my Company to Bezalial Eagers. In returning Mr. Ithamar Bellows with me. At Eve Captain Maynard brought Captain Goddard to see me, who tarried all Night.

20. Captain Goddard return'd to his work, in running the Line. I rode over to Visit Mr. Barrett²¹—in my way I call'd at Mr. William Pierce's²²—Understanding that Mr. Dunlop had gone away clandestinely to Ship for Cape Breton. I visited his wife who was in great Distress for her Husband and two Sons. I din'd at Mr. Barretts. I return'd him his Henry vol. 5.²³ N.B. Major Jones there. In returning I call'd at Mr. Tainters where I view'd a Chaise which he had bought with a View to me, but I conceiv'd it too much worn, yet determin'd nothing.

21. Preach'd at Shrewsbury Lecture, Preparatory to the Communion, on Cant 1, 4.

¹⁹ The Reverend John Martyn, later the first minister of Northborough, 1746–1767.

²⁰ Isaac Tomlin of Westborough.

²¹ The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

²² Of Westborough.

²³ Matthew Henry, *Exposition of the Old and New Testaments* (London, 1710), 5 vols.

22. Could not get to writing my preparations for the Sabbath till this Morning, to any purpose; and then with too many Burdens, Cares and Avocations. Heavy Showers and extreme high Winds. I was not a little concern'd on the account of Such of the forces as have sail'd for Canso,²⁴ the place of Rendezvous.

23. The Winds very high still; white flying Clouds. My old Barn so weak, and continually Cracking, is in Danger.

24. A.M. on Gen. 17, 7. P.M. on Ps. 91, 1. Mr. Jenison and Granny Forbush din'd with me. Mr. Jenison Supp'd and lodg'd with me. N.B. Propounded Mr. Jonas Warrin and Lydia his wife, for full Communion. N.B. Mr. Dunlop with me after meeting with various Spiritual Distresses.

25. In the Morning walk'd with Mr. Jenison to Merchant Rices. Was at Captain Bakers²⁵—and at Abner and Deacon Newton's. This Last Consider'd me on account of the Towns being so long prevented being assess'd, and so the Rates for my Sallery and Support suspended—he paid me 5£ old Tenor. N.B. One David Dunsmore of Wrentham here. Bought a very large Deer Skin of him. P.M. Mr. Thomas Goodenow and Mr. Elijah Rice's wife here. In the Eve Mrs. Hephzibah Maynard. Heard that Mr. Seth Rice is so oppress'd with being forc'd into the North Precinct that he has mov'd his Family and stock out of it, and Deacon Tomlin is also preparing to build in this Parish.

26. Heard that Ensign Josiah Rice has mov'd out of the North Precinct into this, by means of his Uneasiness. Mr. Willson came to work. Mending Hearths and Jamms. At his Instigation I sent Thome up to Mr. Hastings²⁶ of Shrewsbury for Lime to whitewash but succeeded not.

27. Rode to Mr. Samuel Fays to see his Wife again who is in her Confinement and expecting the Hours of Travail. Proceeded to Mr. Gershom Brighams and din'd at Mr. Joseph Knowltons: with whom I agreed to take his Son Nathan (who is about 11 Years of Age) for a Twelve Month, feeding, Clothing and in-

²⁴ In northeastern Nova Scotia, opposite the shore of Cape Breton Island.

²⁵ Edward Baker of Westborough.

²⁶ Daniel Hastings.

structing him. In returning home Colonel Williams²⁷ of Marlborough in pursuit of a maid, overtook me, but could not visit his sister. N.B. Precinct Meeting to choose Precinct Officers. Mr. Belknap here with Me most of the afternoon. At Eve rain'd very hard. Mr. John Stow here. His Horse left him and tarried all Night.

28. Mr. Stow finds not his Horse. I went to Mr. Barns and obtain'd of him to wait upon Mr. Stow with his Horse—to Marlborough, but he chose to go o'foot. Windy and Cold. P.M. I visited Mr. Daniel Forbush's wife, who had been long Confin'd—but Somewhat to my surprise found She was brought to Bed, and has a fine son. Visited Mr. Millers²⁸ son Solomon whose Leg was lately broke by a Log. Was at Mr. James Fays who went with me to see Mr. Timothy Warrin who had a few Days Since, a Fit of Nervous Convulsions: and had another ill Turn last Night.

29. P.M. Some Number of Women to Visit my Wife. Samuel Baker²⁹ here. Captain Maynard, with his Evening Post, came at Evening which was an unspeakable Hindrance to me.

30. One Young, a Taylor, Travelling to Norwich, here. Our Young Child very sore Mouth. Ebenezer brought Samuel Bakers Relation.

31. On Gen. 17, 7. I am full of Hopes God was pleas'd to make the Sermon a Means of Good to the souls of Some. P.M. on 2 Cor. 6, 2. Mr. Jenison, Mrs. Tainter and Mrs. Child din'd here. N.B. a most pious and Religious Proclamation for another Fast.

A P R I L 1 7 4 5

The School moves over to Lieutenant Holloways. Trouble in my neighbourhood respecting Sheep hurt by Doggs. An Ewe and Lamb of mine in all likelihood kill'd. Had we purpos'd to go to Cambridge but the Weather So Stormy in the Morning (Rain and Snow) that I was prevented. N.B. Mr. Jenisson seems to be in some Frett on account of his missing the Employment of preach-

²⁷ Abraham Williams.

²⁸ James Miller of Westborough.

²⁹ Son of Captain Edward Baker.

ing on the North Side. Towards Night Thomas Winchester came, went to Work about the Fences and thereby began another half year with me, for the same Wages as last. N.B. Mr. Thomas Billings here.

2. I rode into my Neighbourhood to Captain Bakers, whom I improv'd to bring up Sundry Things for me from Boston: White-washing Lime, Sugar and Corks, Lime juice, etc. to Captain Fays, Mr. James Fays, Mr. Winchesters—and got him to go up to Brother Hicks for me. At Eve Silas Pratt here.

3. I earnestly desire and request a Suitable Preparation for the Extraordinary Fast approaching! May the Lord prepare us all, this whole people to sanctifie it! Brother Hicks came here and went to Cambridge in order to put forward a settlement of Father Champneys Estate.

4. Publick Fast on occasion of the Enterprize and Expedition against Cape Breton.¹ I preach'd on Joel 2, 12, 13. P.M. Repeat'd on 2 Cor. 6, 2. Behold now, etc. O that God would accept this Fast and give Success or prepare us for what He may please to order out to be the Event! Mr. James Fay left me his mare at Eve for my Journey. My Wife got down to supper with us.

5. At 4 in the morning just when the Day broke I Set out for Cambridge and arriv'd there at 1/2 after 10. Din'd with my poor, afflicted, Bereaved Mother in Law, whom God graciously Sustains! P.M. at Mr. Remingtons² with Brother Hicks. But tho we were both of us come down on purpose to attend the Business of Settling Father Champney's Estate yet no word would the Judge Speak upon any such Head. We were driven to the Shift of attending upon what might be done by Mr. Danforth³ and were sent to Him. But it happen'd also that Mr. Danforth was not at Home nor in Town. I was forc'd again to go to Boston to him if I would Speak with him. Brother Hicks Stay'd at Cam-

¹ Governor William Shirley issued a proclamation, March 25, 1745, setting April 4, 1745, as a day of general fasting and prayer throughout Massachusetts in connection with the forthcoming expedition against Louisbourg, Cape Breton. See *Boston Weekly Newsletter*, March 28, 1745.

² Jonathan Remington, a Judge of the Superior Court, who died later this year, Sept. 30, 1745. Paige, *Cambridge*, pp. 639-640.

³ Samuel Danforth of Cambridge.

bridge and I rode to Boston, put up at Mr. Larkins⁴ of Charlestown. Visited my aged Mother, who thro the tender mercy of God is yet in a measure of Comfort. N.B. Mr. Danforth I could not find this Evening. Mr. Whitefield preaching at Dr. Sewalls⁵ but I could not wait upon the Exercise. Supp'd at Brother Alexanders but lodg'd at Sister Bettys with my Kinsman. Mrs. Sally Hill I conclude is a Bed but my Kinsman persists in opposition—will not marry her, being otherwise engag'd, viz. to Mrs. Nabby White. I am full of Grief for his ruin'd state but can't help him. His Troubles still more and more retard and impede his engaging in Business, and he is as backward and undetermin'd as ever. N.B. Captain Hope, of New York, lodges there.

6. After much Enquiry I found Mr. Danforth and receiv'd his Advice and Directions. A Variety of Things hinder'd my getting to Cambridge much before Noon. Brother Hicks and I din'd with Mother Champney and Sett out at least half after one, if it was not even Two o'Clock, and thro God's great Mercy we were safe at my House before the Day light was gone. N.B. No news yet from our Fleet. Mr. Whitefield expounds every Morning at Boston, as well as preaches very frequently as heretofore. The Divisions on that occasion, I think, hotter than ever. The Lord have Mercy on us for his great Name's Sake. William Pierce⁶ work'd with Thomas yesterday, putting up the remainder of the Stone Wall at the Lower Orchard.

7. I Repeat'd on 2 Cor. 6, 2. I receiv'd a bitter and ungrateful Letter from Mr. William Jenison,⁷ Am sorry especially that I should be disturb'd with it on the Lords Day. The Lord grant me a patient and forgiving Spirit! Brother Hicks who lodg'd here, din'd with me as did Mrs. Tainter⁸ and Mrs. Patience Woods.⁹ At Eve Brother Hicks rode home, and Mr. Belcher

⁴ Edward Larkins.

⁵ The Reverend Joseph Sewall of the Old South Church.

⁶ William Pierce, Jr., of Westborough.

⁷ Jenison was bitter because the Marlborough Association would not recommend him to fill the pulpit of the north precinct in Westborough.

⁸ Mrs. Simon Tainter.

⁹ Mrs. Solomon Woods.

Hancock,¹⁰ who had preach'd at North Sutton, came, and lodged here.

8. Mr. Willson whitewashing a.m. No ploughing done by us yet tho our Neibours have, this fortnight. Captain Warrin has made me a new plough but we could not get it plated yet. Mr. Hancock returns to Cambridge. A fine Warm Day.

9. Return'd some Answer to Mr. Jenisons late tart Letter, and sent it by Benjamin Lull, junior. Such Contention fills me with Trouble—but the Lord preserve and restrain me! By and By Mr. Jenison (not having receiv'd the Letter) came to my House about the Time that the Ministers began to assemble to the Association, which met here to Day. The Gentlemen that came were, Mr. Loring,¹¹ who was Moderator. Messers Cushing, Gardner,¹² Barrett, Stone, Smith, Goss,¹³ and Davis.¹⁴ Mr. Martyn was also here present. Mr. Stone deliver'd a Concio on 2 Cor. 12, 2. At Eve Mr. Martyn deliver'd a large Confession of Faith. Debates upon his being approbated. Mr. Gardner made objection. N.B. Mr. Barrett told us that a Westborough man, he could not tell who, but he thinks one that was griev'd by the Line of the Precincts or in the Name of Deacon Tomlin was over at Hopkinton to enquire of his Brother Morris¹⁵ after Mr. Commissary Price,¹⁶ in order to joining with the Church of England there. N.B. Mr. Jenison and I some Warm Contest in presence of Messers Cushing, Stone and Smith with reference to my Discourse with him January 1 and afterwards my Conversation with Mr. Matthias Rice on February 23. Mr. Jenison went away dissatisfy'd, but I requested him to come tomorrow (not only to Lecture but) to dine with us. N.B. Captain Maynard took 2 Horses, 3 at old

¹⁰ (Harvard 1727). The tutor of Harvard College. *Sibley*, VIII, 137-140.

¹¹ The Reverend Israel Loring of Sudbury.

¹² The Reverend John Gardner of Stow.

¹³ Thomas Goss (Harvard 1737), the minister at Bolton, 1741-1771. *Sibley*, X, 175-185.

¹⁴ The Reverend Joseph Davis (Harvard 1740), the minister at Holden, 1742-1773. *Sibley*, X, 478-481.

¹⁵ Theophilus Morris, a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, was an Episcopal missionary who had settled at West Haven, Conn., 1740-1742.

¹⁶ Roger Price was the rector of King's Chapel in Boston until Nov. 21, 1746. He later founded the Episcopal Church in Hopkinton. See Henry W. Foote, *Annals of King's Chapel* (Boston, 1882-1896), 2 vols.

Mr. Maynards¹⁷—and one at Mr. Hows,¹⁸ and 3 Gentlemen, Mr. Goss, Mr. Davis and Mr. Martyn lodg'd at Captain Maynards.

10. Resum'd the Conference about Mr. Martyn. Mr. Gardner and he were advis'd to retire together. They did so and came in reconcil'd. *Deo soli gloria!* Mr. Davis preach'd the public Lecture on Ps. 51, 17. Mr. Jenison at meeting and I invited him again to Dinner, and he came. P.M. We have further Debate, and were more successful and pacify'd. The Gentlemen who were with us, were of the opinion he had better wave his preaching any where, while he was in his present Circumstances tho they also told him they Should not pretend to lay an Embargo (as he himself had phras'd it) or Barr him from it. I gave him my Distinction between the Common privileges of Christians and those more public and special acts of Preaching, etc., and I told him I would have him come to the Sacrament next Sabbath. He answered me that he could not Say whether he Should or not, but yet went away more compos'd. N.B. I had offer'd him that if he would withdraw his Letter to me he might burn my Reply to him. To return to the Association—Mr. Martyn was further interrogated with regard to his disuse of the Tongues, the Sciences etc. In a word, he was approbated by a Certificate sign'd by every member. Old Mr. Axtell¹⁹ here but we could do nothing for him.

11. Nathan Knowlton came to live with me. I visited old Deacon Tomlin who has not only rais'd him a New House in this Parish but this Day begins to move into it. I am Sorry to find the Deacon Shaken in Mind—but is dispos'd to listen to any Defence of the Church of England, or Opinions of the Baptists. I gave him earnest Cautions, Exhortations and Instructions, and then proceeded to Ensign Rice's where I found a New Common Prayer Book and a New Book publish'd by the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Defence of the Church of England. Ensign was not at Home. I left my Counsel and Charge with his Wife and visited Neighbour Jeduthan How. Went next over to

¹⁷ David Maynard.

¹⁸ Hezekiah How.

¹⁹ Thomas Axtell of Marlborough had been a concern to the Association before. Allen, *Worcester Association*, p. 19.

Brother Seths, with whom I also Seriously discours'd—but I found him, through Grace, Stedfast. I understand that his Brother Josiah is preparing to raise a New House in our parish—and being greatly Concern'd for him would not go home without seeing him, tho he was far off, Carting Stones. To my great Sorrow found him leaning to the Church. He had been with Mr. Price at Boston, etc. I discharg'd my Duty to him with Some fervency and left him—Committing this Cause to God. I call'd at Mr. James Maynards and at Eve return'd home.

12. Last night our Small Flock of Sheep Sett on by Doggs. A principal Ewe lay Dead, and mostly Eat up: her Lamb left to be brought up by Hand. A Weather also much bitt, that we much doubted of its Life. Thomme not well, and the Weather wet and Cold so that we defer his going to Mr. Batchellors at Grafton.

13. Fowl Weather and Thomme not well.

14. The Communion, and a bright good Day, yet the Earth too Damp and Cold for my wife who has not as yet us'd herself to the air to go out to meeting. I preach'd A.M. on John 17, 3, and P.M. on Gal. 6, 8.

15. At 3 in the Morning Brother Hicks call'd me out of my Bed. We Set out a little before Sun Rise (N.B. I had Neighbour Benjamin Hows Horse) upon our Journey to Cambridge—arrived before noon, din'd with Mother Champney, and went over to Mr. Danforth, Mr. Remington being incapable of any Business. According to Mr. Danforths Directions in the Methods of our Proceeding to Settle the Estate of our Deceas'd Father (Champney) we made Choice of the following Gentlemen to be prizers of the personal Estate, viz. Deacon Samuel Sparhawk, Captain Benjamin Dana, and Mr. Thomas Dana and the Message hereof and of our Desire that they would attend upon that Business tomorrow, was carry'd to them. At Mr. Morris's. N.B. Indignation and Contempt cast upon Mr. William Hobby²⁰ for his Vindication of Mr. Whitefield.²¹ My Son Thomas went to Live with

²⁰ Minister of Reading.

²¹ William Hobby, *An Inquiry into the Itinerancy and the Conduct of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield* (Boston, 1745).

Mr. Joseph Batchelour of Grafton, Weaver. Ebenezer went up with him, in my absence upon my Journey to Cambridge.

16. The Prizers of the Personal Estate came, and view'd the Land, the House and Barn. I din'd with them in Brother Champneys Room. N.B. very unhappy Disagreements of Temper between Brother Champney and sister Lydia²² which had Subsisted for some Time, and were now foolishly and sinfully discover'd to my great Grief and Sorrow. My Brother and I were together in the Chamber looking over Brother Champneys Long accounts.

17. The Prizers of the Personal Estate at Mothers again, and Viewed Husbandry Tools, Wearing Apparell, Household Goods etc. We din'd in Mothers Room to Day, and with more composedness among those of the House. At Eve we laid Some Scheme respecting the Prizing the Real and made Choice of the following Gentlemen for that Purpose, viz. Captain Sharp, Captain Benjamin Dana (one of the other Committee of Prizers) Deacon Henry Prentice, Mr. Richard Gardner and Mr. Thomas Sparhawk.

18. Word was carry'd to Each of the last Mention'd Gentlemen; I was at Mr. Gardners²³ and at Captain Sharps.²⁴ Broke fast at Mrs. Keggells at Boston. Visited my Aged and honor'd Mother. Had so many difficult Affairs upon Me that I could not go to Lecture. Sad News came to Boston to Day by an Express from Captain Knowls at St. Kitts directed to Commodore Warrin who is gone to Cape Briton of 7 or 8 French Men of War and 28 Transports arrived at Martinece, bound we know not whither. Din'd at Brother Williams.²⁵ N.B. Our Dear Kinsman Elias²⁶ was unemploy'd yet, but Seems now to be about resolving—the Lord rouse him—for human Help is Vain! I hastened to Cambridge at Eve in prosecution of our affairs there, Tho to my great perplexity I miss'd of Mr. Danforth at Boston.

²² Lydia Champney, Parkman's sister-in-law.

²³ Richard Gardner of Cambridge.

²⁴ Captain Robert Sharp of Brookline.

²⁵ William Parkman of Boston.

²⁶ Parkman's nephew, the son of Elias Parkman (d. 1741).

19. Mr. Danforth was come up to Cambridge last night, So that this morning we went on with our Business; and Three of the Prizers, viz. Captain Sharp, Messers Gardner and Sparhawk were Sworn. Brother Hicks and I endeavour'd to Expedite Matters by Measuring the Land as we were able, but having no Compass, we only carry'd the Chain upon the Lines, and deferr'd the exact Calculating to such Time as we could have a Surveyer. We din'd in Mother's Room. N.B. Captain Dana came at the Beginning of the work, which was Somewhat after 11 o'Clock a.m. Deacon Prentice came at 3 P.M. At Eve the Gentlemen endeavour'd to persuade Brother Champney to Apply himself to the work of the Season.

20. Brother Champney refusing to take the Administration, Brother Hicks appear'd willing—and I left my Consent, bid farewell and rode home. N.B. refresh'd me at Goodenows Tavern in Sudbury, kept now by one Mountgomery. N.B. Company'd some part of the way by Mr. Thomas Marsh²⁷ who is going to preach at Worcester. Found my Family well about 5 P.M. Gr. D.

21. My Wife at Meeting again; the Lords Name be prais'd! Preach'd on Heb. 13, 17, and P.M. on Gal. 6, 8. Stopp'd the Church at noon. N.B. P.M. Dr. Gott²⁸ came to sermon but went out as Soon as it was over. (See Church Records²⁹ for Stopping the Church at Noon.)

22. Ephraim Bruce³⁰ Examin'd A.M. Recon'd also with Deacon Newton.³¹ N.B. Deacon Tomlin here requesting a few Lines to be drawn by way of Petition to the North precinct. N.B. Edward Whipple's Wife Examin'd.

²⁷ Marsh was a deacon of the First Church at Mansfield, Conn. He was uneducated but was ordained by the Separatist Church in Mansfield, July 1, 1746.

²⁸ Benjamin Gott, the physician of Marlborough.

²⁹ "At Noon the Church was Stop'd to acquaint them with the Desire of Brother Samuel Fay junior to have not only his newborn Infant baptiz'd but a Child of about a Year and half old, which had been neglected in this Time of their Great Trouble and Affliction, for which he was Sorry, and desir'd the Compassion of the Church which was freely extended to him and May God please to overlook the Sin of this Neglect. Accordingly P. M. Hannah and Ebenezer, of Samuel and Deliverance Fay baptized." *Westborough Church Records*, April 21, 1745.

³⁰ Son of Abijah Bruce.

³¹ Josiah Newton.

23. Brother Hicks came up from Cambridge who tells me he has given Bonds for administering on Father Champneys Estate. I Catechiz'd at the South Part of the Town, at the School-House. This was the first Time of my doing this. N.B. 51 Children. After Catechizing I visited the Widow Woods. N.B. I went there on foot, but rode Lieutenant Tainters Horse back. I had also din'd at his House.

24. Mr. Charles Bruce and his Wife here to be Examin'd. P.M. Ephraims Wife³² also. Found her humble and penitent for her Youthful Sins and Follys.

25. Mr. Bacon³³ of Ashuelot here. Mr. Stone preach'd a Lecture to our Young Men from 1 Sam. 2, 26. After Meeting came a Messenger from Framingham (one of the Hemingways) with the Sorrowfull Tidings of the Death of the Reverend and Worthy Mr. Swift³⁴ of Framingham, Who in March last finish'd his 66th Year. A man of good Abilitys, natural and acquir'd—of a Sprightly Genius and delighting in Learning; a Valuable Pastor and an entertaining preacher, of great Goodness, affability and Courtesy and therefore Easy of access and pleasant to Converse with, was very Hospitable to all and none more affectionate to his Friends. He nevertheless met with much ill treatment among some of his ungrateful people, rigid Sticklers for the Church Discipline of Lay Elders, and disorderly New Lights, the Latter of which had even set up a Meeting House on purpose for Itineracy. The Troubles he was Exercis'd with in both his Flock and Family (of very different kinds indeed) might justly be conceiv'd to have given great advantage to his bodily Disorders which had prevail'd ever since he had an Apoplectick Shock a few Years past. Yesterday Morning When his End approach'd he had unusual appetite and would fain have some Cheese for his Breakfast, but that was conceiv'd hurtfull, and therefore they perswaded him to accept of Chocolat and a Toast. Whilst they were feeding with These he dy'd away at once, and reviv'd no more. Help Lord the

³² Mrs. Ephraim Bruce.

³³ The Reverend Jacob Bacon (Harvard 1731) was the minister of Keene, N.H. (Upper Ashuelot), 1737-1747. *Sibley*, IX, 18-21.

³⁴ John Swift.

Godly Man Ceaseth! The Righteous fall from among the Children of Men! When Such Usefull Men are taken away alas how weak are we! We have lost much of our Strength and our Glory when any of the Pillars Fall, the Fabrick shakes. Yet with God is the residue of the Spirit. May he grant us his almighty Influences that We may dispatch our Work and get ready for our own Summons, and raise up Successors and give Pastors after his own Heart!

26. In the Morning I rode up to Mr. Samuel Fay junior whose Young Child is to be bury'd to day. He was not at home. I pray'd with his wife and told them who were there of the reason of my withdraw. Mr. Cushing came to my House with whom and Mr. Stone I (on Mr. Pratts Horse) rode to Framingham to the Funeral of Reverend Mr. Swift. The Coffin not being ready we waited till 6 o'Clock before the Corps mov'd. Mr. Loring, Mr. Cushing, Mr. Gardner and Mr. Cook,³⁵ Mr. Stone and I were Pall Bearers. The Deacons etc. were under Bearers, the Brethren of Church walking before the Corps, Mr. Loring having pray'd before moving. It was a very mournful Time! There was So much mist and rain as made it uncomfortable, but Care was taken that all the Circumstances of the Funeral were very decent. The Grave was brick'd So high as to cover the Coffin with large flat Stones—and there was provision for a Monument. We Supp'd at the Sorrowfull Widows. Mr. Loring, Gardner and Peabody³⁶ retir'd to draw up a Character, Mr. Cushing and I rode home with Mr. Stone and lodged there.

27. I came home, Mr. Cushing accompanying me. Could have little Time for my Preparations for the Sabbath having Ebenezer to hear. John Oake here. John Oake told me that his Aunt Holloway was to do a message to me, viz. that the people over there desir'd me to go over next Tuesday to the raising their Meeting House, and they would have me be with them at 8 in the Morning to pray with them—and his aunt not coming he did the message by her Order. I told him I was in Some difficulty for want

³⁵ The Reverend William Cooke of Wayland.

³⁶ The Reverend Oliver Peabody of Natick.

of an Horse, my mare having lately foal'd. N.B. Thomas gone from my business from Thursday noon to Saturday night.

28. With Some omissions, alterations etc. I repeated Sermon 2 Kings 2, 14. P.M. preach'd on Numb. 27, 16, 17. Appointed the Catechetical Exercise to be next Wednesday.

29. At Deacon Newtons and other Houses in that Neighbourhood in preparing for Thomas's Journey tomorrow to get Lime. Letter from Mr. Stone that his Lecture is next Wednesday. I sent word round the Parish that the young women's Catechizing must be on Thursday. Mr. Breck³⁷ and his wife din'd with us.

30. The Morning Rainy. The Deacon Newton brought his Cart and Oxen and Hogsheads for Lime yet Thomas declin'd going whilst it was So Wet. I kept the Deacons Oxen till the Weather was better. No body from the North Side to bring me an Horse or accompany me over to the raising the meeting House there. Nor any one person of the Multitude who pass'd by my House from the South, so much as call'd to See whether I were to go or could go or no. Mr. Patteshall³⁸ (who had preach'd at Worcester last Sabbath) din'd here. P.M. I rode over to the North side on my own Mare, notwithstanding the inconvenience of it, and the misting, uncomfortable Weather. For tho I mislik'd many Things in their Conduct there, yet I found not enough to warrant my proclaiming War against them as my refusing to go to Day would do. I found Mr. Cushing and Mr. Morse there. Afterwards came Mr. Martin and Mr. Goss. The raising began about 10 A.M. and was finish'd about 4 P.M. without Hurt, thro the Great Mercy and Goodness of God. To him be the Glory! At their Request I pray'd after the work was finish'd, and we Sung Ps. 127, first Stanza, Ps. 125, first half Stanza and Ps. 128 beginning. Their Entertainment was in the Frame. The people brought their provisions in great Plenty.³⁹ Mr. Cushing

³⁷ The Reverend Robert Breck, Jr., the minister of Springfield. Parkman's brother-in-law.

³⁸ Richard Pateshall (Harvard 1735), a Boston schoolmaster, preached at many places. He bitterly opposed the New-Lights and attacked William Hobby for his defense of George Whitefield. Richard Pateshall, *Pride Humbled, or, Mr. Hobby Chastised* (Boston, 1745). See Sibley, IX, 558-560.

³⁹ Precinct records add "Allowed Jothan Bartlett £2 10 shillings for 2 barrells of cider for the raising."

crav'd and Mr. Martyn return'd. A number of us were at Captain Eagers⁴⁰ after supper. In returning home Captain Baker in Company and we had some earnest arguings all the way, but kept and parted in peace.

MAY 1745

1. I preach'd Mr. Stones Lecture on John 14, 21. Rode Mr. Charles Bruce's Horse. Ebenezer went afishing at the great Pond this Evening, this being almost the very beginning of their Fishing this Season.

2. I held my Catechetical Exercise again—and preach'd to the Young Women on Ps. 25, 7.

3. Mr. Whitefield preach'd at Mill-River in Mendon the first instant.

4. Mr. Belcher Hancock came and din'd with me, perswaded me to go in his Stead to North Sutton. Had Lieutenant Aaron Forbush's Horse. Got up to my Lodging, at Lieutenant Issac Barnards just as the sun was Setting. N.B. Met my son Thomas going home.

5. Preach'd at North Sutton at the House of Mr. Singletary¹ by the Great Pond on Eph. 3, 8, last Clause, a. and p.m. Din'd at the Same House, and my Kinswoman Mrs. Susanna Fuller with me. After Exercises and refreshment I rode to Mr. Halls² which was nigher than my Landlord Barnards and lodg'd there. N.B. One Mr. Sears of Millford on Rye in Connecticut there in the Evening.

6. Rode back. Went to Mr. Batchellors at Grafton tho Thomme³ was gone to Westborough on a Visit. Very hot Day. Din'd at Mr. Prentice's.⁴ Mrs. Prentice (I find) was very much in Raptures last Night, and was Somewhat full, at times, to Day. At Westborough understood that from Mr. Hancock yesterday Mr. Whitney and wife with others went over to hear Mr. Martyn⁵, not being able to bear Mr. Hancocks Doctrine.

⁴⁰ James Eager.

¹ John Singletary had come from Haverhill. Benedict and Tracy, *Sutton*, pp. 726-727.

² The Reverend David Hall of Sutton.

³ Parkman's son, Thomas, had been apprenticed to Joseph Batchellor, a weaver.

⁴ The Reverend Solomon Prentice of Grafton.

⁵ The Reverend John Martyn of the north precinct.

7. Thomme return'd to his master Batchellours. Captain Forbush's wife here to be Examin'd. Ephraim Bruce towards Eve. Sent Mr. Eaton of Leicester his Bolton by Robert Horn junior.

8. Neighbour Edwards Whipple here to be Examin'd previous to his joining with the Church. Nigh Eve came Mr. Bacon of Ashuelot and lodged here. N.B. About supper receiv'd a Letter dated yesterday from Mr. Smith of Marlborough to preach his Lecture next Wednesday—it being difficult to determine what Wednesday he Means.

9. Mr. Bacon upon his journey home and I rode to Mr. Nathan Balls to see his son Ebenezer who was in a Languishing State. N.B. Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Ball told me that their Northernmost part, being disappointed by their Brethren of the Precinct, were proposing to unite with a Number of Familys in Bolton and build Still another Meeting House. N.B. Ephraim Bruce's wife here. P.M. her Brother Charles's wife. At Eve Edwards Whipple's wife—all in order to their enjoying public privileges. N.B. Mrs. Winchester here at Eve.

10. My Wife to Marlborough on Nathan Maynards Mare to visit Mrs. Breck of Springfield.

11. Captain Maynard (in his Team) brot me up 14£ Sugar and my Kegg of 3 Gallons of Rum from Boston. P.M. Mr. Millen⁶ here. He discover'd to me that it was by him that I sent Mr. Loring his Hubbards Absence of the Comforter.⁷ At Eve came Brother Samuel Parkman from Hopkinton, bound up to Bolton and thence to Hartford. N.B. Ebenezer went to Lieutenant Tainters for his Chaise and brought it.

12. I preach'd on John 17, 3, a. and p.m. Propounded Edward Whipple and wife for Church Communion. Charles Bruce and his wife for public Humilliation and owning the Covenant.

13. My Brother went on his Journey. I went divers places for an Horse to go down to Cambridge but in Vain, particularly was at Jesse Brighams, Thomas Goodeno, Matthias Rice's, and to Mr.

⁶ The Reverend John Mellen of Sterling.

⁷ Nehemiah Hobart, *The Absence of the Comforter Described and Lamented* (New London, 1717).

Beeman's. Sister Hicks at our House at Evening from Sutton.

14. Try'd Jonas Brigham's Horse in the Chaise, but he was too furious—broke Whipple-Tree and threw me out, but without Hurt. D.G. But he was a good Horse in the saddle. I rode him to Cambridge. I stop'd at Colonel Wards to Condole under his great Afflictions. Stopp'd also at Mr. Pattersons in Sudbury with my wife's Kinsman Williams,⁸ the school master there. Yet got to Cambridge Some time before Night. Mother Champney has had a very ill Turn and tho much better than She was, especially last Friday, yet is very Weak and low.

15. In the Morning I went over to College—was with Mr. Mayhew⁹ particularly. But I return'd over to Mothers. Mr. Winthrop improv'd to Survey Father Champneys Lands, to prepare the Work for the Prizers, who all came. I din'd with them. N.B. Brother Champney now reports he did not take the Administration instead of Hicks. I rode to Boston Early—broke fast at my Honor'd Mother's (who is in much Comfort, except her Trouble about her Negro, Pito, who gives her much Trouble). My Kinsman Elias (to my great Grief) is Still at home, unactive, Slothfull, disheartened and as far from engaging in any Business as ever. Mr. Checkley¹⁰ the Public Lecture on John 4, 14. After I din'd at Brother Alexander's. I visited Dr. Sewal, and there came in Dr. Chauncey,¹¹ and afterward Mr. Gee. Mr. Whitefield the Subject, almost everywhere. Dr. Wigglesworths¹² Letter to him came out to Day. When I return'd to Mother Champneys at Evening the Prizers having done their Work, were gone home. At home, Mr. Devotion¹³ of Windham, his wife and wife's sister Visited my Family; came at Eve and Lodg'd.

⁸ Abraham Williams, Jr. (Harvard 1744), of Marlborough. He later became the fifth minister of the First Congregational Church, Sandwich, Mass., 1749-1784, despite the fact that while in college he was convicted three times of "drinking prohibited Liquors and . . . Scandalous lying." *Sibley*, XI, 498-502.

⁹ Jonathan Mayhew (Harvard 1744), the great preacher at the West Church at Boston, 1747-1766. *Sibley*, XI, 440-472.

¹⁰ The Reverend Samuel Checkley of the New South Church in Boston.

¹¹ The Reverend Charles Chauncy of the First Church in Boston.

¹² Edward Wigglesworth, *A Letter to the Reverend Mr. George Whitefield, by Way of a Reply to his Answer to the College Testimony against him and his Conduct* (Boston, 1745).

¹³ The Reverend Ebenezer Devotion.

16. Mr. Devotion etc. detain'd at our House because of the Rain. Thomas Winchester went to Grafton, where a Fast is kept to Day, as there was also public Exercises both parts of the Day yesterday. The Rain was Such as might have hinder'd him from work Some Part of the Forenoon but not the rest of the Day. N.B. A Number of Ministers Met as an Association there—Nor did Mr. Prentice wholly omitt to invite me, but I was under Engagement to be at Cambridge for that very Time. Thomme came home ill from Mr. Batchellors.

17. I went over to College in the Morning. At Mr. Hancocks Chamber where were Mr. Flynt,¹⁴ Mr. Mayhew and Mr. Nathaniel Gardner.¹⁵ Bought Dr. Wigglesworths Letter to Mr. Whitefield of Mr. Flynt, and borrow'd Tennents Examiner Examined,¹⁶ of Mr. Mayhew. On my Journey home I call'd at Dr. Robys,¹⁷ at Sudbury, and found he was not averse to taking up my Kinsman Elias to study Physic with him, upon which I wrote to my Kinsman and committed it to the Care of the Doctor. I din'd at Mr. Pattersons with my Kinsman Williams, the Schoolmaster there. Rode into Marlboro to See Sister Breck¹⁸ of Springfield who is ill yet at Dr. Gotts. At Home, Brother Hicks (who drove up his Oxen from Cambridge) and his wife who came up (also) from Cambridge, lodg'd with us.

18. My Brother Samuel Parkman returning from Hartford to Boston touch'd here this morning (having lodg'd at Worcester) presently after his taking Leave it Sett in for Rain, and p.m. was very Wet. Brother and sister Hicks went home Early.

19. Repeated Sermon on Eph. 3, 10 from page 18 to page 32, under that Text in Phil. 2, 8, a.m. and Ex. 9, p.m. Appointed the Communion and Preparatory Lecture.

20. Sent Thomme down to Dr. Gott that he might be under his advice and Directions: he rode before his mother who visited

¹⁴ Henry Flynt, the old Tutor.

¹⁵ (Harvard 1739). A Boston schoolmaster. *Sibley*, X, 366-368.

¹⁶ Gilbert Tennent, *The Examiner, Examined, or Gilbert Tennent, Harmonious* (Philadelphia, 1743).

¹⁷ Ebenezer Roby was the physician of Sudbury.

¹⁸ Mrs. Samuel Breck, Parkman's wife's sister.

her sister Breck to Day and carry'd her Child; and Thomme return'd home with Mrs. Sally Gott¹⁹ instead of his Mother.

21. Town Meeting to choose a Representative, but the Town were of the Mind to rely upon the Courts Goodness and would Send none considering the Towns New and heavy Burdens. Receiv'd from Mr. Edwards²⁰ of Northampton Proposals for printing his Treatise of Religious Affections.²¹ Mr. Breck of Springfield came at Evening in his Chair and brought his Daughter Lois and lodg'd here.

22. In the Morning about 8 o'Clock I rode to Mr. Williams's and marry'd his Daughter to Mr. Reuben Maynard of Shrewsbury. Immediately return'd back to Mr. Breck who was waiting for my Company to Marlborough. He and his little Daughter rode in his Chair and Mrs. Sally Gott and I in Mr. Tainters Chaise. We call'd to see Colonel William Ward. We din'd at Dr. Gotts p.m. From Mr. Smiths Fence my Mare broke loose and ran away with the Chaise. Soon oversett it. Scrap'd one Thill in Sunder, clear'd herself of her Tackling and posted away for home, but was presently Stop'd by the Smith on the Hill. We gather'd up the broken Tackling, dragg'd the Chaise to Mr. Smiths, and I rode to Deacon Stevens's and got him to it to look upon it and make a new Thill. Thus I left the Chaise, and my wife and child rode with me on Horseback home at Evening.

23. Mr. Breck and Mr. Smith came up from Marlborough. They din'd with me and after Dinner Mr. Breck preach'd my Lecture from 1 Pet. 3, 15, a useful Sermon. May God Succeed it, and bless the Preacher. Not many North Side People at Lecture. N.B. Ebenezer Ball, in a Consumption brought low, was pray'd for. N.B. One Mr. Town of Oxford labouring under a Diabetes, and much enfeebled, was carry'd along in an Horse litter, some Framingham people assisting. Mr. Breck and Mr. Smith return'd to Marlborough. The former carrying off the works of the

¹⁹ Sarah, the daughter of Dr. Gott.

²⁰ The great Jonathan Edwards.

²¹ *A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections, in Three Parts* (Boston, 1746).

Author of the *Whole Duty of Man*,²² for which he is to bring me all he has of Dr. Owen.²³

24. Sent Ebenezer to Marlborough for the Chaise we left to be mended by Deacon Stevens;²⁴ and after much worry and trouble with the unruly Mare, he got home with it.

25. Neighbor Jedidiah How cutt 5 young Piggs for me. Captain Maynard here after his Journey to Boston—a great hindrance to me in my preparations and I am rarely without great Perplexity upon such occasions. Edwards Whipple, and afterwards his Wife with their Relations.

26. On John 17, 3 a.m. After admitting Edwards Whipple and his wife into the Church, I administered the Lords Supper.²⁵ N.B. the greatest Part of our Northern Brethren absent, to my great Grief. P.M. I consider'd the proneness of our Young People to run into great Extravagancys at the Election Time, and for some abatement of their ungodly Mirth I made an Essay on Luke 6, 25.

27. [No entry].

28. [No entry].

29. The first Election that I remember to have kept in Westborough. I read partly in my Family old Mr. Higginsons Election Sermon on the Cause of God and his People.²⁶ Had a good Dinner with my Family, rejoicing in the great goodness of God to his people in all the Memorable Works which He had wrought, and for that He continues to us our precious and pleasant Things—and after Dinner we Sung part of the first 8 Verses of Ps. 78, Tate and Bradys Version. P.M. a number of Elderly men came to see me. Old Mr. Maynard, Mr. Whipple and his Brother Lambson of

²² The work generally ascribed the English divine Richard Allestree. See note for July 5, 1740.

²³ Over 80 works of John Owen (1616–1683), the English divine, were published. One had recently been published in America. *Eshcol: a Cluster of the Fruit of Canaan Brought to the Borders* (Boston, 1744).

²⁴ Samuel Stevens.

²⁵ Westborough Church Records for this date include the following: "Ephraim Bruce and Mary his wife offer'd their Confession and acknowledgment of the Sin of Fornication and were restor'd."

²⁶ John Higginson, *The Cause of God and His People in New-England* (Cambridge, 1663).

Ipswich. Upon the whole, I endeavour'd to keep the Day in humble gratitude to God, hearty Loyalty to the Government over me, and Communion with the Ministers in their General Convention, and in Chearfull Satisfaction with my own House, charging and watching over all under my Care that good order and good Hours be observ'd which (for any Thing has come to my knowledge) were So.

30. Thomas had gone to his Fathers and not being well return'd late this Morning—yet had struck no stroke at Weeding till to Day. I rode again to Mr. Nathan Balls to see his son Ebenezer who grows worse. I visited Mr. Livermores²⁷ Family, one of whose Dauters of about 11 years of age has been much troubled with Fitts. N.B. I took some pains, as I had Opportunity to Enquire into the Reasons of the absence of Such a Number of the Northside Members from the last Communion. Mr. Livermore prevented by his Dauters Fitts. Mrs. Hannah Ball and divers others disquieted in their minds with their Differences. Mr. Jacob Rice Said he could not leave his House, it being the place where the North Assembly meets—but there appeared to me no strength nor Validity in his Excuse.

31. Mr. Cushing and Mr. Morse came up from Boston; and they gave me Some Account of what had been done at the Election and at the Convention. In particular at the latter Mr. Clark²⁸ of Salem Village preach'd a Seasonable, Close sermon with regard to Mr. Whitefields Errors of mis-conduct—and both he and his wife were present. The Collection was large, £290 Old Tenor. In the Convention Mr. Gee²⁹ and others made proposals of Subscribing the Platform and Confession of Faith; or Some other good Draught—but it was rejected. Mr. Prince³⁰ no longer Clerk, but Mr. Turell³¹ chose in his Room.

²⁷ Jonathan Livermore of Westborough.

²⁸ The Reverend Peter Clark of Danvers.

²⁹ The Reverend Joshua Gee of Boston.

³⁰ The Reverend Thomas Prince of Boston.

³¹ The Reverend Ebenezer Turell of Medford.

JUNE [1745]

1. My Son Thomme much out of Health So that I sent him to Marlborough to Dr. Gotts that he might get suitable Directions and Druggs of him. Mr. Simon Goddard came here to ask whether his coming to Meeting here on sabbath Days would be disagreeable to Me? And in reply, I expressed to him in what Case and for what Reasons it would. His Father here presently after, but we had nothing upon his sons Errand.

2. On Sabbath Morning Mr. Breck¹ came up and preach'd for me all Day, A.M. on Ps. 130, 3, 4, P.M. Mat. 25, 1-13. He return'd to his wife at Marlborough after he had Supp'd. N.B. he brought up the Agreeable News of our Forces having Succeeded in the Capture of a French Man of War of 64 Guns. To God be praise and Glory!

3. [No entry].

4. Training in each part of the Town and beating up for Volunteers—but none as yet enlist for this Recruit. P.M. I held my Catechetical Exercise to the Young Women.

5. A.M. Mr. Townsend² from the Northside here, and very full of Discourse. I visited Neighbour William Rogers junior's Wife who lies Sick. P.M. I rode (with my wife) over to the raisings on the west side of the River. Mr. Seth Rice an House and Ensign Josiah a Barn. N.B. Brother Hicks was here a.m. and brought up yesterdays Gazette³ containing a large and particular account of the Successes of both Army and Fleet.

6. Preach'd at Mr. Bradish's⁴ on Isa. 66, 2. Mr. Cook⁵ there. N.B. another fruitless Attempt of Reconcilement with him.

7. Thomme for my Malt at Mr. Matthias's and brought it. Mr. Green here for a Pigg I sold him. Weigh'd [blank].

8. Thomme return'd to his Master Batchellor at Grafton.

9. On John 17, 3, and P.M. on Mat. 6, 10. Received from

¹ The Reverend Robert Breck, Jr., of Springfield.

² Joshua Townsend.

³ *The Boston Gazette, or Weekly Journal*, June 4, 1745.

⁴ James Bradish, an original settler of Westborough.

⁵ Cornelius Cook.

Reverend Mr. Salter⁶ of Mansfield (who stop'd at Captain Fays⁷ in his journey home) Mr. Solomon Williams's⁸ Sermon on his Ordination and the Windham Associations Letter to the Several Societys in that County concerning Mr. Pain⁹ etc. Mr. James Fay who brot these deliver'd me also a Book from Deacon Merriam¹⁰ of Grafton, being Dr. Francke¹¹ against the Fear of Man.

10. At Mr. Hows in the Morning. At Mr. Ebenezer Nurse's to get an Horse to go to Ministers Meeting. Could not Succeed with him—but did with Mr. Hezekiah Pratt.

11. I have discover'd that though Ebenezer performs his Tasks of Lessons, yet he has an inward heavyness and drops now and then a word how glad he Shall be to be at Work upon the place, how much better the place Should Soon be if he Should labour etc. I therefore took the Opportunity this Morning to talk with him, and I once More still gave him Liberty to Choose what Method of Life Should Suit his Genius best. I rode to Boston by the Way of Captain Barnards¹² of Marlboro, to Association. The following were present. Messers. John Prentice,¹³ Loring, Cushing, Cook, Barrett, Stone, Seccomb,¹⁴ Smith, Goss, Marsh,¹⁵ Morse, Millen; and Mr. Buckminster¹⁶ was voted in. Mr. Martyn also and Mr. Nathaniel Gardner,¹⁷ Candidates were there. After Prayer arose a Sharp and Vehement insisting for my transcribing into the Association Book, the minutes of the

⁶ Richard Salter (Harvard, 1739), the minister at Mansfield, Conn., 1744-1787. *Sibley*, X, 404-409.

⁷ Captain John Fay.

⁸ (Harvard 1719). The minister of the First Church in Lebanon, Conn., 1722-1776. The ordination sermon was *Ministers of the Gospel* (New London, 1744). See *Sibley*, VI, 352-361.

⁹ Elisha Paine had been imprisoned in 1743 in Connecticut for preaching without a license. He is said to have founded the First Baptist Church in Harwich. The pamphlet Parkman mentioned is *A Letter from the Associated Ministers of the County of Windham* (Boston, 1745).

¹⁰ Joseph Merriam.

¹¹ August Hermann Francke, *Nicodemus; or a Treatise Against the Fear of Man*, 3rd. ed. (Boston, 1745).

¹² Robert Barnard was a miller and tavern keeper. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 313.

¹³ The Reverend John Prentice of Lancaster.

¹⁴ The Reverend John Seccomb of Harvard.

¹⁵ Thomas Marsh of Mansfield, Conn.

¹⁶ The Reverend Joseph Buckminster (Harvard 1739), the minister of Rutland. *Sibley*, X, 348-354.

¹⁷ (Harvard 1739). A Boston schoolmaster. *Sibley*, X, 366-368.

Meeting¹⁸ at Mr. Smiths in Marlboro, last January when a Testimony was drawn up against Mr. Whitefield, but which I Strenuously deny'd and gave my Reasons for my Refusal of it. It was desir'd that Mr. Stone would but he refus'd also; and tho his Reason was that he had no more authority than anybody Else, he being Clerk only for that Meeting, yet when it was about to be put to Vote that he might be authoriz'd by the Association to do it, he still refus'd. I repeatedly offer'd, and entreated that I might resign the office of Clerk. I had now had the Burthen of it for 20 years, and it was Time Somebody else Should take a Turn. But it was not granted—except by a Member or Two—of which Mr. Marsh was chief, who several Times desir'd that a New Clerk might be Chose. After long Contest about recording those Minutes (it being of an out-of-Season, out-of-place Meeting, and when besides the Business of that Meeting, Two Members were admitted and one old Member dismissed) Mr. Barrett offer'd himself that if the Association Should appoint him to transcribe Mr. Stones Minutes into the Book, he would do it, which accordingly they did. Then Mr. Martyn (the Concionator not being present) deliver'd an Exercise on Mat. 16, 27, which no one Member (I think) was Satisfy'd with, he therein advancing that there would be no rewards in the future world according to Mens Works, untill the General Judgment. But the Chief Subject of Conversation was Mr. Whitefield. Collections were unthought of (I Suppose) by the Moderator. They were never call'd for. After Supper at Mr. Goss's, Mr. Stone and I went home with Mr. Martyn and lodged there.

12. In the Morning before the public Meeting, there was a free Conversation with Mr. Martyn about his Sermon Yesterday, the Scheme being New and some passages offensive, to us all. Mr. Cook preach'd the Public Lecture upon Amos 8, 11. In my returning I rode to Marlborough. Messers Barrett, Stone and Smith in Company. I visited Sister Breck who is yet at Marlborough.

13. I got Mr. Benjamin How to work for me to Day in Chang-

¹⁸ See Allen, *Worcester Association*, p. 24.

ing the Doors of my Barn, and placing my Great Doors on the North. N.B. Ebenezer discovers by all his Conduct that he prefers Labour to Studying—and tho it grievously wounds me, yet I yield the point finally.¹⁹

14. Ebenezer at work on the Smaller, South, Barn Doors. P.M. Mr. Miller here. Mr. Jenison (who has begun to keep school at Mr. Hezekiah Pratts, lodging at Mr. Williams's) came here P.M. and had some further talk, but yet seems to be resenting and goes away unquiet. Molly exercis'd much with Toothach goes to Hopkinton, to Mr. Barrett²⁰ to pull them out which troubled her. He pull'd Two.

15. Mr. John Chamberlain having bought of the Maynards the West End of the House which he himself us'd to live in, this Day mov'd it, upon Wheels, beyond Captain Maynards nigh the River. P.M. Thomme return'd home again from Grafton being in such Pain and under So great Discouragement that his master²¹ sends all his Things Home with him. God grant the Grace and Wisdom needed under every Trial!

16. On John 17, 3. P.M. on 2 Tim. 3, 16. N.B. Mr. Jenison came in the Morning and also din'd with us. N.B. at Noon Time Mrs. Whitney went down the road near my Barn and there made a great Out Cry. N.B. Captain Baker (with my Consent obtain'd at noon) after the Public Exercises of the Day desir'd the Congregation to stop, and warn'd his Company to come together tomorrow Morning at 9 o'Clock.

17. I visited Mr. Hezekiah Pratts Child sick of a fever. Both Companys met to Show Arms and beat up for Volunteers, but I was with neither of them. Captain Maynard indeed came to my House to ask me but I was not at Home. N.B. Mr. Benjamin Burnap of Hopkinton here and din'd with us. N.B. David Warrin of Marlborough here, with a Message from Mr. Smith, who had again still asked me to preach a Lecture for him, and which by our Agreement was to have been tomorrow, but it So falls out

¹⁹ The Reverend Mr. Parkman was much disappointed that Ebenezer never did prepare to go to Harvard.

²⁰ The Reverend Samuel Barrett was a useful citizen.

²¹ Joseph Batcheller, the weaver, of Grafton.

that their Military Companys are then to meet, and therefore the Lecture is wav'd [sic]. N.B. Thomas Winchester gone part of today, as he was half of Saturday, p.m. of Friday helping Mr. Chamberlain, and p.m. Thursday last, at his Fathers raising.

18. Last Night a Night of Thunder and Lightning and Rain. My Wife not well. Thomas began to Mow the Garden and Fore Yard. Mr. Salter and his wife on their Journey home, came and lodg'd here. Their Horses had broke from them at Sudbury and Mr. More (Son of Deacon) waited on them hither with Two, who also return'd with the Evening. Mr. Salter brings Sad News from the Fleet and Camp at Cape Briton. Captain Smithurst²² missing in the Country Galley, and 140 Land soldiers cut off in their Attempt on the Island Battery. Yet God has deliver'd 3 French Sail into our Hands, Two 36-Gun-Company-Ships from France and a Quebeck Sloop with Flour and Peas.

19. A Young Man, one Laffland from Landlord Wards in Marlborough, brought Mr. Salters Stray Horses, and they proceeded upon their Journey. I rode with them as far as Captain Bakers. N.B. Reckon'd with Samuel Baker. P.M. Hard Thunder and heavy Rain. Towards Eve came Mr. Benjamin Goddard to talk with me about what is the Duty of a Christian that in his Conscience did Seriously judge that the Constant Preaching he sits under is not edifying, if So much as Safe. My Wife rather Worse.

20. My Wife ill yet. Sent to Dr. Gott. P.M. the Doctor came. Left divers Medicines both with regard to her Fever and pains in her Limbs, and likewise for her Sore, pained Breast. God grant us to make a good Improvement of his holy Corrections! My Family divers of them continue not well, Several of the Children as well as their Mother. My Concern at present great for Thomme yet he is Stirring about a little, but growing no better (I think) in the Main. Mr. Joseph Batchellor here and we finish'd with regard to Thomme.

21. I rode over to see Deacon Tomlin who lies ill. He answer'd me with great readiness respecting his State, and said he had such Hope, and such scripture ground for his Hope that he was not

²² Smithurst captained the *Prince of Orange*, a vessel of 16 guns. *The Boston Gazette, or Weekly Journal*, June 11, 1745.

afraid. I gave him some Cautions,—Strait the Gate—few etc.—the many deceiv'd—the Heart deceitful—the wiles of Satan—our own Sin—particularly warn'd him respecting Covetousness and loving the world—wanting to Live longer, how long soever we live. Pray'd with him and recommended him to the Grace of God. Neighbour Abner Newton²³ din'd with me, told me he heard that a Young man at Mill River was kill'd by the Lightning the Day before yesterday—as was another at Woodstock or Pomfret last Monday Night in his Bed. Mr. Jenison here, and pleasant.

22. Mrs. Hannah Rice (wife of Noah) from Sutton, here with 3 Children and din'd with me.

23. On 2 Tim. 3, 16. P.M. on Hos. 6, 3.

24. A very Spreading report that Mr. Whitefield is to preach at Grafton tomorrow. I visited Deacon Tomlin who lyes utterly insensible, breaths as if he was in a Sleep but cannot be wak'd, nor has Spake ever since about Sundown last Evening. Tis conceiv'd is in a dying State. Mr. Benjamin Burnap came to me at the Deacons. He has gather'd a Number of Subscriptions (under mine) for Mr. Edwards of Religious Affections. Old Ensign Newton here.

25. Early in the Morning to the House of Death, the late Deacon Tomlins, who deceas'd last Night. *Jejun. Priv. Speciatim propter Reverendi Domini Whitefield Approquinuationem: ut de Voluntate Dei gravis sim; ut nosque De Displieani nec Quomodocumque opus eius impediam sed Sapientiam et Directionem omnem quae necessaria Set praesertim hoc Tempore, a Deo Fonte et Patre Luminum et Largitionem, obtineam.*

26. Deacon Tomlin was bury'd. Thunder Showers. At the request of the Widow—principal Heir and Executor, I stop'd at the House after the Funeral to read the Last Will and Testament of the Deceased. N.B. The Will disquieted the Daughters. Deacon Fay rode home with me and I show'd him Something that I had drawn up with regard to Mr. Whitefield. Mr. Whipple and his wife at my House at Eve.

²³ Son of Thomas Newton.

27. Mr. Thomas Billing here. Neighbour Rogers Suffers Damage by Doggs among his sheep. People report here for the Fruits of my Garden. Cherrys and Currants. Thomas and Ebenezer mow Bushes instead of Grass, by Reason of the Cloudiness of the Weather. Nor have we done anything at Haying for several Days.

28. Thomas work'd for Mr. Chamberlin till noon, when Ensign Bruce came along with him home, having press'd him in his Majesty's Name to go up to the Western Frontiers. Somewhat Surpriz'd at Such a sudden and unexpected Turn, I had my Horse, left my Studys and Business and rode with the Ensign over to the Captain, who after a great deal of arguing told me that it was done out of Favour and regard to me, for that unless the young man be Secur'd he would soon Escape, and neither the King nor I Should have any Benefit from him. But I could not but Conceive that if that had been the Case the Affair would not have been carry'd on with all manner of Tokens of carrying him off, and no private hints given me of the Design, but every way oppressive to me under the Weight, not merely of my private, but of publick Business. I mention'd over the Young men of the Neighbourhood that might better have been pitch'd upon than Thomas—and tho I was willing to bear my part—a public Calamity yet could by no means conceive it to be my place to suffer as yet in this way. We broke off with his assuring me he should be releas'd upon his promising him to Stick to my Business and not run away if there Should be further Occasion for young men and Necessity obliging them At Length to take him. I din'd there. P.M. The Companys train'd and beat up for Volunteers—but without success. In the North Company Captain Maynard pressed his own son or young man Merodach, [illegible] Lieutenant Forbush's son Noah and Ensign Rice's son Joseph. The last hir'd Silas Pratt to go in his sons stead. N.B. An Exceeding, great Storm of Thunder and Lightning (which rose among us) prevail'd as it pass'd into the East and the brightest rainbow follow'd. N.B. I saw Deacon Mirriam of Grafton going to Concord with an Horse for Mr. Whitefield. N.B. At

Evening Joshua Winchester was press'd. He was of them I nam'd when I mention'd over the Neighbourhood but I added I thought it might not do to take one out of that but I did not remember that they had one Son already in the Kings service, viz. Samuel gone to Cape Breton: for then I should have endeavour'd to have him excus'd.

29. Thomas went to Captain Bakers and home. After a while came his Mother, disquieted that I (as she said) was the means of having Joshua press'd. Ebenezer carry'd home Mr. Tainters Chaise which has stood in my Barn now some Time. Very letting Weather as to our Hay—so frequent showers and Shines. P.M. another Thunder Storm, but chiefly went away South. After which there was Still a great and dismal one which went from the North East to the South East but did not come up over us.

30. On Hos. 6, 3, former part. P.M. 1 John 3, 23, former part for this last I us'd an Exercise on the Catechism which I had deliver'd to Young Women. Eli Forbush²⁴ din'd here. N.B. He and Jonathan Bruce being press'd to go to Westward to guard the Frontier desir'd prayers for them. I was very much tir'd and worried with my Services to Day which were somewhat long. Memorandum. Mr. Whitefield preaches at Grafton to Day and Some number of my Southern Neighbours are gone to hear him. Thomas Winchester at his Fathers and went to hear Mr. Whitefield.

JULY 1745

1. Thomas Winchester got off from going out a soldier. His Brother Joshua also got off as did divers others. But the seven that appear'd and that went this Morning from Captain Bakers to Colonel Wards in order to their going up to Colonel Hoddard of Northampton, were there. Jonathan Bruce, James Bradish, Ephraim Whitney, James Miller, Jonas Warrin, Elijah Rice and Eli Forbush. These out of Captain Maynards Company were Two only, viz. his own son, his only child Stephen, and Silas Pratt who went in the Room of Ensign Rice's son Joseph. N.B. I wrote a Letter in Eli's behalf to Mr. Edwards of Northampton.

²⁴ Eli Forbes. *Sibley*, XIII.

P.M. I rode down to Mr. Matthias Rices to get an Horse to go to Cambridge, but did not succeed. Went also to Mr. Seth Rice's and got one. Mr. Whitefield, I hear, preaches at Grafton to Day, a.m. and at Upton p.m.

2. My Dauter Molly accommodated with Captain Fays Horse rode to Cambridge with me. My Wife rode with me as far as Mr. Amsdens, whom I obtain'd to carry her (and her child) to Marlborough to see Sister Breck who was extreme urgent to have her be with her in her affliction and Confinement. N.B. Mr. Whitefield preach'd at Dr. Gotts and my wife heard him. An Hot Day. Molly and I rested at Lieutenant Biglo's at Waltham. Got to Mother Champneys just before a great storm of Thunder and Rain. N.B. Mother Champney in a Comfortable State of Health to what she has been.

3. This Morning going over to Cambridge met Mr. Matthias Rice, who inform'd me that our Forces had taken CAPE BRITON and that there was all manner of Joy thereat. The Exercises came to the Governor this morning early, and presently the Bells were rung, Guns fired, etc. Commencement was render'd the most gladsome Day. Everybody was full of the welcome story and wishing one another Joy. Was chiefly at Mr. Hancocks and at Sir Peabodys Chamber. N.B. Mr. Swift¹ of Acton his indecent Vociferation concerning my not being present at Mr. Smiths January 22 to bear my Testimony against Mr. Whitefield. I din'd in the Hall. N.B. Poor Mr. Samuel Coollidge²—his Distractions and Deliriums—pluck'd out of the presidents Chair in the Meeting House and dragg'd out on the Ground by a negro, like a Dead Dogg in presence of all the Assembly. Most piteous Sight! Molly din'd at Mr. Danforths.³ N.B. Mr. Rand⁴ of Sunderland has left

¹ The Reverend John Swift, Jr.

² (Harvard 1724). The former schoolmaster at Westborough and other places, who had become a public charge. *Sibley*, VII, 326-331.

³ Samuel Danforth.

⁴ The Reverend William Rand left Sunderland because he disliked the preaching of George Whitefield while many of his congregation evidently sympathized with the evangelist. John M. Smith, *History of the Town of Sunderland* (Greenfield, 1899), p. 61. Rand is believed to have written an address of the Hampshire County clergy to Whitefield which appeared in *The Testimony of the North Association in the County of Hartford* (Boston, 1745).

his people. Mr. Breck gives me word from my wife that Mr. Smith (who had engag'd to last Lecture when he came with Mr. Breck to my House) could not preach my Lecture. Lodg'd at Mother Champneys.

4. Molly and I rode to Boston. Broke fast at Brother Alexanders. Visited my Mother who is weak and sick. Mr. Gay⁵ of Hingham preach'd the Lecture on 1 Sam. 14, 6, 7, 13. Din'd at Mrs. Thomas Hubbards. Mr. Niles,⁶ Mr. Webb, Captain Dupre and others din'd also. N.B. My Kinsman at Dr. Delhonds'⁷ but is not well contented there. At Mrs. Thomas Stoddards and paid her about 12 pounds old Tenor. Return'd to Cambridge at Eve. N.B. Roxbury illuminated. Colleges illumin'd. Bonfire. Bell ringing, Drum beating etc. most of the Night.

5. It was Somewhat misty, but Molly and Mr. John Sparhawk⁸ in Company we rode as far as Mrs. Bekky Walkers in Waltham, when Molly being indispos'd we Lit and stay'd the making and Eating of Chocolat. We got up so seasonably to Westborough that I preach'd my Lecture at the usual Time in the afternoon, on John 4, 24. My wife return'd from Marlborough a.m.

6. [No entry].

7. Sacrament. On 1 John 4, 11. P.M. Ps. 89, 15. N.B. Somewhat more of the Northside at Communion than Some seasons of late, for I had wrote a Letter to Mr. Martyn before last Sabbath to notifie them. Yet some Number were absent.

8. Read Lowman⁹ on the Revelations.

9. Catechetical Exercise to young Women on the Eternally unchangeableness and wisdom of God.

10. An Hott Day. Ensign Bruce (who went up to Fort Shirley to bring back his son Jonathan) return'd—and informs that last Friday about 10 a.m. Mr. William Phipps was kill'd by

⁵ The Reverend Ebenezer Gay.

⁶ The Reverend Samuel Niles (Harvard 1699), the minister of the Second Church of Braintree, 1711-1762. *Sibley*, IV, 485-491.

⁷ Louis Delhonde, the physician of Boston.

⁸ The Reverend John Sparhawk of Salem.

⁹ Moses Lowman (1680-1752) was a non-conformist English divine. *A Paraphrase and Notes on the Revelation of St. John* (London, 1737).

the Indians about 30 Rods from the Garrison at [Putney] (nigh which lives Mr. Nehemiah How who went from Grafton) and his Body was treated inhumanly, Scalp'd, his Heart taken out etc.

11. Another Hot Day. Conformable to a Request from Reverend Stone of Southborough in behalf of Mr. Moses Fay and his wife of Said Town I went down there to a private Fast. Mr. Loring,¹⁰ Barrett,¹¹ Stone,¹² and Smith¹³ also at Mr. Fay's. N.B. Mrs. Fay had been languishing more than Seven Years and not at Meeting in that Time tho she has had six Children, and now suppos'd to be in a Consumption; her Case therefore calling for Pity and Prayers. Mr. Stone offer'd up the first Prayer. I preach'd on Ps. 65, 2. Mr. Barrett pray'd and Mr. Loring preach'd p.m. on Isa. 45, 22. A good Savoury Sermon which may the Lord bless to all Souls! Supp'd at Mr. Stones. I return'd at Evening. N.B. Mr. Smith inform'd me that Brother Breck was gone home, but a Number of Books which were all by Dr. Owen, he had bargain'd away to him, for which he had receiv'd and carry'd home with him Dr. Hammond.¹⁴ Compare this Conduct with Mr. Brecks Engagement to Me May 23.

12. Hot Weather Still. Heard that Deacon Fisher¹⁵ was lately kill'd at Ashualot by the Indians, and a post in this Day gone along to the Governor with the sad news of it.

13. [No entry].

14. A.M. on 1 John 4, 11. P.M. on Eph. 6, 13 to 18.

15. Mr. Jenison was here with divers important pieces of public News, in the Public Papers, in special our Loosing the Battle in Flanders near Tournay. N.B. Mr. Aaron Hardy of Grafton here, and is full of uneasiness about Mr. Prentices¹⁶ preaching.

¹⁰ The Reverend Israel Loring of Sudbury.

¹¹ The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

¹² The Reverend Nathan Stone of Southborough.

¹³ The Reverend Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

¹⁴ A work of Samuel Hammond, the English nonconformist divine who died in 1665.

¹⁵ Josiah Fisher, one of the original proprietors of Upper Ashuelot, was killed and scalped by the Indians, July 10, 1745. Philip A. Fisher, *The Fisher Genealogy* (Everett, 1898), pp. 74-75.

¹⁶ The Reverend Solomon Prentice of Grafton, who had been rebuked by an ecclesiastical council in Oct., 1744, continued his New-Light preaching until his resignation in 1747.

16. [No entry].
17. Isaac Newton of Southborough here, from Fort Shirley. Becky¹⁷ and Molly rode to Sutton. Brother Hicks from Cambridge to Sutton.
18. In the Singular good Providence of God Lieutenant Tainter this Morning Sent us a large Quarter of Lamb. Otherwise we Should have been unprovided for any Special Entertainment at our Table to Day, which was THANKSGIVING on Account of the late Success at Cape Briton, on which Occasion I preach'd on Isa. 25, 1, 2, 9. N.B. Mr. Prentice and his wife went a while agoe along with Mr. Whitefield and his wife in their Journey to Northampton and are not return'd. A Number of Grafton at Meeting with us. Mr. John Collar and Deacon Cooper¹⁸ and his wife din'd with us. At the Request of our Young Men Some while Since I appointed a Lecture to them to be in about 2 Hours, which I attended and preach'd on Rom. 2, 4, latter part.
19. Thomas and Ebenezer began at the Meadow. At Night there was Exceeding loud Cracks of Thunder and Sharp Lightning.
20. Thomas and Ebenezer at the Meadow. Rain p.m. Becky and Molly return'd from sutton. Thomas sow'd Turnips.
21. Repeat'd on Eph. 6, 13, and 1 John 3, 23. Mrs. Wheeler din'd here. It is my Grief that the North side are in so broken and unflourishing state.
22. Ebenezer having been somewhat poison'd by his working in the Meadow last week, goes not today with Thomas, but Reap'd Rye. I rode to Marlborough to Mr. Woods and return'd their Occasional Paper 3 vols. At Deacon Stevens's and paid him 10 shillings for mending Lieutenant Tainters Chaise May 22 last. I went to Mr. Smiths but he and his wife, old Mr. Loring and Sister Breck were gone down to Mr. Jonathan Lorings,¹⁹ to dine there but I din'd at Dr. Gotts. After Dinner the Doctor and I rode to Mr. Lorings. They had not din'd. I was oblig'd to Sit down with them Mr. Loring insisting, when as I had heard

¹⁷ Rebecca Hicks, daughter of John Hicks of Sutton, was Parkman's niece.

¹⁸ Samuel Cooper of Grafton.

¹⁹ Son of Parson Loring. Jonathan lived in Marlborough. Hudson, *Marlborough*, p. 410.

he was (tho unreasonably) disgusted with me. My Design in going to Marlborough was very much this, to wait on Sister Breck to our House, but she was not to be perswaded. I return'd with Mr. Smith etc. to his House and thence home.

23. Thomas at the Meadow. Ebenezer at the Rye. P.M. I preach'd at Mr. Sam Fay juniors on Heb. 12, 5. Mrs. Fay not having been at publick worship for more than 2 years. Very few attended—it being so busy a season.

24. Cornelius Biglo Sick of a Fever. I visited him, and dealt plainly with him. At divers Neighbours. Visited also Mr. Daniel Forbush's wife who is confin'd again by weakness and illness. Din'd at home. Thomas at the Meadow. Ebenezer at the Rye. Towards Night Mrs. Maynard had my mare to ride to Mrs. Miles²⁰ at Shrewsbury. At Eve I help'd Ebenezer in his unloading Hay and Carting in a Turn of Rye.

25. [No entry].

26. Mr. Breck on his Journey from Springfield to Marlborough. I resented his Conduct in trading away Dr. Owens Books to Mr. Smith.

27. Mr. Breck and his wife came up from Marlborough and lodg'd here.

28. Mr. Breck a.m. on Luke 12, 48, and p.m. on Gal. 6, 14.

29. Rain. Mr. Breck and his wife detain'd by the wet weather. N.B. Stephen Maynard return'd last night from Fort Shirley. Mr. Breck and I walked down to Captain Maynards.

30. Mr. Breck and his wife undertook their Journey. My wife (favour'd with Mr. Benjamin Hows Horse) and I rode to Worcester with them—and we din'd at Dr. Brecks. N.B. Mr. Fessenden²¹ there after dinner. P.M. We return'd, but tarried Some little Time at Colonel Chandlers and drank a Dish of Tea with Madam Chandler.²² She inform'd me that there were about 40 French persons old and Young dispos'd of in their Town. Mr. Cushing So busy Carting Hay I Saw him not, either going or

²⁰ The wife of Deacon Samuel Miles. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, p. 368.

²¹ Stephen Fessenden (Harvard 1737) was the second lawyer to practice in Worcester. *Sibley*, X, 169.

²² Wife of Colonel John Chandler.

returning. N.B. Mrs. Sarah Whipple took Care of our Sucking Child.

31. I visited Mrs. Grow who was Sick, and I din'd there. Visited Mrs. Harrington and Mr. Jonas Child and his wife, who wanted very much an Opportunity to discourse with Me about the grand Interests of their Souls. N.B. Mr. Whitney came in. I would rejoice to have this glorious work promoted, and do lament it is So behind hand.

AUGUST [1745]

1. I went to Shrewsbury. Preach'd the Lecture on Mat. 13, 39. Few at Meeting. Return'd at Eve.

2. Thomas brot home 3 Load from the Meadow and got in one Load of Home Hay.

3. Thomas brought home the last Load from the Meadow altho it has been very wett and troublesome stirring in the Meadow this Season. At Eve Loud Cracks of Thunder and Sharp Lightning. Through God's great Goodness we were preserv'd and Safe.

4. Rainy a. and p.m. on 1 John 3, 23. Heavy Rains which caus'd a great Flood. N.B. James Dunlop from Cape Briton here, as I also daily hear of their Returning.

5. Din'd at Deacon Newtons on Salt Fish. P.M. rode to Southboro to Mr. Thomas Hudson. Paid his wife 15 shillings old Tenor, Interest of £50 for one Quarter. Mr. Hudson not being at Home. Mr. Stone not at Home. Return'd at Eve.

6. Read Thoughts on Religion¹ and a Letter to a Baptist concerning Some Important Discoverys in Phylosophy and Theology—an Entertaining Piece. N.B. Great Loss of Hay among our Neighbours by the Flood.

7. My Little Dauter Sarah ill. At Mr. Matthias Rice's to talk with him about our North Precincts delaying to pay their £50 tho I have waited upon them 3 months and paid Interest because of their Neglect. He told me he would go to Lieutenant Holloway and Endeavour that he Should come and See me, or do

¹ Probably [Blaise] Pascal, *Thoughts on Religion, and Other Subjects* (London, 1704).

what might serve me. Was at Mr. Beemans²—at Levi Brigham's, who has newly got to keeping House at old Mr. Brigham's. At Eve found Mr. Gay³ of Suffield and his wife here, being on their Journey Home. Brother Hicks here and his Son John from Cape Briton.

8. The Company went off. Thomas went to mowing at Mr. Beemans, but return'd without being able to do any thing the Waters were so high. Neighbour Stephen Maynard here and gave me a Narrative of his Excursion in the public service at Fort Shirley and of the good Behaviour of their Captain (Ephraim Williams junior) towards them. At Eve Mrs. Winchester here.

9. Thomas works at his Fathers. Ebenezer and the Two Boys clearing. Mr. Abner Newton here and paid me £20 old Tenor.

10. Thomas at his Fathers. Mr. Thomas Goodenow here. Gave him a Letter from me to Mr. Martyn.

11. On Acts 20, 21, and on Luke 18, 21.

12. Ezekiel Dodge⁴ a Freshman of Harvard College here.

13. I rode to Harvard Association, by Marlborough. Was at Mr. Smith's Early, but he refus'd to go, tho he was at the appointment of the Meeting and was himself the appointed Lecturer; his main Objection was rais'd from this, that Mr. Seccomb⁵ had ask'd Mr. Whitefield to preach, and he had accordingly preach'd at Harvard. But tho Mr. Smith and Several others were not there yet there was a considerable Number and Mr. Trowbridge⁶ and his wife from Groton. Concio absent Mr. Loring repeated a sermon on Eph. 5, 25, last Clause, and gave himself for it among the Collections[?]. Mr. Stone's seem'd to be so much in Favour of Crying out that I could not help making my Remarks on it, how differently it would have been taken from some others (Ex gr. from me) if Such Collection had been brought by them.

² Eleazer Beeman of Westborough.

³ The Reverend Ebenezer Gay, Jr. *Sibley*, X, 171-175.

⁴ (Harvard 1749). Later the minister of Abington, 1750 to 1770. See Benjamin Hobart, *History of the Town of Abington* (Boston, 1866), pp. 96-98.

⁵ The Reverend John Seccomb of Harvard.

⁶ The Reverend Caleb Trowbridge of Groton.

14. A Number of us went with Mr. Seccomb to his Island⁷ with great pleasure. Mr. Stone deliver'd an Excellent Sermon at the Public Lecture on Tit. 2, 14. N.B. Our Conversation on a Certain Meeting propos'd by some ministers to be at Boston September next to subscribe the Confession of Faith; but we determin'd nothing, unless to let it very much alone—wait and see. Mr. Barrett my Company to Marlborough. Supp'd at his Kinsman Barretts. Home late.

15. Hearing that Mrs. Tomlin (widow) was not well I visited her at Evening.

16. Mr. Smith came up from Marlborough a.m. P.M. preach'd my Lecture on John 14, 19.

17. Brother Hicks here, on his journey to Cambridge. Rain P.M.

18. Rain in the Morning—but So held up afterwards that we had a Comfortable Day. I preach'd on Isa. 25, 9. Mr. Nathaniel Parker⁸ of Newton with us at Communion—and here at noon time but did not dine with us. Deacon Fay and Deacon Forbush din'd here. P.M. Repeated sermon on Luke 12, 21. Have great reason to mourn over my Dullness and want of Spiritual Taste etc.

19. Mr. Parker of Newton here—his Discourse very much of one Bird,⁹ a preacher among them.

20. Catechetical Exercise to young Women. Thomas to Mr. Beemans for a Load of Hay, of him. At Night Thomas went to his Fathers to work some Days for himself.

21. A.M. Captain Bass of Dorchester and Mr. Daniel Henshaw of Boston here. Mr. Martyn¹⁰ also. The last din'd and Spent the afternoon with me. He told me that he drew the Last Petition which our North side put in to the Court, but he did not

⁷ The Reverend Mr. Seccomb "built a substantial summer cottage, as a place of pleasant resort," on Grape Island in Bare Hill Pond. Henry S. Nourse, *History of the Town of Harvard* (Harvard, 1894), p. 187.

⁸ The proprietor of a saw mill.

⁹ The Reverend Samuel Bird attended Harvard College but was expelled, May 11, 1744, because he was "notoriously guilty of the most intollerable impudence, Arrogance and Contempt of Superiours, and especially of Ministers of the Gospel." He already had New-Light tendencies. He became the minister of Dunstable, 1747-1751, and later of the White Haven Church, New Haven, Conn. *Sibley*, XI, 359-364.

¹⁰ The Reverend John Martyn of the North Precinct.

know how the Case was Circumstanced but as he took it from Lieutenant Holloways mouth. We had some discourse of Changing after a while.

22. I visited Captain Forbush's wife who had been in some Spiritual Concern and Distress. Ebenezer went p.m. to Sutton to look up my Young Cattle which had not been heard of for some time.

23. Mr. Simon Goddard here—he brought me 2 Pamphlets to read, one of which was Mr. Shurtleffs Letter concerning Mr. Whitefield.¹¹ P.M. Mr. Abraham Knowlton who din'd with us.

24. Mr. Simon Goddard here again. I rode to Hopkinton on Mr. Edwards Whipples Horse. N.B. Ebenezer return'd from Sutton without any News of my Cattle. Thomas Winchester return'd at Eve from his Fathers.

25. Mr. Barrett preach'd here on Tit. 2, 11, The Grace of God. I preach'd at Hopkinton a. and p.m. on Song. 1, 7, 8. N.B. Mr. David Snowden of Boston there.

26. I return'd from Hopkinton. Thomas at my work again. Mr. James Fays son James Sick. N.B. Mr. Fay came yesterday to Westborough meeting a.m. but because Mr. Barrett preach'd he went to Grafton p.m. and desir'd prayers for his son there. Noah How p.m. sealing my new Closet (or little study). Mr. Thomas Hudson at Eve.

27. Catechiz'd the Children a. and p.m. at the Meeting House. Mr. Peabody¹² going to a Fast at Worcester din'd with me. Noah How at work at my new Study still. Mr. Whitney here to ask my Mind about Mr. Hales¹³ preaching next week at some House on the Road as would best accommodate—to which I consented. N.B. Mr. Ball and Mr. Wheeler here. Ebenezer was ill, bad cold etc.

28. Thomas at Grafton a.m. hunting for my young Cattle, but in Vain. Very hot Season.

29. Visited Mr. Daniel Forbushs wife who lyes Sick, but has

¹¹ William Shurtleff, *A Letter to Those of his Brethren in the Ministry Who Refuse to Admit the Rev. Mr. Whitefield into Their Pulpits* (Boston, 1745).

¹² The Reverend Oliver Peabody of Natick.

¹³ The Reverend Moses Hale (Harvard 1734), later minister of the First Congregational Church of West Newbury, 1752-1779. *Sibley*, IX, 407-408.

her Senses. I not only convers'd with her but read part of Mathers Dead Faith¹⁴ etc.

30. [No entry].

31. Brother Hicks here and Mrs. Peggy Whittemore din'd with us. It has been Sorrowful to hear of So many of those who have return'd from Cape Breton who have sicken'd and dy'd.

S E P T E M B E R , 1 7 4 5

1. On Isa. 25, 9. P.M. repeated Sermon on Ps. 106, 5 on Spiritual Joy. Acquainted our Congregation that there would (God willing) be a Sermon tomorrow at Stephen Fay's at 11 o'Clock.

2. My wife and I rode to Stephen Fays. Mr. Hall was there, and many people. Mr. Hall¹ preach'd on Mat. 6, 10. Thy Kingdom Come. Mr. Winchester² a Candidate for the Ministry and preacher at Sutton was there also. N.B. an Handsome Entertainment after the Exercise. Mr. Hall on his Journey to Concord. N.B. Thomas Winchester (by agreement) went off. This I consented to, because my Two sons and Nathan Knowlton Suffic'd for my present Business and it was upon Condition that Thomas Should help me the month of April instead of this month: and as to his lost Time, he is to make it up in Cyder making and Thrashing. Moses Pratt had my Oxen to cross his Ground in Shrewsbury.

3. Having heard that one of Reverend Mr. Smiths little Daughters³ was dead, I went (though not sent for) to the Funeral. Mr. Loring was there and pray'd. A very grievous Loss to the poor bereav'd Parents. The Lord be almightily present with them and Sustain them! Rode with Mr. Loring to his sons. Mr. Peabody return'd from Worcester, and tells me that Mr. Nathaniel Gardner is Chose their Pastor. N.B. Mr. Lorings great Concern at hearing of the Choice of Mr. Gardner at Worcester: and he

¹⁴ Samuel Mather, *Dead Faith Anatomized* (Boston, 1740).

¹ The Reverend David Hall of Sutton.

² Jonathan Winchester (Harvard 1737) was later the first minister of the First Congregational Church of Ashburnham, 1760-1767. *Sibley*, X, 264-265.

³ Anna, daughter of the Reverend Aaron Smith of Marlborough died Sept. 1, aged 4.

wrote a Letter to Mr. Prentice⁴ of Lancaster while I was present, to induce him to Converse with others in the Neighbouring Ministry about it. Mr. Josiah Brown the bearer as he was also of another from me to beseech Mr. Prentice to preach to our north-side at their approaching Fast. I return'd from Sutton to Cambridge.

I carry'd to God those Important Articles—and the Particular State of Some of the Flock, more Especially the Condition of Mrs. Abigail Forbush (wife of Daniel) who lyes most dangerously ill, if yet alive; and that of James Bradish junior (if he be among the Living) very Sick and low, at Deerfield; The Contests also raised by Mr. James Fay and his Brother Stephen, chiefly on account of my disapproving of their going to other Towns, to Meeting on Lords Days. N.B. The Last of them last night in a great Flame, on sudden, about this Matter, but Came to me to Day to acknowledge his unguarded Passion and indecency at that time.

Besides these, the Case of my Family, my wife, Children—the Ministry—the Land, the Nation and Protestant Interests abroad, call for Concern and [illegible] Prayers. Upon the Whole I solemnly Reviewed my Engagements and Resolutions to be the Lords, relying upon the Merits and Reassurances of the Lord. Christ alone for Pardon and acceptance with God and the Aids of the Divine Spirit to enable me to adhere to and fulfill them. And May the Lord most mercifully watch over the future part of my (Short) Life, and prepare me for His whole will! Amen.

4. Visited Mr. Daniel Forbushs wife, but she had not her Reason. Visited Mr. James Fays family—much uncomfortable Complaint of me and my improving the Neighbouring Ministers, Mr. Barrett Especially. N.B. Stephen Fay came and return'd as far as his house with me; and just before parting flew into a dreadful passion with me that I did not Consent to his going away to other Towns on the Lords Day: and immoderately rak'd up by Strict Charge given him about Mr. Elisha Paine. It griev'd me heartily to see him in such an high Ferment, but the Lord have Mercy on us and pardon us for his Name's Sake!

⁴ The Reverend John Prentice.

5. *Jejun. Priv. Vide Natalitia.* Stephen Fay here acknowledging his indecent Temper and Manner last Night, but stands to the Things that he Spoke. The Lord Shew him his Error!

[The following entry for September 5, 1745, was inserted in the *Natalitia.*]

May a gracious and merciful God accept what I have this Day been enabled to do, in humbling my soul before him, and offering up fervent Supplications to him; together with my hearty Thanksgivings for his Sparing Goodness to So Vile and unprofitable a Creature.

I had the following Special Occasions of Prayer before me this Day:

1. My own inward State which is not without much Darkness and Confusion and sometimes Distress yet. Besides what I needed with regard to my Self, my inward State, I wanted Direction and Assistance in my studys and Ministry.

2. There are Discouraging Symptoms among my people, not only Deadness and Coldness as to the things of God, but many Signs of Worldliness, Carnality, Contentiousness.

3. The North Side are taking Steps Preparatory to Settling a Minister and are next week to have a Fast.

6. At Eve Mr. Bezaleel Eager came from Mr. Billings with his Earnest request to have [me] go over to see his sick Children. I went and found his little son, his only Son, very nigh to Death, and Two little Dauters sick. Return'd at about ten and one-half to my Family. Their sickness is Fever and Flux⁵ which greatly prevails in Shrewsbury and many children are taken away.

7. Moses Pratt return'd my Oxen Safe after their journey and work.

8. On Acts 20, 21, and Ps. 89, 47 p.m. on Occasion of Mr. Daniel Forbushs wifes Death last night. The Lord make us sensible of the worth of our opportunitys since our Time is so short, and the advantage of Reason and understanding so invaluable.

⁵ Excessive fluid discharge from the bowels.

9. I rose early and went to Mr. Joseph Rice's at Marlborough. Took up £50 old Tenor of him to pay Mr. Hudson of Southboro and then attended Funeral of Mrs. Forbush. At Mr. Williams's after the Funeral.

10. In the Morning rode to Southboro to Mr. Hudsons and took up my Bond. N.B. Mr. Edy and his wife at Mr. Hudsons. N.B. Mr. Stone gone to Harwich. After my Return, my wife and I went to the Funeral of Two of Mr. Billings's⁶ Children⁷—his little Son and a little Dauter who sabbath was Sennight went hand in hand to the House of God now lay in one Grave in one Coffin. They were buried by the New Meeting House, the first that have been buried in that place.

11. N.B. Mr. Wolcott⁸ of Salem and his wife at Bezaleel Eagers. Ebenezer and Thomme went to Grafton and brought down our young Cattle from Mr. David Batchellors. At Eve Mr. Ebenezer Rice and his wife here but I could not converse with them only directed them when to come to me. Mr. James Ball, Laurence and James Rice were here, and brought me a Paper sign'd by eleven persons of the North precinct Shewing that they were against their Brethrens appointing the Fast approaching in order to call and settle a minister. A Fast, they acknowledge, there is reason for and they are ready to join in one, but not for the Calling a Minister. N.B. I had so much hindrance that I could not without Difficulty prepare a Sermon.

12. Fast on the North Side. Mr. Cushing⁹ Sent a Letter that the Sick and Dead among them prevented his Coming. Mr. Morse¹⁰ Sent a Letter also that not only was there most distressing Sickness among his Neighbours, but he himself was Sick; nay and desir'd a Fast might be kept among them, next Week. Mr. Prentice of Lancaster neither Came nor sent why. Mr. Goss¹¹

⁶ Thomas Billing or Billings of Westborough.

⁷ Nathaniel died Sept. 8 and Mary Sept. 9. Still another child, Jane Billing died a few days later, Sept. 15, 1745.

⁸ John Wolcott (Harvard 1721), a gentleman and merchant, who served as a Representative, Justice of the Peace, and High Sheriff of Essex County. *Sibley*, VI, 590-591.

⁹ The Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

¹⁰ The Reverend Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

¹¹ The Reverend Thomas Goss of Bolton.

came. Show'd him the paper I receiv'd last night. A.M. I pray'd and Mr. Goss preach'd on Lev. 44. P.M. Mr. Goss pray'd and I preach'd on 2 Chron. 15, 2. O that God might make it a Day of Atonement an Reconciliation, and that He would please truely to humble, direct prepare and Bless the precinct! We were entertain'd at Captain Eagers. At Evening came a Committee (viz. Messers. Livermore, McAllister, Townsend and Matthias Rice) to take Advice of the Ministers—and the Dissatisfy'd also came and brought their reasons against joining in the Fast. We heard much, yet deferr'd the matter to another Time when the other Ministers might be present: viz. next Monday come sennight, and to meet then at Lieutenant Holloways, at 12 o'Clock. N.B. Captain Fay my Company coming and going. N.B. News of the Mohawks Threatening.

13. Mr. Smith of Marlborough sent David Warrin to me, informing me that his wife was ill and he desir'd Earnestly to Change next Sabbath. P.M. went to Mr. Ebenezer Johnsons of Southboro to see his wife who was very sick and low, and Mr. Stone at Harwich was at Mr. Jacob Amsdens as I return'd home. N.B. Thomas Winchester at work for me both yesterday and today, making Cyder.

14. Thomas making and Ebenezer boyling Cyder. In all, have made 16 Barrells and boyl'd about 10. Mr. Smith came here, and I went to Marlborough. Thomas return'd home.

15. Mr. Smith preach'd here on John 1, 11. I preach'd at Marlborough on Luke 12, 15. I baptized Mr. Samuel Shermans son Jason. I return'd at Evening.

16. Was at the Funeral of another of Mr. Billings Children and Mrs. Billings ill. N.B. A Story has got about of a Dream of Mrs. Billings, and which I took the Freedom to enquire into and which She confirm'd, viz. that She Saw a man bring the Coffin of her youngest Child into the House, upon which She took on; but presently there came in another Man with a large Coffin, and said to her that She had not need to take on for her Child for here was a Coffin for herself also, for she Should die next. N.B. Mr. Hale who lives near the new burying place (tis said) saw a large

Coffin (as well as a small one) in the air just over the Burying place last Tuesday Evening immediately after the burying Mr. Billings Two Children, which story much fright people about Mrs. Billings Death—but I reply'd that we have a more Sure word of Prophecy etc. Mr. John Oake and Mr. Jesse Brigham have Each of them a Child very bad of the Distemper, both which I visited and pray'd with. N.B. Dark riding home through the woods at Night, from Mr. Brighams, nor was it without Danger—but God was pleas'd to Preserve and Conduct me. Captain Fay told me that a Negro man from Mendon was committed to gaol last night for murdering his Mistress.

17. I visited Eunice Bradish a.m. she lying Sick. Messengers one after another of the Deaths and sickness among us. Mr. Brighams¹² and Oakes¹³ Children dy'd last Night. Mrs. Billings very bad. Mrs. Dinah Goddenow taken last night, but better today. Mr. Ebenezer Rice's wife here to be Examin'd. Mrs. Thomas Kendal (that formerly liv'd with me) here to See me. Mr. Joseph Batchellor of Grafton, with Mr. Francis Whipple, here.

18. I went to the Funeral of Mr. Jesse Brighams Child, a little Dauter of about 3 and $\frac{1}{2}$. From thence I went to the Funeral of Mr. John Oakes eldest Child between 2 and 3. By the way I visited Mrs. Billing also, who was very ill yet—and pray'd with her. N.B. Mr. Whipple accompany'd me when I went and return'd with me. Mrs. Daniel Goodenow was in great Distress, the night before last in such agony, that by means of the Trouble of her Mind under a sense of Gods Judgments and her own Hardness of heart.

19. A Public Fast on Occasion of the Warr lately Declar'd against the Indians, both at the Eastward, and Westward, and great Apprehensions that the 6 Nations, The Iroquois, viz. Mohawks etc. who have been from Early Times in Alliance with us, would break forth against us. A.M. I preach'd on 2 Chron. 20, 12. P.M. on Heb. 6, 7, 8. May it please God to accept the

¹² Persis Brigham died Sept. 17.

¹³ Hannah Oake died Sept. 16.

Solemnity and bless and prosper his holy Word for our awakening and saving Benefit!

20. Mr. Wheeler here to desire to be put into a way to appear before the Ministers next Monday at Lieutenant Holloways. I told him if he had anything of Weight he might write it.

21. My honoured Mother this Day 85 years old. The Lord yet sustain and preserve her! etc.

22. Preach'd on Two very moving Subjects viz. a.m. on 2 Cor. 3, 15. P.M. Heb. 6, 7, 8. O that the word may not be as Water Spilt on the Ground!

23. Wrote to my Mother and Brother Samuel. Din'd at Lieutenant Holloways, with Mr. Prentice of Lancaster and Mr. Cushing; afterwards came Mr. Morse; but Mr. Goss was gone to Brookfield to see his Father who is sick. After Mr. Prentice had pray'd, The Committee appointed to wait on the Ministers for their Advice came in, viz. Messers. Livermore, Townsend, McAllister, Jacob and Matthias Rice, and by word of mouth express'd the Desire of the Precincts. There came in also Mr. Wheeler, Ball etc. who were dissatisfy'd with proceeding at the present to settle a minister. After hearing both sides at large, they withdrew and the ministers conferr'd one with another. We look'd as impartially as we could into each part of the Case, and drew up and sign'd our Advice to them which was also read to them. But when Mr. Wheeler heard it, he was not a little Disturb'd. Several of us in the Ministry address'd them with earnest Exhortations, Cautions etc. We Supp'd there—my Mare broke out of the Pasture there and ran home to her Colt. I rode Lieutenants Mare home. It was after Midnight when I got home, and my Family o'Bed.

24. Greatly Troubled at the Slender success of our Advice last night. Captain Maynard going to Boston. I sent Letters by him to Reverend Messers Webb¹⁴ and Eliot¹⁵ respecting the meeting of ministers this week at Boston to subscribe Confessions of Faith. At Eve Mr. Ebenezer Rice here to be Examin'd. I began a Letter to the Committee of the North Precinct—in which I

¹⁴ John Webb of Boston.

¹⁵ Andrew Eliot of Boston.

would fain qualifie their Tempers so far as to be Condescending to their Brethren and induce them to proceed with moderation in their Affairs. Catechiz'd young Women. Preach'd to them on Mat. 13, 39.

25. Besides finishing my Letter to the Committee I wrote affectionately to the dissatisfy'd party if possible to Calm them a little under their uneasiness and Caution them against the evils to which they are now in great Danger—especially against prostituting and sacrificing the Interests of the Soul to Temporal etc., being afraid, from Some discourse from them that they are in Danger of turning to the Church of England. At Eve Stephen Fay here with his uneasinesses Still, for my reproofs at the Time of Mr. Elisha Pain and for my Saying at his Brother Fays that his [Stephens] wife had acknowledged to me that her disaffection to Me and my ministrations was from a wrong Spirit which was true. See her talk with me, May 3, 1744.

26. Divers poor Sickly Soldiers from Cape Breton here, bound for Suffield—whom I endeavour'd to refresh and they went on their way. Mr. Martyn came, din'd with me and preach'd my Lecture on John 8, 23 those words Ye are of this World. A reasonable and Excellent Sermon. May God make it usefull and Effectual to all of us! After Lecture many people were here. Captain Eager, Lieutenant Holloway. I deliver'd my Letter to the Committee to Mr. Livermore, McAllister and Matthias Rice (three of them) and manifested my hearty Concern for them and my Fears lest these Trials which Some of their Brethren (viz. the Dissatisfy'd) were brought into, would be too hard for them, and this I had the more reason for when they themselves told me that they heard that Mr (Commissary) Price¹⁶ is design'd to preach a Lecture in a short time in Mr. Wheelers Chamber.

As to Mr. Martyn, I found that Captain Eager etc. were desirous of his coming over and preaching for me on Communion Day. I plainly intimated to him my Concurrence therewith, and desire of it. His answer left it at uncertaintys for a while,

¹⁶ Roger Price, the Commissary or superintendent of Episcopal churches of New England.

but at length he consented I might depend upon Seeing him, God willing, next Saturday P.M.

Messers. James and Stephen Fay and their wives here, and had a long Conference with me about their Uneasiness. They judg'd that Seeing Ruths Offence against me (May 3, 1744) was private, I ought not to have divulg'd it. I Reply'd that if She had not done it herself I Should not made [sic] the Reply that I did at James's that She confess'd to me that her Disaffection to me was from a wrong Spirit. They said she had not done it, for they never knew of what was done or said at the Time referr'd to; she had not told them. I return'd that by their telling me that she was dissatisfy'd with me, and expressing themselves as they did I could not but take it that She had, for that was the principal if not only Time wherein she had manifested dissatisfaction and disaffection to me. But I added that if she had not I misapprehended them, and I was Sorry that I said a word about it; and I desir'd James and his wife to take notice of it; but I hop'd they would not be so unwise as to Make any Noise about these Things, but prudently Conceal them. Lydia Said I had pray'd them at their House not to mention what at that time I said of Ruth, and they did not intend to, but She drop'd something of it before she was aware. Stephen very much insisted and entreated I would humour him so much as to let him see what I had writ about his wifes Discourse with me. After some time refusing I gratify'd him (with her Consent) and putting the others into another Room, I read my Journal of that Time to them but she Seem'd not to Remember much about it. I said many things to them of the unreasonableness of their Disgusts, before they went away; and of my Grief to have persons that profess'd to be such Friends of the Interest of Christ to do So many Things for the Clogging and hindering it.

27. Very heavy Rains last night and this Morning. Mr. Thomas Goodenow here. He informs me of his infant's illness and requests me to go over and baptize it; but I was unwilling Considering that we should not be likely to have any Number of person together it being so near night, but especially I was not

able to be out in the Evening and expose my Health—but I deferr'd the matter till tomorrow. We would God willing, See how the Child would be then, and what would be best to be done.

28. I went over to Mr. Thomas Goodenow's and baptiz'd his Infant Child. By the Name of [blank]. Brother Ephraim Allen, Matthias Rice etc. were present. It appear'd to those who were there that the Child was in Danger of Death. After that Baptism I visited Josiah Cutting who is taken sick of Fever and Flux, and grows very bad.

29. I expected Mr. Martyn last night, but he came no further than Lieutenant Holloways. He was at Communion with us and the Generality of the Northside, there being no Meeting there to Day. I preach'd on 2 Cor. 3, 14, and administered the Sacrament. Mr. Martyn, Deacon Fay etc. din'd with me. Mr. Martyn p.m. on Song 5, 16, last Clause, This is my Friend, O Dauters of Jerusalem. The Lord bless what has been done this Day for our Saving Benefit! Mr. Martyn lodg'd here: and his Conversation not disagreeable.

30. Was at the Burial of Mr. Thomas Goodenows Infant Child,¹⁷ and afterwards visited Josiah Cutting (at Mr. Jesse Brigham's) who grows worse. Mrs. Brigham and their son Timothy under the same Distemper.

OCTOBER, 1745

1. Fast at Hopkinton on account of the sorrowful Divisions and Separations among them. Mr. Loring and Mr. Hall there, but Mr. Messinger,¹ who was sent to also, did not come. I began with Prayer A.M. and Mr. Hall preach'd on Mat. 6, 12. Mr. Loring P.M. both pray'd and preach'd. His Sermon on Mat. 5, 4. May it please God to accept this Day! and have Compassion on his People! We all lodg'd at Mr. Barretts. N.B. Mr. Commissary Price held a Lecture among his people to Day also; and I had reason to suppose that Mr. Joseph Wheeler of Westborough was with Mr. Price and solliciting him to preach a Lecture at his House.

¹⁷ Aaron Goodenow or Goodanow died Sept. 29.

¹ The Reverend Henry Messenger of Wrentham.

2. We were desirous to return home, but the Church being, by agreement together for a Conference, importun'd us urgently to tarry and be present with them at the Meeting House and Mr. Loring open'd their meeting with prayer. Their Conference rose to no purpose. We left them and they soon dispers'd. We din'd and parted. I return'd home (having Lieutenant Aaron Forbushs Horse upon this Journey) tho very much griev'd that such a season for reconcilment was lost. At my House found Elihu Lyman² of Northampton (a young graduate of Yale College) and with him Mrs. Esther Edwards, on a Journey to Boston. And by and by came also Mr. Sergeant of Stockbridge and his wife, on their return home from Boston.

3. Our Company went off. N.B. Mary Graves, now Garfield, here confessing her Fornication and desiring a Line to Mr. Cushing if I was willing she should Make her public Humilliation there, Seeing She had dwelt in Shrewsbury about 3 years: which I consented to. P.M. Mr. Francis Whipple here. He in Conversation inform'd me that this Precincts Committee were to meet tomorrow Evening.

4. I wrote to the Precincts Committee that when they call a Meeting again they may insert a Clause relating to the Precincts hearing my answer to their Messages of February last.

5. Last Night Mr. Daniel Warrin of our North precinct brought a sad message of Dr. Gotts Wife³ being at the Point of Death and his Desire to see me. I therefore left my Study and Preparations and rode to Marlborough, where was a sorrowful sight. Mrs. Gott was alive and sometimes seem'd to have some Understanding but was hardly able to Speak a Sentence: and but Rarely so much as a Yes. I stay'd and din'd there, and at the Doctors Desire pray'd with Mrs. Gott, but the Doctor was hurry'd up to Westborough to Mr. George Smiths wife, and to Mr. Jacob Rice—the last being sick and very bad of the Distemper. N.B. Captain Ward of Worcester at the Doctors Mr. Chandlers wife being very bad of a Nervous Fever. P.M. I was at Reverend Mr. Smiths—and in my return Home was at Mr.

² (Yale 1745). Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, II, 49–50.

³ Mrs. Parkman's sister.

Matthias Rice's where Benoni Baily was Sick of the Common Distemper.

6. I preach'd on the Subject of Taking away the Vail, but us'd the 16th and part of the 17th verse [of 2 Cor. 3] for my Text: and by Reason of my many hindrances was forc'd to use Some parts of my Sermons on Col. 1, 21, from page 14. Lydia Cutting din'd with us. N.B. Old Mrs. Cheney⁴ of Cambridge here, after Exercises.

7. I Catechiz'd at the South End, at the School House—upward of 40 Children. Mrs. Tainter⁵ kindly ask'd me to Dinner, which I readily accepted of. N.B. Mr. Tainter⁶ of Grafton there and Mr. Nathaniel Whitney. Finishing the Subscriptions among us for Mr. Edwards⁷ of Northampton on Religious Affections. When I came home I found Sir Williams⁸ from Sudbury here, and afterwards came Brother Hicks. The latter lodg'd here.

8. My wife rode to Marlborough p.m. to see Mrs. Gott, who is yet alive. Ebenezer and Nathan Knowlton (with some help of Ebenezer Maynard) made a Load of Cyder. Lieutenant Hezekiah Ward of Southborough here. Finish'd Missons Voiages into Italy⁹—After reading out Lowman on the Revelations.¹⁰ I have for some time been reading his paraphrase of such of the Notes as can be profitable, in my Family.

9. Mr. Charles Roberts of Sutton, came for a Load of Cyder, for which he promis'd to pay me in six weeks.

10. In the Morning I rode up to Shrewsbury Fast, which was on occasion of the Mortal Sickness among them (the Fever and Flux). Mr. Hall was to have been there but he came not. My part was to perform the forenoon service since I could not be there in the afternoon. I preach'd on 1 Pet. 5, 6. At noon I took leave, Mr. Morse being with Mr. Cushing. I hasted to Mr.

⁴ Mrs. Benjamin Cheney.

⁵ Wife of Deacon Simon Tainter.

⁶ Simon Tainter, Jr., who had lived in Westborough.

⁷ The Reverend Jonathan Edwards.

⁸ Abraham Williams (Harvard 1744).

⁹ François Mission, *A New Voyag to Italy* (London, 1695), 2 vols.

¹⁰ Moses Lowman, *A Paraphrase and Notes on the Revelation of St. John* (London, 1737).

Francis Whipples in Westborough and preach'd at the Private Meeting there on Isa. 66, 2.

11. Ebenezer with the help of Neighbour Ebenezer Maynard makes Cyder.

12. Ebenezer got home the Cyder. [blank] Barrells. N.B. Mrs. Gott dy'd last night.

13. On Cor. 3, 16, 17. John 13, 17. N.B. Under the former repeated sermon on Col. 1, 21, page 25 to 31.

14. Early to Mr. Grouts to look at some Beef—he came to look of one of my own Cows to pass his Judgment. I took his advice and determin'd on my own. My Wife and I rode to Mrs. Gotts Funeral. Mr. Smith tho at the Funeral, was not well and could not Pray. I was oblig'd (tho it was so sudden) to pray. We return'd at Eve. N.B. Captain Hapgood¹¹ of Shrewsbury bury'd to Day also. N.B. Colonel Ward¹² said, of Captain Hapgoods repenting that he had talk'd so much against New Light People etc.

15. I rode to Association at Stow. As I went I call'd at Mr. Matthias Rice's (Mr. Francis Whipple being with me) and borrowed £8 Old Tenor of Mrs. Rice otherwise my Journey to Boston must have been stop'd, for tho I had £10 in my Pocket, my occasions call'd for as much more. From Marlborough I had Mr. Smiths Company to Stow. Besides us Mr. Prentice, Loring, Barrett,¹³ Stone, Seccomb, Swift¹⁴ and Goss there. Mr. Swifts Concio tho Short, yet pritty well done. Mr. Ephraim Allen came with a Letter from our North Precinct to Messers Prentice and Cushing and Me, desiring us to Consult the Association what they had best do about Candidates for them, Seeing the Committee which they had chose to wait upon those Gentlemen as the Precinct had nominated would not go: and whether they might proceed to Call Mr. Martyn?¹⁵ The Association did not Care to do nor Say any thing till they had receiv'd Satisfaction from Mr.

¹¹ Thomas Hapgood died Oct. 5, 1745. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, p. 306.

¹² Nahum Ward.

¹³ The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

¹⁴ The Reverend John Swift, Jr., of Acton.

¹⁵ The Reverend John Martyn.

Martyn respecting his Sermon at Bolton, and he not being now present the affair was deferr'd till tomorrow morning.

16. Mr. Martyn came and after some Debate he receded from the sentiments deliver'd in his sermon at Bolton, and sign'd a Paper drawn up to that Purpose, and upon that the Association wrote a Letter to our North precinct they had nothing to say why they might not proceed with respect to Mr. Martyn if the Committee etc. refus'd to wait upon the other Candidates nominated. N.B. Mr. Smith who was to have preach'd the Public Lecture was not well, and requested Mr. Loring to preach for him; which was accepted, and he preach'd from those words [blank] Pet. [blank] The Precious Blood of Christ. It was so late before we broke up that it was night by that I got to Mr. Lorings; and Mr. Seccomb being my Company in My Journey to Weston he induc'd me to lodge at his Father Williams.¹⁶ But Mr. Williams was gone to Hatfield. Thomas Winchester Made Cyder a Day and Half, and gott in Corn a Day and half.

17. Proceeded on my Journey to Cambridge. N.B. Contest between sister Lydia and Brother Hicks, the administrators. I refus'd to engage in it: and hasten'd to Boston, but 'twas too late for Lecture. My Brother Samuel gone to Plymouth. My Mother wondrously Sustain'd by God and Comfortable. Blessed be God for this great Favour! but my sister Esther very low and confin'd to her Bed. I din'd at Judge Sewals¹⁷ where was also his Brother Mitchel Sewal, and after Dinner Dr. Chauncy¹⁸ and Mr. Rand¹⁹ came. At Sister Eliza's who (with her Dauter) was sick. Lodg'd there with Parkman. My Mare at Mrs. Keggells.²⁰ N.B. The Negro that murder'd his Mistress at Mendon, was hanged, and Mr. Campbell preach'd the Lecture at Worcester.

18. At Mr. Webbs. Din'd with Mr. Eliot. P.M. gratify'd my Curiosity at the Chiming of the Ring of Bells at Dr. Cutlers²¹

¹⁶ The Reverend William Williams of Weston was the father-in-law of the Reverend Mr. Seccomb.

¹⁷ Stephen Sewall (Harvard 1721) Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature, later Chief Justice of Massachusetts. *Sibley*, VI, 561-567.

¹⁸ The Reverend Charles Chauncy of Boston.

¹⁹ The Reverend William Rand of Sunderland.

²⁰ Mrs. Abel Keggell, Mrs. Parkman's cousin.

²¹ The Reverend Timothy Cutler, D.D., Episcopal minister of Boston.

Church—view'd the Bells—the Organs, Vestry etc. At Eve at Brother Alexanders. Took Solemn leave of sister Esther commending her to the Infinite Mercy and Grace of God, and return'd to Cambridge in good season.

19. Return'd to Westborough. Din'd at Mr. Cooks²² at Sudbury, where was also Mr. Marsh²³ of College. N.B. Thomas Winchester work'd for me last Tuesday and Wednesday in making Cyder and gathering Corn. N.B. About 40 Barrells of Cyder this Year, 10 of them boyl'd. 30 now in the Cellar. Found my Family in Peace and Safety. Blessed be God for all his Benefits!

20. Repeated Sermon on Ps. 112, 3, and O that God would make it the Day of his Power with us, and us his Willing People upon it! The Sickness creeps in upon us in this Parish. The Lord prepare us to meet with Him in the way of his Judgments!

21. Visited Mr. Samuel Fay junior who lyes sick of the Distemper: and Mr. Gershom Brighams Family who have all been so sick of the Same, and has bury'd one Child whilst I was absent: Mrs. Brigham and the remaining Child, now sick. Visited Abigail Knowlton who is sick also.

22. I visited Mrs. Martha Warrin who lyes weak and low and some measure under the Distemper.

23. My Wife and I were at the Funeral of Mr. Gershom Brighams other Child. We visited Mr. Daniel Warrin of Shrewsbury who had several Convulsion Fitts of late, and was much concern'd. We also visited Mr. Samuel Fay junior who (with Several of his Children Sick likewise but himself) lyes very bad. When I came home found Mr. Mighel²⁴ here (See the Catalogue of Harvard Scholars 1704). He had been at my house and lodg'd here while I was on my late Journey to Boston—and now lodg'd again. Captain Warrin I understand has agreed with him to keep our School.

24. Mr. Mighel din'd here: bought 3 Weathers of me for 5 shillings per Head and paid me for them. P.M. I visited Susanna Ball who lies very bad of the Distemper, and Mrs. Wheeler who is

²² The Reverend William Cooke of Wayland.

²³ Perez Marsh (Harvard 1748).

²⁴ Samuel Mighill (Harvard 1704), an itinerant schoolmaster. *Sibley*, V, 255-256.

ill of a plaister. My Boys have been much employ'd in Husking—for I was dissatisfy'd with late night Huskings.

26. Ebenezer plough'd Stubble Hills and had Nathan Maynards Oxen with mine, Nathan having my Mare a.m. to grind Apples. P.M. Deacon Thomas Greenwood of Newton here.

27. A.M. on 2 Cor. 3, 17 latter part. P.M. on Ps. 2, 8 on Occasion of the Return of our Ambassadors from the Treaty at Albany with the 6 Nations of Iroquois Indians. I took Occasion also to Mention God's wonderfull Mercy to Us, who were heretofore but a few generations back Heathen—but us in Special in this Place it being nigh Seven Times 3 Years that God has waited upon us, Since our first incorporating into a church state. N.B. Mr. John Sparhawk²⁵ from Shrewsbury here: din'd and lodg'd here.

28. I would thankfully mention the Loving Kindness of the Lord towards us in Sparing us untill this Day, now 21 years since the founding of this Church and my Ordination over it. O may the Blood of Jesus Christ cleanse me from all sin! and quicken me to new Care and Faithfulness. The fore Part of the Day I spent Separately—P.M. I was oblig'd to wait upon Captain Maynard and his Company in Arms with whom I pray'd, and before night I eat [sic] at Captain Maynards House. The Lord pardon my many Defects in my holy Ministry! and quicken and assist me hence forward—that the Blood of Immortal Souls may not be laid to my Charge!

29. Ebenezer clearing the back Yard of the Chips muck and manure which has lain in some Thickness from Year to Year there. Wondrous pleasant and Moderate Weather for the Season. Mrs. Anna Rice here. We finish'd reading Mr. Lowman on the Revelation in the Family, and began the Bible again, at Evening.

30. Wrote to Brother Sam Parkman by Mr. R. Banks. Began the New Testament in the Morning Family Reading.

31. I was in Strong Expectation of Mr. Seccomb to preach a Lecture which I appointed for my Young Men, but he came not. Mr. Cushing came and I prevail'd upon him to preach to them

²⁵ The schoolmaster.

which he did from Rom. 7, 9. At Eve Deacon Andrew Rice of Marlborough and his wife here. N.B. Mr. Aaron Hardy was here in the Morning for advice relating to his being dismiss'd from Grafton Church, they being ready to give him both Dismission and Recommendation notwithstanding his not being in good Terms with themselves. I advis'd in the Negative.

NOVEMBER, 1745

1. Ebenezer work'd for Noah How—had the Oxen with him: Noah sowing Rye. At Eve Mr. Winchester here. My wife gone to Mr. Ebenezer Maynards, his wife in Travail and had another son.¹

2. Noah How work'd here, hewing Timber for a shed over my East Door.

3. A.M. on 2 Cor. 3, 18. P.M. Repeated on Col. 1, 12. Giving Thanks, etc. Mr. Rand² preach'd on the North Side. Mr. Bradish³ and Patience Wood⁴ din'd with me. Somewhat Cold, yet Pleasant Day. But O that God would enable us by his holy Spirit to see Things truely, as exhibited in the Glass of his Word! The Things of God and Christ, the Things of our Souls and an Eternal World!

4. Wrote to Mr. Hall of Sutton to preach a Lecture for me next Friday. In the Morning (which was very Cold) I rode over to Mr. Balls (in my way went into Lieutenant Holloways,⁵ where was Mr. Rand). Susè Ball very low and distress'd. Fever, Flux and Canker. The Flux abates but the Canker eats. Was at Mr. Livermores, Mr. James Ball's, at Mr. Wheeler Senior and thence to Mr. Josiah Bowkers, to the Funeral of one of his Children,⁶ another being very bad. After Funeral, went to see Captain Eager⁷ who is unwell. Supp'd there. Mr. Abner Newton there and rode home with me. Rainy Evening.

¹ Malachi Maynard.

² The Reverend William Rand of Sunderland.

³ James Bradish, an original settler of Westborough.

⁴ Mrs. Solomon Maynard.

⁵ William Holloway of the north precinct.

⁶ Damaris Bouker or Bowker died Nov. 2, 1745.

⁷ James Eager.

5. Young Women Catechiz'd. I deliver'd an Extemporaneous Exercise on one of the answers: viz. of original Sin. At Eve Brother Hicks, who brought us some Wheat and lodg'd here. Visited Abraham Batchellor who lies sick at Captain Maynards.

6. Ebenezer Splitting Hills [sic]. Mr. Benjamin Burnap here. Lieutenant Holloway also, who informs us that Mr. Bowker has lost another Child and Captain Eager is worse. Lieutenant desir'd me to attend the Funeral of Mr. Bowkers Child⁸ at 2 p.m. which I did. N.B. Receiv'd by Brother Hicks a Letter from Mr. Hall that he could not preach my Lecture next Friday but he desir'd my assistance at a Fast in Sutton (on account of the Sickness) next Wednesday.

7. Ebenezer ploughing and Sowing Wheat. The Sowing by Neighbour Ebenezer Maynard.

8. Was oblig'd to preach my Lecture myself. Repeated from 2 Cor. 5, 1. N.B. did not know that I had repeated this Sermon before. N.B. Ebenezer plough'd in Rye.

9. [No entry].

10. Sacrament. Preach'd on 2 Cor. 3, 18. N.B. Mr. Joseph Batchellor from Grafton at Communion. Tho I was not without fears that he would be objected against. Deacon Fay,⁹ Mrs. Billings,¹⁰ and Mrs. Caruth at Dinner here. Too few of the North side at Meeting. N.B. I publickly warn'd people who were wont to go away home on sacrament noons without returning again, that they beware of so ill a practice. P.M. I repeated Exposition on Mat. 13, 14, from Luke 13, 24.

11. Catechiz'd at Lieutenant Holloways. In the Exercise time came Mr. Goss and Mr. Martyn. I visited Captain Eager who is still confin'd by sickness.

12. The First (and which was a very Considerable) Snow Storm.

13. Notwithstanding the weather was rugged yet I ventur'd up to Sutton to the Fast on account of the Sickness there. It was almost noon when I got there. Exercise was begun. I turn'd into

⁸ Prudence Bouker died Nov. 2, 1745.

⁹ Captain John Fay.

¹⁰ Mrs. Thomas Billings of the north precinct.

the nearest Pew to the Door, after Mr. Hall had pray'd, and preach'd from 1 Thess. 5, 19. At Eve Mr. James Fay¹¹ at Mr. Halls. Mr. Prentice¹² not very well, return'd with Mr. Fay: but I tarry'd at Mr. Halls.

14. Through Gods Mercy, was very Comfortable tho I had been not without Fears of Rheumatic Turns! I rode to Sister Hicks's¹³ (Brother being at Cambridge) thence to Grafton, Deacon Whipples¹⁴ and Mr. Prentices. Found Mr. Prentice very ill of his Disorders (the Piles) his wife also much indispos'd. N.B. Dissentions among the Brethren in Grafton that used to adhere to Mr. Prentice, a Number (Ebenezer Wadsworth at their Head) take in with the Canterbury Men lately among them. N.B. Ebenezer hous'd the Cattle last night in the Barn.

15. My great Sow strangely disordered. Sent for Captain Forbush who help'd her. Dr. Gott here. N.B. Abraham Batchellor lyes Sick Still at Captain Maynards.

16. [No entry].

17. All Day on John 6, 12, on gathering up the very Fragments of Time. May give those (tho weak) Endeavours his Effectual Blessing! Mr. Rand preach'd to the North side, and came here at Evening. Lodg'd here. A worthy man! Could earnestly wish he might be resettled and in these parts as it might please God.

18. Mr. Rand was so good as to Stay and dine with me, but then left us. Town Meeting to grant money for the School tho we have been for a long time without any. At Eve Nathans Father came and told me they were now somewhat put to it for Boys Help and desir'd me if I could Spare him to release his son, which I did, and he went home with his Father. And may God be gracious to him!

19. I visited Mr. Bowman who is sick: and went to see Ebenezer Miller¹⁵ who has return'd from Fort Shirley Feeble and

¹¹ Son of Captain John Fay.

¹² The Reverend Solomon Prentice of Grafton.

¹³ Mrs. John Hicks of Sutton.

¹⁴ James Whipple of Grafton.

¹⁵ Son of James Miller of Westborough.

Weakly. Was at Lieutenant Tainters at Eve. N.B. Dr. Gott had din'd with me to Day—he bountifully added £30 (Old Tenor) to what he had before given to my Daughter Sarah.

20. Lieutenant Tainter and Mr. Harrington kill'd a Cow for me which weigh'd nigh 360. Brother Hicks and his Two sons John and Joshua here in their return from Cambridge. Brother lodg'd here. I was much indispos'd in the Evening and Night.

21. Mr. Bowker bury'd a Third Child¹⁶ with the Same Distemper. I attended on the Funeral and visited Captain Eager at Eve. His pains are abated but his Fever weakens him much. Colonel Williams and Dr. Gott etc. there. I also visited Abraham Batchellor who still continues sick.

22. Sent for early in the Morning to go to Mr. Grouts Three of his Children being bad with the Throat Distemper, viz. Mehitable, Jonathan and Sarah. Sarah was in an exceeding Dangerous State. Receiv'd a Letter from Mr. Pierpoint¹⁷ of New Haven and at Eve a sorrowfull one from Brother Samuel Parkman, dated Yesterday, to inform me of the Dying Circumstances (as they conceiv'd) of our Dear sister Esther; and that Brother Alexander desir'd him to write to me. I was therefore Expected to go down as soon as possible. But I determin'd to tarry over the Sabbath apprehending that I should then be seasonable for her funeral.

23. Sent Ebenezer to Mr. Grouts to See how they did; who return'd me word that Sarah dy'd last night about 9 o'Clock. Thomme to Mr. Cooks¹⁸ to get the Mare Shod—and we prepar'd for my Journey to Boston.

24. A.M. on John 6, 12. P.M. on Mic. 6, 9. At Eve my wife and I rode to Mr. Grouts distract'd Family, Sarah Dead and Two more ill. Concerning Sarah there was Testimony of her dying very hopefully. The Glory to God who has shown his Great Grace to Children!

25. I rose at 4 o'Clock. Mr. Abraham Batchelors Brother, Amos, and his sister Porter were my Company an Hour before

¹⁶ Dority Bouker died Nov. 19, 1745.

¹⁷ James Pierpont, Jr.

¹⁸ Cornelius Cook, the Westborough blacksmith.

sunrise upon my Journey. Cold and Rough riding. Did not stop at Cambridge but proceeded to Boston—to Brother Alexanders and found his wife Alive notwithstanding all my bad news and sorrowfull Expressions. Put out my Horse at Cousen Proctors, and Lodg'd at Brother Alexanders.

26. Wrote to my wife by Deacon Amos Rice of Brookfield, that I was well etc. except somewhat of a sore throat. Din'd with my aged mother. But at Night I grew so bad of it that I was in great Trouble. Something of a Fever accompany'd it—and I had an ill night. N.B. Lay at Brother Alexanders—but it was a sick House without me, for besides Sisters low Condition, Mr. Walker continues in his Confinement by the Gout there, and Alexander Kelland lyes very low there, in a Consumption.

27. My Throat bad, but the Weather so moderate that I accepted Brother Samuels Invitation to go to his House and reside there. Was out no further than to Mr. Stoddards and Mr. Thayers, lodg'd at Brother Samuels my sore Throat increasing—but no Canker that I perceive.

28. Having heard that Mr. Gee¹⁹ has been troubled with a sore Throat, I sent for him, who accordingly came and gave me his advice to use a Tea of Mullen, Cullenbine and Sage which I did at Night, and hope that this and other means, accompany'd with divine Blessing, had a good Effect. Brother Sam p.m. to Cambridge on my Mare. At Eve Brother William, Brother Alexander and our Kinsman Hearsy and wife to see me. Lodg'd at Brother Samuels.

29. Stormy. Mr. Parker of Grafton was so good as to carry up my Horse to Westborough. Mr. Ebenezer Maynard at Brother Samuels—where I still lodg'd.

30. Bright Day. Got abroad. Din'd at Mr. John Salters—lodg'd at sister Bettys. N.B. She is not only under much feebleness of Body, but under great Distress of mind; complaining much of an Hard Heart etc.

¹⁹ The Reverend Joshua Gee of Boston.

DECEMBER [1745]

1. Mr. Vinal¹ was engag'd to preach to Day for Mr. Gee, So that though I had been oblig'd to preach for him the first Time I should be in Town, yet now I was at Liberty and chose to go to Mr. Checklys,² where I had the Benefit of being at Communion (after his sermon on Isa. 50, 10). Din'd with him and preach'd p.m. on John 1, 11. At Eve deliver'd a sermon to my mother and Brethren and divers other Relations on Gal. 2, 20. O that God would accompany with his Blessing. Lodg'd at sister.

2. A.M. Visited Mr. Gee—din'd at Mr. Webbs.³ N.B. he made a present of one of Mr. Dickinsons Familiar Letters.⁴ P.M. at Mr. John Brecks. At Eve at Mr. Foxcrofts⁵—first saw one of the Philadelphian Fire-places. Was with my Honour'd Mother also. Lodg'd at sister Bettys with Parkman.

3. Neighbour David Maynard junior brought my Mare to me at Brother Samuels with an Affectionate Letter from my Wife. Din'd at Brother Alexanders. P.M. I rode to Cambridge, was at Mr. Rands⁶—lodg'd at Mother Champneys, and thank God I am so Comfortable after my late Illness!

4. Rode Home. Mr. McAllister and Mr. Priest my Company some part of the way. Would Bless God that I find my Tabernacle in Peace, Especially in such a Time of Calamity as this, especially among some of my Neighbours. N.B. More of Mr. Grouts Family taken ill of the Throat Distemper, and Two of Mr. Winchesters.

5. Public Thanksgiving. On Rom. 12, 1. O may we be truly sensible of the Divine Benefits and of our Obligations to Him therefore! that we might present ourselves a living Sacrifice etc. which is our Reasonable Service!

¹ William Vinal (Harvard 1739), later minister of the First Congregational Church at Newport, R.I., 1746-1768. *Sibley*, X, 412-415.

² The Reverend Samuel Checkley.

³ The Reverend John Webb.

⁴ Jonathan Dickinson, *Familiar Letters to a Gentleman upon a Variety of Seasonable and Important Subjects in Religion* (Boston, 1745).

⁵ The Reverend Thomas Foxcroft.

⁶ John Rand (Harvard 1748), later the minister at Lyndeborough, N.H., 1757-1762. See D[ennis] Donovan and Jacob A. Woodward, *The History of the Town of Lyndeborough* (n.p., 1906), pp. 614-615.

6. Visited at both Winchesters and Grouts. Having receiv'd a Petition from Mr. David Crosby in Worcester Gaol that there might be a Contribution here for him, I Yesterday desir'd the Deacons of the Church and the Selectmen of the Town to meet at my House this Day. And they accordingly came; but they all declin'd our complying with Said Petition. N.B. Mr. Wheeler and James Ball here, and were full of Grievance and perplexity about the proceedings of the North Precinct. N.B. Had the sorrowful News of the Sudden Death of Mr. Joseph Rice of Marlborough, who was going last Tuesday to [illegible] but dy'd before he got home.

7. Sarah Henry came last night, and works here this Day, making a pair of Leather Breeches for William.

8. Repeated the Remainder of Sermon on Rom. 12, 1. Mrs. Kelly and her sister Dunlop and Mr. Jonathan Bellows wife din'd here. At Eve visited Mr. Seth Rice's little Dauter lying at the Point of Death.

9. Great Concern upon my Heart respecting our Northern Brethren who this Day meet to Elect a Minister. The Lord grant them Grace and direction and overrule their spirits to do what may be for the Divine Glory and for their own truest peace and Welfare! Old Mr. Maynard here to have some alterations made in his will. N.B. Mr. Seth Rice's little Dauter Hannah (of 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$) dy'd last night.

10. At the Funeral of Mr. Seth Rice's Daughter. At Eve visited Abraham Batchellor who is on the Recovery. At Eve also Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Jedidiah How were at my Home. Mr. Wheeler very full in informing me what their North Precinct had done Yesterday. That about 30 Voters were present—that 20 chose Mr. Martyn and 10 were against him; and he said a number more, tho not Voters yet of interested persons joined in the opposition. Mr. Wheeler would fain have me, write a Letter to Mr. Martyn to inform him how the Case is Circumstanc'd that he may not be abus'd with a false Representation. But I utterly declin'd it—especially could not from hearing only one Side. He ask'd me what I had against his doing it (or to that purpose). I

told him no one could hinder his writing to him, if he Should do it in a suitable Manner. He pull'd out a paper in which he said a number of them had drawn up something of that kind, and would fain have me look of it to See whether I could approve of it; but I utterly declin'd it and refus'd so much as to look of it. But he seem'd much taken with my yielding that he himself and those who join'd with him against the Vote might write to Mr. Martyn to inform him of it.⁷ Open, but dull, cloudy Raw Weather. Heard that Boston was rejoic'd with the Return of the Governour from Louisburgh, and thence the Joy Spreads over all the Province.

11. I Visited at Moses Winchesters where Betty Chamberlin was ill of Sore Throat—at James Fays, where Silas Pratt was ill of a Fever; and Mr. Grouts whose Children were much better: at Mr. Williams's also whose Wife continues ill. N.B. In my going today had some Earnest Talk with Justice Baker on the Affair (which our Committee are now gone to Boston upon) respecting the Petition of the North side to the General Court last year, to be freed from paying my Sallery from June 5 to October 20.

12. North side Committee for waiting on Mr. Martyn with their Call, not going over to Bolton yesterday when the appointment was (for they refus'd to go over because Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Ball and other opposers would go over with them) went over to him to Day. Very Moderate, pleasant Weather.

13. Molly rode to Grafton, to see whether her Gown was done at Mr. Batchellors.

14. Lieutenant Aaron Forbush kill'd a Pigg which weigh'd 114 for me. At Eve Jacob Rice.

15. I had chose to repeat Old Sermons last Sabbath that I might be both in Season with my Preparations and might Deliver the whole of what I Should have to say upon the Subject in one Day, but tho I had provided a Matter of 16 pages yet I could not finish the Subject without waiting upon the Sabbath, the Things which occur'd to my Mind were so needfull and as I thought would be so usefull that I could not omitt them. My Text was Rom. 6, 13, middle Clause. In the Close I was very fervent, the

⁷ See Kent, *Northborough History*, pp. 23-24.

Lord grant it may not be in Vain! As to the Weather, Cold Day.

16. Mr. Wheeler here all the afternoon. Selectmen met and having receiv'd Order from the Council Board that the Town Should be assess'd, issued Orders accordingly to the Assessors for that Purpose. Cold Weather.

17. Mr. Cushing^s din'd with Me and spent the afternoon with me. Ebenezer today (*Ah! Quantum mutatus ab Expectatione nostra*) work'd with Daniel How in the Cedar Swamp in making Shingles.

18. As we have had a fine Moderate Season except the last Three Days, So of no Snow since that which fell November 12. But now comes a fierce storm, Cold, Windy, Snow.

19. P.M. I rode over to talk with Deacon Newton about his Success at the General Court in the Affair of my last Years Sallery. At Eve came my Kinsman Hearsey from Boston and lodged here.

20. Mr. Hearsey goes to Oxford to wait on his wifes Aunt Griffin. Old Mr. Maynard Signs and Declares another Last Will and Testament. Lieutenant Aaron Forbush and Edward Whipple the Witnesses. Snow. Ebenezer sledds Wood. N.B. Old Mr. Maynards Sledd.

21. Lieutenant Tainter here. He bemoans the Condition of his Brother Thomas Harrington at Waltham.

22. Cold, cloudy Day. I preach'd a.m. on Heb. 9, 27. P.M. I repeat'd from Col. 3, 4, the Introduction but fill'd up the Exercise with the first part of sermon on Phil. 1, 21, the first 12 pages. O that since it is settled by the Decree of Heaven that I must die I may So realize that my Life may be a truely Christian Life—that for me to Live may be Christ and to die Gain!

23. Captain Maynard here and informs me that the soldiers are not likely to return from the Frontiers, according to their Expectations. That therefore he does not expect to see his son much before Spring. Would be glad (being there is now opportunity) if I would write him a Line—which Request I readily comply'd with.

24. Daniel How thrashing Rye with Ebenezer. Thomas Winchester came and Thrash'd a.m. and p.m. kill'd Two Piggs which

^s The Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

weigh'd about 100 apiece. Deacon Forbush⁹ to Worcester with his Dauter Hannah to keep Mr. Jenisons House.

25. Thomas Winchester went to Boston with the Two Piggs on my Mare. I borrow'd Mr. Williams's Mare and rode (tho not sent for, yet a bright Comfortable Day inviting and hearing that a number of Ministers were to be there) to Grafton Fast. I arriv'd just at 12 yet forenoon Prayer was not much more than half done. I sat in Mr. Prentice's Pew. Mr. Bliss¹⁰ and Mr. Hall¹¹ were the Ministers that were come to Assist. Mr. Bliss preach'd on Heb. 4, 16. At Noon at Mr. Prentice's. Mr. Hall pray'd p.m. and Mr. Bliss preach'd again. His Text Mat. 5, 16. Stay'd to Supper. Mr. James Fay requested that Mr. Bliss might preach at his House tomorrow at 11 o'Clock. I did not sett myself against it, but permitted it, but did not give much Encouragement that I should be there myself, having divers Things before me that would be like to hinder me. At coming away had Some Talk with Mr. Prentice respecting his Disgust with me which arose (and as I conceive continues) from my Sermon at a Former Fast there, but he said that was all over with him. What he waited for was that I would come out—boldly for the Cause of God and let him come freely into my Pulpit and then He Should be free to ask me into his. I told him it was necessary to regard my people (by this Time Mr. Bliss came to us) and I know well that my people would be greatly disgusted and I did not think it wise or prudent to give way to it. I ask'd Mr. Bliss to my House. N.B. Mr. Hall agreed to preach a Lecture to my Young People this Day fortnight. I call'd at Cornet Shermans and at Abraham Temple's. From Temple's Mr. Abner Newton was my Company to Westborough. Found my Tabernacle in Peace, and myself comfortable tho it was a Cold Evening. To God be the Glory! and may here be an abiding Influence of what I have heard!

26. Tho it was last night a most Clear and bright Night yet this Morn was thick Cloudy, and anon it snow'd; and it prov'd a Stormy Day. Wrote Mr. Bliss a Letter and sent it to Captain

⁹ Jonathan Forbush.

¹⁰ The Reverend Daniel Bliss of Concord.

¹¹ The Reverend David Hall of Sutton.

Fays by my son Thomme. N.B. Mr. Williams here while I wrote it. P.M. Justice Baker here, enquiring after a Colt, which he thought might probably strole away last night after me as I pass'd by his House, but I saw none.

27. When the Storm Clear'd away last night the Wind rose very high. It was a Night of Strong Gusts that rock'd and Shook the House very much, but God Mercifully preserv'd us and upheld our Dwelling. It prov'd a Windy and Cold Day. Ebenezer and Thomme thrash'd Rye. Brother Hicks from Cambridge lodg'd here last Night. P.M. Mr. Matthias Rice and Mr. Thomas Goodenow here. They told me that Mr. Wheeler had said among them [the Northside People] and particularly to Mr. Livermore that he was advis'd by an Angel to turn among them; and also in what he did in going over to Mr. Martyn (at the Time that their Committee went to Carry his Call) that it was the Angel of the Church in Westborough. I reply'd that Mr. Wheeler was here, but that I refus'd to meddle with their Affair: nor did then see Mr. Wheelers Paper not a word of it nor know I what was in it. And this I now repeated to them, that I did not desire to have Concern with their Affairs nor to meddle with them. At Eve Thomas Winchester return'd from Boston—got 12 *d* per pound for the Pork and brought up $\frac{1}{2}$ Bushel Salt, but it being Rainy while he was in Town he went to none of my Friends as I had appointed him to.

28. Thomas broke out Flax A.M. P.M. he went home. Moderate, pleasant Day. Ebenezer winnow'd some Rye. Thomme I sent to Mr. James Maynards, he being Collector for the Parish.

29. A.M. on Heb. 9, 27, and P.M. Repeat'd on Mat. 13, 39. It being the Last Sabbath of the Year I was Desirous to Meditate on the Last Day Each Mans Life, and the Last Day of the World. May it please God to make the word Savigly Efficacious to our Souls! I endeavour'd to impress these Serious Things upon my Family—and may God be pleas'd to accompany what I have done with his Blessing!

30. A tedious Snow Storm. Adhere to a Custom I am in of Reading Lowth in the Morning. Have not yet finish'd Fullers

Church History, but keep on in it. P.M. Old Mr. Maynard, Old Mr. Whipple and Captain Maynard here.

31. Storm continues. At my preparations for the Sabbath. At Night Very high Winds.

Might it please God of his abundant Mercy to grant a suitable Sense of the Transitoriness of Time! humble Me for and thro the Blood of his Dear son pardon, the sins of the Year past, and of my whole Life! And O might I be ready for the Close of my Life, as well as the Close of the Year!

JANUARY, 1746.

What Shall we render to the Lord for all his Benefits towards us! As high as the Heavens are above the Earth So great is his Graciousness to Me and Mine: In Special through the Course of the Year past. The last night a Very Sharp Cold as most we have felt. The Power and Greatness of God are manifest by this Work of his. I retir'd from Incumbrance. I review'd my Old Journals—in particular those of my 16, 17, 18 Year. I find them of much Use to me as they display my egregious folly and Vanity, and fill me with Shame and Grief. The Lord, of his infinite Mercy Pardon Me thro the Blood of the Great Sacrifice! O what a Price had I in my Hand to get Wisdom—but how little Heart to improve it!

At Eve Captain Maynard and Mr. William Pierce here. Nothing Singular, but the Cold.

2. Continued my Review of my old Journals, for my deep Abasement and Sorrow before God. Lord, remember not against me the sins of my Youth and my Transgressions. After thy Mercy remember me, for they Graciousness sake, O Lord!

3. Thomas Winchester and Ebenezer gett out Flax. More moderate weather.

4. Thomas and Ebenezer thrash'd Rye. Ebenezer was hurt on his Eye and Cheek Bone by the breaking of Thomas's Swingill, or beating his own against him. Little Suse begins to go alone. Weather Pleasant.

5. On Heb. 9, 27, former part. May God be pleas'd to add his Special Blessing, that this Serious Subject may suitably affect both me and the people!

6. Mr. Martyn came to see me; din'd with me and Spent the Afternoon. Tells me has not determin'd what he shall do with regard to our North Side, purposes to Visit the disaffected, and particularly Mr. Wheeler,¹ that he may know the better what to do. N.B. Lieutenant Thomas Forbush and Mr. Simon Goddard of Shrewsbury here.

7. Sent a Letter by Ebenezer Maynard to Messers Rogers and Fowle for December Magazine, and to let them know that I would have them Sent no longer. Another Letter by the Same Hand for my Portmantle at Cousin Proctors, in which I expect Cloth for a great Coat, provided for me, by Brother Alexander. Sent 5 Musk Squash Skins to Mr. Eaton, Hatter at Boston, by Noah How. Thomas Winchester breaking Flax and Ebenezer Shingles. Moderate and bright, but Exceeding high winds, p.m.

8. Mr. Hall of Sutton preach'd a Lecture to Young People on 1 K. 18, 12. Several from other Towns at Meeting. After Meeting Ward² (Colonel Nahums son) from College with his Two sisters viz. Mrs. Eager and Mrs. Patty Ward, here. Mr. Hall went home. Mr. Benjamin Burnap and Mr. James Fay spent the Eve here. N.B. Mr. Fay has not been at our Meeting for a number of sabbaths (I think 3) but that I might have no Jarr at this Time I Said Nothing to him about it. Thomas Winchester thrash'd a.m. Bright tho Somewhat Cold.

9. I read various Things—Dickinsons Letters—Magazine—Tillotson—Hopkins³—Richard Taylor⁴ on Eph. 2, 8. Thomas Thrashing. Receiv'd a Blue Great Coat from Brother Alexander at Boston per Ebenezer Maynard. Stormy. Snow—Rain.

10. Thomas Thrashing Rye Still. Ebenezer daily with him. Thomas and I reckon'd up the Loss Time which he had agreed to make up, and there is due to me (on that Account) 26 this Eve-

¹ Joseph Wheeler.

² Artemas Ward, the future general.

³ Probably a work by the English minister, Ezekiel Hopkins (1633-1690).

⁴ A work by the English Dissenter of London who died about 1717.

ning. That is, 6 more of these Winter Days. Exceeding Cold Night.

11. Thomas and Ebenezer dressing Flax. Pleasant but Cold Day. Lieutenant Tainter here—he brought the Journal which contains Father Patrick Graham, Almoner and Confessor to the Young Pretender, his Letter to Father Benedict York, giving an account of their proceedings, successes and Designs.

12. Pleasant. A.M. on John 17, 15. Repeating from page 15 to 19 of Sermon on Jer. 2, 19. P.M. on Eph. 2, 8. My Wife not well—could Scarce tarry at Meeting during the forenoon Exercise, but was not able to go to Meeting at all p.m. At Eve Very much of a Fever.

13. My Wife somewhat better a.m. (having been sweated the Night before). I rode to Mr. Jesse Rice's at Marlborough to talk with him about the Bond which I gave his Father (now deceas'd) for £50 Old Tenor. Borrow'd of him Fenner on Conscience.⁵ At my Return home found my Wife was grown Very ill again, the Fever strong upon her. Mrs. Maynard here and took Susè down to their House, her dauter in Law being able to suckle. N.B. Mr. Brown⁶ of Cambridge (young Preacher) from Worcester here whilst I was gone to Marlborough, as was also Mr. Millen⁷ of Chauxit. They inform that Mr. Morse⁸ of North Shrewsbury carry'd home his wife last Tuesday. N.B. At Eve came Esquire Williams of Stockbridge and Mr. Lydius of Albany and lodg'd here. And Captain Ephraim Williams junior and his Brother Thomas at Captain Maynards. Sent for the Latter to Visit my wife, who accordingly came. He thinks She is going to have the long Fever. The forenam'd Gentlemen are going to Boston to promote an Expedition against Crown Point.

14. Our Company prosecuted their Journey to Boston. Sent Thome to Dr. Gotts and Mr. Britons.⁹ Dr. Gott came, but my

⁵ William Fenner, *The Soul's Looking-Glasse . . . with a Treatise of Conscience* (Cambridge, 1640).

⁶ John Brown (Harvard 1741), later the minister of Cohasset, 1747-1791. *Sibley*, XI, 12-17.

⁷ The Reverend John Mellen of Sterling.

⁸ The Reverend Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

⁹ John Britain of Marlborough.

Wife was better. Thanks to God! Neighbour Samuel Hardy came late a.m. to Swingle Flax. P.M. he join'd with a Number that were here to get me some Wood, for Lieutenant Tainter and Neighbour Samuel Harrington were here yesterday while I was absent, and rigg'd up my Sled, and they Two, with Neighbour Hezekiah Pratt (who brought a Team of Oxen), Beriah Rice, and Eleazer Rice, came and got me a Pile of Wood. N.B. Neighbour Sam Hardy join'd them. P.M. At Eve we sent for Susè home from Captain Maynards.

15. Rode to Neighbour Cooks on purpose to talk with him, but I found Neighbours Josselin¹⁰ and Belknap there, for which Reason I proceeded further to visit the South East Corner. N.B. Mr. Belknap walk'd with me and we had Some Conversation about Mr. Cook. He told me Mr. Cook had desir'd him some Time ago to go up with him to my House. I pray'd him to meet me towards Eve at Mr. Cooks—he consented. He told me likewise that he himself had been admitted into the Southborough Church. I went to Mr. Bradish's and pray'd him to meet me at Mr. Cooks by and by (he being also a Man that I knew Mr. Cook would ken to). Visited Mr. Jonathan Bellows Family; he was not at Home. I din'd at Mr. Chamberlains. At Parting he told me that Mr. Cook had heretofore desir'd him to go up with him to discourse with me, and upon that I told him I Should be glad to see him at Neighbour Cooks this Very Evening. Visited Neighbours Ithamar Bellows and Family and Josselin's. Afterward I return'd to Mr. Cooks, found the Three Men aforesaid there. I acquaint'd them with my Conduct towards Neighbour Cook in my proceedings with him; and intimated what his had been towards Me. He also made his Replys; in his own boisterous and coarse Manner, and the Brethren mediated and endeavour'd to bring him to a right Understanding and Submission; but (whilst I was there) in Vain. I lamented my unsuccessfullness in my Attempts: and at Parting offer'd him my Hand in Token of my readiness to be reconcil'd if he would Comply; but ineffectually. When I was mounted on my Horse to return home, he came out

¹⁰ Joseph Joslin.

and seem'd to express his desire of Forgiveness; and thereupon—giving him my Hand told him I was willing if he acknowledg'd, and was Sorry for his undutifull Conduct towards me in Time past, and would Carry it (by the Help of Grace) in a Suitable Manner becoming his Relation to me, for the future. This he seem'd once to Consent to, but afterwards drew back from it; and Seem'd to expect an acknowledgment from Me also with regard to my Carriage towards him—which I could see no ground for; and ask'd whether it could be expected when I admonish'd those under my Pastoral Care whom I found defective, if it came Close to them and they should fret at it if it was no more than was necessary for them, and my own indispensable Duty? I left him with the Brethren, hoping that if he was truly Sensible, and reform'd I Should soon know it; but any thing that was only Sudden and Strain, would (I conceiv'd) not last long. N.B. his unaccountable ways of Softening his Several harsh allegations against me, and heavy Complaints of me from Time to Time. Exceeding great his Explanation of his Saying "I had abus'd him more than any Man in the world—why," he said, "one word from me, from Mr. Parkman was worse than any body else could Speak." Again, when he told me that a main Thing he had against me was "That I was an Enemy of the Work of God." This he said he meant thus, that we all had naturally an Enmity against God and his work: and the ministers being at Variance one with another was a great Hindrance and discouragement, and that I had taken Such ways and methods as he could not judge were so prudent and fit to promote the Work of the late Times: and he likewise endeavour'd to enervate and interpret away his Strange Message by Noah How to me, "that he felt So towards me and Sometimes that he could Bite Me." Nothing being effected, nor much prospect of it, and my wife being ill at Home, I came home.

16. My Wife took Physic, though unsuitable Wett Weather. At Eve Jonas Brigham was marry'd to Persis Baker. Have read out Fullers Church History of Britain.¹¹

17. My Wife continues ill, her Physic does not cease Working.

¹¹ Thomas Fuller, *The Church-History of Britain* (London, 1655).

18. I thought to have writ Something respecting our Controversie with the Church of Rome, and reasons against the Pretender—but my incumbrances etc.

19. Lieutenant Tainter came and inform'd Me that Sister Esther, my Brother Alexanders Wife dy'd on the 12th at Night, and was bury'd on Wednesday following. The Lord sanctifye his holy Hand to us all, but especially to my poor Brother and his only Child as they need Special Grace at Such a Time! A.M. on Eph. 2, 8. P.M. on Ps. 90, 1, because of the Troubles in England. My wife somewhat Better. Mrs. Kimbal of Hopkinton din'd with us.

20. Thomme to Mr. Barretts for Dr. Edwards Exposition on the Commandments.¹² Old Mr. Maynard here and wants I Should write his will over again a Third Time, which displeas'd me. Neighbour David Maynard junior, John Rogers, and Richard Barns kill'd Two Hogs for me—one weigh'd 242. The other 225 when they were warm.

21. Very moderate weather. My wife not well yet, by reason of a Blister on her ankle, which does not heal up, but makes her very Lame. Captain Maynard at Evening.

22. Pleasant. Wrote to my Brother Alexander by Captain Maynard. Mr. Stratton¹³ of Waltham here: He and his son Harrington din'd with me.

23. Sebastian Smith (the Spaniard) din'd here. Mr. John Garfield¹⁴ came to acquaint me with the Death of one of the Twin Children of Mr. Daniel Warrin of Shrewsbury. At Eve Mr. Bowker here, likewise Mr. Aaron Hardy of Grafton. N.B. Reckon'd with Thomas Winchester and paid him all—and £4 old Tenor of Interest for his forbearance.

24. At the Funeral of Mr. Daniel Warrins Child.

25. Smart Storm—Snow, Wind, Rain, Hail, Thunder and Lightning. Captain Maynard here.

¹² A work of the great English Calvinist divine, John Edwards (1637-1716).

¹³ Several Strattons lived in Waltham at this time. Edmund L. Sanderson, *Waltham as a Precinct of Watertown and as a Town* (Waltham, 1936), pp. 138-140.

¹⁴ Of Shrewsbury.

26. On Ps. 68, 1. On Occasion of the Rebellion in Scotland. Mr. Stratton of Waltham and Granny Forbush¹⁵ din'd here. May we all be Convinc'd what Enemies of God We naturally are and may we obtain the renewing Grace of God that we may throw down our arms and submitt ourselves to Him!

27. At Neighbour Hardys and Rogers's in the Morning—rode to Eleazer Pratts p.m. and round by Bezaleel Smiths through a swamp over to Mr. Samuel Fay junior. N.B. his wife after above Two Years Confinement got about again. But their Youngest Child sick. When I came home Mr. Stephen Fay here. He is Still disturb'd about my having Minutes of what pass'd between his wife and me May 3, 1744, and divers other Things came in. 'Tis Matter of Grief that we are so frequently in Jarrs. The Lord pardon us for his Names sake!

28. A.M. at Ensign Bruce's and Mr. Beeman's. P.M. sent for to go to Mr. William Nurse's to see several Children Sick of the Throat Distemper. In returning call'd at Mr. Stephen Fays—and (he being present) I put sundry close Inquirys to his wife offering to the both that if She consent'd to the Substance of what had been written and did abide by that Reconcilement which was September 26 last I would blot out her name, but she would not make answer though repeatedly desir'd. Her Husband and I more happy in our Agreement by far than I expected.

29. Ante Meridiem: Recollections and Humilliations and [illegible] But was grievously interrupted by Dr. Gotts Mother (Mrs. Fairfield) Sally Gott and her Brother Benjamin as likewise Dr. Breck, all coming in a stormy Time (Raining hard) to see us, and I could not keep my Retirement. But I remember the worm-wood and the Gall this Day Ten Years agoe.¹⁶ But how amazing the Divine Longsuffering towards Me who am most unworthy!

30. They all lodg'd here. Dr. Breck to Boston. Mrs. Fairfield and the rest din'd with us, and towards Eve they return'd to Marlborough. At Eve Mr. Williams and Winchester here. Wrote Two Letters for Mr. Winchester. Late in the Evening came

¹⁵ Widow of Thomas Forbush.

¹⁶ The anniversary of the first Mrs. Parkman's death.

Captain Ephraim Williams junior—supp'd with me and hasten'd to Captain Maynards and he lodg'd there.

31. Mr. Samuel Hardy and William Rogers junior Swingling Flax. At Evening Mr. Phinehas Hardy of Grafton, who tells me that he and Mr. James Fay have exchang'd places. N.B. Mr. Fay has left us for many sabbaths.

FEBRUARY, 1746.

1. Mr. Benjamin Fay here for me to go to Mr. William Nurse's Dauter Priscilla's Funeral, which I comply'd with.

2. On Ps. 68, 1. Mat. 11, 12. Widow Woods, Widow Thurston and Mr. Ithamar Bellows's wife din'd here. N.B. I hear there is one Mr. Manson a Barber from Sudbury, is hir'd by the School Committee to keep school in the South East part of the Town.

3. Town Meeting for Town Debts. N.B. I sent in a Paper to the Town to Consider the Dammages I sustain by the long delay of my Dues—especially £82 Old Tenor, from June 5 in the Year 1744 to October 20 of the same Year. Eli Forbush here. Letter from Mr. Jenison.¹ Deacon Forbush, Beriah Rice—all upon the Same Thing, viz. to have me teach Eli and Asaph Rice. Brother Hicks here. Sarah Henry at work here on Ebenezers Jackett etc.

4. Thunder and Lightning in the Night past. Brother Hicks to Cambridge.

5. Mr. Benjamin Burnap here and din'd. I visited Sundry of our Near Neighbours—old Mr. Maynard etc. Old Mrs. Rogers Sick of a Fever and I went to see her; Spent some Time with her: she has Strong Confidence that she is prepar'd to dye, and appears much resign'd to the Divine Will.

6. I preach'd at the Private Meeting at Lieutenant Tainters on Mat. 18, 18, 19. My wife rode with me. We din'd there. O that the Lord Jesus Christ might meet with us in all our Meetings! We were inform'd that Yesterday the Quarter sessions at Worcester abated the Rates of the Second Precinct to the Rate

¹ William Jenison, the former schoolmaster of Westborough.

of £82 10 shillings to me from June 5 to October 20, 1744, and they gave Judgment also that the precincts proceedings had been invalid from the Beginning.

7. Noah How framing my Shed over my East Door. His Brother Benjamin a.m. assisted him. Mr. Goodwin² of Worcester here to request me to preach at Worcester. Dr. Gott with him.

8. I visited Mrs. Rogers again who is very low. Noah framing a.m.

9. On Ps. 68, 1. Eph. 2, 6. N.B. Mrs. Fay (Samuel juniors wife) wondrously recover'd after Confinement above Two Years, out at Meeting to Day. Both Mr. Fay and his wife din'd with us. N.B. Receiv'd from Mr. Pierpoint by Mr. Loring.³

10. A Precinct Meeting at which I was prepar'd to give an Answer to their Messages to Me last Year: But by what was determin'd last Week at Worcester Court in the Affair of the North precinct, this precinct were So alarm'd and Suspicious of the invalidity of their own Acts, as a precinct, from the Beginning, that they ventur'd not to do anything Further—save that they chose a Moderator and then pass'd every Vote after (upon the several Bills or Petitions which were carry'd in) in the Negative. No Opportunity was given (nor by my Friends desir'd) for my Answer. N.B. Reckon'd with Deacon Newton. William Bois of Blanford was married to Mary Hamilton (daughter in Law to Mr. Gamel).

11. I rode out to see old Mr. Rogers and his wife who were Sick. Then to see old Mr. Whipple, where was his son Francis. Talk'd of the present Confusion of the Town in both precincts. I went also to see Captain Baker, and Spent Some with him upon the Public Affairs in Town and Precinct. Debated amicably and parted Peaceably. Reckon'd with his Son Samuel. Neighbour Samuel Hardy Swingling Flax. Bright day but windy and Cold. N.B. I sent for Mr. Whipple and talk with him again upon the Confus'd state of the Town and precinct. P.M. was at Captain Maynards. N.B. About the Time a New Trouble Still blew up: which Neighbour Beriah Rice acquaint'd me with, viz. Robert

² James Goodwin.

³ The Reverend Israel Loring of Sudbury.

Bradish went from one house to another Exclaiming against Last Sabbath afternoon sermon, as being Corrupt and Damnable Doctrine—So much in Defence of Grace and to the Disparagement of Works in point of Justification before God. But 'tis a Favor that when this kind of Trial arises, I am complain'd of upon Such Occasion as This. The Lord grant me suffering Grace in Suffering Time!

13. Mr. Daniel Forbush⁴ kindly to acquaint me with the disgusts of Some others with last Sabbaths Exercise in the afternoon—looking upon himself (as Mr. Rice likewise did) in Duty and Faithfulness bound, to do it.

14. Very much engag'd in my Preparations—and Collecting the Sense and Judgment of the most Celebrated men on the Great Doctrine of Justification by Faith alone.

15. [No entry].

16. On Eph. 2, 8. Added a Defence of this Doctrine from innumerable Authoritys not only to shew the Truth but the Importance and Weight of it. Read a Manuscript Extract of Mr. Loring's from Mr. Abraham Tailer⁵ on Justification. P.M. Repeat'd the remainder of Exposition of Mat. 11, 12.

17. Paul Newtown and Mary Farrar⁶ Marry'd. Jonas Child here to be Examin'd and taught in order to his joining with the Church.

18. I rode over to Mr. Biglo's to see his Daughter that was Sick; and I proceeded to Mr. Barretts—who (as I before conceiv'd would be) was going down to a Council at Framingham previous to the Ordination of Mr. Matthew Bridge.⁷ I made a Visit to Captain Morris, who return'd with me to his sisters (Mrs. Barretts) with which we din'd. N.B. Their Sister Barrett's (Widow) House in an high wind took fire on the Roof—but by the help of the School Boys was Discover'd and Extinguish'd. I return'd home at Eve, and marry'd Thomas Patrick and Sarah Johnson. N.B. Neighbour Daniel Hardy riding with me in-

⁴ Son of Deacon Jonathan Forbush.

⁵ The Reverend Abraham Taylor was a dissenting minister of England.

⁶ Given as Paul Newton and Mary Farrour in *Westborough Vital Records*.

⁷ (Harvard 1741), minister of the church at Framingham, 1746-1775. *Sibley*, XI, 8-11.

form'd that Mr. James Fay was this Day moving out of Westborough and Mr. Phinehas Hardy was moving in.

19. I rode to the Ordination of Mr. Matthew Bridge at Framingham. My son Ebenezer rode down also. Entertain'd at Ensign Stones. Great opposition by Captain Goddard⁸ and others Yesterday and today. The Council consisted of 11 Churches. Mr. Loring Moderator and Mr. Stone Clerk. The Council repair'd to the Meeting House before noon. Mr. Cook of Sudbury pray'd. Mr Appleton⁹ preach'd from 1 Cor. 13, 1, 2. Then the Clerk read the Councils Result. Mr. Loring gave the Charge, Mr. Williams¹⁰ of Weston pray'd after the Charge, and gave the Right Hand. An Exceeding great Throng attended. May I have a suitable Impression upon my Spirits at the Remembrance of my own solemn Ordination! Visited old Madam Swift.¹¹ Mr. Cushing and Stone, and Mr. Briton the Clothier my Company in returning. We call'd at both Mr. Britons and Mr. Stones. Reach'd home in Comfort. D.G. Moderate comfortable Weather.

20. Great Change of Weather last night. Today very Cold and windy. Esquire Williams¹² of Stockbridge came at Eve, having left Mr. Lydius¹³ at Boston, endeavouring to get french Prisoners, with which to redeem his Children from Canada.

21. Esquire Williams not well—too cold to undertake his Journey home.

22. The Day somewhat moderate. Esquire Williams accompany'd to Worcester—and then I left him to prosecute his Journey to Brookfield. I unhappily miss'd of Mr. Emerson¹⁴ who came from Worcester to preach at Westborough whilst I

⁸ Edward Goddard. These opposition charges were printed as *A Brief Account* (Boston, 1750).

⁹ The Reverend Nathaniel Appleton of Cambridge.

¹⁰ The Reverend William Williams.

¹¹ Widow of the Reverend John Swift.

¹² Ephraim Williams, a founder of Stockbridge. See Sarah C. Sedgwick and Christina S. Marquand, *Stockbridge 1739-1939 A Chronicle* ([Great Barrington], 1939), pp. 22-24.

¹³ Johannes Lydius of Albany. See *Collections of the History of Albany* (Albany, 1871), IV, 144.

¹⁴ Joseph Emerson (Harvard 1743), later the minister at Pepperell, 1746-1775. *Sibley*, XI, 217-220.

went there to gratifie the Request of the Committe at Worcester in administering the Ordinance of Baptism among them. Lodg'd at Mr. Eatons.¹⁵

23. Cloudy—at length Snow. Preach'd at Worcester on John 1, 11 and Rom. 6, 13. P.M. baptiz'd the Children. See the Records.¹⁶ At Eve at Dr. Brecks¹⁷ and lodg'd there. In the Night the Wind rose exceeding high.

24. Wind very high and Cold. Broke fast at Colonel Chandlers. Visited Mr. Crossby at the Jayl. Return'd to the Colonel's and din'd there. P.M. return'd home calling in especially at Mr. Cushings, Major Keys and Colonel Nahum Ward.¹⁸ At this last was Mr. Martyn.¹⁹ N.B. Some free Conversation with them with reference to Westborough Town and Precinct Affairs: but fear what use they may make. It shall be a warning.

25. At Colonel Wards Sollicitation I din'd at Captain Maynards with the Field Officers, who met upon some Affairs of the Regiment. Cold Day.

26. Preach'd at Southborough Preparatory Lecture on Rom. 6, 13. Return'd at Eve. N.B. was in at Mr. Jacob Amsdens going and returning. Had a Mess of his boisterous windy Talk against—and manifesting dissatisfaction with me for my preaching and praying so much about the Spirit. N.B. Mr. Joseph Wood brought my Gold Buttons which I lost October 13, 1744, he having found them in the Road at Waltham last week. Captain Maynard at Eve.

27. Mr. Stone preach'd my Lecture on Mat. 27, 46. Mr. Jenison here at my House, but not a Lecture.

28. Mr. Aaron Hardy of Grafton here at Eve, as were also Messers James Maynard and Francis Whipple. Mr. Maynard as Collector Ventures Still to go on in Paying me notwithstanding the threatnings to break up the Precinct Transactions.

¹⁵ Joshua Eaton, a lawyer of Worcester.

¹⁶ Parkman recorded no baptisms or other church activities on or near this date in the Westborough Church Records.

¹⁷ Parkman's brother-in-law, the physician of Worcester.

¹⁸ Prominent citizen of Shrewsbury.

¹⁹ The Reverend John Martyn of the north precinct of Westborough.

MARCH [1746]

2. Sacrament and were favour'd by Providence with Moderate Weather, Yet Very few of our North side Brethren or Sisters at Communion. I confess I did not Send them over Express, written Word last Sabbath, For as I went from Home last Saturday it was not in my Mind. But I rested in this, that they could not but all of them know that it was our stated Cause. I preach'd a.m. and p.m. on Eph. 2, 8, first part. Deacon Fay and his wife and Deacon Newton din'd here.

3. Two Precinct Meetings on this one Day, one for Precinct Debts and to hear my answer—the other for Election of Officers. Mrs. Mary Brigham (Gershoms Wife) din'd here.

4. I went early to Mr. Beemans and paid him £30 old Tenor and took up my Bond. N.B. By his wife's assistance he was induc'd to forego the Whole of the Interest. I in the Mean Time promising to do him the like Kindness if he should stand in Need, and I be able. Catechiz'd both a.m. and p.m. at the Meeting House.

5. Young Mr. Emerson from Worcester here, and presently Captain Flagg¹ both from Worcester. P.M. I was designing to go to Marlborough but Mrs. Child (Jonas's wife) here to be examin'd. Brother Hicks from Cambridge. N.B. Though he has been down so long yet little Effected towards settling Accounts, but he tells me they were oblig'd to put in a Petition to the Judge to bring forward the Settlement of them.² At Eve he went to Sutton.

6. I preach'd at Deacon Jonathan Forbush's on Judg. 11, 35. My Daughter Molly went with me. Deacon Forbush acknowledg'd the Goodness of God to him in the Benefit he receiv'd by the Exercises Last Lords Day, and the Special Communion (he judges) he had with God that Day in his Ordinances. Blessed be God for such a Favour! O that when I have preach'd and Minister'd to others, I may not my Self be a Cast away! We were accompany'd back by Mr. Williams as far his House.

¹ Captain Benjamin Flagg, Jr.

² This concerned the settlement of the estate of Parkman's first father-in-law, Samuel Champney of Cambridge.

7. One Alpheus Spencer (alias Prinmus) of Concord here, as he is going to Cape Breton. My sons Thrashing Barley. Thomas Winchester here at Evening.

8. They sow'd some Peas in the Garden, and thrash'd Barley again.

9. A.M. on Tit. 2, 11. P.M. on Rom. 13, 1, with some Additions. Proclamation for Fast.

10. Robert Bradish here—proud and obstinate, and would have me produce my Witnesses—Pertly Controversers and debates the Point. Maintains that Good Works do go into the Conditions of Justification. A Storm of Snow, and Cold Rain. At Eve divers persons here who acquaint'd me with the remarkable peace and Dispatch with which the affairs of Meeting to Day were carry'd on. I am not without hope that my sermon yesterday p.m. might be of Some service (by the Blessing of God) to them.

11. A Meeting of the Commission officers at Captain Maynards for dignifying the Regiment. Mr. Cushing came with Colonel Ward, and Mr. Smith³ with Colonel Williams;⁴ The Colonels gave me also their Invitation to dine with them which I was oblig'd to Comply with, tho it was a very uncomfortable Interruption to me, and much prevented my Preparations for the Evening Fast.

12. Robert Bradish here but I did not Speak with him.

13. Public Fast⁵ on Occasion of the horrid Rebellion in Scotland and of the Seasons of the Year before us. I preach'd on Jer. 6, latter part of 1 and 8. My wife ill again tho she tarried at Meeting, yet was ill there; and increas'd at Evening.

14. My wife (thro Divine Favor) grows Better. Ebenezer Sleds the Stones of the old Garden to the Well.

15. Stormy Day. A Season of Close application to study.

16. On Tit. 2, 11, 12. My Kinswoman Mrs. Winchester Sick of a Fever.

17. The Town was in Some perplexity by Means that the Summons to the Officers who were lately chosen for the Year, to

³ The Reverend Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

⁴ Abraham Williams of Marlborough.

⁵ March 13, 1745, was proclaimed a day of fasting and prayer throughout the province.

be Sworn before Justice Baker, was not Dated, and the Days being run out which are sett by the Law, and they not Sworn, they chose them over again and So it happen'd that the Same Persons were Chose. I visited My Kinswoman Winchester, (dining at Mr. Grouts). Was at Mr. Benjamin Fays and Phinehas Hardy's. At Evening Edwards Whipple here learning to sing.

18. Catechetical Exercise to Young Women, on Eph. 2, 3, latter part. At Eve Mr. Frink,⁶ but proceeded on his Journey to Mr. Cushings.

19. Early sent Ebenezer with a Letter to Mr. Frink. Thomas Winchester here to Work.

20. Wrote to Mr. Breck⁷ of Springfield, in Reply to his of February 28, which was in return to Mine of August 23 last. Inclos'd it to Dr. Breck of Worcester for Conveyance. Thomas Winchester at work. My son Thomas carry'd our Barley to Mr. Mathis.

21. Mr. Joseph Batchellor⁸ brought a piece of Strip'd Camblot⁹ Stuff which he had wove for my Dauter Molly. Having taken notice that Robert Bradish insists upon my Making out the Grounds of Letter of Admonition to him, I sent for Mr. Beriah Rice to come to me, who came accordingly at Evening. And this Very Evening I receiv'd a Tart Note from Robert who thinks of Putting me to greater Trouble if I don't produce my Informers. Such his Insolence towards me, in addition to his Reproaches.

22. [No entry].

23. On Tit. 2, 11, 12, and Gal. 6, 14. Appoint'd a Lecture to Young Men next Thursday.

24. When Thomas Winchester was lately with me we agreed upon Thursday next to break up the Ground, round about the Settle, and have bespoke plough and Cattle, 4 Yoke accordingly but forgetting this appointment yesterday, I appointed the Same Day to be Lecture to Young Men. So perplexing is it to have

⁶ The Reverend Thomas Frink of Rutland.

⁷ The Reverend Robert Breck, Jr.

⁸ The weaver of Grafton.

⁹ Camlet or camblot, a fine, closely woven fabric of camel's hair or perhaps mixed wool and silk. This was once commonly used for cloaks.

the Affairs of the Ministry and of a Farm to manage together. I was oblig'd to be up early this morning and go to Mr. Winchesters to Speak with Thomas who was going over to Upton for Several Days and thought my Appointment might be altered. And I had propos'd to visit his Mother this Morning, She still lying Sick. Thence I went to Mr. Harringtons about Rails: and I receiv'd their Testimony about what Robert Bradish said at their House February 11. Visited Mr. Miller who is sick. Dr. Gott return'd part of the way with me.

25. Molly and I rode to Marlborough—Lecture to young Men. I preach'd on Rom. 6, 13. Mr. Smith and I to Madam Woods's¹⁰ after Exercise. Left Molly at Marlborough and Bekky Gott came home with me.

26. Robert Bradish by appointment here and his uncle Beriah and his wife, and Mr. Samuel Harrington and his Wife here and gave their Testimony against him. The Evidences were plain and direct; yet he did not yield. A number of people in the kitchen. After they went off I went to Captain Maynards. Reverend Bacon¹¹ of Ashuelot came from Wrentham, here and lodg'd.

27. Preach'd a Lecture to Young Men on Ps. 119, 59.

28. We broke up the Ground about the settle. Thomas Winchester and Nathan Maynard help'd us. We had 5 Yoke of oxen besides my own. A precinct Meeting to See whether the Precinct would pay the Charges layd on them by the last Quarter Sessions, arising from the Petition of the North side to be freed from paying that part of my sallery from June 5, 1744 to October 20, of the Same Year. The Precinct chose a Committee to seek Council.

29. Broke up Ground again at the Same Place with the Same Number of Cattle, by the Same Hands as yesterday—till noon. West yard broke up. N.B. Poor Jos. Clagg here, yesterday and to Day.

30. On Tit. 2, 11, 12. P.M. Gal. 6, 14. At Evening Mr. Martyn who lodg'd here.

¹⁰ Widow of Benjamin Woods of Marlborough.

¹¹ Jacob Bacon of Keene, N.H.

31. Mr. Martyn gives his Answer to the North Precinct—in the Affirmative.¹² I rode to Cambridge. Found Mother Champney weak and feeble, yet able to walk about. I lodg'd there.

APRIL [1746]

1. Visited Brother Barrett who has been infirm ever since he came from Cape Briton, but now is very low and wasting. The Lord grant both him and Me a lively Sense of our frail and perishing Nature, and prepare us for our Dissolution! Heard that Mrs. Miriam Cheever is Dead. O that Every Death of those I knew and Convers'd freely with might be a new quickening to Me! I was with Edmund Trowbridge Esquire¹ to consult him upon my Case with reference to the arrears of the Town of Westborough, and with respect to our Precincts Votes for my Sallery etc.—and some other Affairs of Difficulty with me at this Time. Proceeded to Boston; din'd at my Honoured Mothers, who thro the Tender Mercy of God is yet Living, tho Very feeble and not able to get up to Day till 3 p.m. Sister Betty much better than when I left her last. Lodg'd at Brother Alexanders. N.B. He is hot in Courtship already to Mrs. Rebecca Jarvis—but the Circumstances of his Family are very Urgent. The God of infinite Wisdom direct him and prevent his too soon forgetting the Great Design of the Sore Chastisement he is under! N.B. Sent my Horse to Cambridge by Mr. Larkins son.

2. Din'd at Cousen John Parkmans. N.B. Her Fervency for Children. But Lodg'd with my Kinsman Elias, who is yet with Dr. Delhonde. N.B. I was at Mrs. Martyns. Here was her son John—with whom I also took a long walk and talk [sic] with him about his telling of great and Strange Storys, etc.

3. Visited Mrs. Carns of whom I had (gratis) an old Greek Lexicon, which with my Table Bible I consigned to Mr. Nathaniel Procter to be new bound. Visited Mr. Gee² who is much impair'd in his Health. The Lord be gracious to him and restore

¹² See Kent, *Northborough History*, pp. 24–26.

¹ Lawyer of Cambridge.

² The Reverend Joshua Gee.

him! Such worthy men being (alas!) too scarce. Was at the Public Lecture. Mr. Webb preach'd on Eph. 4, 18. Din'd at Mr. Quincys³—where was also the Honourable Mr. Danforth⁴ and Mr. Josiah Quincy.⁵ Was also at Mr. Hubbards.⁶ At Mr. Daniel Henshaw's, with Captain Samuel Waterhouse. At Evening Brother Alexander and his Mistress (Mrs. Rebecca Jarvis) at mothers, till late. Lodg'd at Mothers. I had Sent for my Horse, but kept him this Night at Brother Alexander's Stable.

4. My Honour'd Mother Decays and I fear whether She will Continue any Long Time. Her Discourse last Evening whilst Brother Alexander was there, very Noticeable. Behold I die (Sayd She)—but God Shall visit you (directing herself to us her Children and having respect to our Children also in Case, that is, that we and ours Should keep the way of the Lord, as She had taught and Commanded us) and Shall be with you etc. etc. with many Such like words, as the old Patriarch when solemnly taking leave of his Posterity. The Lord Let these weighty Sayings home upon my, and upon all our Hearts, that they may be ever duly observ'd and kept by us and ours! I took leave with Great Affection, and with Hearty Gratitude to God and Her. And O that God most Gracious and all-sufficient would be with her to Support and Comfort her, and safely conduct her to his heavenly and Eternal Kingdom!

I broke fast at my Kinsman Harseys.⁷ Din'd at Brother Alexander's. Improv'd Mrs. Stoddard to buy me a Calamanco Jacket and Breeches. N.B. Mr. Abbot of Andover at Mrs. Stoddards. N.B. Kinsman John Parkman presented me a Wigg of Considerable Price. Sett out upon my Journey from Cousen Procters—it began to Rain, after a drie Time. Storm increas'd So that I turn'd in at Captain Winchesters—and again at Mr.

³ John Quincy (Harvard 1708) of Boston.

⁴ Councillor Samuel Danforth.

⁵ (Harvard 1728). *Sibley*, VIII, 463-475.

⁶ Nathaniel Hubbard (Harvard 1698), Justice of the Superior Court. *Sibley*, IV, 406-408.

⁷ Tabitha Parkman, the Reverend Mr. Parkman's niece, married Israel Harsey, Nov. 13, 1740.

Richard Gardners⁸ during the Time of Terrible Thunder and Lightning. Lodg'd at Mother Champneys.

5. Return'd home. N.B. din'd at Mr. Patersons at Subdury. Mr. Cook's⁹ wife very low—thot to be in a Consumption. The Lord prepare her for his holy Will! Found my Family well. Blessed be God our preserver! N.B. Thomas Winchester came to work for me last Wednesday noon to make up the month which he fell behind in our Agreement last Year. N.B. Mr. Stephen Maynard return'd home from the scout to Lake.

6. On Hosea 13, 9. Old Sermons which I had too Little Time to Correct, as it happens likewise in many of my Repititions—for tho I am not well pleas'd with the Composition of many of my sermons after I have deliver'd them yet am oblig'd to repeat them with too little Alteration. O that God would pardon my many and great Defects and Miscarriages; and bless my imperfect, mean Endeavours!

7. Thomas at work—ploughing stubble. P.M. Mr. Davis¹⁰ of Holden lodg'd here.

8. Mr. Davis and I rode over to Association at Hopkinton. Mr. Loring,¹¹ Mr. Cushing and Mr. Stone¹² were all (except Two Young Gentlemen) that came besides. Mr. Seccomb, who was to have deliver'd the Concio, did not come. Mr. Barrett repeat'd his sermon at Mr. Millens Ordination. Mr. Bridge of Framingham told us a Council call'd by the Dissenting party, was to sit at that place tomorrow, and he desir'd advice. The advice given him was not to concern himself with them. The Council which had ordain'd him having sufficiently Examin'd him already.

9. Mr. Davis preach'd the Public Lecture on Acts 5, 31. Mr. Loring and Mr. Davis came home with me and lodg'd here.

10. Mr. Davis went home A.M. Mr. Loring preach'd my Lecture on Jer. 23, 6. An Excellent Savoury Sermon. The Lord be pleas'd to make it Savingly usefull and Beneficial to us! At

⁸ Of Cambridge.

⁹ The Reverend William Cooke of Wayland.

¹⁰ The Reverend Joseph Davis.

¹¹ The Reverend Israel Loring of Sudbury.

¹² The Reverend Nathan Stone of Southborough.

Evening Mr. Loring went to Marlborough, not without my hearty gratitude for his kind assistance. Lieutenant Tainter came and offer'd to Cutt my Colt which by the Help of Some Persons here he Effected.

11. Captain Maynard returns from Boston and brings word that my Honoured Mother grows worse.

12. Fine weather. Thomas Sow'd Barley. Might Grace Spring in our Hearts!

13. Sacrament. Preach'd a.m. on Luke 24, 46. P.M. Hosea 13, 9. N.B. At Communion we sung Rev. 5, 10, at which Mrs. Whitney cry'd out—but we went on without stopping to the End of what was propos'd—and she was still at the Blessing. O might it please God to give us all a lively sense of his infinite Love and our great Obligations to him therefor! O that we might walk worthy of him to all well pleasing! N.B. Deacon Fay, Widow Woods, Mrs. Collister¹³ and Mrs. Bowman¹⁴ din'd here. N.B. Many of the North side were absent from Communion. We were in much Expectation that Mr. Martyn would have brought his wife over to us this Evening—but he came not.

14. Thomas sowing Rye. Isaac Amsden sues William Rogers junior before Nahum Ward Esquire. Ebenezer Graffing.¹⁵ Mr. James How of Worcester here to buy Cyder. N.B. his smart Arguing in behalf of the Arminians.¹⁶ N.B. My Wife rode over to Mr. Caruth's.

15. Rain A.M. Catechetical Exercises to Young Women—The fore part of what I deliver'd was (without writing) on the Moderator and his Offices in general. The Latter part on the Office of a Prophet in particular and under that Head improv'd a Considerable part of my sermon on Isa. 61, 2, viz. the Beginning to Page 7 and the Heads of Application in page 25 and 26, omitting many of the particulars under those Heads. P.M. My Dauter Sarah taken ill.

16. A Dark Morning by means of the Storm of Rain—but far

¹³ Mrs. John McCollister of Westborough.

¹⁴ Mrs. James Bowman.

¹⁵ Graff is an old variant of graft.

¹⁶ Believers in the doctrines of Arminius.

darker by means of the Most Sorrowfull Message Receiv'd by Letter from my Brother Samuel Parkman by the Hands of Mr. William Ward of Southborough (My Brother having given Ten Shillings to Convey me the Letter) That last Lords Day Evening about 6 o'Clock our Honoured and dear Mother departed this Life: and that tomorrow was appointed to be the Funeral. Tho we have long had warnings yet O how shocking when at last it comes! An Excelling Woman, as acknowledg'd by all that I have heard speak of her: Friends or Foes; especially in wisdom and steadiness and Piety. God was pleas'd to Bless her with a Tenacious Memory, which she had to the last, and remembring recent Facts as well as antient. God made her a great and rich Blessing to us all, and we had much Happiness in her. She was one of those Vertuous Women whom her Children think themselves in Duty Bound to rise up and call Blessed. The Lord be with us in the Great Duty of holy Mourning now incumbent! We waited while the Rain Slacken'd; and p.m. My Wife and I set out and rode to Marlborough. At Esquire Brighams¹⁷ we borrow'd a Chair, and Lodg'd at Dr. Gotts.¹⁸

17. Just after sun rise we rode from Marlborough to Boston and din'd at Mrs. Keggells. Hasten'd to Brother Alexanders where we put up our Chair and Horse. The Funeral was put by because of the Fowl weather Yesterday which was thought would prevent my Coming. I went to my Brother Samuels to Consult him about Necessary Preparations but hasten'd to take a View of the Dear and much Esteem'd Remains—which tho So long breathless were not greatly alter'd from Life. The Lord Convince Me of my own Frailty, Since most certainly I am the Same as she from whom I came! The Lord prepare me for the awfull Time! In the Evening my Brethren were together at Mothers and we pray'd together. My wife and I lodg'd there.

18. Was much engag'd the fore part of the Day in buying black Cloth for a Coat—at length Suited myself at Mr. Lawtons £8 and 5 shillings per yard: improv'd Mr. Owen to make it—but because it was not possible to get it ready for the Funeral, my

¹⁷ Joseph Brigham.

¹⁸ Benjamin Gott, the physician.

Brother Samuel was So friendly as to lend me a Black Coat till my own could be made. This Eve The Remains of my Honoured Parent were decently interr'd. Mr. Gee not able by reason of illness to be there; but Mr. Webb and Mr. Eliot were. The Bearers were Deacon Procter and Elder Baker, Deacon Hunt and Deacon Townsend, Deacon Larraby and Dr. Archibald. After we return'd and the Company, except near Relations, gone, we again pray'd together. And O that now both Father and Mother Forsake us the Lord would take us up! N.B. Mr. Gee (by means of Deacon Larraby) Sent to me to preach for him next Sabbath—which I was not against if I did preach any where in Town. Lodg'd at sister Bettys.

19. Din'd at Brother Parkmans. Mr. Eliot Sent me a Messenger to Desire me to preach for him one part of the Day tomorrow, upon which I made him a Visit—and declin'd preaching for him at this Time because I felt but feeble and doubted whether I should be able to preach all Day for my Brethren expected me to give them some Exercise at Evening. I also Visited Mr. Gee who was in a low state of Health. Lodg'd at the Same.

20. I preach'd at the Old North a.m. on Rom. 6, 13, middle Clause. But yield themselves unto God, etc. Mr. Maccarty p.m. there on [blank]. N.B. din'd at Mr. Gees—and my wife there with me after meeting at Eve, From whence we went to sister Willards, where my late honoured Mother dwelt, and I had an Exercise to my Brethren and other Relatives on John 3, 23 latter part. May God make these Exercises usefull to us in our Sorrow and Mourning under our sore Bereavement! We lodg'd there. N.B. Brother Alexander brings Cousen Rebecca Jarvis freely among us, and she was with us this Evening.

21. Mr. Owen finish'd my Coat at Evening. After Sundry Visits in the Day I met my Brethren at sister Willards to read our Honoured Mothers Last Will and Testament, and attend upon the Duty Consequent, Particularly we valued the negro Pito: and as my Mother had given him leave to choose which of us should be his Master, he chose Brother Samuel—who took possession of him. N.B. P.M. we were at Mr. Eliots and Mr. Robert Brecks, etc. etc.

22. We din'd at Brother Samuels and Mr. Jabez Fox¹⁹ of Casco with us, who informs us of the Mischief done by the Indians at Gorham Town. 4 killed and 3 carry'd Captive. At Eve we Supp'd at Brother Samuels with Brother Alexander and Mrs. Rebeca Jarvis—and lodg'd there.

23. My Horse for several Nights kept at my Kinsman Procters. We mounted from Brother Alexanders—din'd at Mrs. Keggells—made a visit at Judge Dudleys,²⁰ and proceeded to Cambridge before Night.

24. Brother Hicks Set out from Cambridge with us. We rode to Dr. Gotts, and to Esquire Brighams, where we left our Chair. Captain Maynard there. Sorrowfull News of Mr. Antipas Brighams Death at Grafton. Some bad News also from our own Family at Westborough That a few Days agoe my Young Cow (whose Calf was newly kill'd for the sake of the Milk) was a few Nights agoe drown'd in Mr. Barns's Swamp. We ourselves got home well, and found our Children and Whole Family Well; Sarah whom we left not well, comfortable, and Susè well wean'd. Blessed be God!

24. Mr. John Brown²¹ from Cambridge here and lodg'd here. Tells us the sorrowfull News of upper Ashuelot besett by the Indians, and several Houses there in Flames. May God be mercifully present with them and save them and especially with Mr. Bacon²² in this distressing Time.

26. Mr. Brown to Worcester where he preaches.

27. On the Occasion of the Death of my Honoured Mother, and Several other Bereavments (Ex. gr. Captain Forbush and Mrs. Byles mourn for the Loss of their sister Bruce and Ensign Bruce and Mrs. Miller the Loss of their Mother; Captain Baker and Captain Maynard and their wives the Death of their Brother Antipas Brigham, and Bezaliel Smith and wife the Loss of one of their Children) I preach'd a.m. on Rev. 14, 13, and p.m. on Ps.

¹⁹ (Harvard 1727).

²⁰ Paul Dudley, Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature.

²¹ John Brown, Jr. (Harvard 1741), was later the minister at Cohasset, 1747-1791. *Sibley*, XI, 12-17.

²² The Reverend Jacob Bacon.

27, 10. May it please God to Concurr with both the Word and the Providence.

28. Mr. Martyn²⁸ here. He tells me the Day for his Ordination is appoint'd, and Churches to assist are chose. N.B. he asks me to preach on that Solemn occasion. He din'd here. P.M. he was to meet a number of Brethren who are preparing Letters to be Sent to the Churches, and he is about his Trading for a place to live on.

29. I Catechiz'd at the School House—about 45 Children. Visited at Mr. Childs, at Mr. Whitneys, Mr. Millers (whose wife is Sick yet) and at Mr. Daniel Forbush's.

30. A Number of Brethren from the North side here, viz. Messers Townsend, Allen and his Son, Matthias Rice and Silas Fay: and with them Mr. John McCollister desiring to be dismiss'd and recommended to the building a Church of Christ in the North part of the Town. I mention'd to them their Delinquency on Communion Days, their Injustice towards me respecting the arrears which were due to me from the Town, and the securing to me the Material Rights. At Length came Mr Wheeler, James Ball and Jacob Rice, who were opposite to the former and to their proceedings. Mr. Ball mention'd his Desire of a Church Meeting in order to have Some Conference and to sett all Things to Rights before we Divide and his proposal of a Meeting was agreed to.

MAY, 1746

1. I preach'd at the Private Meeting at Deacon Newton's¹ on 1 John 1, 7. The rather because of the Languishing State of the Meeting much complain'd of Still, but yet not pitt'y'd and reform'd—tho I have been divers Times present with them upon this Very Ground. I Stop'd the Brethren after Meeting and talk'd to them upon that Head and earnestly Exhorted as well as admonish'd—hoping they would show some regard. We afterwards fell into some Discourse with relation to our North side and their Affairs. N.B. Molly rode with me. At Eve Thomas

²⁸ The Reverend John Martyn of the north precinct.

¹ Josiah Newton.

Winchester finish'd with me for last Years agreement—he having been paid therefor some time agoe.

2. Agreed with Thomas to help me from June 15 to August 15 and to have 22£ Old Tenor.

3. Mr. Stone here, going to Worcester to change with Mr. Brown.² P.M. Captain Forbush's wife.

4. I preach'd on Ps. 27, 10, all Day. Rainy. N.B. No Letter yet from Northside. Propounded Jonas Childs and Wife and Sarah Forbush, wife of Captain Forbush. Stop'd the Church and acquainted them with the Desires of 5 Brethren on the North side to be dismiss'd; and read the request of another five to have a Church Meeting. Church meeting appointed to be 2 p.m. Next Wednesday.

5. I visited Mr. Adams's little son who had been much burnt at a Cole-Pitt. Mr. Stone³ in his journey from Worcester here, and it being rainy he lodg'd here.

6. Mr. Stone return'd home.

7. The Church met at the Request of Mr. Joseph Wheeler and Four others, Brethren of the Church to have Some Conference with those 6 Brethren who desire Dismission. See Records of the Church.⁴ Not being able to come to a Vote to dismiss the Brethren desiring it, the Meeting was adjourn'd to Next Monday Morning 8 o'Clock.

8. I found there was a Considerable Frost last Night. Rode to Shrewsbury and Consulted Mr. Cushing⁵ upon our Difficultys in the Church. Din'd there. Settl'd my account with Mr. Parker Shoemaker—was at Mr. Thomas Smiths whose wife is making me a Calamanco Jacket and Breaches. When I got home Neighbour Eliezer Rice concerning the Ministerial Meadow. Mr. Daniel Warrins (alias Spriggins). They were in Sorrows for 2 of his wife's Brethren who dy'd at Cape Breton.

² John Brown (Harvard 1741), later minister of Cohasset, 1747-1791. *Sibley*, XI, 12-17.

³ Reverend Nathan Stone of Southborough.

⁴ The Westborough church did not at this time vote the dismission of the north side people.

⁵ Reverend Job Cushing.

9. In the Morning rode to Eliezer Rice's and sent my son Ebenezer to work with him and a son of Lieutenant Forbush's, in Mending up the Fence of the Ministerial Meadow.

10. Greatly hinder'd by Mr. Josiah Bowkers being here to be Examin'd in order to his joining with others in laying the foundations of a Church in the North Precinct, but I advis'd him to wave it; besides that the Time was So short that there could be no opportunity for him to come again—and there would be enough for a Church without him. A Warm Day. At Eve came Mr. Carns⁶ of Boston, who had been [on] a Journey to New Haven.

11. Mr. Carns a.m. on Mat. 16, 24. Let him Deny himself. P.M. on Col. 1, 27. Christ in you the Hope of Glory. Mr. Jenison at Meeting and here at Evening.

12. Mr. Carns's Horse not fit to go his Journey by reason of the Swelling of his Back. Church Met according to Adjournment. See Church Records.⁷ I was full of deep Concern to See the Church so perplex'd—and I became faint and weary before we had done. But (by the Help of God) I endeavour'd to Manage every affair with the utmost Impartiality and refus'd to Vote, My Self, in any Article, but yielded all to them. Mr. Carns din'd with me. Mr. Martyn visited me. I urg'd him to provide Some Body else to preach the Ordination Sermon, and especially because of the uncertainty of the Councils allowing our Church votes. I enquir'd what he might intend by preventing Jealousies and Suspicions in his Letter to me, Since I had given No Cause for any? He invited my Wife and Dauter to Ordination. Mr. Martyn left me to go to a Number of his Brethren who were to meet in the Northside to Day. Mr. Carns lodg'd here. N.B. Mr. Jenison with Mr. Martyn to Day.

13. Cloudy and drizly in the Morn. P.M. did not rain, but it being Easterly weather Mr. Carns did not Care to go his Journey home. Mr. Jonas Child here, upon the Affair of his

⁶ John Carnes (Harvard 1742), later the minister of Stoneham, 1746-1757. *Sibley*, XI, 137-142.

⁷ Through some oversight Parkman made no entry in the Church Records between May 7 and May 18.

Relation but I could not write for him. School begins by Mr. Jenison at old Mr. Maynards.

14. Mr. Carns ventur'd to undertake his Journey home. Brother Hicks and his wife, his Company. P.M. Mrs. Forbush (Captain's wife) here to get her Relation writ. While I was engag'd in her Business came Mrs. Edwards of North Grafton and Major Pomeroy's grandson. With them came also Reverend Mr. Bridge of Framingham—and Lieutenant Tainter. The Last inform'd me of the Sorrowfull Fall of Mrs. Betty Loring,⁸ being six months gone with Child by Manson⁹ the Barber at Sudbury. More sad news from the Frontiers—the Indians have wounded Several persons at Colerain and Husack, and led away Captive Deacon Brown and another man from lower Ashuelot.

15. Mrs. Edwards and the Lad with her went to Boston. Lieutenant Aaron Forbush to get a Letter writ by me to his son Noah. Mr. Daniel Warrin at stone Wall. Came at 10 a.m., yet he built me (as he said) 7 Rod—for which he ask'd me 7 Shillings tho by the Rod it would have amounted to half as much more.

16. Mr. James How of Worcester here for Cyder. I sold him 2 Barrells filled up for 20 pence per Barrell.

17. Ebenezer and Thomme Shear'd Sheep.

18. On Tit. 2, 12. Rev. 22, 20. Ebenezer goes to the Private Meeting of Young Men.

19. Mr. McAllister here for his Certificat; and Mr. Matthias Rice here with a Letter from Mr. Martyn concerning my preaching his Ordination sermon which I had already consented to in Case the Council Should advise that we Should join in the work of that Day. I rode over to Mr. Allens, and there (at the Mill) wrote a Letter to Mr. Barrett,¹⁰ Seconding a Letter from Mr. Martyn desiring him to come prepar'd to preach in Case etc. I din'd at Mr. Palatiah Rice's. Bought peas at 16 shillings and wheat at 18 pence per Bushel. Was at Mr. Thomas Warrins, at the widow Coolidge's, at Mr. McAllisters, Gershom Fay's,

⁸ Elizabeth, the daughter of the Reverend Israel Loring.

⁹ Richard Manson and Elizabeth Loring were married June 6, 1746.

¹⁰ The Reverend Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

Lawrence's and Mr. Nathan Balls. N.B. his Son Ebenezer lyes by with a broken Thigh. I proceed'd (according to my main Design in going out to Day) to visit Mrs. Livermore who is in a Wasting Condition. In Return was at Mr. James Balls. There were Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Jacob Rice, Lawrence, etc. contriving and preparing to oppose the Ordinance call'd at Mr. George Smiths and Timothy Fays. N.B. in their Talk of Mr. Martyn I was every way endeavouring to mollifie etc., and should they make the worst of it they might Remember the Story of St. Augustine who did not preach till he was 35. When I came home I found Mr. Bridgham¹¹ of Brimfield and his Mother, who lodg'd here.

20. Mr. Bridgham with his Mother from Boston. At Eve Mr. Gay¹² of Suffield and his sister Ballantine in their Journey to Dedham, here and lodg'd here. Town Meeting. Mr. Francis Whipple chose Representative. I sent for Lieutenant Holloway¹³ and talk'd with him for his Reproachfully declaring in Town Meeting that I would take more than Lawfull Interest. He made a mean and unsatisfying Defence.

21. Rainy Morning. Mr. Gay and his sister set out when it was moderated. Mr. Barrett here going to the Ordination. My Wife went over with me. Met at Lieutenant Holloways. Messers. Prentice, Cushing, Gardner,¹⁴ there already. Mr. Loring and Mr. Hall¹⁵ did not come, So that there were but 5 Churches. Mr. Prentice Moderator. Mr. Barrett Clerk. The Church of Westborough refus'd to join in the Council till the Votes of Said Church were Scann'd and judg'd of. The Council judg'd them Valid; yet they requested the advice of the Council whether all Things consider'd it could be, nevertheless, advisable for them to Act? Who Still advis'd to it. Upon which they join'd in Council. Objections were brought in (about 12 o'Clock) by Messers Wheeler, Jacob Rice, and Timothy Fay, but when de-

¹¹ Reverend James Bridgham.

¹² Reverend Ebenezer Gay.

¹³ William Holloway.

¹⁴ Reverend John Gardner of Stow.

¹⁵ Reverend David Hall of Sutton.

bated on by the Council they were Voted in sufficient to be any Barr to proceeding. We went to meeting $\frac{1}{2}$ after 4 P.M. Mr. Barrett began with prayer. I preach'd on Heb. 13, 17. Mr. Gardner gather'd the Church which consisted of Ten, viz. Ephraim Allen, John McAllister, Joshua Dowsing, Jonathan Livermore, John Caruth, Matthias Rice, Gershom Fay, Silas Fay, [blank] Shepherd and Samuel Allen. Mr. Prentice gave the Charge, Mr. Cushing the Fellowship of the Churches. Sung Ps. 66 from number 17 one staff and $\frac{1}{2}$. It was almost night when we broke off. An unhappy accident befell a young man by the Fall of one of the Supporters of the Gallery. He was knock'd down to the Ground and seem'd Stunn'd for a while, but he was taken up and grew better. It was that son of Mr. Nathaniel Oake who has already met with Many Sad Disasters—but God be prais'd he yet survives! After Supper we were accompany'd home by Sir Williams and three young scholars more. Baldwin,¹⁶ Cook,¹⁷ and Richardson,¹⁸ who all lodg'd here. And thus we have seen another Church founded in this Town and another Pastor ordain'd: And may the God of infinite Mercy forgive all my unfaithfulness to those who have been under my Care! may all that has been unrighteous, and blameworthy in them be pardon'd of God! May that Church be a Pure Golden Candlestick and the person Set up therein be a Starr, a burning and Shining Light! May we all be united in Faith and Love! that we may have Sweet Communion, mutual assistance and Consolation here, and meet together in the heavenly Glory at last—through Christ Jesus. Amen! Besides my having So much Company of late to Shorten my Pasture, a Number of Horses, chiefly from Captain Maynards, have broke in for Several Nights.

22. Sir Williams etc. had not left us before we were favour'd with Mr. Barretts Company, who tarried and din'd with me. N.B. a Council Sat at Framingham on Tuesday last, and sits at Hopkinton to Day, at the Call of the Separating Partys.

¹⁶ William Baldwin (Harvard 1748).

¹⁷ William Cooke (Harvard 1748).

¹⁸ Gideon Richardson (Harvard 1749).

P.M. Brother Hicks and his wife from Cambridge and lodg'd here.

23. Sent the Young Creatures to Sutton, under the Care of Brother Hicks.

24. Ebenezer and Thomme draw Stones for Well. Mr. Jenison goes to Worcester.

25. Sacrament. Luke 24, 46. 2 Cor. 5, 20. The Opposing Brethren of the North Side here at Communion, and Mrs. Laurence, Mrs. Fay (Samuel Junior's wife) Mrs. Chamberlin (John's wife) besides Captain Fay din'd here. O that we might not enjoy our happy privileges in Vain! nor liberation in Religion without some good Effect! I call'd heaven and Earth to witness, in Communion Exercise, that we did now Solely Covenant and bind ourselves to be the Lords! May we have grace to abide by it!

26. Somewhat Cold. No School. Mr. Jenison not come from Worcester.

27. Early in the Morning I rode over to Mr. Williams to see his sons Wife and Child who had the Throat Distemper. Mr. Francis Whipple the Representative was with me, and we thence prosecuted our Journey for Cambridge and Boston. We rode to Mr. Liscombs¹⁹ (at Southborough) to Mr. Stones—to Colonel Buckminsters—rain'd at Weston—din'd at Woolsons Tavern. There came Mr. Cushing, and Mr. Whitney of Nitchewaug. My Company rode along, but much more on the Road, Colonel Stoddard,²⁰ Chandler²¹ etc. We stopp'd at Saltmarsh's—and then many more; Brigadier Dwight,²² Colonel Porter, Mr. Breck, Mr. Chester Williams. Afterwards Dr. William Clark of Boston etc. I proceeded as far as Cambridge and lodg'd at Mother Champneys.

28. Rode to Boston, put up my Horse at Mr. Samuel Proctors. Visited my sister Willard, who has been in a poorer state of Health than usual, ever since Mother's Death. The sermon

¹⁹ Samuel Lyscom.

²⁰ John Stoddard (Harvard 1701) of Northampton, a Councillor, and Chief Justice of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas. *Sibley*, V, 96-119.

²¹ John Chandler of Worcester.

²² Timothy Dwight of Hatfield.

to Day was by my Excellent Master Barnard of Andover. Din'd with Brother Alexander. P.M. at the Convention. Dr. Sewal Moderator and Mr. Checkley Clerk. Voted an address to the King on Occasion of the Rebellion. Supp'd at Sister Bettys with Brother Alexander and his mistress. Lodg'd at Sister Willards.

29. Mr. Gay of Hingham preach'd to the Convention on John 3. The Collection (I think) amounted to 232£. A peaceable Meeting. Blessed be God! Din'd at Mr. Checkleys with Mr. President, Mr. Barnard of Marblehead, Mr. Appleton, Mr. Bridgham and Mr. Maccarty. At Convention P.M. we met to finish the Address and distribute the Collection. At Eve rode to Cambridge and lodg'd at Mother Champneys. N.B. Sister Lydia at Boston.

30. Went over to College for the Sake of Mr. Cushings Company, and to Mr. William Morse's to have a shooe put on to my Mare. Spent some little Time in the publick Library. We din'd at Mr. Stearns's in Watertown: and call'd at Matthias Rice's. Found my Tabernacle in Peace. Blessed be God!

31. Mr. Rand (now of Kingstown) came and din'd with me. Afterwards came Mr. Buckminster. The design'd Expedition to Canada now no longer a secret. The Lord be pleas'd to give all needed Direction, and prepare all the Hearts of his people for his great Mercy!

JUNE [1746]

On Mat. 10, 39. He that Saveth is Life etc. and Ch. 12, 41. The Man of Nin—O might there be a suitable Effect, by the Gracious Concurrence of God.

2. Rainy. Frequently bad news from the Frontiers. Many people from Wrentham etc. riding to upper Ashuelot to the aid of the women. At the Evening came Mr. Devotion¹ of Windham and lodg'd here.

3. Mr. Devotion for Suffield. The Catechetical Exercise: but I could not begin my preparations till noon, when I sat down and wrote the minutes of what I deliver'd.

¹The Reverend Ebenezer Devotion.

4. Rode to Mr. Ebenezer Rice's Shop. His Father Charles changes my Firelock. N.B. This Day about 7 or 8 o'Clock in the morning Mr. Samuel Harrington (and divers others) Saw in the South West a blazing Meteor, which Soon was Extinct.

5. Mr. Breck² of Springfield here and din'd with me. Cold Season.

6. Mr. Appleton³ and with him Mr. John Wendall⁴ of College here. The north Company train'd. I pray'd with them. At Eve Mr. Appleton, etc. went down with me to Captain Maynards. The Expedition to Canada Engrosses all Conversation.

7. Mr. Appleton and Mr. Wendall to Worcester. P.M. refreshing Rain and Moderate Thunder.

8. On Tit. 2, 12, and p.m. repeated on Acts 13, 36. Mr. Miller din'd with us.

9. Noah Forbush⁵ here who gives me a distinct account of the Skirmish with the Indians at No. 4 last Saturday was fortnight when 5 Englishmen were kill'd, one wounded, and one carry'd away Captive. N.B. Noah was in the hottest Engagement, and broke thro the Indians tho in a Lane, and 70 Rod from the Fort. So memorable the Goodness of God towards him that he got in Safe.⁶ N.B. Tho the Thunder last Saturday was So Moderate here, yet at Mr. Joseph Wheelers an Horse was kill'd. Training of the South Company and I din'd with the Officers at Captain Fays.⁷

10. Rainy. My Cattle grow very troublesome by breaking in upon my Corn, whilst Ebenezer and Thomme were gone a fishing. Mr. Eliezer Rice hobbled my Ox which was the Ring-leader in the Mischief. At Eve Mr. Ebenezer Rice here and whilst he wants Privileges in the Church discovers to me the great Disadvantage his Character had been brought under by Lydia Pratt of Grafton.

² The Reverend Robert Breck, Jr.

³ The Reverend Nathaniel Appleton of Cambridge.

⁴ (Harvard 1747).

⁵ Son of Aaron Forbush of Westborough.

⁶ "We hear from No. 4. of the Narragansett-Townships, that on the 24th of May past, four Men were killed by the Indians; another was dangerously wounded, and two more are missing. . . ." *The Boston Weekly News-Letter*, June 5, 1746.

⁷ John Fay, a deacon of the Westborough church.

11. Brother Hicks from Cambridge tells me they are in a way of settling the Affairs at Mother Champney's.

12. Preach'd to Young Men from Jer. 46, 10 former part, but herein us'd Sermon 3 and 4 on Isa. 61, 2. Tho the Subject was very moving yet there were but few to hear. O that God would quicken and awaken up all of us!

13. James White and Robert Cook⁸ here; they with Some others going out to the Frontiers. May the Lord Sanctifie them and protect them. Thomas Winchester here at Evening to desire he may not begin with me at the Time agreed for, but may take Care of Mr. Abraham Temple's⁹ Work and Affairs for a while, he being come out in the Troop, to the Frontiers. Out of Compassion therefore I yielded to a Weeks Delay.

14. The Sow missing yesterday and this morning—at length found by the Side of a great Pine Logg in the Hill, with Ten Piggs. P.M. a Storm of Thunder and rain: but bore away to the South, and south East. Reverend Mr. Smith here requesting me to go to Worcester in his Stead, but I could not well go. He proceeded to Shrewsbury.

15. Rest of Sermon on Acts 13, 36, and p.m. on 2 Tim. 2, 3.

16. Mr. Smith of Marlborough was here, and din'd with me. P.M. I went to the Funeral of Mr. Eliezer Rice's Child.¹⁰

17. My Wife and I were purposing to Visit Mr. Martyn and his, but Mr. Buckminster¹¹ with his spouse came a.m. and din'd with us, but we prosecuted our Design. At Mr. Martyns were Mr. Goss¹² and his Wife, and Mr. Martyns Landlord and Landlady Sawyer. I beg of God that the Correspondence which I now settle may be for his Glory and our mutual good, and that of the Societys respectively under our Care! At Eve when we return'd home my wife was ill, and full of Pain.

18. Hard Thunder in the Morning but it did not seem very nigh, and accompanying it was a great Storm of Rain. Mr.

⁸ Son of Cornelius Cook of Westborough.

⁹ Of Marlborough.

¹⁰ No record of death in *Westborough Vital Records*.

¹¹ Reverend Joseph Buckminster, minister of the First Congregational Church in Rutland.

¹² The Reverend Thomas Goss of Bolton.

Cushing here and is desirous that instead of preaching a Lecture to his young people I would preach the Lecture Preparatory to the Sacrament among them.

19. Preach'd at Shrewsbury Lecture on Rom. 6, 13. Yield yourself to God. N.B. Not many at meeting. There was a Training yesterday and another to be tomorrow—besides that it was good weather for Business after much hindrance by the late Rains. N.B. Captain Caleb Johnsons¹³ House was greatly wreck'd by the Thunder Yesterday Morning and the Lives of the Family marvellously Spar'd. N.B. Lieutenant Stone¹⁴ came to Speak with me about my Letter, lately Sent to Mr. Cushing in which it was Suppos'd I severely check'd the Young Society there for their undutifulness to their pastor. I had prepar'd an Answer and deliver'd it by Lieutenant's Hands. At Eve when I return'd to my own House I found there Mr. Elisha Whittlesey of Wallingford and Mrs. Sarah Noyes¹⁵ of New Haven who lodg'd here.

20. Rain a.m. held up p.m. After Dinner our Company went off. Sorrowfull News that Benjamin Tainter is either kill'd or Carry'd away Captive, by the Indians who have besett Massachusetts Fort at Hoosuck.

21. About 10 o'Clock at night comes Mr. Thomas Marsh¹⁶ from College to request me to go to Worcester to preach in Mr. Stevens's¹⁷ Stead. The Circumstances of the Case being Singular (as he related the matter with regard to both Mr. Stevens and himself)—tho he had undertaken to come, yet it was only to Exchange with Some Neighbouring Ministers, and if I could not he must go to Mr. Cushing or somebody for he could not preach there himself. I told him Mr. Cushing preach'd there but last Sabbath and Especially I know Mr. Cushing could not go because it was his (appointed) Sacrament. As to his being so late in his Journey, the President and Fellows sat upon an

¹³ Of Shrewsbury. Ward, *Shrewsbury*, p. 336.

¹⁴ Isaac Stone was at one time selectman of Shrewsbury.

¹⁵ Wife of the Reverend Joseph Noyes of New Haven.

¹⁶ (Harvard 1731). Tutor of Harvard College. *Sibley*, IX, 67-70.

¹⁷ Benjamin Stevens (Harvard 1740) was later minister of Kittery, Me., 1751-1791. *Sibley*, X, 535-539.

affair of some Difficulty till one o'Clock, and after that he had to dine. I at length consented to go, and In the morning I rose so Early as to ride a mile from home before sunrise. Got to Worcester about 7 o'Clock. Preach'd all Day on Gal. 2, 20. N.B. Colonel Chandler, who came up last night, confirms the News which Mr. Marsh brought that the Duke of Cumberland is Slain in Battle against the Rebels at Inverness. Din'd at the Colonel's. Supp'd at Dr. Brecks. Rode back to Mr. Cushings at Eve and lodg'd there.

23. Home Early. Mr. Marsh not gone. Thomas Winchester was to have come but did not till nigh noon, and I had sent the Oxen home which I had order'd to be got together to cross our Ground by the Settle. It prov'd Rainy also, So that Thomas could do but little today. Pamela which Colonel Chandler lent to Molly.

24. We cross'd the foresaid Ground with Neighbour Tomlins, Neighbour Hows and my own Oxen and Mare. Yet 'twas somewhat Rainy. Mr. Samuel Forbush of Upton here to be Examin'd. Mrs. McAllister and Mrs. Dowsing here, would have Dismissions from our Church.

25. Thomas and Ebenezer Hoing and Mowing. They finish'd the Second Hoing. The first good Day for Hay that has come. I visited Lieutenant Tainter¹⁸ and his Family in their Distress for Benjamin, who, as they conclude, is carry'd away Captive by the Indians. Captain Maynard brought old Christian (Squa Widow of George Misco) from Grafton to dwell at his House. Frequently bad news respecting our poor Englishmens Sufferings in the Indian Wars. We hear of another Skirmish at No. 4, and that a Trooper Shot himself with his own Pistol. Lieutenant Hezekiah Ward here at Evening.

26. Thomas and Ebenezer Mowing: a good Hay Day. P.M. Mr. Martyn here. After School Mr. Jenison. At Eve I walk'd to Captain Maynards to See Old Christian.

27. Rain a.m. Considerable Hay lyes expos'd. P.M. held up.

28. No School yesterday or to Day.

¹⁸ Deacon Simon Tainter.

29. On 2 Tim. 2, 3, a. and p.m. N.B. Lieutenant Tainter receiv'd a Letter from Aaron Warrin at Fort Pelham informing and Certifying of the onsett of the Indians on Hoosuck or Massachusetts Fort, and killing or carrying away Benjamin Tainter. N.B. Captain Thomas Steel, one that has Beating Orders for Canada, at meeting here.

30. Journeyed to Boston. Din'd at Mr. Patersons in Sudbury with Sir Williams. Sir Bass my Company from thence to Roxbury. Lodg'd at Brother Alexanders who marry'd Mrs. Rebecca Jarvis on the 5th Day of this Month.

JULY [1746]

1. Visited my (only) Sister Willard, who through divine Goodness is better, and talks of going to Westborough with me. Din'd at my Kinsman John Parkman's. At Eve to Cambridge. Mother Champney but weak and feeble. Brother Hicks at work there.

2. At Commencement. Along with the Governor were Admiral Warrin¹ and Sir William Peperell. Every Body rejoic'd at the refreshing News of the Defeat of the Rebels in Scotland, and the Taking the young Pretender Prisoner. P.M. the Joyfull News Confirm'd by another vessell with Duplicates of the Letters lately receiv'd by the Governor respecting a Squadron of English Men of Warr and Troops about to sail from England for Canada Expedition. Thus God mixes Mercy with Judgment, and makes us, tho unworthy, to rejoice one Commencement after another. At Evening again heard something sorrowfull so Checker'd our State. A Lad was drown'd as he went into Water to Day. Brother Samuel Parkman lodg'd with me at Mother Champneys.

3. My Brother rode with me to Boston. Some of us who are Heirs to our deceas'd Mothers Estate were inclin'd to be together to Day to prepare (as we Should be able) for a Settlement. But Brother Alexander was not ready with his account So that it was prevented. Receiv'd one of Mr. Edwards's Books at Mr. Green's²

¹ Pepperrell and Warren had just returned from Louisburg.

² Timothy Green, the printer, of Boston published a number of the works of Jonathan Edwards.

for which I pay'd 28 Shillings Old Tenor. Din'd at Brother Parkmans. At Eve my sister Willard and I rode to Cambridge where we lodg'd.

4. My Sister rode Home with me. We Stopp'd at Mrs. Bekky Walkers, at Dr. Robys³ and at Wards Tavern. Got up somewhat after 2 p.m., they having din'd but little before. N.B. John Hicks junior and Mrs. Molly Whittemore here before us. They went to Sutton. After them came Dr. Breck and Mr. Colton⁴ Schoolmaster at Springfield, who at Eve proceeded to Worcester. N.B. Both Companys of Foot together this Afternoon. Lieutenant Hezekiah Ward beats up for Volunteers. Thomas Winchester trains p.m. N.B. Mr. Hastings⁵ of Shrewsbury and Mr. Sparhawk⁶ of Sutton in Company.

5. [No entry.]

6. On 1 Thess. 5, 19 (repeated) a. and p.m. O that God would add his Special Blessings Especially to my own Soul, that I may never, especially not finally quench the holy Spirit! Mr. Jenison came in at Evening. I was exceedingly tir'd and had a poor night.

7. Lieutenant Hezekiah Ward, surveyor, came at my request to look up the Bounds of the Ministerial Meadow. Warn'd Mr. David Maynard junior, Eliezer Rice and James Maynard of it, and they each of them attended upon it. Heavy rains beat us off when we had Spent but about one Hour. We retir'd to Dinner: and met again p.m. At about $\frac{1}{4}$ after 3 we finish'd the Lines of the 10 Acres, and with some Conversation upon the 3 Corner'd piece laid on upon the South Line towards the Spring of Water; and the northeast Line taking in Some of what Mr. Maynard has been wont to mow, we parted. A Storm of Thunder, Lightning and Rain arose before Night. N.B. Lieutenant ask'd me 20 shillings for his work. Without Saying much to him he

³ Ebenezer Roby, the physician of Sudbury.

⁴ Jonathan Colton (Yale 1745) was later the missionary for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for Hebron and vicinity. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, II, 35-36.

⁵ Daniel Hastings.

⁶ Joseph Sparhawk.

took up with 14. N.B. Mr. Whittlesey⁷ of Wallingford and Mr. Williams (junior)⁸ of Longmeadow here whilst I was at the Meadow. Mr. Jenison keeps school again. Molly return'd Pamela volume 1 to Colonel Chandler by Mrs. Lucy Stearns.

8. Thomas etc. Hilling my Corn. A Boy from Mr. Wadsworth of Grafton to buy Cyder of me.

9. Captain Maynard comes for Thomas to go into the Service. Offers to send his own Young man a fortnight in his stead if he will be willing to go then. To which he Consents if he can't get anybody else. Old Mr. Axtel of Grafton dines here. Very Hot.

10. Fast on account of the Expedition to Canada. I consider'd the Business of the Day in these Two Lights—First to humble ourselves under Gods Sore Judgment (*viz.* the Sword of War) and then his Message to us to Repent etc. Accordingly preach'd on Jonah 3, 5 to 9. Secondly to beseech a great Mercy of God—such wisdom and Direction as was now needed, and success in so great an Enterprise as was now propos'd—but yet it was what we did not deserve, but might rather expect that God would be against us and therefore it concern'd us to look into our Case and endeavour to remove what might be a just Ground of Fear that God would not be with us nor prosper us—and therefore p.m. I preach'd on Ezek. 5, 5 to 9.

11. Rain. Yet Mr. Prentice and Mr. Ebenezer Wadsworth of Grafton came with a Boy to drive their Team and had 6 Barrells of Cyder of me; and Considering how late in the Year, yet it was boil'd and the Barrells were fill'd up (which took another Barrell) they agreed to give me 25 Shillings per Barrell even tho it was not of the Best.

12. [No entry.]

13. Sacrament. Preach'd on Luke 24, 46. P.M. Repeated Sermon on Eph. 5, 32. N.B. Mr. Jenison, Deacon Fay, Mrs. Whipple and her sister Lambson, and Mrs. Holloway din'd here.

14. Considering the Extremitie among people on account of

⁷ Reverend Samuel Whittlesey (Yale 1705), the minister of Wallingford, 1708-1752. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, pp. 40-44.

⁸ Stephen Williams, Jr. (Yale 1741), later the minister of West Woodstock, 1747-1795. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, pp. 695-696.

the Scarceness of men to Labour I did what I could abroad which yet was but very little for I was soon worry'd. My work was chiefly turning some Hay, and raking up and poling in Barley which lay greatly expos'd to a great storm of Rain which came up suddenly and pour'd down most heavily.

15. Had a poor night after my Labour. Lent my Mare to Mrs. Barns to send to her Father in Law for Help to Hill their Corn. I went to her House and to Neighbour Rogers's. William, John and Jonathan (as well as Neighbour Barns) being out in the Service. Lieutenant Ward din'd here. He brought Molly the second volume of Pamela from Colonel Chandler. Towards Evening my wife and sister to Captain Maynards. My wife bought and paid for 20 lbs. of wool of Mr. Thomas Ward, at 8/6 per pound. I walk'd down there to see Old Christian as well as to wait on them back. N.B. Captain Maynard not in the best Humour.

16. Captain Maynard Came and said why he was ruff'd yesterday—viz. He had another Warrant (or Order) to press 4 more men—and he believ'd Thomas Winchester must now go. I work'd several Hours a.m. in turning, opening and raking Hay. P.M. Catechetical Exercise. I repeated from Isa. 1, 9.

17. Thomas and Ebenezer went to the Meadow. I walk'd down to Captain Maynards to see what he had done in pressing Men. He told me he had press'd several men but that one of them had paid his money; and therefore he Sees no way but that Thomas must go. So difficult as it was with reference to Cutting my Meadow, I resign'd the Affair—return'd soon, din'd, and Sent Thomas Word to come Home. I hasten'd to Mrs. Joslins⁹ where I had appointed to Catechize. She was troubled and disappointed that I did not dine there. Thirteen Children was my whole Company—but I hope they will increase both in Numbers and Qualifications. Visited old Mr. Garfield¹⁰ who had been Sick—and return'd home a little after Sundown. Thomas came home at noon Time, and is gone to Grafton to prepare to go away to the Colonel's tomorrow.

⁹ Mrs. Joseph Joslin.

¹⁰ Benjamin Garfield.

18. Ebenezer and Thomme are gone to the Meadow. A little before noon Thomas Winchester came preparing to sett out upon his Journey. It was very difficult as to my Business to part with him, but so it must be and I desire to committ myself to a Mercifull and faithfull God. It was also Somewhat difficult to part with one that had been of my Family so long and had endear'd himself to us by his good Conduct. The Lord go with him and give him to return to us again in Safety! I went after him to Captain Maynards and Saw him Still again at Mr. Chamberlins.

19. Late in the forenoon came Elijah Warrin and afterwards Mr. Dunlop came and reap'd my Winter Rye, and bound it and got it in to the Barn. Exceeding good Rye for the bigness of the Piece. Blessed be God! The Girls also pull'd the Flax—which was more than ordinary thin. Yet its more that I deserve. Ebenezer brought home one Load of Hay from the Meadow.

20. The Troubles and Interruptions of this week past have been Very many, and prevented my preparing for the Sabbath. I repeated both parts of the Day what I had deliver'd heretofore. A.M. on Zech. 12, 8, 9. P.M. on Gen. 17, 25.

21. Mr. Ebenezer Chamblins Wife here with a present of String Beans. My Sons at the Meadow to Day. I went over to Mr. Whipples who informs me that the Petition of the Select Men pass'd in the Lower House but was not granted in the Upper, which is directly Contrary to the State of Things heretofore: the Board being ready to grant and the House not. As he was going down this Eve I deliver'd him a Paper which I directed to him for his own Reading.

22. My Interruption great by Cattle breaking into my Corn. Ebenezer and Thomme at Meadow. Read four Necessary Cases of Conscience of daily use by Mr. Thomas Shepard,¹¹ in a Letter to a Friend of his—with a Discourse of that Friends added—viz. R. H. [blank], which the Lord make Spiritually useful to me! Finish'd the second Volume of Pamela. See some Remarks I would draw up, on this Latter Piece.

¹¹ This obscure work of the famous Puritan divine Thomas Shepard (1605-1649), was published under the title *Four Necessary Cases of Conscience of Daily Use* (London, 1661?).

23. Look'd very likely for Rain, but there was no more than a Sprinkling. Ebenezer and Thomme to the Meadow. Ebenezer brought home one Load of Hay a.m. Very Hot Season. Deacon Keyes p.m. One of my Oxen very troublesome in breaking in upon the Corn.

24. Ebenezer cutt off his Hair. He and his Brother to the Meadow. P.M. Rain, Thunder and rain till night. At Eve Captain Maynard here.

25. Rain. At length it clear'd off and instead of Ebenezers going to work for Elijah Warrin at his Fathers, I was oblig'd (tho Friday) to go over myself to Mr. Warrins to begg his Patience with regard to our helping him this week for his sons reaping, who was ready to oblige me. Was also at Deacon Newtons as I return'd home.

26. Various Incumbrances and Avocations so that I could Study but little.

27. On Micah 6, 2. P.M. on Luke 19, 9. This latter Sermon, tho I have deliver'd it at several private Houses (Mr. James Fays and Mr. Matthias Rice's) Yet I think I never have in Public till now.

28. [No entry.]

29. I Visited Mr. Tenney who is Settled with us in the room of Mr. Jedidiah How. Proceeded up to Mr. Daniel Warrins to get him to reap—but in Vain. Rode up to Mr. Cushings where was Mr. Stevens (who preaches at Worcester) but Mr. Cushing not at Home. I went to Serjeant Taylors to Speak with Mr. Parker the Shooemaker. At Mr. Robert Keys's to have my Mare Shod. Din'd at Home. At Eve was at Mr. Amsdens to get Reapers.

30. Morn Clouds gather, yet afterwards clear'd off—no reaping—but my Sons at the Meadow. Ebenezer Early to Meadow with the Team—2 Loads of Hay.

31. Morn much as yesterday, no reaper, yet the Day prov'd fit. My Sons to the Meadow. This Day I thought I would even go to the Meadow to see what they did there, and towards night I did so.

AUGUST, 1746

1. Isaac Amsden and Jonathan Devereux (the latter Sent by Captain Maynard) reap'd a.m. but the Rain came upon them and beat them off for this Day.

2. Bright good Day. The Rye Cutt yesterday to be turn'd and taken up. Considerable Hay lies in swarth at the Meadow—and wheat to be reap'd So that I have no little Care upon me to interrupt me tho I can do none of the Labour. Cattle and Hoggs often breaking in. How many Times my Soul is oppress'd in this manner!

3. A.M. on Micah 6, 2. P.M. on Ps. 145, 17, and under this Text us'd Collections from Mr. Charnock,¹ made Some years agoe; and in the remainder of the Exercise repeated Several passages from sermon on Gen. 18, 25, page 7 to 12.

4. Sister and I rode to old Mr. Whipples. My wife p.m. to Deacon Newtons to get her Side saddle mended against her journey to New Haven. My Boys mowed in my low Ground at Home. Several Women here while my wife was gone, viz. Mrs. Dowsing, Mrs. How, Mrs. Mercy Chamberlin.

5. P.M. rode over to Mr. Martyn's—the morning being Cloudy—but neither Mr. Martyn nor his wife at Home. Their Daughter said they were gone to Mr. Matthias Rice's—upon which I went there to meet with them but in vain, they were not there. Therefore I return'd home without seeing either of them.

6. Rainy Morning. Thunder at a Distance. P.M. Clear'd up and I went to Deacon Newtons, Serjeant Warrins and Merchant Rice's.

7. Foul weather Still in the Forenoon as it has been every Day for some Time and when breaking away a little, yet showers following the Shines to Spoil our haying. Somewhat Engag'd in my preparations for the Sabbath.

8. The fairest Day that has been a great while. Ebenezer and Thomme rak'd in the low Grounds at Home. I gave them

¹ Stephen Charnock (1628-1680) was a famous English non-conformist minister, whose writings were published posthumously. [Edward Veal and Richard Adams, editors], *The Works of the Late Learned Divine Stephen Charnock* (London, 1683-1684).

a Short Spell in the Afternoon myself. The sun very hot so that I could not stand it long.

9. Mr. Chamberlin help'd Ebenezer get home a Load of Hay from the Meadow, and Ebenezer him a Load from his. P.M. Abraham Batchellor and Noah How mow'd for me in my Meadow. Ebenezer and Thomme a Load in from the Low Ground at Home. Thunder Storm arose partly over us and the Lightning very terrible, but bore away to North East and East.

10. On Habak. 3, 17, 18, and p.m. Repeated from Ps. 145, 17, latter part of Sermon on Gen. 18, 25, from page 12 to 18. Mr. Jenison din'd here. N.B. Mr. Thaddeus Gale came to me and acquainted me with the wonderfull Mercy and Goodness of God in preserving him when Struck down by the Lightning yesterday. It pass'd under him and plough'd the Ground for more than a Rod, yet was he unhurt.

11. Ebenezer to the Meadow—Thomme at Home. Rode to Mr. Cooks, Captain Warrins, and then visited Mr. Amsdens² Family, So marvellously preserv'd last Saturday in Time of most awful Thunder and Lightning. The Effect very noticeable—a Furrow in the Ground of 30 feet—the Boards of their Bee House Shiver'd and plough'd—one Hive Split—Two of the Posts of the Bee House Splitt also—one of them from Top to Bottom etc. May God sanctifie his providence to them! May we all Truly Fear this Great Omnipotent Being and be ever ready for His Will. Mr. Martyn and his Dauter here p.m. N.B. our Conversation about the Ministerial Rights, he told me that he was not willing to make a formal Quit Claim, because he fear'd it would displease his mother and bring upon him the Odium of his Friends in his precinct; but that I might rest Easy for that he Should never Disturb me in the Improvement of them but we spoke especially with regard to the Meadow.

12. A great Frost last Night. My Sons to the Meadow. They Spent part of the Day in Clearing a Cart way for the Hay in the upper end of the Meadow.

13. Ebenezer to the Meadow a.m.—mow'd p.m. Some Swamp

² Isaac Amsden of Westborough.

Grass, had of Mr. Eliezer Rice, and Edwards Whipple was so good as to mow with him gratis. And at Eve he brought home the Eighth Load out of the Meadow, but came home, to my grief much too late. Thomme helped Thomas Rogers p.m.

14. Thanksgiving on account of the Suppression of the Rebellion in Scotland. May God prepare our Hearts! Honourable Colonel Chandler coming from Boston and bound for Worcester came in the morning—was at meeting with us and din'd with me. I preach'd on Ps. 132, 16. May God accept our Offering! and bless His Holy Word to His People! N.B. Having Sung rooth Psalm Tune and Com't Tune, and not willing to Sing either of them again, I propos'd and Set 100 New, or Anthem. Colonel towards Eve went to Worcester. News of the King of Spains Death.

15. Cloudy a.m.—but not raining to hinder, Ebenezer to the Meadow. More sorrowfull News from No. 4 that besides 2 men Shot by the Indians, one at No. 4 another at Northfield our Troopers Horses most of them kill'd. Mrs. Caruth and her son here and din'd with us: Mrs. Hayward³ and Mrs. Billings,⁴ all of them want their Dismissions from our Church. Towards Evening with Joy (viz. Mr. Ebenezer Phillips of Southborough) I saw a Number of our Westborough Troopers return from No. 4—but on foot, their Horses being of them that were lost in the late Encounter. They handed me a paper containing an Account of Several Particulars—which I Soon copy'd—and afterwards Sent Mr. Kneeland.⁵

16. Ebenezer and Thomme again to the Meadow, and brought home a Load of Swamp Hay which I have of Mr. Eliezer Rice.

17. On Consideration of the Singular Mercy and Goodness of God to Such a Number of my nearest Neibours, in Sparing them in the late Engagement against the Indians at No. 4, and not having been able seasonably to finish my propos'd preparations I repeat'd a. and p.m. Sermon on Ps. 68, 20. The widow Woods

³ Mrs. Simon Hayward.

⁴ Mrs. Thomas Billings.

⁵ Samuel Kneeland, the printer at Boston, and publisher with Timothy Green, Jr., of *The Boston Gazette or Weekly Journal*.

din'd with us. N.B. Neighbour How and his son Daniel Sick of Fever and Flux.

18. Mr. Dowsing here in the Morning. The Boys to the Meadow. I rode there myself but they rak'd up but little of the Hay before the Rain prevail'd, and they return'd. Was at Mr. James Maynards and at old Mr. Whipples in the Rain.

19. A very rainy Time. Yet Mr. Cushing and Morse being come I rode to the Meeting of the Ministers at Southborough. But there were no more than Two come Besides—Messers Barrett and Smith. N.B. I intimated that we had been too Partial in the late Times; particularly against Mr. Whitefield—this Somewhat rais'd Mr. Barrett and Mr. Smith. This produc'd a Challenge to me to show if I were able any one Instance—with Impatience they heard me read an Extract from Bishop Halls Meditations and Vows,⁶ wherein he calls an Evil Man half a Beast and half a Devil, page 35 Folio Edition. N.B. Mr. Morse ask'd advice touching their Ministerial Lands—viz. what was his Duty now that his precinct had seiz'd upon them and sold them. I ask'd their Advice also, respecting the Dismission of our North-precinct sisters who had been delinquent, and some of them frequently absent from the Communion but not Sent their requests to have their Relation transferr'd to the Second Church. N.B. Mr. Smith Concio from John 8, 12.

20. Mr. Loring came. Mr. Morse preach'd on Ps. 144, 15. N.B. Mr. Loring has lately been at Worcester and convers'd freely with New-Light People and he is wondrous Charitable respecting them, and in his Trial fears that under the Notion of New-Light all true Religion is in Danger of being exploded—An Enigma of the Devil! says he.

21. Mr. Martyn din'd with me and preach'd my Lecture on Ps. 63, 8—an Excellent Discourse! I pray God to bless it to me and all that heard it. I stopp'd the Church after Lecture and obtain'd a Vote for the Dismission of 12 North-side sisters.

⁶ Joseph Hall, successively Bishop of Exeter and Norwich wrote *Mediation and Vowes, Divine and Morall* (London, 1609). It appeared also as *Newly Enlarged with 10 Vowes and Meditations* (London, 1621). Still another enlarged edition was published in 1621.

N.B. Mr. Wheeler, Daniel Hardy and David Maynard junior were against it and some others did not Vote for it.

22. Visited Mr. Cooks and Barns's Familys, and William Rogers who are ill of Fever and Flux.

23. Ebenezer brot home about 7 Cocks of Hay from the Meadow, which was all that was worth bringing since the Storm—the Rest lying out in swarth—and 'tis grown too late to cut any of the North-side of the Brook, the Grass is so dead. So that we now finish at the Meadow for this Year.

24. Sacrament. I preach'd a.m. on Luke 24, 46. P.M. on Habac. 3, 17, 18. Mr. Benjamin Rugg of Northfield din'd with us. Captain Fay absent from Dinner. P.M. Mrs. Whitney cry'd out in the middst of the sermon. I pray'd her to be as compos'd as possible; and she was not long a Disturbance. At the Evening I was at the Funeral of a Child of Mr. Cook (his Lydia) which dy'd of the Fever and Flux. This Distemper begins to Spread among us; one of Mr. Barns's Children also is Dead. The Lord prepare His People for His holy Will!

25. My wife and son Ebenezer undertake their Journey to New-Haven. Ebenezer setts out presently after Dinner to get some Things in order at Mr. Parkers in Shrewsbury, but my wife tarrys a while, till I go to the Burial of Mr. Barns's Child which is one of his Twins:—and behold the other Twin is also deceas'd, and they bury both in one Coffin! Mrs. Barns is also ill and another Child. Mr. Cook and Several of his Children are sick. Some other Familys are visited. May God be mercifull to us in a Day of Such Distress! As to my wife, she set out after 3 o'Clock and propos'd to lodge at Worcester tonight; Dr. Breck and his Wife to be Company as far as Mr. Devotions in Windham. May they have a prosperous Journey by the will of God! N.B. Abraham Batchellor help [sic] Thomme get up a Load of Hay from the Swamp, which was the Finishing Load.

26. Catechetical Exercise. I deliver'd the latter part of the sermon on Isa. 1, 9. Am greatly concern'd for my poor Neibours who are sorely afflicted. Another of Mr. Cooks Children dyes—his little Sarah of about [blank] years.

27. Went to the Funeral of Mr. Cooks little Daughter; and such was the will of God his little son Solomon is dead also! Deacon Newton and some others seem desirous to have 'em both bury'd to Day, tho the latter dy'd but this morning. It was, however, deferr'd till tomorrow when they Saw that I was not free to Countenance it. It might soon have caus'd evil Report of Mr. Cook that he Should so soon hurry his Children into the Grave, as if having many of them and being an odd man he was afraid they should come to life again. I visited Mr. Barns's, as I have been also at Neighbour Rogers's, where there are Two Children sick; and Neighbour Hows, where most of them are out of Case: but especially their grandson Jonathan. N.B. Last night there was a Third Frost, and in Some places more destructive than the preceding. N.B. Deacon Moore⁷ of Worcester din'd with me. He had been to Mr. Stone to see whether he could not administer the Lords Supper to them but he is design'd for Harwich.

28. A Rainy Day, yet in the Rain I went on Foot to Mr. Cooks little Solomon's Funeral: having Catechiz'd the Boys at Meeting House a.m. No Girls p.m. it was So Wet and stormy. Captain Warrins Young Child (I hear) very bad.

29. A very Wet stormy Day again. This Day was appoint'd for a Fast at the Widow Rice's at Hopkinton on account of her youngest son, Samuel Whood, who has a grievous sore in the lower part of his Back, has lain long and is thought to be consuming away. Mr. Barrett has sent also to Mr. Stone to assist him with me. I walk'd to Mr. Williams's afternoon. He had offer'd me his Horse to go to the Fast. I rode over. Mr. Stone in his last prayer of the former Exercise. Mr. Barrett was not return'd from Boston. I carry'd on the Latter Exercise: preach'd on Isa. 38, 2, 3. The poor young man very grievously afflicted, and in a Dangerous Condition. The Lord accept our Offering! I return'd at Eve to my Family.

30. At the Funeral of Captain Warrins youngest Child. My Dauter Molly ill and full of pain. Ever since Wednesday Night.

⁷ Nathaniel Moore, an early settler, was often elected selectman.

She seems to have the Same Distemper with my Neighbours. N.B. I was at Neighbour Ebenezer Maynards in the morning and pray'd with his wife who is Sick also. Neighbour Rogers's Betty dy'd last night.

31. Could not prepare my Discourse design'd for to day, by means of my many Hindrances all the Week long. Preach'd on Rev. 6, 8 a.m. without any material Alteration except a few Passages omitted, respecting the Distemper. P.M. On Eph. 5, 6. A great deal of the Beginning without more writing than a few broken Hints; the body of the sermon was from Page 19 to 28 of sermon on Eph. 2, 3, latter part. O that God might sett home on the Hearts of all, especially on Children those fervence Exercises! Mr. Jenison din'd with me. At noon the Church was Stopp'd to lay before them the Consideration of a Day of Fasting and Prayer in this gloomy Time. They freely and readily came into it and seem'd glad of it. A Vote pass'd and Thursday next (by Divine Leave) appointed herefor. After sermon p.m. I recommended the Same to the Congregation and published the Church's Vote and Purpose. And O that God would please to prepare all our Hearts thereunto! At Eve I attended upon the Funeral of Neighbour John Rogers's Daughter Betty. Rainy Evening. N.B. Ebenezer Maynard went to Dr. Gott for his wife and brought physick for Molly which she took.

SEPTEMBER, 1746

1. Wrote a Letter at the fervent Desire of his Wife to Mr. John Rogers (now a soldier at or near Winchester) to inform of the Distress of his Family and the Death of his Child Betty, and the sickness of little Persis. I wrote also a Number of Letters to Neighbouring Ministers to desire their Assistance at the propos'd Fast. Lieutenant Tainter here. Kill'd my old Ram. Molly took another part of her purge, and I hope she is better. *Deo Soli Laus!* A long Time of Foul Weather. 'Tis not a little dull without my Dear Consort—but how is it with them who part for 5 nay 10 Times so long? How lonely soever I am, yet how happy is She in the Embraces of her dear Pierpoint? She

has so many articles to reveal and to hear that She can have little Leisure to think of what she has left behind. But how Ardent and United were we this Day Nine Year ago! when our Nuptials were Celebrated at Mr. Pierpoints at Boston. The Lord has pleas'd to overlook the many miscarriages and Defects which we have been chargeable with since, especially my own! and make us Mutually Blessings, and Helps to the Kin of God! O how soon the Time will come when there will be neither marrying nor giving in Marriage, but the Saints shall be as the Angels of God!

2. Very Rainy the greatest part of the Day. Clear'd off late p.m. Mr. Daniel Maynard of Marlborough informs me that Captain Moses Rice is gone down the Road from Boston, a post from Deerfield to inform that Hoosuck (or Massachusetts Fort) was lately Burnt and Destroyed by the Indians.

3. Visited Mr. Hows¹ Family again, they being all ill. Their son Benjamin also is taken. Was at the Funeral of anther of Mr. Barns's Children and visited Mr. Cooks Family. There heard of Madam Shirley's² Death, a great Loss to our Province because of her influence with the Duke of New Castle.

4. This Day was observ'd by us in this Parish as a Time of Solemn Humilliation Fasting and Prayer on account of the great Mortality among us. I Sent to all the Neighbouring Ministers, but Mr. Barrett and Mr. Stone only came. Mr. Martyn had appointed a Lecture on this Very Day, and had engag'd Mr. Cushing to preach it. A.M. I pray'd and Mr. Stone preach'd on Heb. 3, 7, 8. P.M. Mr. Barrett both pray'd and preach'd: his Text, Ps. 37, 2. A Considerable assembly. Some Number of Strangers. O that God would accept our Offering and answer our fervent Supplications—that He would pardon our Defects and grant an abiding Effect of his Word upon us! May our Souls be heal'd, the Hand of God sanctify'd and when it Shall be best, the Affliction remov'd! May this Day be Some Suitable Preparatory for the Special Work before me tomorrow also—the Lord give Me wisdom and Instruction!

¹ Parkman's neighbor and old friend, Hezekiah How.

² Frances Barker Shirley, wife of Governor William Shirley of Mass.

5. Vide Natalitia. P.M. I visited both Familys of Hows, widow Tomlins³ Grand Daughter (Mercy Wait) who is sick, and Mr. John Chamberlins son John in a Dangerous Condition.

6. Captain Winchesters Troop return from No. 4. Nathan Maynard help'd with the Women and Children. Thomme mended up the Partition Fence against the North lower orchard.

7. On Ps. 90, 5, 7. May God give an Effectual Blessing to these Exercises that both old and young may receive Saving Good and Benefit thereby.

8. Visited divers Sick. Neighbour Tomlin⁴ came and desir'd me to go to Mr. Chamberlins to See his little son who was near his End, they fear'd. I went, but he had gasp'd. I minister'd to them as I was able, in Exhorting etc. Pray'd with them and proceeded in my Visit to Meeting with Messers Howe. At Eve Eli Forbush borrow'd Tully's Orations—and having heard that Mr. Barns has lost their Fourth and last Child, I improv'd Eli to go to Mr. Barns and acquaint them that Mr. Chamberlin had fix'd the Time for his Son's Funeral to be (God Willing) tomorrow at 2 o'Clock; and that therefore they must avoid appointing their Child's to be at the Same Time.

9. I expected word from Mr. Barns's but none came. I attended the Funeral at Mr. Chamberlins. N.B. Dr. Smith there, their Dauter Betty being ill. He brought Ebenezers Hatt from Mr. Cushings.⁵ N.B. Mr. Winchester a Letter from Joshua Winchester a Soldier at Deerfield, who informs that Thomas is not well—is posted at Pelham Fort. The Lord graciously preserve him and defend him!

10. At Eve I visited Mr. Barns and his wife, whose House lately a place of great Joy and Life, is now become a solitude and a Desert. Mr. Jenison pray'd at their Child's Funeral yesterday.

11. Captain Maynard here to inform me from Dr. Breck that his Sister and my son were well last Friday was Sennight at Hartford: and he tells me he Saw a Copy of a Letter Sign'd by

³ The widow of Deacon Isaac Tomlin.

⁴ Isaac Tomlin, Jr.

⁵ Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

Mr. John Norton⁶ late preacher at Hoosuck Fort which informs that the French and Indians besieg'd their fort, slew Thomas Knowlton and captivated all the rest. Read the account of Canada in six Chapters with an appendix lately published. Thomme by the help of Nathan Maynard made Cyder. One of my Oxen still very mischievous.

12. Neighbour Edwards Whipple helped Thomme bring Home Two Barrells of Cyder. Mornings have been foggy and some Days of late misty—but yesterday and to Day pleasant sunshine. Hear of Several Deaths in our North Precinct, viz. Mr. Jacob Rice⁷ has bury'd one—and now Mr. Matthias Rice's little Foster son which they Set their Hearts much upon. Receiv'd (per Hand of Mr. Ebenezer Johnson of Southborough) a Letter from my Wife, when She was at [illegible], brought by Dr. Brown.

13. Wrote a Letter to my Wife but had no Opportunity to Send it. My sister is so indispos'd that She is afraid She is going to have a Distemper.

14. On Habac. 3, 17, 18 and p.m. repeated sermon on Mat. 10, 29, 30. Mr. Jenison and Mr. Dunlop din'd here. N.B. A Letter from my Wife (per Hand of Mr. Daniel Forbush⁸) Dated at New Haven. Most truely welcome: I grow not a little uneasy at their Absence. God be pleas'd to protect both her and my son and return them in Safety! Dull weather now and then Showers.

15. Mr. Tainter here to see my Sister and invited my Sister to Spend a few Days at their House. Mrs. Fay (Captain's Wife) here, with a large Present viz. a Cheese, 3 pounds Butter and Two Considerable pieces of Salt Pork. Visited Neighbour Chamberlin's Daughter Betty. Had Mr. Tomlins Mare to go

⁶ Reverend John Norton (Yale 1737) was serving as chaplain to the soldiers in various forts in western Massachusetts. At Fort Massachusetts, within the present township of Adams, Norton was taken captive, Aug. 20, 1746. He later published the narrative of his captivity and release. John Norton, *The Redeemed Captive* (Boston, 1748). See Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, pp. 587-588.

⁷ Eunice Rice died Sept. 5, 1746.

⁸ Son of Deacon Jonathan Forbush.

to Mr. Eleazer Bellows to see his Dauter Forbush⁹ in her great Trouble by her Husbands Captivity and sickness of her Child.

16. Disappointed of Lieutenant Forbush's Horse by his being chose Jury man yesterday, I was at some Trouble to get another, to go up the Road and meet my wife. Mr. Barns lent me his. But Lieutenant Tainter came over with his Chaise to convey my sister to his House and I was oblig'd to accompany them and dine there. After dinner I rode up to Shrewsbury designing to go to Dr. Brecks, with expectation of meeting my wife there; but she had come to Worcester last night (from Springfield) and was now so forward as almost to Captain Hows¹⁰ in Shrewsbury. I met them with much pleasure and satisfaction, for they had had the Favour of Health and success through their whole Journey. Blessed be God! At Mr. Bezaleel Eagers earnest Entreaty we turn'd in there to see his sick Children. One of them was near her End. I pray'd with them and commended them to the Divine Mercy.

17. A very Rainy Day all Day. Reckon'd with Nathan Maynard for his Mare which my wife had in her Journey and paid him 40 shillings old Tenor.

18. Fast at Mr. Jacob Gibbs's in Hopkinton: after visiting Several sick Familys (Mr. Chamberlins, Captain Maynards, Mr. Pratts and Mr. Jonah Warrins) I rode over to those Exercises. Mrs. Gibbs lyes in a miserable Condition by a Cancer in her Breast. Mr. Barrett began with Prayer. Mr. Prentice¹¹ of Holliston preach'd on Mark 7, 37. He hath done all Things Well. P.M. I pray'd and preach'd on Phil. 1, 21. And O that God would pardon our Defects and accept our Offerrings through Jesus Christ and have Mercy upon his Handmaid for his Name's Sake. As I return'd I found that one of Mr. Warrins Children¹² was dead; and the other which was sick, growing worse. The Lord Sanctifie his holy Hand to my afflicted Neighbours and

⁹ Sarah Bellows had married Phinehas Forbush.

¹⁰ Daniel Howe. See Ward, *Shrewsbury*, p. 312.

¹¹ Reverend Joshua Prentice.

¹² Elisha, the son of Jonah Warrin died Sept. 18, 1746.

to all of us, for our great awakening; and prepare us for his holy Will!

19. Took up our old Hive of Bees which was pritty well Honey'd.

20. [No entry.]

21. I preach'd on Heb. 12, 24, and on Acts 9, 6. Mr. Jenison din'd with us. O that God would make his holy word Effectual for our Saving Good. Mr. Chamberlin has lost his other son.

22. I understand that the Sickness is so sore and grievous on t'other side of the Town that three lie dead in one House (Timothy Fay's) and his Brother Silas has lost another. Mr. Martyn here to desire me to attend a Fast in their Precinct next Thursday. At Mr. Chamberlin's sons funeral. N.B. There are 5 Funerals this Day in Town. God be Mercifull to us miserable Sinners and prepare us for what is yet to be laid upon us! Mr. Whipple here at Evening. We talk'd of the Brest Squadron—and I Said to him, No Doubt but One Month will bring about great overturnings. N.B. Lieutenant Thomas Forbush here, and angry that his son Samuel of Upton and his wife could not be admitted to the privilege of Baptism for their Child. Rakes up old Things in his Fathers Days, to my Sorrow, and will have it that I have pick'd his son out etc., whereas I have endeavour'd to do nothing by Partiality. But the Lord Sanctifie this Trouble to me!

23. Mr. Benjamin Eager, Colonel Nahum Wards Messenger, comes Express amongst us and tells me that a French Fleet were yesterday within half a Days Sail of the Light House, and a Post came to the Colonel for 500 Men out of this Regiment—and I hear that 36 are requir'd out of this Company. We were going to plough with Lieutenant Forbush's Cattle but I sent them back again: and Ebenezer to Sutton. Bekky¹⁸ borrow'd an Horse and went to Sutton also. It is a Day of great Trouble and Distress in all likelihood at Boston; and God only knows how Soon it may be among our Selves. May we all be suitably Prepar'd for the Divine Will in all Things! P.M. Catechetical

¹⁸ Rebecca Hicks, Mr. Parkman's niece.

Exercise, but 13 present. I read to 'em sermon on Hos. 4, 12. At Eve I was very faint, and my feverishness greatly increas'd—but I bestir'd myself what I could. Took up an Hive of Bees. Was as chearfull as I could in Conversation. Lieutenant Aaron Forbush from Brookfield, Neighbor Ebenezer Maynard, here. But my illness increas'd. I had no stomach, nor much rest all night—but beg Grace to enable me to repose my Self in God.

24. Not So ill to Day as I fear'd from So bad a Night. Blessed be God! Our Forces mov'd down to Wards at Marlborough. Wrote to my Brethren by Mr. James Maynard. I walk'd over to the South Road—visited Ensign Newton and others in the Neighbourhood. N.B. Mr. Prentice rides with Captain Willard before Grafton Company, going to Boston. Towards Evening Reverend Gay of Suffield and his Wife, and Mr. Caleb Hitchcock at the Gate, but would not tarry with me. Ebenezer return'd from Sutton.

25. Sent Ebenezer to Boston. Fast in the North Precinct. But before I went over I visited little Joel Maynard (son of Ebenezer) and pray'd with him being dangerously sick. At the Fast Mr. Martyn pray'd and Mr. Cushing preach'd on Isa. 26, 9. P.M. Mr. Morse¹⁴ pray'd and I preach'd on Rev. 6, 8. O that God would hear in Heaven his dwelling place, and when he hears forgive, Pity, and appear for his people not only on account of the Sickness but the fear'd Invasion! N.B. Sister Willard rode with me, and my Daughter rode with Mrs. Tomlin (widow) over to the Fast. At Eve Mr. Daniel Forbush here. Wrote by him to Brother Samuel Parkman to Secure Sister Willards Interest among them. Some Soldiers return from Boston.

26. Daily in Concern for our Friends at Boston. Half the Companys of Some Regiments dismiss'd return home.

27. Little Joel Maynard ill and I visited him. At Eve Mr. Whipple came for me to go and see Mrs. Persis Rice (wife of Eliezer) who is ill of the Same Distemper (Fever and Flux) which is so Common among Children. At Eve also our Son Ebenezer

¹⁴ Reverend Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

return'd from Boston. Our Friends all well except sister Betty who is remov'd to Reading. The Town is very kind to the Soldiers. Several Small Vessells are sent out to see what Fleet it is that lies off, but they are not yet come back, So that they are wholly uncertain Still.

28. In the Morning I rode over to Mr. Martyns, and he rode hither. I preach'd to the Second Precinct a.m. on Ezek. 5, 5 to 9. P.M. on Rom. 6, 13. N.B. Several Soldiers travelling back from Boston, being dismiss'd for the present and sundry of Westborough men viz. Billings, Jacob Rice, Paul Newton, Mr. Ephraim Allen likewise. The 3 former at Meeting. Mr. Martyn on Mat. 10, 28 and on Eccl. 7, 1 latter Clause. Each return'd at Eve to our respective Familys.

29. Visited Mrs. Rice and Joel Maynard who 'tis thought is dying. N.B. I had sent a Letter to Mr. Samuel Forbush of Upton that he might go elsewhere for Special Privileges since his Father was not well Satisfy'd with my Methods here; This brought him here to Day; but I Still Decline encouraging his coming here till there is some better Satisfaction. Mr. Whitney here and informs that Some Vessel is come in to Boston which certify that it is a French Fleet that was discover'd and that they are turn'd in to an Indian place not far from Annapolis. Mr. Martyn here P.M. Towards Eve I was at Neighbour Eliezer Rice's who brot up the News—he Confirms it, and that the people of Boston are very courteous to soldiers.

30. At Joel Maynards funeral. N.B. Sister Breck¹⁵ from Worcester, here with Mr. Golding. My wife rode with sister Breck to Marlborough.

OCTOBER, 1746

1. Sent for to Mrs. Rice who grows very bad. N.B. her, and her Husbands Mutual Forgiveness. N.B. her declaring how Easy and comfortable is her View of Departing till I put Some Close Questions about her Faith, Love to God etc. Upon which she seem'd to be much damp'd and Confus'd: Yet maintain'd a strong

¹⁵ Mrs. Samuel Breck, Parkman's sister-in-law.

Hope. Rain; yet Mr. Cushing came and preach'd my Lecture on John 3, 16. Wife and Sister Breck return'd from Marlborough in the Rain and did not go to Meeting. Sister Breck tarry'd all night.

2. Rainy. After Dinner (it holding up) Sister Breck setts out for Worcester, and Ebenezer waits on her as far as Mr. Cushings. Young Solomon Prentice here with a Team to bring the Barrells which they borrow'd of me. Stormy Night.

3. Bright Morning: but the Day prov'd very Windy. Solomon Prentice went home with his Team. P.M. Mr. Abner Newton here and acquaints me that his Sister Rice is yet alive, tho as they apprehend, is dying, and desires Me to visit her once More. I went—on my way saw several of our Soldiers return'd, who Say that all Colonel Chandlers and Colonel Wards Regiments are dismiss'd. As to Mrs. Rice I found her in the Valley of the Shadow of Death, and as she said freely, ready and willing to Depart. She gave her Testimony to the usefulness and Expediency of our attending upon Divine Ordinances. Said that God had graciously manifested his Mercy to her since she came to that Bed. I mix'd some Caution with my Consolation notwithstanding. But she fully expected Soon to be remov'd to Glory. After Prayer I gave Exhortation to all present—and particularly to the Children. Return'd sometime before sundown.

4. Sent Lieutenant Thomas Forbush a Letter respecting his unseasonable Disquietments with me with Reference to his son Samuel of Upton.

5. Sacrament. Preach'd on Rom. 8, 31, a. and p.m. Deacon Fay and Mrs. Joslyn din'd here. I hope this Day was not in vain. Mrs. Rice is yet alive. N.B. Mr. James Fay and his wife from Grafton here at Communion.

6. Mr. Nathaniel Trask¹ who has preach'd at North Sutton din'd here. P.M. Asa Brigham and his wife here. Mrs. Rice was thought to be dying about Noon, but Reviv'd.

7. Warm Day. I visited a.m. Mrs. Rice who is Somewhat better. Two of their Children taken sick. Their little Thimmè

¹ (Harvard, 1742). The first minister of Brentwood, N. H., 1748-1789. *Sibley*, XI, 172-173.

very ill: but is at his Uncle Seth's. I rode to Mr. Whipples, Mr. James Maynards, Mr. Seth Rice's, but he was not at home, his wife in great Trouble because of her Husbands Distractions: was at Ensign Rice's—neither was he at home. I proceeded to Mr. Bellows whose wife was ill, and their Daughter Sarah Forbush's Child. Visited also Mrs. Fay, Messers Green, Edwards Whipple whose Child is ill—and then hasten'd over to the southside. Din'd at Mr. Jonas Childs (from its Convenience to the School House) attended the Catechizing of above 50 (if I mistake not 55) Children of that part of the Town. Was at Mr. Daniel Forbush's at Catechizing. N.B. Mr. Millers Company part of the way Home, for I turn'd away to Deacon Newtons.

8. The Weather much alter'd—a Cold Air like Winter. Was at Mr. Hows, Tomlins, Chamberlins and Captain Maynards a.m. At old Mr. Maynards p.m. Neighbour David and his Sister Hannah went to Boston at Eve by whom I sent to Mr. Greens for Mr. Edwards's Books on Religious Affections which I so long ago subscrib'd for. Mr. Samuel Williams here at Evening. My Sons have pick'd up our Apples, gather'd the Beans, and this afternoon some of the Corn.

9. Rain. Hear that Mrs. Persis Rice² is Dead.

10. I was not well in the Early Morning So great Pains in my Bowels and working that I fear'd whether I should go out to Day; but I grew better, and tho it was a Cold, Raw, Rainy Day, yet (it holding up at the Time of my going and being abroad) I went to Mrs. Rice's Funeral, and visited Mrs. Edwards Whipples Child. N.B. Christian, the Widow of Old George Misco, Indian, expir'd. Deacon Whittemore of Cambridge at Eve, and lodg'd here.

11. Very Cold. It snow'd a Little yesterday, but last Night so as to cover the Roofs.

12. I with my wife went to the Funeral of old Christian. She was bury'd in a very decent manner by Captain Maynard, from his house. Samuel Brigham Esquire, Edward Baker Esquire, Captain Timothy Brigham, Messers Jotham and Charles Brigham and many others (besides a Number of Indians) attended. She

² Wife of Elizer or Eleazer Rice.

was carry'd to our South Burying Place. At Eve Mr. Edward Bass, Schoolmaster at Lancaster came to see us, my wife being a Relation. Bekky Hicks watch'd with Neighbour Edwards Whipples little Dauter which dy'd in the Night. Not being able by means of many Interruptions to finish my Preparations without much Difficulty, and hurrying what I wanted to take Some Time about, I threw them aside for the present and preach'd again my sermon on Job 22, 21, a. and p.m. N.B. No Proclamation till I was going into the Pulpit P.M.

13. Mr. Bass, who had kept Sabbath with us, return'd to Lancaster, a Sober modest young gentleman, and I perceive is something observably Skill'd in the Hebrew. May God be pleas'd to make him a great Blessing in his Generation! P.M. was at the Funeral of Mr. Edwards Whipples Dauter. Visited his Brother Francis' Dauter Abigail who is taken sick. We have observ'd that the Child bury'd to Day is the 24th that has died in Town since August 23, when Mr. Cook's first (which dy'd) expir'd. Our Children Billy and Suse are somewhat indispos'd with Flux, but (thro Divine Goodness) run about yet. Ebenezer made Cyder at Mr. Hows.³ At Eve had a Quarter of Beef from Mr. Jonah Warrin. Stormy and some snow.

14. Snow'd and Rain'd last Night, but this morning rains hard.

15. Mr. David Batherick's Child bury'd. I attended upon it with my sister Willard. [This is the 25th since August 23.] In our way we call'd at Mr. Jonas Childs, and at Deacon Newtons. At Eve came Mr. Bacon⁴ of Ashuelot.

16. Publick Fast on Occasion of the Distresses the Province is under by the War, and especially the Great French Squadron appearing in North America; the Hopes also we are in of an English Fleet for Help. Mr. Bacon preach'd all Day. A.M. on Ps. 50, 15. P.M. on Zech, 7, 5. O that God would hear in Heaven and answer and defer not for His own names sake!

17. Mr. Bacon left us for Wrentham. P.M. Visited Abigail Whipple and Hepzibah Rice. Ebenezer got home our Cyder, 7

³ Neighbor Hezekiah How.

⁴ Reverend Jacob Bacon of Keene, N. H.

Barells, from Mr. Hows Mill. N.B. We have made in all this Year something more than Nine Barrells. More than ordinary Cold and Raw Weather—very uncomfortable for people that labour abroad. My son gather'd some of the Corn.

18. The Earth covered with Snow—a Stormy Day. Thomme Carry'd Barrells and Chairs to Mr. Whitneys—and brought Turnips from Mr. Pratts. N.B. Billey has a Bloody Flux, but helps about House.

19. On Rom. 8, 31 a. and p.m. the Entertainments I design'd for the late Fast Day. May God accompany them with his Blessing! The Snow goes off. Billy about yet.

20. The Snow has wholly disappear'd. A Very pleasant warm Day. My sons Carted Stones in the fore part of the Day, and then gathered Corn. Mr. Goss of Bolton, and with him one Mr. Carter and a Lad here, journeying to Narragansett. Mr. Jonathan Burnap din'd here. Mr. Stone p.m. going to ministers meeting at Rutland.

21. Held a Catechetical Exercise on the Benefits of those that are Effectually Call'd, repeating in sermon on Eph. 3, 8 from Page 17 to 24.

22. Ebenezer and Thomme cart Stones from the Settle Field; p.m. Ebenezer Carted home 6 Barrells of Cyder from Mr. Whitneys, 5 of which I have of him and one (Gratis) from Mr. Jonas Child. I visited Abigail Whipple who is very ill of the Common Distemper. My little Billy is ill also of the Same, yet runs about.

23. Ebenezer fetch'd $4\frac{1}{2}$ Bushel Turnips from Mr. Hezekiah Pratts which with $1\frac{1}{2}$ receiv'd already was my 6 propos'd Stock of him (at $\frac{3}{6}$ per Bushel) but he afterwards sent Me a Bag more which were his present to Me. P.M. my Sons gather'd the rest of the Corn. I rode to Shrewsbury upon Several Small Affairs, but perceiv'd that people were gone to Lecture (which I had heard nothing of) whereupon I Snatch'd the Opportunity and went also. Mr. Martyn preach'd on John 8, 23. Those words—Ye are of this World. N.B. His Wife with him. We return'd to the parting of our Roads together. N.B. I was with Colonel Ward and Requested his Chair to wait on my sister Willard to Boston; who Consented to it without Difficulty.

24. Wondrous pleasant weather from Day to Day. As I last night had Some Discourse with Deacon Newton and Mr. Elisha Ward about my Circumstances with relation to the Town and this Precinct, so I had to Day with Captain Warrin. But I find no likelihood of a precinct meeting presently—unless I am my Self more Strenuous. N.B. Mr. Tinney was a work here in the Morning, mending the roof of my House.

25. Still admirable Weather. My Sons harrow'd my Settle Field. Also We Cover'd up about 3 Bushel of Turnips and about a Dozen and half of Cabbages in a Vault prepar'd for that Purpose.

26. On Tit. 2, 12, those words, "So live soberly", and repeat'd on p.m. the last part of sermon on Job 22, 21. At Eve came Mr. Grindal Rawson⁵ a School Master and preacher at Worcester, who had preach'd at Southborough the preceding Day, and he lodg'd here.

27. Mr. Rawson went to Worcester. P.M. I visited old Ensign Newton and Mr. Abner Newtons Family, who are Sick of the Bloody Flux. The Ensign and a little Boy of 4 or 5 years very bad. I rode to Mr. Samuel Fays and to Mr. Grouts and Whitneys.

28. What Patience and Longsuffering of God are we call'd to Celebrate and magnifie Since we have been indulg'd now Two and Twenty Years in Church State and Relation. The Lords Name be prais'd with my whole Soul, and by all his people of this place! But may we be truly humbl'd for our Shamefull unprofitableness! And O that we might obtain the Quickening Grace of God that we may become More fruitfull and faithfull under our Sacred Bonds and Obligations and unspeakable Advantages! I endeavour'd to take some Notice of the Day—but alas with much Brokenness and Interruptions. Towards Eve Mr. Millen⁶ of Chauxit here. My Wife rode to Mr. Grouts. Ebenezer to Colonel Wards of Shrewsbury for his Chair. I walk'd at Eve to see Ensign Newton again, who seem'd a little reviv'd and Easy—was in at Deacon Newtons. May God fitt us all for sickness and Death!

⁵ (Harvard 1741). Later the minister at Ware, 1751–1754, and of Yarmouth, 1755–1760. *Sibley*, XI, 58–64.

⁶ The Reverend John Mellen of Sterling.

29. Rode to Cambridge with sister Willard⁷ in Colonel Nahum Wards Chair. My Dauter Molly also on Mr. Tinneys Horse.

30. Rode to Boston in the Morning. Sister Betty very ill. She was brought home from Lieutenant Williams's (of Lynn End) last Saturday. Was much griev'd as were all her Friends to see her so much concern'd about her Daughter Eliza's having her design'd Share of the Estate; and was in agony to have Elias to take his Pen and Ink and Sett down what Eliza should have. I din'd at Mrs. Keggells, and rode with her over to her Brother Bass's at Dorchester. Return'd at Eve. Horse kept at Procters. Visited sister Betty, who had been yet more uneasy in the afternoon before a multitude of people in her Chamber, about her son Elias—but was now calmer. Methinks she apparently grows worse. I made opportunity to talk freely with her alone. She took it thankfully. Mr. Joseph White (her uncle) came to see her also and he talk'd in a savoury Manner. I Lodg'd with my Kinsman. Sent Mr. Tinneys Horse home with Mr. Phinehas Hardy.

31. Took my Final Leave of Sister Betty—being convinc'd that I should never see her again, for the Season of the Year obliges me to return home, and we know not but she may lye so several Days. Din'd at Brother Alexanders—and having dispatch'd my Business rode with Molly in the Same Chair I came down in, to Cambridge.

NOVEMBER, 1746

1. As we were going to mount in order to return Home, my Kinsman Nathaniel Parkman¹ came with Speed to acquaint me that Sister Betty dy'd this Morning. My Dauter and I Set out upon our Journey, fearing the weather might change and my Limbs be more affected. But upon second Thought we turn'd down the Road from Captain Wells's. I return'd to Boston to my mourning distress'd Friends. May God Sanctify the Breach to us all, as to my dear Young Kinsfolk—Special may the Lord take them up! may they have wisdom to Conduct! may they live

⁷ Parkman's sister, Mrs. Josiah Willard.

¹ Parkman's nephew, the son of William Parkman.

in Love and Peace! Captain White kindly ask'd me to put up my Chair into his House and my Mare into his Stable. Lodg'd with my Kinsman.

2. Preach'd a.m. at New North on Luke 19, 10. Mr. Webb² p.m. on [blank]. Din'd at Mr. Eliots.³ At Eve I preach'd at my Brother Parkmans on Song 1, 4.

3. At Eve at Mr. John Brecks where came Mr. William Owen and my Brother William. Brother and I went to Elder Cheevers's—where was Mr. Wigglesworth⁴ of Ipswich Hamlet.

4. P.M. rode over the Neck with Captain Whites Lady in my Chair: and at Eve at Dr. Colman's Lecture. Mr. Wigglesworth preach'd on Eccl. ult. ult. Din'd at Brother Williams. Lodg'd at Brother Samuels.

5. Din'd at Brother Alexanders. Weather exceeding various. After Dinner especially the Sun shone, but yet clouded up and rain'd toward Eve. Sister Betty Bury'd.

6. My Horse has been kept till now at Captain Whites. An Exceeding Cold wind in the Morning, yet Molly and I set out in the Chair and rode home, having stop'd and been kindly refresh'd at Mr. Thomas Dana's,⁵ Mr. Patersons⁶ and at Mr. Darlings.⁷ Got home well and found my Family well. Blessed be God! But in my Absence It has pleas'd God to take away Ensign Thomas Newton and his wife, and one of their Son Abners little sons of the Fever and Flux.

7. Snow, Cold, Blustering—and yet Sun shine. Sent Colonel Wards Chair Home by my son Ebenezer—who brought Monsieur Calmetts Dictionary⁸ volume 1 from Mr. Cushings. 'Rody and Jonathan Devereux help'd my sons husk at Eve, but twas very Cold.

² Reverend John Webb.

³ The Reverend Andrew Eliot.

⁴ The Reverend Samuel Wigglesworth of Hamilton.

⁵ Of Cambridge.

⁶ Joseph Patterson of Watertown.

⁷ Thomas Darling of Framingham.

⁸ Augustin Calmet, *An Historical, Critical, Geographical, Chronological, and Etymological Dictionary of the Holy Bible* (London, 1732), 3 vols.

8. Very Cold. Mr. Samuel Williams here—brought me the Return of the Deacons and Committee of the precinct concerning the Request of Captain Moses Rice of Deerfield.

9. On Occasion of Ensign Newtons and my sisters Death I preach'd on Ps. 39, 4 and P.M. on 10, 3, but us'd the sermon on Ps. 119, 59 from page 12.

10. Mr. Francis Whipples Dauter Lucy and son Nehemiah sick. I visited them. Lieutenant Tainter kill'd a Cow which Mr. Grout bought for me of Mr. Jonas Brigham for *f*16.10.0.

11. I rode to Grafton—din'd at Mr. Prentice's—where was Mr. Thomas Harringtons wife of Waltham. Mr. Prentice and I walk'd to Mr. Joseph Batchellors—at Mr. Brooks⁹—at Mr. Winchesters.¹⁰ Visited old Mrs. Tabitha Fay¹¹ who is taken very bad. At my own house and Barn Elizer Rice and 4 or 5 more are Husking, it being very moderate Weather.

12. Wrote by Lieutenant Tainter to Mr. Edwards of Northampton. Nurse Sherman din'd here. Captain Maynard here at Eve. We reckon'd and settl'd. Gave him a note to his brother James the Collector.

13. A.M. I rode to Deacon Newtons. Visited old Mrs. Tabitha Fay. P.M. proceeded to Mr. Francis Whipples whose Family (a Number of them) is sick. Thence I went to Mr. James Maynards and to Ensign Rice's. N.B. Mrs. Rice's inveighing against Mr. Martyn; against his prayers at Ensign Newtons Funeral. She is greatly displeas'd with me for assisting in his Ordination. I rode up to Colonel Ward,¹² who was too generous to ask anything for his Chair to Boston. Was also at Dr. Smiths¹³ as I return'd.

14. At Eve Mr. Noah Brooks¹⁴ of Grafton here—being in much perplexity and Difficulty not knowing what was his Duty respecting their approaching Sacrament. Since he and others had com-

⁹ Ebenezer Brooks of Grafton.

¹⁰ Benjamin Winchester.

¹¹ Mrs. Samuel Fay.

¹² Nahum Ward of Shrewsbury.

¹³ Joshua Smith, the physician of Shrewsbury.

¹⁴ Son of Ebenezer Brooks.

plain'd of Ezekiel Cole¹⁵ for his preaching and the Church had condemn'd him as disorderly, yet had lately voted him forgiveness if he would reform, notwithstanding they have had no Signs of his Repentence—nay have reason to fear he has had not Conviction of his offence.

15. Great Storm of Rain. Strong Winds, and great Flood.

16. On Ps. 39, 4, and 84, 1. Captain Warrins wife din'd here.

17. Monsieur Calmet engages me not a little.

18. At Mr. Whipples¹⁶—his son Nehemiah of about a Twelve month old dy'd. Pleasant moderate weather. Some of our Cattle have been hous'd but we are not yet ready for the Rest.

19. A great storm of Snow. Mr. Whipple's Son was to be bury'd to Day but I could not attend upon it in Such Weather.

20. Ebenezer and Thomme build a new Hoval at the East End of the Barn. The Cattle were all hous'd. Thomas Winchester is come from his station at Fort Pelham to visit his Friends.

21. Mr. Samuel Harrington here. I traded with him for one of his Hoggs, and am to give him 15 d. per pound (old Tenor).

22. Captain Maynard here after a Tedious Journey with his Team to Boston. Deacon Forbush here about his son Eli. Abraham Batchellor my Team p.m.

23. On Tit. 2, 12, all Day. Mrs. Mary Steward and Mrs. Sarah Forbush (Phinehas's wife) din'd here. Might it please God of his infinite Mercy to bring me off from a Life after the Flesh! that I might live according to the Rules of Christian Temperance in all Things!

24. The Boys thrash Wheat, which they find much Eaten by Vermin, besides that it was much Blasted. Sarah Henry here turning an old Black Coat of mine to make a Coat for Ebenezer. Mr. Jones of Western lodg'd here.

25. Mr. Jones to Western. My wife gone to Mr. Edwards Whipples wifes Labour. At Eve they had a son born. Eli Forbush wants to lodge here when the School comes into the Middle of the Town. Sarah Henry here.

¹⁵ An uneducated preacher who was later ordained. He became the minister of the Separatist Church in Sutton, 1751-1799.

¹⁶ Francis Whipple.

26. Captain Daniel Ward of Worcester for Mr. Maccarty¹⁷ but he did not come. Rainy. Sarah Henry.

27. Public Thanksgiving. I preach'd on Ps. 48, 1, 3, 7, 9, 11. Disappointed of those whom we had design'd to dine with us—and had no Body but our own Folks. I would fain remember those who are in Affliction or are slenderly provided. For what we have receiv'd the Lord make us truly Thankfull, and of the Number of those Children of Judah who Spiritually rejoice in Gods Judgments! At Eve came Sir Williams from Marlborough and lodg'd here. N.B. He brought up Dr. Watts Sermon for me.

28. Sir Williams bought my Volume of the works of the author of the whole Duty of Man for 8£, and he had my Dr. Clark's Letters to Mr. Dodwell¹⁸ for Dr. Watts Sermon. He return'd to Sudbury. Mr. Jenison came over from the Northside to keep School in the middle of the Town.

29. Sarah Henry here again.

30. Sacrament. Preach'd on 1 Pet. 1, 18, 19. N.B. Mr. Jenison at Sermon but not at Communion. Deacon Fay and Mr. Kendall¹⁹ of Suffield din'd here. P.M. repeat'd Sermon on Ps. 119, 106. O may the Blood of the Son of God be precious to me and Since we have again Sworn it, may God afford us Grace to Perform etc!

DECEMBER, 1746

1. I Catechiz'd both A. and P.M. at the Meeting House. P.M. Mr. Daniel Forbush came with some Hearthstones and new laid my Kitchen Hearth. Mrs. Sarah Henry here. Mr. Jenison keeps at Mr. Barns's and Eli lodges with him at Captain Forbush's.

2. Mr. David Maynard and his Brother Ebenezer came and kill'd Two Hogs for me. One weigh'd 232. The other 202. Mr. Harrington also brought a Hogg which I bought of him lately—

¹⁷ The Reverend Thaddeus Maccarty of Worcester.

¹⁸ Samuel Clarke, D.D., *A Defense of an Argument made use of in a Letter [by Dr. Clarke] to Mr. Dodwel, to Prove the Immateriality and Natural Immortality of the Soul* (London, 1707). There followed an exchange of views in a series of pamphlets by Clarke and Henry Dodwell (1641-1711).

¹⁹ Joshua Kendall, an early settler.

which weigh'd 335. In all 769 pounds of Pork cutt and Salted up this Evening. N.B. Mr. Whitney here with Mr. Harrington. N.B. Mr. Cushing absent last Sabbath from his people by reason of the sickness of his son Jacob at College.

3. Very Cold. I rode by Mr. Thomas Goodenows (where I call'd) to Mr. Jesse Rice's of Marlborough. Return'd to his mother¹ Mr. Fenner on Conscience.² Din'd at Mr. Smiths—he not at home. At Dr. Gotts reckon'd with him and paid all. N.B. Captain Brintnall³ and Lieutenant Cleveland⁴ at the Doctors. As I return'd home visited Mr. Jacob Amsden who has been very ill, and still confin'd. When I came home found Mr. Maccarty here from Worcester. N.B. A post went to the Governour to Day with Letters from Albany of Several of the Mohawks going to Quebec with Pretences of Friendship to the French but return'd with Scalps to Albany etc.

4. Mr. Maccarty tarried and din'd with me and then return'd to Worcester. At Evening Elijah Warrin here, and (it raining and freezing) he lodg'd here.

5. Mr. Upham⁵ (of Sturbridge) and his Dauter here in their Journey downwards.

6. [No entry.]

7. On Tit. 2, 12—to live Righteously. P.M. repeated on Rom. 8, 6. Mr. Jenison and Mrs. Grow din'd here. At Night after Family Devotions read Mr. Edwards on Religious Affections.

8. Deacon Forbush here to ask me to go over to his son Solomon Woods there having been an odd Occurrence there, for when Mrs. Woods had lain in and got Joanna Fay from Southborough to Nurse her, on the Fourth Day the Nurse (an unmarried, Young Woman) falls into Travail and was deliver'd of a Child. Yesterday morning it dy'd—and they who were nearly Concern'd would now have me Visit her and be at the Funeral. I went accordingly—talk'd with the Girl who seem'd penitent but would

¹ The widow of Joseph Rice of Marlborough.

² William Fenner, *The Soul's Looking-Glasse . . . With a Treatise of Conscience* (Cambridge, 1640). Another edition appeared in 1643.

³ William Brintnall of Sudbury.

⁴ Josiah Cleveland of Watertown.

⁵ Ezekiel Upham.

not tell who was the Father of her Child. After Prayer I return'd to Lieutenant Tainters and thence to Captain Bakers. N.B. My wife rode with me as far as Captain Bakers and waited there till I came. We Supped there. N.B. Young Men's Society met this Evening at old Mr. Maynards to settle their accounts etc.

9. Mr. Pratt and Neighbour Ebenezer Maynard kill'd an old large sow which weigh'd 267. Read Mr. Edwards on Religious Affections, and find him much Study'd in his subject.

10. Lieutenant Tainter had encourag'd me that he would take the Care of marketting the Pork (kill'd yesterday) if I send it to Boston by my son Thomme; we accordingly got ready. Ebenezer got the Mare shod at Mr. Cooks and went over to Lieutenants—acquainted him we had kill'd, and to know his Purpose; but it prov'd dull misty and Rainy Day, and it being a very heavy and difficult Load and Lieutenant not to go till late, together with diverse other Things which perplexed us, therefore we deferr'd it till another Day. N.B. Mr. Ebenezer Baker of Marlborough here and din'd with us. At Eve my Son was at old Mr. Maynards and Ebenezer Maynard offer'd to go to Boston with our Pork, tho his Design was to trade with Nathan if he had been at home.

11. Rainy yet. Neighbour Ebenezer came; we tackl'd and loaded, and he went off—but before noon he return'd—the Rain and bad road discourag'd him. He din'd with us but would take nothing for his Pains about the Pork. At Eve we Salted it up. N.B. Our Two first Hoggs weighed 232 and 202. Mr. Harringtons 335. This Sow weigh'd 261. In all that we Salted up 1030.

12. Exceeding Cold Morning. At Eve Thomas Winchester here, lately return'd from his Station at Fort Pelham.

13. Very Cold Day.

14. Preach'd all Day upon Micah 6, 8, those words—but to do justly—carrying on from thence the Same Subject which I have been lately on from Titus 2, 12. Mr. Stratton⁶ of Waltham din'd here.

15. Precinct Meeting—partly to receive a Memorial from me which I sent—but they did not see Cause to do anything at all upon it.

⁶ David Stratton.

16. Very Cold from Day to Day. Dr. Gott here. My sons thrashing. P.M. tho Cold yet my wife and I rode over to see old Mrs. Whipple and tarried till Eve among the Whipples.

17. Ten Young Men Cutt wood. James Bradish (by his Proxy Mr. Daniel Hardy) Jonas Bradish, Noah and Daniel How, Benjamin Whipple Meradach Devereux, Elijah Warrin (by his proxy his Brother Aaron) Nathan Maynard, Jonathan Bruce, and Silas Newton. P.M. I went over to Mr. Whipples to meet with the precinct Committee who were there except Mr. Abner Newton. There was also present Neighbour Benjamin How. I discours'd with them of my late Memorial which was Sent to the precinct last Monday. I ask'd Deacon Newton, and Mr. Whipple whether the Representation which I therein made of what they said to me when they came to my House the Evening after that Precinct Meeting (there referr'd to) was a just and true Representation? And they reply'd in Terms of Consent, that it was. I ask'd Captain Warrin and Mr. Williams also, who Said that they remember'd that being at the Said precinct Meeting they did perceive that That was the precinct Meeting, viz. that my Sallery Should be that Money which pass'd before the Soldier Money (in 1744) was made, which was according to Gold at 4. 18 shillings per ounce—but I could not prevail with any of them to Sign any Line of Memorandum of it. When I got home young men all gone home.

18. The last Night and this Day were More than ordinary Cold. Should have expected Mr. Maccarty from Worcester to preach my Lecture to Young Men, had it not been so extreme Cold. I preach'd myself on Rom. 8, 6 former part to a few that Ventur'd out. Mr. Jenison spent the Evening with me and Supp'd here. N.B. I ask'd him why he was not at Communion last Opportunity? He said he did not know that it was to be Communion Day, till the Day before.

19. Continues very Cold. Ebenezer much taken off by Tooth ach. Thomme cyphers again.

20. [No entry.]

21. All Day upon Micah 6, 8 going on Still with the Subject

from Tit. 2, 12. Mr. Jenison, Mrs. Mary Steward,⁷ Widow Thurston, and Mr. Zebulon Rice's Wife⁸ din'd here. My God grant us these dire principles to Love one another, and to delight in shewing Mercy!

22. A.M. I rode over to the Southside of the Town. Was at Mr. Beriah Rice's, Deacon Forbush's⁹ where was Mr. Child of Roxbury, Glazier. Visited Mr. Dunlop who is Sick; This and to Speak with the Glazier were my Chief Errands: was also at Mr. Martin Pratts—din'd (as I return'd home) at Lieutenant Tainters. Very Raw Cold towards Night—but Lieutenant Hezekiah Ward came with a Plott of Land he had laid out for me of $7\frac{1}{2}$ Acres by the Burying place, and would have me go and See it. I went just before sunsett. At Mr. Nurses at Eve and as I return'd home I visited Jonathan Maynard who is ill of a Dropsie.

23. Very Cold. Storm of Snow. P.M. Mr. John Child the Glazier came to work.

24. Bright Day, but Cold and Windy. Mr. Child at Work—last night he work'd very late, finish'd my new Study window, and this morning put it up; Mended my Windows thro out the House, which was no Small piece of work.

25. Mr. Child finish'd his work So late and it being very Cold he went not away till this Morning, which proves also a very Cold Day. My own common Exercises in my study without going out save to the Yard to chop a little etc.

26. Captain Maynard who grows cool and almost a Stranger here. Some Evenings the Boys Cypher.

27. My Sons frequently Sledding wood and little enough to maintain 3 Fires this Cold Season.

28. Go on with my Subject from Tit. 2, 12. Am now upon Living Godly—but the Text improv'd to Day was 2 Tim. 3, 12 one Clause. Mrs. Rice (Beriahs Wife) din'd here. Earnest Beg that to Days Exercises may have some Suitable Influence upon us!

⁷ Daughter of Daniel Steward of Marlborough.

⁸ Zebulon Rice married Abigail, daughter of Daniel Forbush of Westborough.

⁹ Jonathan Forbush.

29. Was at Mr. Jenisons School a.m. Visited Mr. Adams's¹⁰ Family. Din'd with Mrs. Beamans after which Abimaleck (Indian) his Daughter Deborah having a Child Dead in their Wigwam and having desir'd Mr. Jonah Warrin to Send for me, I went to them pray'd in the Wigwam and went to the Grave. I gave them Severe Admonitions and Earnest Exhortations. Was at Mr. Williams's.

30. Dr. Breck here and din'd as he did Yesterday also whilst I was gone from home. Deacon Forbush Mr. Moses Pratt of Shrewsbury and Mr. Samuel Warrin of Grafton here, and wants a petition to be drawn to be presented to the General Court for their Compassion towards their Captive children and Friends. At Eve (tho it snow'd) I was at Captain Maynards. N.B. His Wife putts me in mind of my not having visited Mr. Abner Newton since the death of his Father, Mother and little Child: which I was a little surpriz'd at, but told Mrs. Maynard 'twas Neglected with no Particular Design, but I would endeavour soon to make them a Visit.

31. Captain Maynard as he was going to Boston gave me his hints and Resentments of my neglecting to visit Abner Newton—but he soon went off. I consider'd with myself that I visited them Some Number of Times in their Affliction, one Day after another—and when I came from Boston preach'd a Funeral Sermon on Purpose. But have been of late more than ordinarily fill'd with perplexing Cares and important Business—as particularly my Bond with Mr. Jesse Rice of Marlborough; the weighty Affairs of my settlement with this Precinct; the Sickness at Mr. Whipples; the troublesome Affair, and great Disappointment about my Pork; but especially a Daily anxiety about my Cattle my Hay being very Short and my Stock much increas'd. My Corn also Much Shorter than Ordinary; which has caus'd me to ride much more than I should have done, and yet without success. It was Somewhat Rainy this Morning, but was moderate air, so I delay'd no longer, but made a Visit to Mr. Abner Newtons. He was not at Home; his wife much confin'd by Lameness. She manifested no

¹⁰ Benjamin Adams of Marlborough.

uneasiness that I had not been to see 'em, but said that they had hop'd I would, and I cant but remark that tho I have occasionally seen Mr. Newton, and did of very late yet he has shown no Disgust nor was I aware that they had any Special Expectation of me—tho I acknowledge I should have done well to have gone—and am Sorry I neglected it. I told Mrs. Newton I hop'd they would not be offended—and She manifested her Satisfaction and ask'd me to come again to see her. Call'd at Deacon Newtons. Return'd and din'd at home. It has been more than Ordinary Cold, difficult Weather, So that I could go out but little unless upon pressing Occasions. Was disappoint'd and hinder'd by the Cold when I was out.

The Year Ends with this Uneasiness of my Nearest and most bountiful Neighbours—which I am sorry for—but I can't but fear there is, and has been of late, a great Dissatisfaction on another Score; and I fear Some Disposition to Watch for my halting. There has been no sweetness I believe Since the Ordination of Mr. Martyn, or as my Neighbour calls him Esquire Martyn. But God forgive what has been amiss in me! quicken me to my Duty and enable me to walk inoffensively—that the Ministry be not blamed!

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