

The Diary of Ebenezer Parkman
1747

EDITED BY FRANCIS G. WALETT

JANUARY, 1747

O that I might be made Suitably Sensible of the Flight of my Life. How soon alas! my Days on Earth will finish! and I shall be here no more! I could not retire (as I much desir'd) to Spend this Day by my Self for I was called in Providence to preach from home. But the Lord enable me to Consider his infinite Mercy to me, and my unspeakable Obligations to Him therefore! In Special through the Changing Scenes of Last Year. I rode to Shrewsbury and preach'd the Lecture there, on Ps. 39, 4. A Cold, especially very windy Day, and not many at Meeting. Return'd at Eve, and being Cold I call'd at Eagers¹ to warm me. N.B. Many Load of Stores gone and going up for the Forces in the Westward. Blanketts, Kettles, Arms etc. and yet its Doubtfull whether the Expedition will go on. At my House Thomas Winchester brings a message from Timothy Warrin (who was with me lately to buy my oxen) that he did not depend on them. Lieutenant Tainter brought up Six of Mr. Edwards on Religious Affections.

2. Nothing So observable as my close Engagement in my Studys and Preparations for the Sabbath. Mr. Jenison gone to preach at North Rutland.

3. Mr. John Chamberlin² here. Makes offers for my young fatting Sow.

4. I went on still with my Subject of the Gospel teaching us to live Godly from Tit. 2, 12, but I us'd for my Text to Day (as last Lords Day) 2 Tim. 3, 12, former Clause. Snowy Day, few attended. Mrs. Whitney and Mr. Jonathan Forbush's wife din'd with us. So few Young Men at Meeting that their Society did not Meet at Evening. Stormy Night.

5. No body comes to cutt wood as was expected. My Hay so very short that my mind is full of Concern. A.M. my sons thrash'd Rye. I rode into the Neighbourhood to enquire after Hay. To Neighbour Eliezer Rice, Williams's, Pratts. At Old Mr. Maynards at Eve—Old Mr. Whipple and Captain Maynard there. No Success as to Hay.

¹ James Eager of the north side of Westborough.

² Of Westborough.

6. A.M. Mr. Chamberlin buys my fattening Sow alive. He offers 18 d per pound when kill'd, or 12 d alive. She weighed 108 a live and comes to 5£ 8 shillings of which he pays me 4£ old Tenor. My sons thrash Rye. P.M. I rode out again after Hay. To Eliezer Rice's, Ensign Rice, Eliezer Bellows, Joseph Knowltons (N.B. his wife ill). In returning I was in at old Mr. Green's for Corn. Agree with Joseph that what I have of him I must give 12 shillings per Bushel for. At my House found Timothy Warrin and Eliezer Rice about my Cattle, and I sold em to Neighbour Warrin for 44£ and a Days Work ploughing Stubble in the Spring. He gave me Bond to be paid September 29 with Interest—but I engag'd that if he would pay me by March 10 there should be no Interest at all. He promis'd also to bring me a Load of Rails from Mr. Harringtons.

7. Cold for some Days past—today Clear, Windy, Cold. Mr. Warrin took away the oxen he bought last night. My sons thrashing Rye. The Day appointed for the Ordination of Mr. Reed³ over the second Church in Framingham. But I kept at home for I fear what Grounds they go upon. I grew very Cold especially towards Night.

8. Robert Bradish here in the forenoon, and is uneasy still. He wanted Opportunity for further Discourse. I told him those men which he improv'd before, viz. Deacon Newton and Neighbour Stephen Fay, would do very well for him to take Advice of again: and I purpos'd to be at Mr. Fays in the afternoon where he might be also if he pleas'd with any Body else that he should choose. Mr. Ebenezer Baker of Marlborough here and din'd again with us. P.M. I rode to Mr. Abner Newtons. Robert Bradish came in there, but I was going. Mr. Newton said nothing in the world of any Disquietments even tho we had talk of their Family Afflictions—of his Fathers affairs etc. I went to Deacon Newtons, having sent his Barnabas for Mr. Beriah Rice. I rode up to Mr. Stephen Fay's, who being gone to Boston we were much disappointed. I proceeded to visit old Captain Fay who is under

³ Solomon Reed (Harvard 1739) was the minister of the Second Church (Separatist) of Framingham, and later Ticut Separatist Church of Middleborough, 1756-1785. *Sibley*, X, 398-400.

a great Infirmity and kept from the House of God. Return'd to Captain Bakers who is under Confinement by great Pains in his Limbs. But hither resorted Robert Bradish, Deacon Newton and Beriah Rice—but Captain Baker was not willing to have the affair open'd to him, because of his great Indisposition—so it was adjourn'd. I went to Merchant Rice's and thence came Home. In the Evening came Lieutenant Thomas Forbush and in better Frame than last Time and was (to sum up in short) desirous that none of his Children might suffer for his Sake, and we parted in Peace. Mr. Reed ordain'd at Framingham.

9. [No entry.]

10. [No entry.]

11. I go on with the Subject of living Godly from 2 Tim. 3, 12. Nobody but my own Family din'd with me. P.M. Repeated from Rom. 8, 6, latter part. N.B. Mr. Prentice of Grafton absent from his people, and many of them here at meeting. I was exceedingly tired at Eve, and perceive that I have a bad Cold—Rheumatic Pains in my Limbs.

12. Clear but Cold. Am under indisposition of Body—but can read and write, all Day, through the great Goodness of God. The Rye Ebenezer has got out is 10 Bushels which (with 2 Bushel got out before and sown before winter) makes our Winter Rye 12 Bushels. At Eve came James White (late of Upton) and Joanna Fay (late of Southborough) her Brother Moses accompanying and were marry'd. Robert Bradish also came, and with him Deacon Newton, Captain Warrin and Mr. Wheeler; and tho they were not of my choosing yet I consented that the Cause should be heard by them—which was therefore accordingly rehears'd on both sides; and Mr. Beriah Rice was here to give his Testimony, which he gave plumply and Earnestly, By Word of Mouth, and deliver'd the Substance of it in Writing also, Sign'd by both himself and his wife. By this joint Testimony thus given in I look'd upon myself and conceive that all others did, as fully justify'd as to the Ground and Cause of my writing my Letter to Robert Bradish, and proceeded to argue that in Case Said Bradish was laid under any Burden which he ought not to bear, it was laid on him by some

Body else and not by me; but that if what was testify'd was true, (and the Testimony of the Two is True) then I was to be look'd upon as under a great Grievous Burden of Reproch from Said Bradish. I shall not think it worth while to take much notice of what Strange Pleas and Exceptions he made against the Evidences—their being in my Hand writing etc. whereas the Harringtons and his wife's were (of which I had little need) yet Mr. Rice's and his wife's were recharg'd here by their own mouths to Bradish (where we were together heretofore) before any word of theirs was writ—and when it was written, it was while all partys were present and at the general Desire of all concern'd. In Brief, the Judges took the Case—and after Some Time spent alone by themselves we had their Request (instead of any Sentence) praying that for peace sake we would throw all up and go no further. Bradish was willing to—and when it came to my turn to answer, I spoke to this purpose, that under my Case I had discharg'd My Duty (as I apprehended) in a proper manner to him who had done me Injury—that I abide by it—and pray'd God to give His Blessing—wish'd heartily he might see his Error: but inasmuch as they who had heard the Case did Desire this Earnestly that it might be carry'd no further, I would accordingly Cease from anything further. If he had not Design'd to reproch me on what was deliver'd in my preaching and would labour after a sound understanding of those great and weighty Truths which had been mention'd—there being signification of Consent hereto, I gave him my Hand. We burnt the Papers and we parted without further Jarr.

'Tis true I had more reluctance than can easily be express'd, because he very much deserv'd severe Reprehension and needs humblings; for which I can't but think I had great advantage in my Hands and had no need to fear anything that he could in any wise be able to do. Nor can I conceive why those gentlemen which heard of the Case, unless their minds wrought towards him as he was a most turbulent fractious piece, and was now forthwith, tomorrow morning, to go off into the service, a soldier in Colonel Dwights⁴ Regiment. But I could not withstand their pressing

⁴ Joseph Dwight. *Sibley*, VII, 56-66.

Instance for peace; and I did not want to have anything more, in way of Contest, to do with him. Yet I may repent (for ought I know) of my too great Gentleness towards him. But may God be pleas'd to help me in subduing and denying myself, and my inward Corruptions; and grant forgiveness of what has been amiss; Sanctifie this Trial to me; and give the poor man to see his Pride and Wickedness, that he may repent of it. N.B. Mr. Chamberlin took away the young Sow which he bought of me a few days ago and sent her to Boston alive in a small Drove.

13. Very Cold Season. Ebenezer thrashes Barley. Thomme to Mr. Johnsons Mill. I read Fullers *Pisgah sight*;⁵ and at Eve transcrib'd the Applicatory Part of the last sermon on Tit. 2, 12. My Wife in great pain and Swell'd in on Legg and Foot. Nor am I free from Pains of Rheumatism. Diverse also of the Family complain of Agues in their Faces—Molly and Bekky particularly.

14. Exceeding Cold season. The Snow deep, but the last snow light. The air very sharp, and somewhat windy. Yet Billy goes to School. My wife confin'd with pain and Lameness, which with her pregnancy makes her Case very grievous to her.

15. Thomme to Mr. Johnsons Mill. Ebenezer Thrashing Barley. Not So Cold as Yesterday.

16. Mr. Raymond⁶ of Hadley here. Very moderate pleasant Day.

17. Mr. Chamberlin came home from Boston. He informs me that my Kinsman Elias⁷ was marry'd on New Years Night. May they be espous'd to Jesus Christ and live together as Heirs of the grace of Life. He brought me also a pair of stout Deer Skin Gloves from Mr. Stansbury in Boston.

18. A Thaw. Rainy. I preach'd a. and p.m. on Tit. 2, 13, a solemn word! Mrs. Patience Woods⁸ din'd here. Lieutenant Tainter kind in helping my Children to meeting through the wet.

⁵ Thomas Fuller, *A Pisgah-Sight of Palestine and the Confines thereof, with the History of the Old and New Testament Acted thereon* (London, 1650). Another edition was published in London in 1662.

⁶ Josiah Raymond. See Sylvester Judd, *History of Hadley* (Northampton, 1863), p. 558.

⁷ Parkman's nephew, Elias Parkman of Boston, married Abigail White.

⁸ Mrs. Solomon Woods of Westborough.

19. Mr. John Mead in the morning. Ebenezer gone, and Noah How with him to help him, to get slabbs for sides of an Horse sled at the ministerial Lot. My wife in much pain. Mr. Jenison return'd from Brookfield at Evening. Eli having kept school to Day also. Mr. Jenison was in here and acquaint'd me that the people of Worcester were this Day to meet and were likely to Endeavour after Mr. Maccarty, either settle [him] or at least to preach [him] another month.

20. I visited Mr. Ebenezer Baker at Captain Maynards—ill there of Gout or Rheumatism. Examin'd Taylor of Original Sin. A smooth and subtle Man!

21. Rode abroad this fine Day, which is very rare. Went as far as to Jonathan Fays, was at Mr. Grouts, old Mr. Samuel Fays, and was at Stephen Fays, where was his Brother James. Grafton, by his Representation, in a poor Miserable Condition. May God be gracious to them under their sad Divided Circumstances!

22. Very Considerable Storm of Snow. At noon as I sat at Table I had a sudden Indisposition which depriv'd me of my Dinner—but I did not faint; through Divine Mercy I reviv'd and went to my Chamber. My Sitting most of the Day might be very much the cause of Stagnation.

23. After a Great Storm, a fine, bright pleasant Day. P.M. Mr. Jenison going his Journey up to Brookfield; the Snow so deep he takes time. Mr. Stone⁹ of Southborough here also, returning from North Shrewsbury where there has been a Council of Three Ministers. (Mr. Campbell,¹⁰ Mr. Cushing and Mr. Stone) to hear and advise upon some Difficultys and Differences which have arisen there between Mr. Morse¹¹ and divers of his Neighbours, Especially Mr. Isaac Temple, which tis hop'd may be hereby in some Measure compos'd. Captain Maynard was also here. Tells me Mr. Ebenezer Baker still continued ill at his House. Ebenezer brings home an Horse sled made by him and Noah How.

24. Somewhat pleasant.

⁹ The Reverend Nathan Stone.

¹⁰ The Reverend John Campbell of Oxford.

¹¹ The Reverend Ebenezer Morse of Boylston.

25. On Tit. 2, 13, have now finish'd what I have been so long upon. May God most gracious add his Blessing. P.M. repeated sermon on Rom. 8, 6. N.B. I have twice repeated an old sermon in the afternoon that I might deliver more unbrokenly my whole preparations in one Exercise, tho it has been very long and cost me much the more pains. O that we might be Spiritually minded—that we might have true and Eternal Life and Peace! Captain Flagg¹² and Mr. Joshua Child of Worcester here at Meeting and at my House afterwards. Captain Flagg pursued his Journey Home.

26. This is the third Monday that we have been Expecting woodcutters, and have not come. Snow deep. Mr. Stephen Fay here and had one of Mr. Edwards' Books on Religious Affections. Mr. Joshua Child here. Thomme to Grafton to Mr. Batchellors.

27. I rode over to Mr. Martyns and din'd there. P.M. he rode with me to Mr. Smiths at Marlborough. I went also to Mr. Joseph Williams sadler to talk with him about my son Thomme's living with him to learn his trade, and he readily consented. At Dr. Gotts at Eve. Return'd home. A Letter came from Mr. Pierpoint with his account of Esquire Lee's Debt Sworn—and a Power of attorney to me to recover.

28. It had been pleasant weather for 2 Days but now it is very likely to be stormy. 3 Teams came and number of Hands to Cutt wood. The Teams Mr. Bowman, Mr. Harrington and Mr. Phinehas Hardy, David Batheric—Jonathan Forbush, Solomon Woods, Tim Warrin, Zebulon Rice, Judah Rice, Nathaniel Whitney and Josiah Grout. They had not gone I think above 2 Turns after Dinner before the Storm prevail'd so that they broke off and went home. A Great Storm of Wind and Snow at Evening.

29. Latter part of the Night the Snow turn'd to Rain. This Day remember the wormwood and Gall and my soul is humbled in me.¹³ *Jejun and previ.* Mr. Stephen Fay here at noon to my Discomposing.

30. Stormy Snow. Stephen Fay (at my sending for) came here, and again talk'd with me about taking up the Strip of Com-

¹² Benjamin Flagg.

¹³ The anniversary of the death of his first wife.

mon Land, about 4 acres, on the South side of the Road by the South Burying place. N.B. Lieutenant Wood had told me that he, Mr. Abner Newton and Mr. Stephen Fay had all pitch'd on it, but the Two former would give up their pitch to me if Stephen would—but this the last was not willing to because he had the land which join'd to it, out to both the other Roads. But he made me this proposal, that if I would engage before hand to sell it to him, he would give me 25 shillings per acre for it and bear the charge of laying it out—or he would give me Rights to take up as much Land other where and Ten shillings, or instead of the 10 shillings he would give me one acre of that very Land clear and free. I told him I would do nothing underhand, but would acquaint Mr. Newton so far as should be needful that I might have his free Consent.

31. Captain Maynard is return'd from Boston thro the tedious Storms and Roads and his Team under his sons Care is coming. The Snow very deep. Captain Maynard brings me a Letter of the 23rd from my Brother Parkman informing me of their sorrows by the extreme illness of his Daughter Emms,¹⁴ but Captain Maynard adds that Brother Samuel inform'd him that she dy'd on Thursday morning last. The Lord Pity the Bereav'd Husband and parents, and Sanctifie the frequent Breaches in our Family to us all who are related!

FEBRUARY, 1747

I had so mislaid the first Leaf of the sermon which I design'd for the forenoon that I was not able to find it when people were coming to meeting, So that I was oblig'd to take up an old sermon and go to meeting. It was that on Eph. 1, 4. On Election. P.M. I found the Leaf I had mislaid and preach'd on Dan. 2, 35 last Clause. Captain Tainter¹ of Watertown and his Brother the Lieutenant² din'd here together with Mr. Jenison. N.B. people came, many of them upon Ratchetts³ to Meeting.

¹⁴ Martha, daughter of Parkman's eldest brother, William, married Joshua Emmes.

¹ John Tainter.

² Deacon Simon Tainter of Westborough.

³ Racket, a word used for snow shoe.

2. Snowy, but it was not Cold. I went over to Mr. Abner Newtons⁴ and made my way clear about taking up the Land, which we were talking of last Friday. Who was free that I should do what I would with it. Neighbour Stephen Fay had been there and was gone to Southboro to Lieutenant Wards. I immediately follow'd him tho the Snow was deep. I committed my Plott of 7 acres to Neighbour Stephen to be carry'd into the proprietors meeting to Day; and Lieutenant consenting, the other affair of the 4 acres was left with them to Lieutenant to prepare the Plott and to carry it to the meeting—upon which I return'd home. And 'twas well I did for the Storm prevailing very much. I went as soon as I had din'd (Mr. Whitney dining with us) to Neighbour Hows and paid him for Rights in Commons which I had before agreed with him for—viz. 3£ old tenor. The Storm was very great. Wind blew the Snow very much and when it clear'd away towards Eve it was very Cold and high gusts of Wind through the Night. My wife so near her Time that I was full of Concern but we rest'd (through Divine Goodness and protection) in Safety.

3. Very Cold and Blustering. Roads fill'd and little stirring. Mr. Jenison on Racketts.

4. More Moderate. School at Captain Maynards but children couldn't go by reason of the deep Snow. Eli din'd here. Mr. How came and sign'd the Conveyance of Rights. At Eve Stephen Fay here—informs me that both the plotts I committed to his Care were accepted at the Proprietors Meeting on Monday last. Eli Forbush and Asaph Rice came at Eve to Lodge and board here.

5. Bright and comfortable. I finish'd reading Mr. Lowth⁵ on the prophecys. At Eve I visited Mr. Baker again, at Captain Maynards, Mr. Jenison also being there. I pass'd along on Banks most commonly as high, and many Times above the Fences. Mr. Baker much recover'd.

6. Mr. Richard Barns of Marlborough lyes Dead. The Lord

⁴ Son of Thomas Newton.

⁵ William Lowth, D.D. (1661-1732), the distinguished English theologian, wrote a number of works on prophets and prophecies. These works appeared separately at first and then in several collected editions.

convince me of my own Frail and dying Nature! and O that I might be ready. At Eve Mr. Jension, and supp'd here.

7. Thomme carry'd a Letter to Mr. Bezaleel Eager for Conveyance, which I have directed to Mr. Stephen Fessendin⁶ at Worcester and containing Mr. Pierpoints Account of Esquire Lee's Debt. N.B. Mr. Jenison went this morning over to a Corner of Bolton and Marlborough to preach there. Eli and Asaph recited to me therefore.

8. A moderate, pleasant Day—not a few came to meeting on Racketts. I preach'd again on Dan. 2, 35.

9. Ebenezer work'd for Mr. Chamberlin. A.M. somewhat cloudy. P.M. pleasant.

10. I visited Mr. Richard Barns on consideration of the Loss of his Father. I rode also to Mr. Cushing at Shrewsbury and din'd there. N.B. The road from my House to the Country Road but Steppings through deep Snow, but the Great Road very Smooth. N.B. Mr. Prentice⁷ of Lancaster ill, and has not preach'd for Some Sabbaths. P.M. I Rode to Worcester. Deliver'd Colonel Chandler his third and fourth volumes of Pamela with my Dauter Mollys gratitude. We went to his son Johns and Drank Tea. In the morn I set Johnson to do me a small jobb, the mending a small ironing box. Went to Dr. Becks.⁸ We spent the Evening chiefly at Mr. Fessendens. Lodg'd at the Doctors. N.B. Mr. Fessendens Poem on the taking Louisbourg.⁹ N.B. Worcester without preaching 3 Sabbaths. N.B. The Time for the Claims to Esquire Lee's Estate, out 3 Days before my Letter to Mr. Fessenden last Saturday.

11. After Breakfast the Doctor and I rode to Mr. Hedge's. I went to borrow a volume of Mr. Henry¹⁰—but it was at Sutton: but he set a Time for me to Send for it. I din'd at Colonel Chandlers with Major Keys¹¹ etc. I read the Colonel Mr. Fessen-

⁶ (Harvard 1737). A lawyer in Worcester.

⁷ The Reverend John Prentice.

⁸ Samuel Breck, the physician.

⁹ This was not published.

¹⁰ Matthew Henry (1662-1714), a learned, dissenting minister of Cheshire, England, was the author of many theological works.

¹¹ John Keyes of Shrewsbury.

dens Poem on Louisbourg inscrib'd to Governor Shirley—which the Colonel promis'd to present to the Governor. Major Keyes my Company to Shrewsbury. Receiv'd a Pair of black Shoes for my Dauter Molly and paid Mr. Parker¹² all to this Day, viz. 4£ 1. 6. Home at Eve. My wife still in her usual State which she has been of late.

12. A Rainy and thawing Day, but Thomme went to Mr. Johnsons Mill at Southborough.

13. Bright, but Windy, as it was very much last Night. Mr. Simon Tainter¹³ of Grafton here with a Letter from that Church to me requesting me to join with four other ministers viz. Reverend Messers Martyn, Hall,¹⁴ Webb¹⁵ and Stone,¹⁶ to advise them in their Difficultys. The Day appoint'd is the 24th Instant, the place of Meeting the house of Mr. Joseph Rice¹⁷ in Grafton. I return'd that I would endeavour to if my Family Circumstances did not prevent which they might be like to know more of by next Thursday.

14. Mr. Jenison leaves the School again this Morning to go over to Mr. Jones's to preach there tomorrow. So that Eli and Asaph are oblig'd to recite to me.

15. All Day again on Dan. 2, 35 last Clause. Mr. Joseph Knowlton, Mrs. Tainter and Mrs. Miller din'd here as well as Eli and Asaph. Comfortable Day my wife at Meeting—but has been for this long Time in great Pains. N.B. Mr. Joseph Miles' son Joseph of about 8 was taken sick last Thursday his Father being gone to Boston, and dy'd the next Day before his Father return'd home.

16. Rainy, as it was all night. My wife very full of pain. This Morning I sent Ebenezer for Mrs. Forbush.¹⁸ Eli was not here last night but came in the forenoon. Asaph recited to me there being no Schoolmaster. P.M. they were both dismiss'd and they

¹² Stephen Parker of Shrewsbury.

¹³ Son of Deacon Simon Tainter of Westborough.

¹⁴ David Hall of Sutton.

¹⁵ Nathan Webb of Uxbridge.

¹⁶ Nathan Stone of Southborough.

¹⁷ He lived in the part of Grafton that later became the town of Millbury.

¹⁸ Granny Forbush often served as midwife.

went to Captain Forbush's. A Number of Women here. Mrs. Hephzibah Maynard and her sons wife, Mrs. How, Mr. David Maynards wife and his Brother Ebenezers, Captain Forbush's and Mr. Richard Barns's. My son Ebenezer went for the most of them. At night I resign my Dear Spouse to the infinite Compassions, allsufficiency and soverign pleasure of God and under God to the good Women that are with her, waiting Humbly the Event.

17. A mustering there was in the Night, but my Wife grew Easy again and I saw her in the Morning. But her pains returning I retir'd. God almighty most gracious and mercifull be pleas'd to extend His Pity and Help! About 7 o'Clock a.m. a Fourth living Son was born, and my wife liv'd through it and becomes Comfortable through the tender Mercy and Goodness of God—to whom be all Honour, praise and Glory! The women broke fast with me—and the morning being pleasant—divers of them walk'd home others rode. Mrs. Forbush Stay'd and din'd. Eli and Asaph went to Captain Forbushs yesterday but today return'd and din'd with us. Mr. Jenison did not return'd [sic] from where he preach'd last Sabbath till late this forenoon. P.M. Brother Hicks happen'd to come from Sutton on purpose to see and lodg'd here. N.B. Mrs. Forbush went home p.m. and would take no pay. N.B. Child the Glazier here and I paid him all. N.B. Mr. Jenison supp'd with me. N.B. Sad Thieving of Cattle and sheep of late by Jonathan Willard¹⁹ and [blank] Cutting²⁰ of Shrewsbury.

18. Very pleasant Day—the Snow has Shrunk by the late Rains and the present Warmth, at no Small rate. Brother Hicks went Home. P.M. Mrs. Chamberlin (wife of John) here. Had talk with her about her being disgusted at my desiring my Wife might be excus'd from being at her last groaning—it being sabbath Day and when I was not very well.

19. Very pleasant Day. Ebenezer breaks flax. I was somewhat devoted to my Preparations but was interrupted almost all

¹⁹ This man, presumed to be a descendant of the distinguished Major Simon Willard of Lancaster, later moved to Greenfield. See Ward, *Shrewsbury*, pp. 477-478.

²⁰ Several persons of this name were then living in Shrewsbury.

the afternoon by a Visit from Mr. Ebenezer Baker. Yet he behav'd with great Civility. At Eve Mr. Francis Whipple and his Wife here. He acquaints me that Lieutenant Tainter was a far more hurtfull opposer of the Petition which was lately put into the General Court by a Great Number of Inhabitants of this Town respecting my Salary, than even any person of the north side whosoever; especially in his Discourse at Boston with the Honourable Joseph Wilder Esquire the chairman of the Committee to whom the said Petition is referr'd.

20. Bright—but raw cold East Wind.

21. [No entry.]

22. On the occasion of the Baptism of my Infant I preach'd on 1 Chron. 29, 19. I would earnestly Sett myself to the Great Work of renewing the Covenant with the Glorious God: and infinite Thanks are due to Him that I may have this Honour and Privilege. O that God would grant Me a Perfect Heart in all I undertake! in Special in the Work now incumbent—and I beseech God to grant to each of my Children graciously given to Me, a perfect Heart also: in a particular Manner to the Child we this Day dedicate to Him by the Name of Alexander, In Commemoration of my Mothers Father, and my youngest Brother. N.B. After Sermon p.m. I read the Act of the General Court against profane Cursing and Swearing.

23. A very fine Day. I sent Thomme to Marlborough to visit Mr. Williams the Sadler, and to Deacon Andrew Rice's. I visited Neighbour Rogers—and their Son Johns Wife, and Mrs. Garfield wife of Ebenezer, her Husband not being at Home. Dr. Gott here and din'd with me. Ebenezer cutting Post Stuff in the Ministerial Lott. N.B. A second young Lamb dead.

24. Mr. Martyn came, and in Conformity to the Request of the Church in Grafton we rode up there, first to Reverend Mr. Prentice's where was Mr. Stone and thence to Mr. Joseph Rice's, where we were entertain'd. Mr. Webb of Uxbridge came also, but Mr. Hall of Sutton came not. After Dinner we had something of Formality, and they chose me Moderator and Mr. Martyn Scribe. I pray'd—their Grievances were then laid before us.

25. Tho we were adjourn'd to 8 A.M. yet no Business was done till noon. Mr. Hall came. We sent messages to the five Separating Brethren praying 'em to let us Speak with them: viz. to Messers Jacob and Joseph Whipple, Joseph Goodell, Nehemiah Batchellor and Thomas Axtell. N.B. The Church Sent to them—and our messages accompany'd theirs. Only the first and the last came, viz. Jacob Whipple and Thomas Axtell, and with them we had Some considerable Discourse, but I Suppose to be little Effect. Josiah Lyon also appear'd and our Conference with him was drawn out to Considerable Length. They judg'd the very Ground work and gathering of the Church in Grafton was not according to the Gospel. They Vindicated the Doctrine of Knowledge of one another by the union of Love etc. etc. Not to bed till very late.

26. Tho we were adjourn'd to eight o'Clock this Morning yet the Church did not come together till noon, nor any of the offended in any season for us to begin our Business. The Remainder of the Hearing was up in Neighbour Rice's Chamber. Towards Evening Mr. Hall return'd Home—tho our Business was extreme arduous. We apply'd ourselves with some Resolution to prepare our Judgment and gather up a Result. In this we spent the Whole Night—I never put off my Cloths, yet Mr. Martyn and Mr. Stone Slept not at all.

27. In the Morning When Mr. Prentice came, we were much retarded about our Result, by the happy Effect which our Endeavours had met with in him: for he was Convinc'd of his Errors and Misconduct and was ready to come into some Retractions. We (the Ministers) all went out among the people (who waited all Day for our Result) to see how they were temper'd towards Mr. Prentice—but there was some Number that would not consent to receive him again as a Minister, tho they would as a Brother. P.M. we drew up our Result and at Eve the Scribe read it. Mr. Stone concluded with prayer and after a little stop at Mr. Prentice's with his wife, we rode home. N.B. we were so belated by the bad riding that we call'd at Captain Fays. There was Mr. Solomon Pain²¹—but we didn't know him till after he

²¹ A preacher without a college education who became the minister of the North Society in Canterbury, Conn.

was gone out of the Room and (I suppose) to Bed. Through Divine Goodness I got home safe—but my wife has had a bad Turn—and has been ill ever since I went away. Mr. McCarty has been here in his Journey from Worcester to Boston.

28. Closely Engag'd in my Preparations for tomorrow.

MARCH [1747]

1. I preach'd on Ps. 51, 18, and on Exod. 18, 21. Mrs. Sybil Child,¹ Mr. Jonathan Forbushes wife and Eli and Asaph din'd with us. I am exceedingly afraid of the Mischief Mr. Solomon Pain will be able to do in Grafton just now.

2. Town Meeting. Mr. Wheeler and Nathan Ball came to request me to go to prayer with them. Lieutenant Holloway here, and pleasant. Sad News from Annapolis, but Time will certifie us. Reckon'd with Deacon Newton and with his son Silas.

3. In the forenoon came Mr. Aaron Hardy from Grafton and din'd here. He gives but a dark account of Things among them—tells me Mr. Solomon Pain is (as I greatly fear'd) among them and preaching. The Separation likely (by these means) to increase there. At Evening came Mr. Harwood,² of Grafton Church who had been over to Mr. Martyn for the Result, and had with him a Copy for the Church and for Mr. Prentice.

4. It was Somewhat drisly—but I rode over to Mr. Martyns and preach'd his Lecture, from 1 Pet. 1, 18, 19, and return'd at Eve.

5. Mr. Martyn preach'd my Lecture on [blank]. Take heed how ye hear, a very usefull, savoury Sermon and which I hope God is pleas'd to make use of for our awakening and quickening. May it especially be profitable to my own Soul!

6. Thomme accompany'd by Ebenezer rode down to Marlborough to live at Mr. Williams's, the Sadler. May God be pleas'd to Smile on this attempt for his Benefit! and make him serviceable in his Generation! Ebenezer brought me 50£ Old

¹ Mrs. Jonas Child.

² Benjamin Harwood.

Tenor from Deacon Andrew Rice, borrow'd of upon Bond, to pay my Brother Samuel Parkman.

7. [No entry.]

8. Sacrament. On 1 Pet. 1, 18, 19. Deacon Fay, Eli and Asaph din'd here. P.M. got Deacon Newton to read (in part) the Act of the General Court against profane Cursing and Swearing again. He read Slow and the people began to drop away so that I finish'd it myself. Receiv'd a Letter from Mr. Stone dated February 28 about our Result.

9. A.M. at Mr. Whipples and got him to come and kill a Calf of 7 weeks old for me, and he din'd with me, as did Mr. Prentice of Grafton who came down to see me under his heavy Burdens. He freely tells me that now he can have no Thoughts of tarrying in Grafton. Their Church is to meet tomorrow and he thinks he must ask a Dismission: his wife having been to hear Mr. Solomon Pain; and last Saturday Morning declar'd for the Separation. N.B. Mr. Samuel Forbush of Upton here and Examin'd in order to his owning the Covenant. Mr. Daniel Fisk also of Upton here and carry'd off the Pork which he bought of me.

10. Neighbour Edwards Whipple carry'd his Loading to Boston on my Mare he taking with him my Calf to market it for me, and 70£ Old Tenor to Brother Samuel Parkman. N.B. I was at Neighbour Eliezer Rice's this morning and improv'd him to take a Time to go and buy me a pair of Steers of Mr. Timothy Warrin. Mr. James Maynard here, but he can't finish his account with me. Mr. Wheeler here and acquaints me with the Death of Mr. Benjamin Rugg last Night at his House, and with his wife's Request to me to attend his Funeral tomorrow, but I gave Mr. Wheeler divers Reason why I could not, being pre-engag'd.

11. Mr. Wheeler yesterday instead of going to Reverend Mr. Cushing or Morse to attend the Funeral of Mr. Rugg, Sought only to Mr. Jenison, who left his School and went. Mr. Benjamin Harwood (of Grafton Church) here, in the Morning and he informs me that their Church met yesterday and voted our Result, tho I perceiv'd that it was but a Slender Majority of 20 against 18. Mr. Harwood in his own and others behalf, desires the Ministers

would discover their Judgment touching some Doctrine pass'd over in the Result, by means of Mr. Prentice's Retractions. I rode to Southborough to Meet Mr. Martyn and Mr. Stone together upon the Grafton affair. Din'd at Mr. Stones with Mr. Martyn. The Latter preach'd on Mat. 11, 23. N.B. Mr. Morse of Shrewsbury came to Lecture. After Lecture Mr. Morse laid before us his Difficultys—he having thrown up his Contract with his People and they have not, and tis thought will not make any new provision for him. I was design'd to Marlborough but Mr. Stone sollicitd much that I would stay tonight and that we all would, that we might have Time to Confer upon both the Grafton Affair and Mr. Morse's Case also. We accordingly all of us lodged there.

12. We drew up and sign'd a Letter to the Reverend Mr. Prentice of Grafton advising him to ask a Dismission. When we parted Mr. Morse for Medfield, Mr. Martyn to go and preach at Shrewsbury first Parish, and I went to Marlborough to Mr. Williams's to see my son Thomas, who seems well contented as yet; to Dr. Gotts where I din'd—to Deacon Andrew Rice's to change several Bills, and call'd only at the Door of Dr. Smiths, he not being at Home. N.B. Saw Deacon Rice at Mr. Jonathan Brigham's. In returning I call'd at Mr. Thomas Goodenow's. At Home I found that Mr. Edwards Whipple had Come back from Boston last night. He sold my Calf for £3. 2. 6 without the Skin. N.B. Old Mrs. Whipple and Mrs. Amy Maynard³ here.

13. Strange Alteration of Weather. Night and Morning Stormy. Cold and Snow. When the Day got up it clear'd off and was bright tho Cold. Mr. Hardy from Grafton here for a Return from the Ministers lately met at Mr. Stone's. I committed the Letter to him. At Evening Brother Hicks and Mr. Daniel Champney⁴—came and lodg'd here. They inform me that Mr. John Sparhawk⁵ lately dy'd on board of a Vessel at Boston, newly come from Annapolis, and was bury'd in Boston.

14. Brother Hicks and Mr. Champney at Sutton.

³ Mrs. Ebenezer Maynard.

⁴ Of Cambridge. The cousin of Parkman's first wife.

⁵ The former schoolmaster of Plymouth and Shrewsbury.

15. On 1. Cor. 1, 24 and p.m. on Mat. 5, 33 to 37. Mr. Jonah Warrins wife and Mrs. Beeman⁶ din'd here. May God give his Blessing to my Weak Endeavours! I desir'd prayers in the Congregation for my Brother Alexander who I hear is sick.

16. Visited Jonathan Maynard. Dr. Gott din'd with us. Meeting to choose precinct officers. Major Williams⁷ of Stockbridge lodg'd here. He was marching his Company down in order to his going to Annapolis but receiv'd Counter Orders on the Road—his men return'd back, but himself proceeding to Boston.

17. Major Williams on his Journey. At Mr. Tinnys and Jesse Brighams to buy oxen but do not succeed. Visited at divers places—Levi Brighams Charles Woods—William Rogers's. Ebenezer morticing posts. 40 at this beginning to do a days Work at it.

18. Rainy Day.

19. Bright and pleasant. Ebenezer holding Posts. Mrs. Garfield (Ebenezer Garfields wife) had my mare and so prevented my riding up to Mr. Wheelers to visit the widow Rugg, and p.m. came Mr. Samuel Forbush's wife from Upton to be examin'd. Mrs. Maynard (James's wife) brought a great Rarity to us, 8 fine fish out of their Brook, chiefly (if not all) Pickerell and Somewhat large.

20. Rode to Mr. Jesse Brighams—to Mr. Martyns: to Mr. Simon Haywards—to Mr. Wheelers to See Mrs. Rugg: to Mr. Crawford's—and was at Bezaleel Eagers.⁸

21. [No entry.]

22. Rode over to Mr. Martyns according to agreement last Friday, and preach'd for him from 2 Cor. 3, 15 and p.m. 10, 14. He preach'd for me on [blank]. P.M. It rain'd So that (tho he return'd home), yet I did not, but lodg'd there.

23. Din'd at Mr. Martyns; it being misty and rainy, but p.m. he and I rode to Mr. William Goddards⁹ and I bought a pair of Steers of him nigh 4 years old for 34£ old Tenor. I return'd to my own House at Eve.

⁶ Mrs. Eleazer Beemon or Beamon.

⁷ Ephraim Williams, the leading citizen of Stockbridge.

⁸ All of the people in this entry resided in the North Precinct.

⁹ He lived in that part of Marlborough that later became the town of Berlin.

24. Rainy Still. Attended the Catechetical Exercise to young Women but there were So few that came (only 6 besides my own Girls) that we went not to the meeting House. I discours'd to them next to Extemporarily on the Moral Law, the 10 Commandments, in general the manner of God's delivering them etc., for I hardly expected anybody to come such wet Weather. N.B. I hear that Eliezer Rice went out of meeting last Lords Day as soon as first prayer was over—because it was Mr. Martyn, and I hear that Mr. Jenison instead of preaching last Sabbath at Mr. Jones's¹⁰ (of Marlborough) as he has been wont of late, chang'd with Mr. Goss.¹¹

25. Sent Ebenezer to Mr. Goddards for the Steers I lately bought of him and paid him 15£ old Tenor. Mr. Martyn and his Wife made us a Visit and din'd here; as did Mr. Williams¹² of Weston likewise, he being on his Journey from Worcester (where he had preach'd for Mr. Maccarty) to Framingham, to See old Colonel Buckminster who draws near his End. Eli Forbush brought from Worcester Mr. Hedge's¹³ Henry volume 5.

26. Catechized a. and p.m. at the Meeting House. 14 Boys (with my own) in the whole. 5 Girls including my Dauter Lucy, and no more. N.B. Mr. Willson¹⁴ of Upton (an Irishman) here, in affliction, by the Sickness of his Son (who was in the late fight at Manis) and he din'd here. Mr. Levi Brigham here p.m. on the Affair of his and his Wife's joining to the Church.

27. Ebenezer trys, with Billey riding the Mare, and himself putting up the New Steers to Split Indian Hills.

28. [No entry.]

29. On Mat. 13, 9, 10, 11. P.M. My wife having through Gods great Mercy and Goodness got out to Day, after her lying in, I repeated those Sermons on Ps. 116, 9, and do desire to renew my Engagements as David did to walk before the Lord in the Land of the Living. May God be pleas'd graciously to enable me hereto,

¹⁰ Samuel Jones.

¹¹ The Reverend Thomas Goss of Bolton.

¹² The Reverend William Williams.

¹³ Elisha Hedges.

¹⁴ John Willson.

and keep it in the Imagination of my Heart continually! Levi Brigham and wife and Samuel Forbush and wife propounded.

30. A Cold I have had increased upon me insomuch that my Voice is exceeding Hoarse. Did something in the Garden. The season forward.

31. A.M. Visited Jonathan Maynard again, and Joshua Townsend came from Mr. Wheelers to desire me to visit Asa Rice¹⁵ and Aaron Wheeler¹⁶ who are sick of a Fever, and having Captain Maynard's Mare I went. Found them bad; yet sensible and penitent. Visited also Mr. Silas Rice's wife who lies sick of a Fever likewise.

APRIL, 1747

1. Continue to read Taylor on Original sin. P.M. Mr. William Goddard of Marlborough here. Foul Day.

2. Exceeding pleasant. Warm, excellent Weather. Mr. Dunlop came from Lieutenant Tainters with an Horse for my wife and me to ride over there to Day. He Stay'd the forenoon and wrought in my Garden. According to Lieutenant Tainters Request my wife and I din'd there, and p.m. I preach'd to the private Meeting there, on Mat. 16, 26 to page 12, and the application, page 21. Ebenezer Carted Stones a.m. Harrow'd p.m.

3. Rain'd hard last night and this Morning, but about 10 clear'd off and Mr. Dunlop came to work in my Garden. Ebenezer Sow'd Some Barley and ploughs it in with the Mare. N.B. Billey begins more manfully to ride to plough. N.B. Some talk with Mr. Phinehas Hardy about his Son Constantine.

4. Ebenezer Sow'd the rest of the Barley and Some Early Peas.

5. On Mat. 13, 12 and p.m. on Rom. 12, 11. Appointed the Communion to be next Lords Day—tho it would be but the fifth Sabbath since the last Communion, yet the sixth Since the First Sabbath of March. Mrs. Mary Steward and Mr. Jonas Warrin's wife of Upton din'd with us. Frosts hard from one night to another.

6. Cool Day, but the Season wondrous forward. Apple trees

¹⁵ Son of Thomas Rice, Jr.

¹⁶ Son of Joseph Wheeler.

begin to put forth their Leaves. Mr. Dunlop came Early to work at my Garden, but went away about 3 in the afternoon, being oblig'd upon some unavoidable Business at Hopkinton. And was So generous as to give all his work these Several Days—making more than a Day and a half. Moses Pratt came with those oxen from Eliezer Rice's which Timothy Warrin bought of me, and with my Team join'd thereto plough'd my Stubble. Dr. Daniel Warrin also came p.m. and built Stone Wall, before the Ground where my old House stood. N.B. Captain William Brintnall¹ here; and informs me that old Colonel Buckminster² now lyes Dead. Deacon Forbush's wife here and brought me excellent Flax seed, a peck and half, and Eli half peck from his uncle Tainters, all of it gratis. I engag'd Moses Pratt³ to work for me next Hay Time.

7. Mr. Warrin lodg'd here last night and works for me again to Day at building Stone Wall: part of the forenoon where he wrought yesterday: the rest of the Day at the northeast part of my Improvements. Neighbour Hezekiah Tomlin ploughs here with his oxen join'd to my Team. Mr. Jenison comes over from the northside and goes to keep School in the South part of Town. Asa Rice continues very low (I hear) but not worse. Aaron Wheeler much worse and very dangerously ill. My son Thomme came up from Marlborough to See us. Mr. Bacon⁴ from Ashuelot (upper) came and lodg'd here. He brings the sorrowful News that a Number of Indians the night after last Sabbath was Sen-night came to Mr. Shattucks Fort,⁵ and fir'd it. They burnt down the Fort at Number 2 or great meadows⁶—and burnt an House of Colonel Josiah Willard. That their Town as well as the other Ashuelot⁷ were broke up and come off—as was Winchester

¹ Of Sudbury.

² Joseph Buckminster of Framingham.

³ Son of Isaac Pratt.

⁴ The Reverend Jacob Bacon of Keene, N.H.

⁵ Daniel Shattuck's garrison house was within the limits of the present town of Hinsdale, N.H.

⁶ No. 2 township, sometimes known as Great Meadows, was incorporated as Westmoreland, N. H., in 1752.

⁷ Lower Ashuelot was incorporated as Swanzey, N. H., in 1753.

also. That Captain Melvin⁸ and 26 men went out after the Indians, and discover'd 14 and packs of about 20. That Captain Stephens⁹ with 50 men had been gone about 3 Weeks and no news of him but twas hop'd he was at No. 4.

8. Thomas returns to Mr. Williams's at Marlborough. Mr. Bacon left us to go to his Fathers¹⁰ at Wrentham. Planted Some Bush Peas which he brought.

9. Publick Fast. A.M. on Joel 2, 12. P.M. on Jer. 12, 4, former part chiefly, and us'd some of the Improvement of Sermon on Ezra 10, 10, 11, 12.

10. Ebenezer a.m. grafting Pear Cyons¹¹ in Apple Stocks, but the Trees rather too forward, as is all Nature. Every Thing wondrously putting out. God's name be prais'd who pitys His People, and in the Middst of wrath remembers Mercy!

11. Rainy Morning. When it held up, tho the Sun broke out but now and then yet was it a growing Season.

12. Sacrament Day, yet this Morning just as I was going out to Meeting (with my Hat in my Hand), comes Levi Brigham with his and his wife's Relations which must be look'd over etc. A number of other Persons came, divers of them to my House, with various Cases—all by word of mouth which caused me to Speak to the Congregation to bring their Desires written—and when they have Business that takes any Time, they must not defer it till the Lord's Day. A.M. preach'd on Isa. 1, 18. P.M. from Rom. 12, 11, first Clause, but us'd the Heads in sermon on Mat. 20, 6, from page 24 to 31, resolving the Doubts which old men might frame against converting and becoming Religious. N.B. Mr. Jenison was at the sermons, and Sat in my Pew, but withdrew from the Communion. No fresh Occasion of Disgust that I know of. Deacon Fay, Mr. Nathan Balls wife, and Mr. Zeublou Rice's wife din'd here.

13. Very rainy. A.M. Mr. James Eager here to inform me of the Death of his Brother, Aaron Wheeler, who expir'd last night

⁸ Eleazer Melvin.

⁹ Phinehas Stevens.

¹⁰ Thomas Bacon.

¹¹ An obsolete form of scion, a term sometimes used for a graft.

about Sunsetting. A Sore Bereavement to his Father and Mother, who, he being their only Son set their Hearts much upon him. May God Sanctifie this heavy Affliction to their highest Good. I had rather they would have sent to Mr. Martyn, but Mr. Eager said that they had determin'd to send to Mr. Jenison if I could not go. He informs me likewise that Asa Rice lyes at the point of Death if he be living. O that all young persons, and mine in Particular might take warning! renounce their Vanities and prepare for Death and Judgment! P.M. I was at Neighbour Garfields, whose wife was just before brought to Bed of a Dauter. Finish'd Mr. Stoddards and Mathers Controversy about Right to the Lords Supper.¹²

14. Rode (with Deacon Forbush and his Wife) to Mr. Martyns and ask'd him to go with me to the Burial of Aaron Wheeler to which he immediately consented and went. I din'd at Mr. Wheelers. Asa Rice yet alive, there, tho very low. I pray'd and took leave. N.B. Mr. White¹³ of Lancaster and his wife (who was a Ball) accompany'd me to Lancaster. Mr. Prentice much out of Health. Ministers Meeting had been put by, but I had not receiv'd the Letter, Said to be sent to me. Several ministers there notwithstanding—Mr. Cushing, Buckminster,¹⁴ and Davis.¹⁵ The 2 last went to Harvard. Mr. Cushing and I stay'd. Mr. Prentice pleasant at Evening—as he was also

15. In the Morning but tis fear'd his Disorders prevail. Visited Judge Wilder—talk'd of Westborough arrearages—to little

¹² The controversy between Solomon Stoddard and Increase Mather began in 1700. Mather's *Order of the Gospel* (Boston, 1700) was followed by Stoddard's *Doctrine of Instituted Churches* (London, 1700). Mather published an "Advertisement, Directed to the Communicants in the Churches of New England" in Thomas Doolittle, *A Treatise Concerning the Lords Supper, The Twentieth Edition* (Boston, 1708). This was an answer to Stoddard's *The Inexcusableness of Neglecting the Worship of God* (Boston, 1708). Mather responded with *A Dissertation wherein the Strange Doctrine Lately Published in a Sermon . . . is Examined and Confuted* (Boston, 1708). Then came Stoddard's *An Appeal to the Learned. Being a Vindication of the Right of the Visible Saints to the Lord's Supper* (Boston, 1709). Later Mather wrote an epistle which was prefixed to Stoddard's *A Guide to Christ* (Boston, 1714).

¹³ Deacon and Captain Joseph White had married Patience, the daughter of James Ball of Westborough.

¹⁴ Joseph Buckminster of Rutland.

¹⁵ Joseph Davis of Holden.

purpose—he did not design to go to the General Court again. Din'd at Mr. Goss's—and it rain'd So that I was oblig'd to lodge there also.

16. Early in the Morning Mr. Goss and I rode to Mr. Seccombs,¹⁶ and breakfasted there. N.B. brought from thence several books—Seldons Table Talk:¹⁷ Warders Monarchy of Bees¹⁸ etc. And from his Garden Box trees and a Variety of Curious Graffs etc. Din'd at Mr. Goss's (his wife gone from home)—call'd to Mr. Martyns (who was gone afishing). Return'd home in Safety my Self thro Gods tender mercy. But whilst I was abroad heard Sorrowful Tidings of the Indians assaulting the Garrison at Saratoga, and they kill'd and carry'd off Captive 40 Soldiers—and at Kenderhook kill'd and Captivated 11. N.B. Jonathan Maynard worse—visited him this Evening. At home whilst I was at Lancaster, a large promising Steer coming 2 years old, for which I had lately got a mate of Mr. David Maynard, was drown'd at a meadow where my young Cattle went to feed.

17. [No entry.]

18. [No entry.]

19. On Isa. 1, 18. P.M. on Thess. 5, 4. Mrs. Byles of Grafton din'd here.

20. Rain. Read Seldens Miscellaneous Discourses, or Table-Talk.

21. Dr. Gott here. Preach'd at old Mr. Maynards on occasion of his son Jonathans Sickness and confinement—and to Young Mens Society there. Text Luke 19, 10. A crowded House. May God give a Blessing, that the Word may do us good as it does the upright! Frost last night.

22. Ebenezer ploughing the rest of the Stubble. N.B. Neighbour Benjamin Hows Oxen with mine—and his brother Daniel drove. A greater Frost last night than the night before.

23. Rainy Day.

¹⁶ The Reverend John Seccomb of Harvard.

¹⁷ John Selden, *Table-Talk* (London, 1689). Numerous editions followed, one as late as 1892.

¹⁸ Joseph Warder, *The True Amazons, or the Monarchy of Bees* (London, 1713). This went through 8 editions by 1749.

24. [No entry.]

25. Mr. Chamberlin at work here carting out muck. N.B. I visited Jonathan Maynard in the Morning.

26. On Mat. 13, 13, 14, 15. P.M. on John 21, 15. N.B. Mr. Nathan Maynard came in the morning to call me hastily to see his brother Jonathan and I went immediately. At Evening Jonathan Maynard dy'd. My [?] went to see 'em presently after his Expiring.

27. Ebenezer work'd at Mr. Tomlins. I rode to Marlborough and pay'd the remainder of the Bond at Mr. Jesse Rice's, and the Interest and took up the Bond. N.B. Mr. Joshua Wheeler of Boston and his wife there. Thence I rode to Bolton (Calling at Captain Barnards¹⁹—din'd at Mr. Benjamin Lawrence's (who lately dwelt at Westborough.) N.B. visited her sister Esther Russell who has lain Sick for Some Years and has not spoke a word ever since last March was Two Years. I proceeded to Mr. Joseph Tainters at Marlborough and at Colonel Williams²⁰—call'd also at Mr. Amsdens²¹ at Westborough. Got home before the Storm set in, which prov'd very great in The night. Fear'd my Barn would be blown down by the Strong Winds.

28. A great storm of Rain, and high winds. Jonathan Maynard bury'd. Nobody came to a Catechetical Exercise which was appoint'd to be today.

29. Ebenezer went with my Team to Ensign Rice's, and got some more Hay about 8 or 10 Hundred. Mr. Townsend²² brot a Letter from Mr. Martyn requesting me to preach his Lecture tomorrow—but I have appointed a Catechizing of children, which prevents. Mr. Ebenezer Garfield²³ had my mare to go to Shrewsbury. Neighbour Jonas Brigham and his wife here to be Examin'd etc. Could do but a little for 'em because they came so near night. N.B. Mrs. Hannah Warrin (wife of Daniel) of Shrewsbury here.

¹⁹ Robert Barnard, who lived in Marlborough near the Bolton line, was a miller and kept a public house.

²⁰ Abraham Williams, Parkman's brother-in-law.

²¹ Jacob Amsden.

²² Joshua Townsend of the north side of town.

²³ Of Shrewsbury.

30. In the morning visited Mr. Joslin who has been Sometime not well. Catechiz'd both forenoon and afternoon. A.M. 30 Boys; p.m. 24 Girls. Nathan Maynard work'd here for Noah How. N.B. Ebenezer p.m. Searching about for 2 Yearlings which were missing. At Eve he rode up to Mr. Adams's²⁴ at Shrewsbury.

MAY, 1747

1. A.M. I rode to Shrewsbury after my Two Yearlings which yesterday follow'd Moses Brigham's Drove—but stopp'd at Shrewsbury by Major Keys's. I obtain'd of the Major to take em in his pasture till I could send for 'em. Din't at home. Noah How at work for me.

2. Rainy a.m. Ebenezer to Shrewsbury for the 2 Yearlings. Stopp'd at Major Keyes. Mr. Reed¹ of Framingham and Company here waiting on his new spouse home. P.M. Mr. Cushing came here and I rode to Shrewsbury.

3. I preach'd at Shrewsbury a.m. on 2 Cor. 3, 15 and p.m. 10, 14 and 17. It rain'd at Eve yet both Mr. Cushing and I return'd home. Mr. Cushing preach'd at Westborough and propounded my Dauter Mary to be join'd in full Communion with the Church. Blessed be God for such Tokens of his Grace as are appearing in her! O that they might be increas'd more and more!

4. So rainy our Cattle did not go to Sutton.

5. Mr. Jonah Warrin had my mare for his son and they drove up my young Cattle (seven of them) to Sutton. Mr. Smith² came this way in going to Shrewsbury, where the Association met this Day. I rode Noah Hows mare, Ebenezer using mine daily in ploughing. N.B. a long and warm disputation with Mr. Buckminster of Rutland, he affirming (if I could understand him) that men who are of Shining powers and Advantages, and that are in a Natural State, do not contract Guilt according to the Talents they are entrusted with and their abuse of them. N.B. This Debate arose from some passages which Mr. Seccomb had inserted from

²⁴ Jonathan Adams lived near the Westborough line.

¹ The Reverend Solomon Reed.

² The Reverend Aaron Smith of Marlborough.

Cruttenden³ concerning John Taylor's Book of Original Sin.⁴ N.B. Most sorrowful News from Brookfield, Captain Buckminsters⁵ Negro Girl having murder'd her Bastard Child last Lords Day. N.B. Lodg'd at Mr. Cushings.

6. Mr. Martyn and Mr. Maccarty came. The former tells us that Mr. Goss under his Lameness by a late Fall from his Horse, was now gone home to Bolton. At a Motion of mine to have the Association bring their Answers to any particular Questions which any member Should desire to have consider'd, the ministers voted to prepare their answers to this following, viz. What Shall best be done by us to prevent the Degeneracy and Back sliding in Religion which now awfully Threatens? N.B. This is not at all to hinder the Collections as usual. N.B. Several Gentlemen seem'd to think hard of my having the Collections repos'd with me; and therefore rested not till they obtain'd a Vote to have 'em from henceforth distributed: and those which were brought at this Meeting were accordingly distributed. When we were going out to meeting (and Mr. Barrett⁶ to preach) came Joshua Townsend and presently after him Jason Badcock from Mr. Wheelers (of Westborough) who request'd me to make all haste to visit him before he dy'd, so that instead of going to meeting I went there. Mr. Wheeler was very low, but he wanted me more to assist him in drawing his Will over again than to help him in his Spiritual Work; which greatly engag'd my Thoughts—to See a man So apprehensive that he was going into Eternity So easy and quiet about it—saying that if he was not ready before now, it was now too late to do anything. N.B. I drew over his will, and made the Alterations which he desir'd. And as my office was, I conceiv'd it suitable to recommend some Charitable or Pious Deeds, to a Man that was able to leave such an Estate: I mention'd his leaving something to the Church—a good Bible—a Flaggon—or if he

³ Robert Cruttenden may have commented on Taylor's work in one of its several editions, or Parkman may have had reference to *The Experience of Mr. R. Cruttenden* (London, 1744). This was reprinted in Boston in 1744.

⁴ John Taylor, *The Scripture Doctrine of Original Sin Proposed to Free and Candid Examination* (London, 1740).

⁵ Thomas Buckminster.

⁶ Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton.

would he might leave something to the poor of the town. He pitch'd upon the first Thing, a Bible, which was accordingly inserted, his wife being by and several Times declaring she was heartily free for it. N.B. Jason accompany'd me through the Barrs and humbly ask'd pardon for all his old ill Behaviour and seem'd very penitent. Upon which I gave him my Hand, and we were reconciled. He ask'd my prayers and was full of good Resolutions. I call'd at Mr. Martyns, where Messers Loring,⁷ Stone and Smith had stop'd. My Family in peace. Blessed be God!

7. Preach'd at Captain Fays the remainder of sermon on Mat. 16, 26. May God write these moving Things upon our Hearts. N.B. Mrs. Whitney crying out in the Orchard after Meeting. My Dauter Molly rode with Nabby How. I was at Captain Bakers at Eve. He not at home.

8. Rode over to see Mr. Wheeler, having many things lying very heavy upon my mind respecting his Case. I went first to see Betty Ball (dauter of Mr. James Ball) who lyes very Sick of a Fever. Sh was very thankfull to me and behav'd with a great Deal of Decency. She confess'd her Youthful Vanitys on the Lords Day especially, and pray'd me to Exhort and Charge her Brothers and sisters—which I did—pray'd with her and them. Din'd there and went from thence to Mr. Wheelers. Found him very weak and low. Dealt as freely as I could with him—ask'd him plainly what his sentiments were about the Doctrine of Election, and Original Sin, whether he believ'd them and he said he did etc. etc. Pray'd with him and the rest of his Family. O that God would graciously afford me Courage, widsom, and assistance to discharge my Ministerial Duty to particular persons with faithfullness! N.B. Stephen Maynard was so kind as to come with a Team and a Boy, and plough'd in my Field, a.m. Ebenezer furrow'd out p.m.

9. Warm Day. Ebenezer began to plant Indian Corn. But I don't suffer myself to be disturb'd with it having had so many avocations and Impediments.

⁷The Reverend Israel Loring of Sudbury.

10. On Mat. 13, 16, 17. P.M. repeat'd Mat. 16, 15.

11. Ebenezer ploughing. Captain Maynard kindly sent Rodney Smith and his brother Jonathan to help him and they finish'd before they din'd. P.M. Training. Captain Maynard himself came and view'd my Arms etc. which I expos'd to him, to his Satisfaction. Mr. Jenison was with him, and I walk'd out with them (at the Captain's earnest request) and pray'd with the Company. After which we went down to Captain Maynards—where was (among others) Captain Buckminster of Brookfield. News of the Mohawks taking 6 Scalps near Crown Point.

12. Rain a.m. Ebenezer plant'd potatoes. P.M. my wife and I rode over to Mr. Martyns. Dr. Smith there.

13. Ebenezer sow'd Peas. P.M. he wash'd Sheep. N.B. School at Eliezer Rice's.

14. Molly rode to Mr. Batchellors⁸ at Grafton and was at Mr. Prentice's.⁹ N.B. One John Remington a Lincolnshire man, of 92 years (as he says) here and din'd with us. He was here some years agoe—says he is a Burst man and goes about upon Charity.

15. Rain. Major Jones, Esquire Brigham and Mr. Simon Goddard¹⁰ here. Brother Hicks towards Eve from Cambridge. Confirmation by the News papers of the dreadful Earthquake at Lima.

16. Brother Hicks to Sutton. Captain Maynard breakfasts here on Bacon etc.

17. On Mat. 13, 24, and p.m. before the admission of my Dauter Mary into full Communion with the Church. I repeated (with many alterations) my sermon on Mat. 19, 10, 22, the drift of which is to remove objections which are wont to discourage young people from being early religious. And Blessed be God, who I humbly hope has taken hold of the Heart of my dear Child, and engag'd her to Himself! O that the work of Divine Grace may be carry'd on in her Soul, and that she may have Divine Strength, Comfort and Establishment. And O that He would please to impart His Heavenly Grace to my other Children! This

⁸ Joseph Batcheller.

⁹ The Reverend Solomon Prentice.

¹⁰ Of Shrewsbury.

being infinitely the most Valuable and precious Gift for me to desire for them. Nor can anything give me such joy as to see my children walking in the Truth. O how Cutting was it to Samuel when it was Said to him, Thy Children walk not in thy Ways! and how wounding is the Thought to me if any of mine Should forsake the way of the Lord and finally miscarry!

18. I rode to Grafton to Speak with Mr. Joseph Batchellor—met with him at Mr. Winchesters. Rode with him up to Mr. Prentice's. Spent a great part of the afternoon with Mr. Prentice and his wife. She declar'd herself a Separate. I endeavour'd to discharge my Duty to her, to convince her of her Error; (especially Knowledge of the Spiritual Status of Persons looking on the Church in Grafton no Church of Christ. Her irregular Separation, She having never laid anything before that Church or Christian society esteeming themselves a Church of Christ, for their Conviction). I endeavour'd also to warn her against Defect in Relative Dutys in the House; and giving occasion to others to suspect criminal Freedoms with the other sex, under the splendid Guise of Spiritual Love and Friendship. I bore my Testimony against Visions and Revelations—and with Mr. Prentice, as to his appointing the Communion to be next Lords Day, whilst there is so great Confusion among them by the Vote only of 8 or 9 members, the Body of the Church were against it, I told him it would not do; there could be no Validity nor propriety in it. Parted very brotherly. A great storm seem'd to be rising. I got to Mr. Winchesters before it pour'd down. N.B. Mr. Brooks,¹¹ Mrs. Willard and a number of them there, going to Market to Boston. After the shower I went to Phinehas Hardy and thence home. N.B. Town Meeting at Westborough, chose Mr. Francis Whipple again their Representative.

19. Ebenezer plough'd the lower south side and planted little Beans. P.M. Mr. Charles Brigham¹² was here to talk with me about their sorrowful State in Grafton.

20. A.M. sent Ebenezer over to Mr. Goddards to desire further

¹¹ Ebenezer Brooks of Grafton.

¹² An original proprietor of Grafton, a frequent office holder, and sometime Representative in the General Court. Pierce, *Grafton*, pp. 463-464.

Time—and to Mr. Martyn to request him to preach my Lecture tomorrow. Mr. Joseph Wheeler dy'd.

21. Rain yet Mr. Martyn came and preach'd my Lecture from John 7, 17. N.B. tho Mr. Martyn preaches very well yet some of my people are so disgusted with him that they will not hear him. James Maynard and Eliezer Rice when they came so near the Meeting House as to know who preach'd they turn'd back and went their way. This I am heartily griev'd for. May God give them a better Mind!

22. Rode over and attend'd (with Mr. Martyn whom I went to, and took with me) the Funeral of Mr. Joseph Wheeler, who is the seventh of the 12 original members who have deceas'd. I pray'd abroad with the people—the Corps being Set before us. The Lord Sanctifie this Death to us all! After Prayer, Mr. Martyn accompanying the Corps to the Grave, I rode over to see Betty Ball who is very low and dangerous and pray'd with her. Thence to Captain Eagers where the mourners in their Return halted and retir'd to have me read the will of the deceas'd Mr. Wheeler. O that God would truely awaken us, and fit us for our own Turn!

23. Mr. Crosby¹³ has made a pair of shoes for me, as he work'd at Captain Maynards. My mind greatly disquieted by my own negligence in sermonizing: but my Cares and encumbrances are unavoidably very great.

24. The Lords Supper was administer'd—Preach'd on 2 Cor. 13, 5, repeating with omissions and alterations sermon on 1 Cor. 11, 28 to page 10. P.M. on Mat. 13, 25 to 30. Captain Fay, the widow Thurston¹⁴ and old Mrs. Tabitha Fay¹⁵ din'd with us. O that God would graciously quicken us!

25. Mr. Daniel Warrin work'd here. A.M. he built wall at the rear pasture. N.B. A.M. Mrs. Porter of Salem Village and her sister Suse Batchellor here—broke fast with me. P.M. I was at Mr. Cooks¹⁶ (Smiths) Shop.

¹³ David Crosby of Shrewsbury.

¹⁴ Mrs. Joseph Thurston.

¹⁵ Mrs. Samuel Fay.

¹⁶ Cornelius Cook, the Westborough blacksmith.

26. Visited Mrs. Joslin¹⁷ in her sickness—proceeded to Mr. Stones of Southborough. He was not at home—pursued my Journey to Framingham. Visited Mrs. Farrar¹⁸ (formerly Swift). From Weston had Mr. Rice¹⁹ (of Sturbridge) his Company to Watertown. Lodg'd at Mother Champneys. She herself Still very weak and wasting.

27. Rain in Early Morning. When it slack'd I rode to Boston. N.B. My Brother Alexander never mention'd my little Boy, which with so much affection I nam'd after him. Dr. Chauncy²⁰ preach'd on 2 Sam. 23, 3. Din'd at Brother Samuels with Captain Maynard. My Brethren Seem desirous to take this Opportunity to consult together respecting the settlement of Mothers Estate—but Brother Alexander seems very unquiet and unmanageable and will consent to nothing, but what is in his particular Scheme. To this Disturbance and Ruffle about the Estate, I attribute his Disregard to my little son. But I am not willing to take any Notice of it. Was at the Convention—Dr. Sewal²¹ Moderator and pray'd, Mr. Checkley²² Clerk. Mr. Josiah Cotton²³ desires to be remov'd from Providence. Letter of Dr. Avery²⁴ on the Subjects of his presenting the Address of the Convention of Ministers last year to the king and the Affair of Mr. Torrey, read—voted Thanks to Dr. Avery for his Pains and Care. At Eve at the North End. Lodg'd at Dr. Parkmans²⁵ (who was marry'd some months ago) and his sister Eliza just by it, to one Mr. Cowel, a Cooper. N.B. Mr. Winget,²⁶ Mr. Chase²⁷ and Mr. Wellman²⁸ lodg'd there also.

¹⁷ Mrs. Joseph Joslin.

¹⁸ Major John Farrar married Martha, the daughter of the Reverend John Swift. See Temple, *Framingham*, pp. 544-545.

¹⁹ The Reverend Caleb Rice.

²⁰ Charles Chauncy.

²¹ Joseph Sewell of the Old South Church.

²² Samuel Checkly of the Second Church of Boston.

²³ The minister of the First Congregational Church in Providence who later served the third church in Woburn, 1747-1756.

²⁴ John Avery (Harvard 1706) was the minister of Truro, 1711-1754. He was also a physician. *Sibley*, V, 302-305.

²⁵ Elias Parkman, a physician of Boston, was Ebenezer Parkman's uncle.

²⁶ The Reverend Paine Wingate (Harvard 1723), the minister of the West Church in Amesbury, 1726-1786. *Sibley*, VII, 287-289.

²⁷ The Reverend Stephen Chase of Lynnfield.

²⁸ James Wellman (Harvard 1744) was the first minister of Millbury, Mass., 1747-1760.

28. Mr. Prescott²⁹ preach'd to the ministers on Rom. 3, 28, an Extremely long sermon. The Contribution 304. 19. 0. I din'd at Mr. Foxcrofts.³⁰ N.B. the late renowned Mr. Pembertons Relect, now Loyd,³¹ and her Dauter Mrs. Vanns³² din'd here. At Eve to Cambridge.

29. Rode over to College and smok'd a Pipe with Mr. Mayhew.³³ Talk'd with him about Eli Forbush. In returning call'd at Mrs. Bekky Walkers shop. Rain and Thunder whilst I stop'd at Baldwins. N.B. Mr. Cheney³⁴ and his Brother Samuel Cotton,³⁵ and Mr. Seccomb of Harvard came there. The two first came home with me and lodg'd here.

30. Mr. Cheney went home. Ebenezer has done next to none of the weeding. Does something of it to Day.

31. On 2 Chron. 15, 2 with alterations, etc. Rom. 6, 13.

JUNE, 1747

1. Noah How work'd with Ebenezer at Weeding.

2. Noah How again. Mrs. Porter widow, and her sister Suse Batchellor here.

3. Rain a.m. Noah p.m. helping Ebenezer weed. N.B. Mr. David Batherick here again bargain'd to get my Meadow (viz. to mow and rake) for 8£. Mr. Breck came towards Eve. And at Eve Mr. Stephen Williams and his son—and Mr. Wadsworth¹ of Hartford—and they all lodg'd here. N.B. pastur'd 3 Horses in Captain Maynards.

4. Mr. Breck, Williams, Wadsworth and Williams [sic] went off. Noah How still at Weeding. Lieutenant Tainter and his

²⁹ Benjamin Prescott of Peabody.

³⁰ The Reverend Thomas Foxcroft of the First Church of Boston.

³¹ The widow of tutor Ebenezer Pemberton (d. 1718) married John Campbell and then Henry Lloyd of Long Island.

³² Mary, the daughter of Ebenezer and Mary Pemberton, married Hugh Vans.

³³ Joseph Mayhew (Harvard 1730), a tutor and later minister at Nantucket, 1761-1766. *Sibley*, VIII, 730-734.

³⁴ The Reverend Thomas Cheney of Brookfield.

³⁵ Brother of Cheney's second wife, Mary Cotton.

¹ Daniel Wadsworth (Yale 1726), the minister of the First Church in Hartford, 1732-1747. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, pp. 340-341.

Joseph Bowker, and Mr. Samuel Harrington with good Team came and got Wood, a good pile. Lieutenant at 4 p.m. went to Mr. Whipples to private meeting. The rest stay'd. N.B. Mr. Whipple here, and talk'd (to my grief) respecting the Common Medium of Trade, etc. Towards night came Mr. Wellman, preacher at Sutton, and lodg'd here.

5. Noah How. Mr. Wellman went to Sutton.

6. N.B. Noah How and my son Ebenezer had acquainted me that Mr. Jenison had offer'd to read one of his sermons to the young men at their meeting next Sabbath Evening if I was willing. I consented but not to his preaching. But to Day I saw him and spoke with him about it. P.M. he was here and very chearly but no word of this matter.

7. A.M. on Mat. 13, 29, 30 and 39 to 43. P.M. on 2 Cor. 13, 5 using Sermon on 1 Cor. 11, 28 from page 10 to page 21. After Evening Service I Stop'd the Church and having read the Letter from the Church of Worcester requesting our assistance in the Ordination of Mr. Maccarty, I ask'd for a Vote whether they comply'd with it, and for better Discovery desir'd those who voted it to move into the womens Seats—upward of Twenty appear'd for it and but 13 against it. Captain Baker² was also chose the Church's Delegate. Mr. Jenison at my House after Meeting but Said nothing of his meeting with the young men. But I understood afterwards that he went in among them and talk'd with them concerning my unwillingness etc. But that he would Speak with me himself about it.

8. Early in the Morning came Mr. Jenison and we had some Discourse together about my unwillingness that he Should preach. Mr. Whitney here afterwards—gave him some admonitory Caution about keeping to such word as he gives about Work, if not promising yet encouraging his Customers to have it done—and if it be in little Things yet to have proper Regard to it. Mr. Josiah Bowker call'd to see me just before I mounted to go to Marlborough. I call'd at Mr. David Brigham's and at Levi's. Din'd at Mr. Smiths. Went to Mr. Williams and talk'd with him on the

² Edward Baker.

Affair of binding Thomme—but he would insist for my finding his Cloths. We did not proceed—but suspended it for the present. Was at Dr. Gotts and call'd at Mr. Matthias Rices. Barrs for my Book of the Platform etc.

9. I visited Millicent Rice³ again in her Sickness at Captain Fays. I also visited Mrs. Miller (Mr. James Millers wife) who is in a Languishing Condition. At Eve I rode down to Mr. Cooks Shop.

10. Captain Baker accompany'd me to Worcester. Ebenezer was disappointed of his Cloths which could not be made, and he resign'd his Horse to his sister Molly who therefore went. Thomme also (who came up from Marlborough last night) went to Worcester. Mr. Williams⁴ of Weston was chose Moderator and Mr. Gray⁵ of Boston Clerk. N.B. Colonel Chandlers interpretation of that part of a Paper which Mr. Maccarty had Sign'd relating to Itinerants, viz. not to intend orderly ministers and of good standing in the Church of God who may Journey etc., but rambling Fellows that go about preaching. We went to Meeting in procession. Mr. Campbell⁶ began with prayer. Mr. Maccarty preach'd on 1 Thess. 2, 13. Mr. Moderator pray'd and gave the Charge, and Mr. Cotton⁷ of Newton the Right Hand. Handsome Entertainment at Colonel Chandlers. N.B. Mr. Flynt⁸ and his Nephews son Henry Quincy⁹ in Company with us from Mr. Cushings. A great many Clergy men at the Installment. I design'd to have return'd home this Eve, but my Dauter Molly was not well. She lodg'd at Colonel Chandlers but I lodg'd at Dr. Brecks. N.B. Mrs. Breck lately lain in of a Dauter.

11. Was at Mr. Fessendens who tells me that our Claim upon Esquire Lee's Estate is allow'd by the Judge, but the Administrator has not made up his Accounts yet. Broke fast at Mr. Mac-

³ Daughter of Thomas Rice, Jr.

⁴ The Reverend William Williams.

⁵ Ellis Gray (Harvard 1734), the minister of the New Brick Church in Boston, 1738-1752.

⁶ John Campbell of Oxford.

⁷ John Cotton.

⁸ Henry Flynt, the famous tutor of Harvard College.

⁹ The grandson of Judge Edmund Quincy, Flynt's brother-in-law.

cartys with Mr. Gray and his Delegates, Mr. Bridge, Messers Newman and Thomas Greenough. I return'd home before we din'd. N.B. Mr. David Braynard, Missionary to the Indians on the Forks of Delaware under an ill habit of Body journeying for his Health was here and din'd with me, together with Miss Jerusha Edwards¹⁰ of Northampton. Mr. Braynard gave me an account of the original of his mission and the success of it. To the glory and Honour of the Great Author of all Goodness and Mercy! N.B. Noah How¹¹ with Ebenezer Digging a Drain from my home Meadow into the Barns Swamp. Ebenezer Mow'd the Garden and fore yard.

12. Incomparable Weather. O that my soul bore any proportion to the State of Nature without!

13. News of more Spoil on our Enemys by the Mohawks.

14. On Mat. 13, 31, 32, 33 and 44. P.M. on 2 Cor. 13, 5, using further the latter part of sermon on 1 Cor. 11, 28 from page 21 to 28. Rainy Day, yet a Considerable Assembly.

15. Deacon Newton¹² and Mr. Francis Whipple here to induce me to Sue the Town for their arrearages to me. P.M. Mrs. Persis Brigham¹³ here and was examin'd. At Eve Josiah Bowker here in Soul Concern. N.B. A Lye voluntarily confess'd. God grant remission! The conviction was ripen'd by Yesterday afternoon sermon.

16. I rode to Sudbury to Ministerial Meeting there. As I went I call'd at Mr. Cornelius Cooks Shop and got a Shooe put on to my Horse. At the meeting there were Mr. Cushing, Gardner, Barrett, Stone, Smith, Morse, Millen, Goss, Davis, Seccomb. See Association Records for what we did except my asking their Advice upon the article of my Suing the town of Westboro for my Sallery, in which they were to a Man Warm and Zealous against it. This I did not See meet to enter any Thing of in our Records.

¹⁰ The daughter of the Reverend Jonathan Edwards. She was betrothed to David Brainerd, the Indian missionary.

¹¹ Son of neighbour Hezekiah Howe.

¹² Josiah Newton.

¹³ Mrs. Jonah Brigham.

17. Mr. Swift, Mr. Bliss¹⁴ and Mr. Minot¹⁵ came to Ministerial Meeting. Mr. Seccomb preach'd a Savoury and moving Sermon upon John 4, 41, 42. It seems indeed to have been Compos'd in A Strain which many would Term New-Light, but there was not much ground, if any at all for any one to make Exception. But I saw plainly that it did not go down well with Some Gentlemen. I am heartily sorry that there are any Remains of the Bitter root among us. I returned by Marlboro home.

18. Expected Mr. Barrett to preach a Lecture for me to my young people but he did not come. I preach'd my Self on Ps. 109, 4, latter part; and do beg it may have Effect, both on my Heart and the Audience! N.B. Neighbour Jonathan Rogers kill'd a Calf for me this morning. Captain Warrin and Neighbour How a Quarter apiece, Neighbour Chamberlin and Neighbour Cook a Quarter between them. N.B. after Lecture Captain Warrin, Messers Whitney, Abner Newton, Batherick and a number more stopp'd at my Barn and drawd up the Joints which were out to place, and pinn'd them and sett up shores to keep it from wrecking any more. N.B. To my great sorrow heard the Storys confirm'd of Mr. Prentice beating his Wife again; Ensign Pratt¹⁶ of Grafton being here: who likewise desir'd me to desist with Mr. Ebenezer Rice's request for special Privileges, till he could talk with him a little. Mr. Jenison supp'd with me, and he attended Two Marriages here this Evening, viz. Mr. Tomlins¹⁷ and James Miller¹⁸ junior's. N.B. Mr. Jenison pray'd after the Covenant was administer'd to the last Couple.

19. Mr. Jenison active amongst young men in the Neighbourhood to persuade 'em to come and help me in my Farm Business. Ebenezer has done a part of the second hoeing and to Day ploughs the chief of the rest.

20. Goodhew, Daniel How, Nathan Maynard, Benjamin Whipple and Rody Smith came in the morning and hoed my Corn

¹⁴ Daniel Bliss of Concord.

¹⁵ Timothy Minot (Harvard 1718) was a Concord schoolmaster who preached occasionally in a number of towns. *Sibley*, VI, 257-258.

¹⁶ Phineas Pratt.

¹⁷ Hezekiah Tomlin married Martha Maynard.

¹⁸ Miller married Elizabeth, the daughter of Samuel Hardy.

and my Beans and had done by 11 a.m. a great Kindness, and Relief tho it took but so little Time. P.M. Mr. Smith of Marlborough came to 'change. Mr. Whipple our Representative who came up to Day tells us that a Post is gone down to Boston with News from the Mohawks that 3000 French and Indians have come over the Lake. This will put us into new Distresses by pressing out our men again at this busy season. I rode to Marlborough and lodg'd at Mr. Smiths.

21. I preach'd at Marlborough on Rom. 8, 7, a. and p.m. Mr. Smith at Westborough on Phil. 3, 8. We each return'd home this Evening.

22. Ebenezer begins the other mowing and strikes into the South side. Eli Forbush came here to board and to be instructed. P.M. Mr. Wellman from Sutton here and lodges. N.B. Shews me his Answer and Proposals to the people in Sutton that had call'd him to settle with them in the Ministry.

23. Mr. Wellman and Mr. Jenison journey, to Waterton and Cambridge. I visited Mrs. Miller again. She thinks She is grown better, but I fear it is self-Flattery. Was at Mr. Charles Rice's. Got him to choose a Scythe for my son at Ebenezer Rice's. Was also at Lieutenant Tainters. He requests me to write a Letter to Benjamin in Canada, if yet alive. Ebenezer mowing the Southside.

24. The Press very hot in Town, for 7 out of the first Company and 6 out of the second to go to Hatfield besides a Commission Officer to conduct them. A Sore Frown of Providence this Busy Season. Ebenezer mowing and getting in Hay. Eli help'd him pole in what was fit to go in.

25. Preach'd Mr. Martyns Lecture from Rom. 8, 31. Return'd at Eve.

26. Eli Forbush is with me this week to be instruct'd—and tho I rejoice in his Learning Yet it is a great avocation and Impediment to me in my studys.

27. [No entry.]

28. On Matt. 13, 45, 46, and on Eph. 6, 18, forepart.

29. Eli Forbush here. P.M. came Dodge¹⁹ (of College) here. He tells us very terrible storys concerning Mr. Prentice of Grafton and his beating his wife.

30. Din'd at Mr. Jonathan Lorings²⁰ at Marlborough. Mr. Smith came to me, and we rode down to Reverend Storer²¹ at Watertown and lodg'd there.

JULY, 1747

1. Mr. Smith and I rode to Cambridge. I went over to Mother Champneys. N.B. They tell me Brother Champney has Sold the Place to one Mr. Fletcher, Merchant in Boston. Remarkable and Joyfull News again this Third Commencement. What we have now is that the Admirals Anson and Warrin had destroy'd 11 Sail of French Men of Warr, and it comes with such Tokens of probability that most Gentlemen believe it. N.B. What We had last Year was the Defeat of the Rebels by the Duke of Cumberland: and what we had the Year before was the Taking of Cape Breton. I din'd at Dr. Wigglesworths.¹ N.B. Mr. Searing² Minister of Rhode Island there, as also Mr. Bours, a very well bred, pleasant, free Gentleman of the Same place. P.M. at Meeting. N.B. Mr. Abraham Williams³ disputing against the Respondent Mayhew,⁴ and advancing that the Christian Religion was opposite to Reason because of its maintaining the Doctrine of original Sin, Mayhew tho newly ordain'd at Boston answer'd *Utraque pare, Domine, Vera est*. Lodg'd at Mother Champneys and was very much indispos'd. Perhaps Evening air in my walk over the Causey after the Days Melting Heat might be the Cause of my Disorders.

¹⁹ Ezekiel Dodge (Harvard 1749). He later became the minister of Abington, 1750-1770.

²⁰ The son of the Reverend Israel Loring of Sudbury.

²¹ Seth Storer (Harvard 1720), the minister of Watertown, 1724-1774. *Sibley*, VI, 412-414.

¹ Edward Wigglesworth, Professor of Divinity at Harvard College.

² James Searing (Yale 1725), the minister of the Second Congregational Church at Newport, 1728-1755. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches*, p. 318.

³ (Harvard 1744). The son of Colonel Abraham Williams of Marlborough.

⁴ Jonathan Mayhew (Harvard 1744), the minister of the West Church in Boston, 1747-1766.

2. Rode to Boston. Visited my new marry'd kinswoman, Mrs. Cowell, after I had din'd with Brother Samuel. Note well, Settled accounts with Brother Samuel and paid all his Demands to this Day. I was exceeding griev'd to find that Mr. Joseph White, my sister Hannahs Brother in Law is dead. The Lord quicken all of us to be ready for that awful Time! I visited Mr. Brainerd missionary to the Indians who lies very low and like to die at Mr. Bromfields. I rode to Watertown and lodg'd at Captain John Tainters, but was not very well.

3. I rose early and was refresh'd with my Rest, Blessed be God! I got upon my Horse I suppose by Sun rise for tho I had requested Mr. Stone to preach my Lecture to Day yet I know not what might fall out; and therefore hasten'd home. Broke Fast with Mr. Seccomb at his Father Williams at Weston. He (and Mr. Cheney afterwards came up) was my Company as it was at Election Time. I call'd at Captain D. Baldwins and both he and his wife were full of Courtisie. I din'd at home. Reverend Mr. Stone came to my House just as I came myself, he going in at one Door whilst I did at t'other. He preach'd my Lecture on Jer. [blank]. I have sent unto you all my Prophets rising Early etc., but ye have not hearken'd. Understood that Thomme came up on Commencement Day to work at Home.

4. Felt very feeble and much dishearten'd. Full of deep concern about both my work tomorrow and my inward state. But my eyes are (in some measure) towards the Lord.

5. Sacrament. On Mat. 13, 45, 46 and on Rom. 12, 12, last words. Repeat'd sermon on Ps. 109, 4, last part.

6. Ebenezer and Thomme Hilling. Mr. Joseph Williams of Marlborough here to finish our agreement about Thomme. The Indentures were Sign'd at this Time But Thomme is to Stay with me 3 weeks to help me get my Hay. Letter from Mr. Taylor⁵ of Milton to request me to send him all I could collect about Benjamin Tainter, he being about to write to a Gentlemen in Canada. Mr. Loring came from Sudbury and lodg'd here.

⁵The Reverend John Taylor (Harvard 1721), the minister of Milton, 1728-1750. *Sibley*, VI, 569-571.

7. We went to the Council at Grafton. Only 3 Churches came, viz. the Reverend Mr. Lorings, Mr. Goddards⁶ and ours. We were entertain'd at Mr. Joseph Rice's. N.B. Grim and formidable Evils related concerning the Reverend Mr. Prentice's⁷ Conduct towards his Wife and the rest of the Separatists, so lately as last Lords Day Eve—Tore her Gown, Struck them that resisted him etc. But among us to Day he is amicable and Sweet.

8. 9. Constantly devoted to the public hearing of the grievances and Difficultys among them leading the Church into the properest steps we could. One of those Evenings Mr. Ebenezer Wadsworth came and acquaint'd me with Mr. Prentice's Conduct and that he was about to prosecute him. The other of these Evenings Madam Prentice came and was at Supper with us, together with her Husband. We hear that Two Canterbury Exhorters were come into Town, viz. Samuel Wadsworth⁸ and one McDonald. I lodg'd from night to night at Mr. Joseph Rice's.

10. There was a meeting (we heard) at Mr. David Wadsworths⁹ this forenoon, but it was impossible for us to regard it being most closely engag'd in our private review of what we had been several Days hearing in Publick. N.B. Mr. Loring thinks that Mr. Prentice is not to blame for baptizing after Objections were made by 3 (Two Deacons and one particular member with them) and after the Church had shown Man by Man their Desire that Mr. Prentice would ask a Dismission. He and I had a few words upon this. P.M. we drew up our Result. Mr. Goddard Said he could not recommend him to the work of the Ministry again. Neither was there anyone found that could. Upon the public reading the Result Mrs. Prentice's Voice was Suddenly lifted up and she scream'd in the assembly—the Chief was in defence of their (the Separatists) Convenanting together and to exhort and pay the Members of the Council not to fight against God. Mr. Prentice

⁶ David Goddard of Leicester.

⁷ Solomon Prentice of Grafton.

⁸ An uneducated preacher who was ordained and served the third church at South Killingly, Conn., 1746-1762.

⁹ David and Ebenezer Wadsworth were members of the separatist group in Grafton.

reflected very hard upon the Council as doing what was very unjust; and especially towards Mr. Fletcher¹⁰ and he further added that he took notice how some of the Council Whisper'd with the disaffected, a foolish aspersion! After the Assembly we went into his House: Where upon my Saying I hop'd I had done in Integrity what I had done. He reply'd that he Saw very little signs of it. I took leave of the Town this Evening and repair'd Home, accompany'd to Westborough by Deacon Newton and Mr. Whitney the Delegates.

11. Neighbour Batherick began to cut my Ministerial Meadow. The Boys made an End of Hilling the Corn.

12. Mr. Loring is left at Grafton to preach there to Day, though his own people were without; there being great Danger in Grafton that those two Canterbury Teachers would do much mischief. I had made part of a sermon but could not finish it and therefore preach'd on Eph. 2, 21, 22. Mrs. Wheeler, of the north side din'd with us, she is in new sorrows by the Death of her son in law, Mr. Asaph Wilder, a likely man—his Death seems to be much lamented.

13. In the Morning I rode over to Mr. Dunlop to get him to come and reap. Found him at Lieutenant Tainters. Our Girls Bekky Hicks¹¹ and my Lucy pull'd Flax. Mary Bradish came and pull'd another Piece of Flax. Old Mr. Axtell¹² from Grafton here. He tells me Mr. Loring is gone along, fearing the Storm which threatens. He says Mr. Prentice sat in the Pulpit—divers at meeting in the forenoon that were not in the afternoon. N.B. Jonas Brigham¹³ here on the Affair of his joining to the Church.

14. Captain Willard¹⁴ and Mr. Brooks¹⁵ here going to Mr. Martyn to wait upon him with the Church's vote of him for their Standing Moderator. Ephraim Sherman here to acquaint me with their Desire that I would preach in Grafton next Lords Day and

¹⁰ Eleazer Fletcher of Grafton.

¹¹ Rebecca was the daughter of Parkman's brother-in-law, John Hicks of Sutton.

¹² Thomas Axtell.

¹³ The son of David Brigham of Westborough.

¹⁴ Joseph Willard of Grafton.

¹⁵ Ebenezer Brooks of Grafton.

that they had got Mr. Wilson of Hopkinton to preach in my room. N.B. Noah How and Nathan Maynard p.m. mow'd for me. I suppose Nathan works for Mr. Abraham Batchellour who design'd to give me a Lift. Ebenezer and Thomme went to Cart Hay from the Meadow. They brought one Turn. N.B. Catechetical Exercise.

15. Ebenezer and Thomme Carting Hay from the Meadow to Day also. Batherick with 2 more Hands mowing the meadow. My wife and her Babe gone with Mrs. Whipple to see Old Mrs. Knowlton¹⁶ at Shrewsbury. Ebenezer and Thomme Two more Load from the Meadow. I rak'd and tended Hay some part of the Day as I could bear it. Mrs. Persis Brigham (wife of Jonas) here on the Affair of her joining to the Church also. At Eve my wife return'd in safety. Mr. Francis Whipple came to see her well home.

16. My Boys work'd at Home. They Cutt the Barley. A great deal of Hay in Making. P.M. a thunder Storm arose which drew out all Hands of us to work. Bekky and I pol'd in what was round the Barn and near at Hand. The Barley in part rak'd and Cock'd, the rest left in Wind-rows. A part of our Hay we were forc'd to leave spread around. And Neighbour Batherick did not pretend to go to the meadow till the Afternoon, if he went then; So that doubtless the great Quantity of Hay there is wash'd. But the Storm went chiefly to the South. We had not a great deal of Rain. Another Thunder storm in the Evening went mostly South also. This working in the Hay worry'd me not a Little— But I hope I got over it.

17. Mr. Dunlop and Mr. Martin Pratt came to reap Rye for me. P.M. Joseph Grout came to reap also. They got the South-side down and Load in, the other part was Shock'd in the Field. Ebenezer and Thomme are getting the Barley into a Stack, with Joseph Grouts Help. Great likelihood of Thunder storm, but it went over. Mr. Batherick rakes and Cocks the South part of the Meadow. Molly rode over to Mr. Martyns with Hannah Forbush,¹⁷ and return'd at Evening and Hannah lodg'd here. These

¹⁶ Mrs. Joseph Knowlton.

¹⁷ The daughter of Deacon Jonathan Forbush.

Two Days have been extreme Hot, and it seems as if men could not undergo their Labour.

18. Assisted what I could in raking Hay. My whole House has lent an Hand before a storm. At Eve I stood dress'd in order to go up to Grafton but the Showers and Thunder prevented. Neither did Mr. Wilson whom I expect'd from Hopkinton come till about nine o'Clock. So that I was forc'd to lay aside going till the Morning.

19. Early in the Morning I rode away to go to Grafton—but nigh Mr. Grouts I perceiv'd I had left my Baggs—was oblig'd to go back for them and then proceed'd to Captain Willards. Design'd to have preach'd on Song. 1, 7, 8, but perceiving that Some of the people were so very wavering and not able to bear at present the least Severity I drew up a Conclusion to treat them with great Gentleness and therefore preach'd a.m. on 1 John 17 and p.m. on Rom. 6, 13. Mr. Prentice at meeting—and all the Deacons, even Deacon Cooper,¹⁸ who it was fear'd would go to Day to the Separates. I din'd at Mr. Isaac Harringtons—about which Time there was a very great Storm of wind, Rain and Thunder. N.B. I baptiz'd Manoah son of Thomas Drury and Elizabeth, Daughter of Abraham Temple. After Exercises I went up to Mr. Prentice's. Dodge of College with me. After a while came in Mrs. Prentice from her Separate Meeting, and a Number along with her—Mr. Hedge of Worcester etc. above half a Dozen Men and Women. Presently Mrs. Prentice stretch'd out her hand and declar'd how she, and their Society had enjoy'd the glorious presence of God among them this Day etc. I told her I hop'd there were Some good Tokens among us, and reasons to conceive that the Lord had been in our Assembly to Day. She soon went on in her Strain. Dodge and I went to Captain Willards and after refreshment, Prayer and Singing I return'd to my own House. N.B. I earnestly caution'd Mrs. Winchester against Separating. Mr. Wilson¹⁹ preach'd a. and p.m. at Westborough.

20. Mr. Smith of Marlborough and his wife rode here in their Chaise and din'd here. P.M. they went to Shrewsbury. Neigh-

¹⁸ Samuel Cooper.

¹⁹ Presumably John Wilson, an Edinburgh graduate, minister of Auburn, N. H.

bour Eliezer Rice with Neighbour John Rogers helped me in Carting home Hay. My sons with my Team—in all 5 Turns.

21. As I was reading Mr. Brainerds Journal, he appear'd at my gate, his brother Israel and Mrs. Jerusha Edwards of Northampton with him—'twas just at Eve. I rejoic'd much to see him yet alive. They all lodg'd here. Mr. Beriah Rice brought us Some Metheglin.²⁰

22. When the Morning Clouds were clear'd off, Mr. Brainerd and his fellow Travellers got upon their Journey. I rode with them as far as to Mr. Cushings where after a little Halt we parted. In my returning lit of Mr. Sergeant of Husatunnock, who with his Wife's sister Elizabeth Williams was going to Boston.

23. Ebenezer work'd for Mr. Eliezer Rice. Visited Mrs. Miller (who is almost gone) after I had been at Mr. Benjamin Fays and settled with him and din'd at Mr. Harringtons.

24. [No entry.]

25. [No entry.]

26. Preach'd a. and p.m. on 2 Cor. 11, 3. On occasion of the Errors and Disorders at Grafton. May it be follow'd with a divine Energy for our general Benefit!

27. A.M. came my Friend Mrs. Keggell of Boston with her son, and accompany'd by Mr. Edward Bass. They din'd with us. I Catechiz'd at Mr. Joslins. 5 Boys and 7 Girls in all. N.B. Brother Hicks and his wife here in the morning going to Cambridge.

28. Mrs. Miller extremely low. I went to see her again. Mr. Bass with me, in the Chaise which they came up in. My wife and Mrs. Keggell visited Mrs. Maynard. They lodg'd with us.

29. Our Friends rode to Worcester and my wife and I accompany'd them. Mrs. Sarah Whipple²¹ taking Care of Alexander. N.B. my mare went in the chair and drew the Two Women. Mr. Barns lent me his mare and Captain Maynard lent Mr. Bass his horse. We din'd at Brother Brecks²²—drank Tea at Mr. Maccartys, Mr. Maccarty being gone to Boston. We met him on the

²⁰ A beverage made of fermented honey and water that was sometimes called mead.

²¹ Mrs. Edwards Whipple.

²² Parkman's brother-in-law, Dr. Samuel Breck.

Road. I only call'd at Colonel Chandlers office. My wife did not so much as that. Mr. Campbell of Oxford Stop'd with me and I suppose stay'd over night—but we all return'd to Westborough. Through divine Goodness we found our Habitation in Peace.

30. Mrs. Biglo here to be examin'd. Am inform'd that Mrs. Miller dy'd last Evening. The Lord awaken us all to a serious and reallizing Meditation of Death and Judgment. Mr. Bass and I rode over to Mr. Martyns. Din'd (tho late) there. Thence we rode to Mr. Wheelers (who wanted to see me upon the Affair of the Great Bible etc.) we went to both the Ball's. We went and came by Mr. How's.

31. Our Friends undertook their Journey to Boston—having had fine Weather all the Time of their being here. Ebenezer sow'd the West Yard with Turnips.

AUGUST [1747]

1. Neighbour Batherick cut the Northside of the meadow.

2. On 2 Cor. 11, 3. Mrs. Thurston din'd here. P.M. repeated with many Alterations sermon on 1 Cor. 15, 58.

3. Hear that Mr. Wilson preach'd at Grafton yesterday. A Very refreshing Shower in a very dry Time, but Mr. Batherick had got my Hay in Cock, except 4 Cocks before the Rain came. At Eve came Mr. Hancock¹ and Mr. Thomas Marsh² from Cambridge and lodg'd here.

4. The Two Fellows left us to go to Sutton and Worcester. Deacon Kimball³ of Hopkinton here. P.M. Mr. Bowker and his wife from the Northside. Mr. Jenison—several Neighbours more. Forbush with his Theme. My son Thomas went to Marlborough, Apprentice to Mr. Joseph Williams. At Eve Mr. Beriah Rice came (when we were short enough as to grain) with a Bushell of Indian Corn and a Bushell of Rice. N.B. Captain Maynard sent Rody and Jonathan Devereux to Mow for me the forenoon.

5. Very dry Time. Ebenezer to the Meadow for the Last of the Hay. One very large Load. Mr. Edwards Whipple help'd

¹ Belcher Hancock, the tutor of Harvard.

² (Harvard 1731). Another Harvard tutor. *Sibley*, IX, 67-70.

³ Ebenezer Kimball.

him and work'd till night upon the Hay and Home, which a.m. I tend'd myself. P.M. Mr. Martyn here, and tarry'd till Eve. Brother Hicks does not return from Cambridge yet, I fear what may be the Cause of his Stay.

6. We are so belated in our Haying that after Morning Studys I went to raking Hay with Ebenezer and my little Billy. P.M. Came Brother Hicks and his wife. They inform me that Mother Champneys Thirds are settled and Mr. Fletcher (the Purchaser) comes to the place. N.B. as I was raking (p.m.) came Mr. Jonas Brigham and his wife to have their Relations writ. Mr. Brigham took my Rake whilst I wrote for his wife. Load got in. At Eve came Mr. Prentice of Grafton. He shews me a Letter of Invitation to Easton and wants something should be done about the Article in our Result where in we cannot recommend him. Brother Hicks and his wife lodg'd here, but Mr. Prentice went home.

7. Neighbour John Rogers help in with one Load of Hay. Jonathan Devereux help'd Ebenezer get in 2 Load of Hay. Mrs. Rogers (John's wife) had my mare to go to her Fathers. Mr. Bridge of Framingham here, going to Rutland. Mr. James Keys's wife (heretofore Rugg) from Shrewsbury here, about her souls Distresses.

8. Eli Forbush here, and being able to go to live at Cambridge took leave. At Eve Mr. Wilson of Hopkinton going to Change with Mr. Martyn is stop'd by a Letter from him and therefore goes, tho with great Reluctance to Grafton himself.

9. On 1 Cor. 15, ult. with divers alterations and additions. Widow Woods din'd here. P.M. on Gen. 2, 17. Repeated sermon on Heb. 9, 27, on occasion of my hearing that Mr. Thomas Ward late of Westborough is deceas'd. He dy'd last Thursday morning at Plainfield; the messenger that brought the News to Captain Maynard was at meeting with us. Refreshing Showers p.m. Some Thunder and Lightning also in a Time of Dryness, especially in Some Places.

10. Ebenezer still about the Hay. P.M. Mr. Jonas Brigham here about his Relation.

11. Association at Mr. Morse's, north Shrewsbury. Met Mr.

Martyn at Mr. Josiah Bowkers. A Considerable Number at Meeting. But Father Prentice yet languishes and cannot get there. Mr. Goss read his Concio on John 21, 15. N.B. Mr. Marsh of Narraganset, with his Brethren that were against him, the principal of them came with their Grievances and Difficultys. This took up most of our Time to Day. They were advis'd to choose a Council. With this they comply'd, and chose the churchs under the pastoral Care of the Reverend Messers Loring, Cushing, Williams of Waltham, Stone and Smith.

12. Mr. Campbell of Oxford came, and made proposals about erecting a New Association. Mr. Loring preach'd the Public Lecture on Acts 3, 22. After Dinner, when I had invited the Association to my House next meeting I perceiv'd that it was mov'd by one and another that it was Mr. Marsh's turn to preach—but I privately Signify'd to Mr. Loring that I should be dissatisfy'd if they Should impose Mr. Marsh upon me. Mr. Loring consented that the Turn might proceed in the order in which it would if Mr. Marsh was absent—viz. Mr. Loring and Mr. Millen to perform the Exercises, and thus it was left without any formal Act or Vote. Mr. Loring, Stone, Seccomb, Goss, Smith, Martyn and I rode together after meeting to Mr. Martyns. After I came home there arose a great storm of Thunder and Lightning with some Rain. One Flash of Lightning exceeding Sharp, as we sat in the Kitchen after Evening Prayer—it came in among us as if very near indeed—but thro divine mercy did no Hurt. N.B. Ebenezer finish'd Mowing to Day.

13. Mr. Martyn and his wife came over with Mr. Seccomb and din'd with me. Mr. Seccomb preach'd on John 7, 37. N.B. Rainy yet Mr. Martyn etc. return'd home and Mr. Seccomb with them. N.B. Mrs. Wheeler here about the Bible and offers me 18£. Mrs. Biglo brought her Relation. Ebenezer has yet one Load of Hay that lyes abroad.

14. Deacon Meriam and Mr. James Whipple of Grafton here in their Way over to Mr. Martyn and want a Copy of the late Councils Result, and of divers important Votes which I got ready for them when they return'd. N.B. Mr. Martyn accepts the Modera-

torship. Continues to rain and mist till towards night. A Token of great Goodness from God! May we have Grace to make a proper Return! Sent Ebenezer with a Team to Deacon Newtons for six Bushels of Lime, which has stood there this Year or Two. Mr. Williams brought us the first pigeons which he has caught or which we have seen this Year. Ebenezer went to Deacon Newtons for 6 Bushels of Lime, repos'd there, but brings only one Bushel and half.

15. Ebenezer gets in the Last of the Hay at Home.

16. Sacrament. I preach'd on [blank]. P.M. from Gen. 2, 17. Repeated sermon on Heb. 9, 27. N.B. Brother James Fay, now of Hardwick, attempting to tarry at Communion. Deacon Newton withdrew. Divers other Brethren Shew'd their dissatisfaction likewise—viz. Brother Tainter, Brother Miller, Brother Daniel Warrin—upon which I desir'd Mr. James Fay to withdraw, which upon his doing I sent for Deacon Newton, and he return'd to his Duty and Office accordingly. N.B. Brother James Fay din'd with me. P.M. I appointed a Church Meeting upon his affair to be tomorrow 4 o'Clock p.m. and Catechizing at the Meeting House next Friday.

17. In the morning went to Deacon Newtons about the Lime—bought and paid for 2 Bushels. Deacon Kimball of Hopkinton came to whitewash and spot my Kitchen, and Lath and plaister my new Study. Mr. Martyn and his Brother Marritt⁴ of Cambridge here. P.M. My wife and I went to Esquire Bakers to raising of west end of his House, and before 5 was at the Meeting House, few members being come—but presently more—between Twenty and Thirty at Length. Brother James Fay present. His Affair was laid before the Church, and his Desire of his own and his wife's Dismission to the Church at Hardwick. After some Debate he acknowledg'd himself to blame for his going to the separate meeting at Grafton. His acknowledgment was writ by me, and Sign'd by him—upon which he was restor'd and his request granted. At Eve Brother Daniel Forbush and Brother James Bradish junior here, complaining that Deacon Newton

⁴ The Reverend Mr. Martyn had married Mary Marrett of Cambridge.

(from what he said in Church Meeting) had not done his Duty to Brother James Fay, in private dealings with him, when Fay first told him of his going to the separate meeting. They hinted also that John Rogers Should be dealt with for neglecting to make his peace with the Church.

18. I Catechiz'd the Children at the Meeting House a. and p.m. About 70 Children of both sexes, viz. about 44 Boys and 26 Girls. N.B. Mr. Benjamin How at work for me a.m. Casing my study window, putting up a Shelf. N.B. I sent a Letter to Deacon Newton upon his not dealing previously and privately with Brother James Fay. Deacon Kimball at work here and lodges again.

19. Deacon Kimball finish'd today and went home at night. Mrs. Winchester here p.m. tells us that about 170 Captives are Come from Canada to Boston, and that Benjamin Tainter is come, but that Phinehas Forbush is Dead. Betty Ball⁵ here to be examin'd.

20. In the morning I rode over to see Deacon Forbush and his Dauter in Law the widow of his son Phinehas to mourn with them under their Bereavement and pray'd with them. Went to Lieutenant Tainters to rejoice with them but was somewhat troubled to see Lieutenant's Indifference about going down to Boston for his son. I did not 'light—but, hasten'd home and rode over to Mr. Martyn's. Mr. Morse preach'd his Lecture from 1 Cor. 6, 11— alas I was much too dull and heavy in my attendance! The Lord pardon it for Jesus' sake! N.B. The Church then chose their Deacons. Mr. Livermore⁶ and Mr. Matthias Rice. N.B. Mr. Morse's wife with him. I return'd at Eve. N.B. Neighbour Benjamin How picks Apples in my Orchard to make my Cyder (this early) to the Halves.

21. Benjamin Tainter, I hear, got home. Ebenezer mow'd Rowing. I was somewhat feeble.

22. Benjamin Tainter came to see me and gave me a narrative of his Captivity and Return. P.M. I rode to Worcester. Met Mr. Maccarty going to Westborough. Lodg'd at Mr. Maccarty's.

⁵ The daughter of James Ball.

⁶ Jonathan Livermore.

23. I preach'd at Worcester on Luke 19, 10, a. and p.m. Baptiz'd a child of Mr. Ebenezer Flagg. Mr. Maccarty preach'd at Westborough but he return'd home at Eve. After Exercises I went over to Dr. Brecks but Supp'd and Lodg'd at Mr. Maccartys.

24. After Breakfast Mr. Maccarty and I went over to Dr. Brecks. N.B. Changed my Two octavo Volumes of Baileys Dictionary⁷ with the Doctor for his Folio of the Same Work and gave him 45/ old Tenor Difference. Din'd at Colonel Chandlers. In returning home call'd at Mr. Cushings,⁸ but he was not at home. Found my Family in Peace. Blessed be God!

25. One Mr. Abner Ely of Springfield here. P.M. Joseph Bowker examin'd. At Eve Dodge (of College) here. He gives me a notable account of Mr. Williams of Eston preaching last Sabbath at Grafton and disputing with the Separatists.

26. Ebenezer about the Rowing and cutting Stalks.

27. Mrs. Hardy (Phinehas's wife)⁹ here with her Sister Hannah Rice¹⁰ of Sutton, with her son Thomas Rice, and they all din'd here. P.M. I preach'd at old Mr. Graves's¹¹—his wife having been long confin'd from public ordinances. Acts 20, 21, was the Text. N.B. I deliver'd a particular Address to the old Woman, She having been ordinarily but too insensible. N.B. Reverend Mr. Barrett there and pray'd after Sermon.

28. [No entry.]

29. Thomme came up from Marlborough to see us.

30. On Mat. 13, 47 to 50. Dr. Gott here and din'd with us, as did Captain Willards wife from Grafton. P.M. Repeated with some Alterations and additions sermon on Ps. 126, on occasion not only of Benjamin Tainters but a great Number of Captives returning from Canada. Mr. Norton their Chaplain being among them.

31. I carry'd Molly as far as Esquire Brighams¹² at Marl-

⁷ Nathan Bailey, the eminent English philologist, published *An Universal Etymological English Dictionary* (London, 1721). At least 10 editions appeared by 1742.

⁸ The Reverend Job Cushing of Shrewsbury.

⁹ Prudence Warren.

¹⁰ Mrs. Noah (Warren) Rice.

¹¹ John Graves.

¹² Samuel Brigham.

borough (she having the Toothach) in order to her going to Dr. Gotts. Thomme went with us part of the way to Carry my Portmantle. I went on my way to Cambridge. Mr. Maccarty overtook me at Marlborough, and rode with me to Cambridge Bounds and then proceeded to Boston. I went to Mr. Danforths and to Mr. Boardmans, gave Bond and receiv'd a Letter of Guardianship for my Children. Lodg'd at Mother Champney's.

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

1. Rode to Boston with Brother Champney in order to go to Mr. Fletcher who had bought his place; and we were accordingly with him. We din'd at Brother Samuel Parkmans. A Sickly Time in Boston. The Venerable Dr. Colman¹ dy'd Suddenly last Saturday. Cousen Lydia Draper also is Dead—her Funeral I attended this Evening. Was with my Brother Alexander at Mr. Fletchers also, and I receiv'd of him 108£ 4 shillings old Tenor, being the remainder of what was due to my Children out of the two thirds of Father Champneys Estate. N.B. We went also to Judge Sewalls.² I lodg'd at Brother Alexanders. N.B. Brother Champney led my Horse to Cambridge.

2. Mr. Samuel Checkley³ junior was ordain'd at old North. Din'd with the multitude at Mr. John Brecks. P.M. Dr. Colman was bury'd. When such pillars fall, how the Whole Fabric Trembles! Help Lord! What threatening aspects! A vast procession at the Funeral! Twas observ'd that 66 Couple being the Males of the Church and the Colleague pastor in deep mourning before the Corps: Six senior pastors Pall Bearers with Hat bands down: 100 Couple of mourners and men—among the Latter, the Council, a great number of ministers—4 Episcopal, among which Mr. Hooper⁴ newly from England—46 Couple of women. 4 Coaches in the first of which the Governor. 8 four wheel Chaises and 7 Common. May the God of the Spirits of all Flesh grant

¹ The Reverend Benjamin Colman of the Brattle Street Church.

² Stephen Sewall, justice of the Superior Court of Judicature.

³ (Harvard 1743).

⁴ William Hooper was the minister of Trinity Church in Boston, 1747-1767.

double portions of His Spirit and quicken all surviving ministers to the work the Works etc! [?] I supp'd at widow Jarvis's with my Brother Alexander and his wife. Lodg'd at sister Willards. N.B. Cousen Nathaniel Parkman not well. Gone to Nantucket.

3. Mr. Webb⁵ preach'd the Public Lecture bewailing Dr. Colmans Death, from Rev. 1, 18. I din'd at Brother Alexander's. My Horse was Sent down to Mr. Procters by Brother Champney. Sarah Tyley lodg'd at Mrs. Keggells in order to be ready in the Morning to ride with me. I lodg'd at Brother Alexanders who kept my Horse also.

4. Sarah Tyley rode with me to Westborough. We stop'd at Cambridge—at old Mr. Livermors in Weston, and at Mr. Darlings⁶ nigh Marlborough. Found my Family well, through God's great Mercy and Goodness. To His name be Glory! N.B. my Young Cattle are brought Home from Sutton, except a Young Steer.

5. I devoted the forenoon as much as I could to Such recollections etc. as I have endeavour'd to employ this Day in—but was oblig'd to do what I could in preparing a Sermon for tomorrow. See Natal. [The following appears in the Natalitia for the date of September 5, 1747.]

I could not Spend the Day (being Saturday and when I had been at Boston in the week and so was not prepar'd for the Sabbath) as I Should have been glad to do; but mindful in some measure of my Custom on this Day, but more I hope of the infinite Obligations I am under to the great God, who upholds my Soul, I gave myself as I could the fore part of it to recollections and Prayer. And O that God most gracious and merciful would thro the merits of Jesus Christ accept my (tho scanty) Penitence, and my imperfect Devotions! O that God would kindle up in me holy affections, and enliven me in this way! Might I be in some fit manner sensible how certainly I must die, and how uncertain the Time when. May the Death of that eminent Man Dr. Colman, whose Funeral I have been this week attending on, rouse me to work the works of him that has Sent me while the Day of Life

⁵ John Webb.

⁶ Thomas Darling.

lasts, and to be ready when the Night shall overspread me! O that I might enter into new Resolutions and may the almighty Grace of God be sufficient for me to enable me to keep them!

6. I preach'd a.m. on Heb. 9, 27, a repetition. P.M. on Mat. 24, 45, 46. On Occasion of Dr. Colmans Death. N.B. Mrs. Harwood din'd with us.

7. Old Mr. Baker⁷ of Marlborough here.

8. Mr. Baker again. P.M. Catechetical Exercise on the first Commandment. At Eve came Mr. James Wellman and lodg'd here.

9. After Dinner Mr. Wellman went to Sutton. He tells me that tomorrow is to be a fast with his people in order to gather a Church. Mr. Campbell, Mr. Hall,⁸ Mr. Webb,⁹ and Mr. Maccarty are to assist in it. At Eve Joseph Bowker brot me a Letter from Barrett which manifests some uneasiness on account of his coming to Mr. Graves t'other Day when I preach'd there. I immediately wrote him an answer, and sent it by the same Hand.

10. Would have gone to Worcester to preach Mr. Maccartys Lecture but it rain'd all Day, and prevented me. I gave myself to reading, Meditation etc.

11. Bekky Hicks rode my Mare to Cambridge. Deacon Forbush and his wife and Mrs. Tainter here, as they return'd from Suffield. N.B. Mr. Nortons Letter to Deacon Forbush concerning his son Phinehas that dy'd at Quebeck.

12. Mr. Buckminster here and tells me his mother dy'd last night.

13. Mat. 24, 25 and p.m. repeated on Ezra 10, 10. Mrs. Phillips of Southborough and Mrs. Thurston din'd here.

14. Fowl morning. Mr. Buckminster din'd here.

15. Benjamin Tainter and Molly rode in Chaise to Cambridge. At Eve Mr. Bacon and Brother Hicks.

16. Mr. Bacon and Brother Hicks go off. Sarah Henry makes Billey Leather Breeches. 26 pound of Beef of Mr. Rogers at 12 pence pound. Night Thunder Lightning.

⁷ Joseph Baker.

⁸ The Reverend David Hall of Sutton.

⁹ The Reverend Nathan Webb of Uxbridge.

17. Mr. Cushing preach'd my Lecture to young people on 1 King 18, 12.

19. Ebenezer with the assistance of Nathan Maynard part of yesterday and part of to Day made six Barrells and Half of Cyder; of which Neighbour John Rogers had Two and Ebenezer boyld Two. At Eve came Captain Ephraim Williams to see me—but would not lodge here but would go to his Cousen Mr. Samuel Williams and he accordingly lodg'd there. He tells me that Dr. Chauncy and Mr. Jackson of Boston parted at Eagers and would go to Marlborough and keep Sabbath there, against his Sollicitations to let him pilot them here.

20. On Mat. 24, 25 and P.M. on Ezra 10, 11. At Evening I read to the Church a Letter from the Second Church in Sutton desiring our Assistance in their approaching Ordination. Upon which our Church voted Compliance with their Request, and confirm'd it by asking whether any body objected? But all being Silent, we then proceeded to appointment of the Delegates, and Two were offer'd to be the Number, and try'd by Vote; but there were So few voted, that I enquir'd what might be the Matter? Captain Warrin answer'd that seeing the Church had no Returns made 'em of what was done when they sent out to Councils and such like, he did not know whether it was worthwhile to send any more. I soon found by Ensign Bruce's warm Speech (that follow'd as well as went before Captain Warrins) it was my not reading the Grafton Result that had given such Disgust. I told 'em That we had not the Custom with us, nor in the Churches where I had been concern'd that I know of, that when we had ever done it it was a special occasion for doing it; That indeed I had Some Reasons against Reading Results abroad round the Country, to Spread at great Distance (it would be some times) the miscarriages of Christians and Ministers etc. But yet I was free and ready to gratifie 'em in the present Case; either at my own House or otherwise when desir'd and was sorry they would make Such a Difficulty as that to clogg the present Duty (or to that purpose). Lieutenant Forbush said a man had told me that he ask'd me to read it—but that I did not. I reply'd that I had

not a Copy at first, when I came Back from that Council—and that afterwards it seem'd late to read a Result; and I did not know there was any uneasiness about it, and could not take it well that the first Discovery of uneasiness Should be in such a public manner as this. Captain Baker mov'd that being it was the sabbath it might be better to defer it to some other Time. Lieutenant Tainter said he saw not why the Business might not go on, for this was a different work from that of going to Councils upon Differences etc. But twas urg'd that we should be together again at the Thursday ensuing, and we had best wave anything further about it till then. So it was deferr'd accordingly to that Day. (the Day of the Lecture). But note well, that when Brother Stephen Fay and Brother Daniel Hardy said they believ'd there was not a Vote, it made me recurr from that to the first vote, (of granting the request of the Letter)and observ'd to them that I esteem'd that vote to have been pass'd, for I had put it both ways, and desir'd if there was objection it might be shown. But at this Time there was no Objection made against that Vote. I look upon that therefore as doubly confirm'd. When I came home Captain Ephraim Williams was at my House and tarry'd with us over night. About nine o'Clock there was a storm of Thunder and Lightning But the Lord preserv'd us in safety.

21. Captain Williams went over to his Cousens and I accompany'd him. I went to Mr. Ebenezer Nurse's and he went with me to the Cedar Swamp which Brother Hicks has offer'd to Sell, and we went to the further end of it: but was greatly dissatisfy'd with it, and determin'd not to have it on any such Terms as Brother expect'd.

22. [No entry.]

23. [No entry.]

24. Mr. Wellman of Sutton did not come to preach my Lecture as I had Sent to him to do, but Mr. Martyn came, and he preach'd for me on John 4, 10.

25. Ebenezer went to Sutton and brought home the Young Cow which Brother Hicks wanted to have for his Cedar Swamp,

and he brought also a young Steer which had been left out of the Drove.

26. Ebenezer picking Apples—tho a scarce year with others, yet plentiful with me. *D.G.* But many are sadly wasted and rot away.

27. Sacrament. Preach'd on Mat. 13, 51, a.m. On Jer. 8, 4, 5. Deacon Fay, old Mr. Bellows,¹⁰ and Mr. Cutter of Brookfield and Mrs. Deliverance Fay¹¹ din'd here. At Evening had Some more peculiar Meditations and Resolutions respecting a Closer Walk with God and self Reflection—but alas! how weak and slender is all that I can do! Read at night Sir Matthew Hales Discourse on Religion¹² and Letters to his Children.¹³

28. Visited old Mr. Fay. Was at Mr. Whipples, Lieutenant Tainter, at Mr. Jonah Warrin's and at Mr. Williams's. N.B. at this last House (Mr. Ebenezer Nurse being by) we had some Discourse concerning the vast alteration of the Price of all sorts of Things, and the great Distress it reduces Ministers in a peculiar manner to: But twas plain that Mr. Williams was disquieted with it and did not love to hear of it; whereas considering the Evidence and palpable Injustice done me in particular by the Precincts Delay to consider my Case, it is an aggravation of the Evil, that it can't be mention'd without giving Disgust. May God give me Wisdom and Patience, and Fidelity!

29. I walk'd down to Mr. Cooks and there wrote a Letter to my Dauter Molly at Cambridge and sent it with 12£ of money by Eli Forbush. A number of Hands came and gather'd my Corn. Mr. Samuel Fay junior, Joseph Green junior, Edwards Whipple (who was a first mover) and p.m. John Chamberlin, John Rogers, Benjamin Tainter, Joseph Bowker. Had Mr. Tinneys Cart as well as my own. P.M. visited Stephen Maynard. N.B. Dr. Greenleaf there to see him. At Evening husk'd. I know not of more than a small Number, and we provided accordingly, but there came (as I think they were counted) 34. Yet God was

¹⁰ Eleazer Bellows.

¹¹ Daughter of Samuel Fay, Jr.

¹² Matthew Hale, *The Judgment of the late Lord Chief Justice Sir M. H. of the Nature of True Religion* (London, 1684).

¹³ Matthew Hale, *A Letter from Sir Matthew Hale . . . to his Children* (London, 1684).

pleas'd to bless our Provision and he had Considerable left. N.B. they finish'd at 10 o'Clock. Sang latter part of Ps. 4 in Tate and Brady. Thro the Bounty of Providence a good Crop.

30. Ebenezer carts up the Corn from the Barn to the House. Hir'd Mr. Chamberlin, who came about noon and help'd us till night.

OCTOBER, 1747

1. Very rainy Morning. Troubled about our Hoggs, which have one Time after another got in upon the Heaps of Apples. Read Dr. Watts's *Ruin and Recovery*¹—borrow'd of the Reverend Mr. Davis.²

2. Ebenezer carted 2 Load of Apples over to Mr. Hows Mill.

3. Was greatly interrupted by my meddling with the Little House yesterday and to Day.

4. A.M. on Matt. 13, 52. P.M. repeated sermon on Isa. 26, 9. Many Grafton people at meeting; no preacher there. N.B. My great Distresses last night and this morning on account of my Negligence and unpreparedness. But the Lord be merciful to my unrighteousness and remember not against me my Transgressions. O may the Blood of the Great Sacrifice be accepted to make atonement. N.B. Captain Maynard here in the morning and informs me that his son is sick—and that my Dauter Molly is ill at Boston.

5. Visited Stephen Maynard and was at Mr. Hows. Ebenezer making Cyder there. Timothy Warrin here and by paying the money for my Oxen took up his Bond. Lieutenant Tainter return'd a Blanket which Captain Maynard borrow'd for Stephen when a Soldier. The Morning very Cold.

6. Conceiving it somewhat probable that I may be call'd to give the Right Hand to Mr. Wellman tomorrow I took a little Time to prepare a few Hints. Lieutenant Tainter here and cut a young Calf, and din'd here. Tells us that he heard at Watertown that Mr. Stearns³ of Lunenbough is Dead. Mr. Stone and his

¹ Isaac Watts seems not to have published a separate work under this title. It appeared, however, in his *Discourses, Essays, and Tracts on Various Subjects*, VI (London, 1753), 177-320.

² Joseph Davis of Holden.

³ The Reverend David Stearns.

Delegates here in their way to Sutton, but I was not ready to go with them nor had I design'd to go so soon in the Day, my Circumstances being very pressing and difficult at this Time. Hir'd Thomas Rogers to help in picking Apples. Ebenezer got out 5 Barrells and a part of a Barrell at Mr. Hows Mill. One Barrell sold to Mr. Chamberlin and 1/2 Barrell I sent to old Mrs. Crouch, widow and Blind. 4 Barrells and Some Water Cyder, were put into the Cellar. Dr. Gott here P.M. Just at Evening (I suppose Sundown) I set out on my Journey alone. Reach'd to Captain Lelands, and lodg'd there. N.B. Mr. Isaac Glezon⁴ of Framingham there.

7. We were Somewhat disturb'd by a Crew of Indians with a Violin last night while we were o'Bed. But thro Divine Mercy I rose well and rode (alone) to Mr. Samuel Brecks in North Sutton. Mr. Turners⁵ Church in Rehoboth did not come. But the following Churches came, viz. of Oxford, first in Sutton, first in Westborough, of Uxbridge, second in Lynn, Southboro, Worcester, Wilmington. Reverend Campbell was chose Moderator and I was Chosen Scribe. N.B. My Brethren Williams and Miller satisfy'd themselves about joining with the first Church in Sutton, by discoursing with Mr. Campbell. Mr. Wellman was somewhat carefully examin'd yet gave the Council good Satisfaction, both praying and delivering part of a sermon before the Council also. In the public Assembly Mr. Chase⁶ deliver'd a very good sermon on Rev. 1, 20, those words, the angels of the Churches. N.B. Mr. Stone was appoint'd to pray after the Charge, but he not sitting in the pulpit, the Moderator did himself, but (an unusual thing) he did not lay on Hands in said last prayer, and therefore none of us did. Soon after supper (at which Mr. Webb pray'd, and Mr. Stone in returning Thanks omitted to mention what he had receiv'd) we mounted to come home. Called at my Cousen Fullers, and at Captain Lelands.⁷ My Family in Peace. Blessed be God. N.B. Ebenezer at Ordination and supp'd at Mr. Hollands. N.B. We hear again from Lunenbourg that Mr. Stearns is not Dead.

⁴ Gleason.

⁵ David Turner (Harvard 1718), minister of Rehoboth, 1721-1757. *Sibley*, VI, 287.

⁶ The Reverend Stephen Chase of Lynnfield.

⁷ James Leland of Sutton.

8. Rainy. Ebenezer made some Cyder at old Mr. Maynards but was beat off by the weather from proceeding. Miserable Mrs. Wakefield⁸ I suppose hang'd, this afternoon at Cambridge.

9. [No entry.]

10. [No entry.]

11. (Being the Lords Day) in the morning came a Chair and who should be in it but Mr. Cowell and his wife (my Niece) who having tir'd their Horse yesterday were forc'd to Lodge at Wards in Marlborough. I preach'd on Jer. 8, 4, 5. P.M. on Ch. 3, 22. Return O backsliding Children etc. Repeating Sermon on the Ps. 28, 5 from page 25 nigh the bottom to page 33.

12. In the morning I rode to Lieutenant Tainters, who had kill'd a mutton and they put up a side of it in my portmantle. I brot it home. Had a Quarter of Beef of Mr. Jonah Warrin. Price of both the Mutton and Beef 12 d. Mr. Joseph Batchellor brought home a piece of 21 yards of part Callimanco and part pladd for me a Gown, and for Lucy another. P.M. I visited and pray'd with Jesse Maynards youngest Daughter, Sick at his Fathers. My Kinsman Cowell and his wife and Cousen Sarah Tyley rode over to Mr. Ebenezer Rice's, and my Wife was also of the Company, and she went as far as to Captain Fays, with design to provide some Salt Pork against Ministers Meeting. Our own Pork (notwithstanding we laid up So much) being almost out.

13. Mr. Cowell and his Wife went away, for Boston. The Association met at my House, viz. Mr. Loring, Cushing, Barrett, Martyn, Stone, Seccomb, Smith, Morse, Davis, and Wellman. See the Records of the Association. N.B. Jesse Maynards Child dy'd last night. Mrs. Jerusha Wood very low. While we were at Supper a messenger came for me to go and see her. I found her drawing near to Death, yet she was very desirous of Life, but with resignation to the will of God. She had not assurance, but seem'd to have a well-grounded Hope. She dy'd before morning.

14. Some Difficulty about my having desir'd Mr. Loring to preach my Lecture today, it being Mr. Marsh's Turn (as they would have it)—especially Mr. Smith was warm, Mr. Morse and

⁸ Elizabeth Wakefield was hanged "for the Murder of her spurious Offspring." *Boston Weekly News-Letter*, Oct. 15, 1747.

Mr. Davis also in behalf of Mr. Marsh. In opposition to them I declared my resolution against him. A vote was passed (which was to my great Satisfaction) that Mr. Loring should preach to-day. Accordingly he preached. His Text Ezek. 36, 26. An excellent Discourse—many much affected—God grant the Impressions may continue and be ripened! After Lecture and Dinner and some Time in Conversation the ministers went home. N.B. Jesse Maynards Child bury'd from his Fathers; Mr. Martyn officiated, (for I could not leave the ministers nor my work as Clerk, but was obliged to Stay at Home.) At evening I went down there—another of the Same Children taken sick.

15. Ebenezer undertakes to make some more Cyder but was so beat off again by the Rain that he could only Squeeze out a part of a Cheese, three Barrells though Neighbour John Rogers helped him part of the afternoon. Mrs. Jerusha Ward was bury'd—I attended tho twas raining, and the storm prevailed very much at Evening; and in the Night. Fast at Grafton. They send to Messrs. Martyn and Hall, Eaton⁹ and Frost.¹⁰

16. Was at Neighbour Pratts, and Maynards about the making Cyder—send Ebenezer again to go on with it and went to Mr. Batchellor and got him to rig up my Casks—visited Neighbour Stephen Maynard who is ill yet. Proves a bright tho windy Day. Am griev'd at my interruptions, but cannot, I think, avoid them.

17. Ebenezer proceeds in gathering and laying up winter Apples. I went to the Funeral of Mr. Timothy Warrens youngest Child. The Third Funeral this week, but yet tis not a Sickly Time among us. P.M. came Mr. Stephen Frost¹¹ of Cambridge going to Grafton if he could not obtain of any Body to Change with him. I was oblig'd to deny him, my particular Circumstances being such that I could not go. Yet there are so many Exceptions made there against the ministers and preachers that go there that tis pity ordained ministers can't go in their stead, to instruct and direct them in this difficult Time! And by means of the Con-

⁹ The Reverend Joshua Eaton of Spencer.

¹⁰ The Reverend Amariah Frost of Milford.

¹¹ (Harvard 1739). A schoolmaster of Lancaster and an occasional preacher. *Sibley*, X, 369.

tinual Interruptions and hindrances this week, every Day of it, I needed to change. My Soul is often bowed down with my Burthens—not being able to take Care of my Family without more impediment to my Studys and even to my whole Ministerial work then ought to be suffered.

18. A.M. I went on with the Subject from Mat. 24, 25. P.M. repeated a Number of Articles in the 4 Applicatory Head in sermon on Ps. 28, 5, viz. from page 33 and onward to the End of the particulars respecting Reformation of Life and Conversation, but with various alterations which I had not Time to write down there in. O that God would please to overlook my many Defects and give His blessing to my weak Endeavours! At Eve read the two first Judge Hale's Letters to his Children I would learn of him to concern my self for the highest Good of mine.

19. Lowery and Sometimes Showered and looked like a rainy Day and therefore Ebenezer deferred making Cyder to Day. Yet afterwards it held up, and I was Sorry we did not go on because the mill at old Mr. Maynards is left for me when others are depending. Neighbour Pratt in particular, and because I want to go to Boston this week with Cousen Sarah Tyley. P.M. I went over to Mr. Martyn—but both he and his wife were gone over to Bolton.

20. Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlain Collector came and brought me £17. 1/ of Old Tenor. A Cold Time for Ebenezer who makes Cyder to Day. At eve Mr. Goddard of Leicester here, with his Brother Benjamin. N.B. Our Neighbour Nathaniel Whitney here also.

21. Bright Day. Ebenezer making Cyder at Old Mr. Maynards Mill. This Day I Suppose the Council meets at Narraganset number 2, by reason of the Difficultys there with Reverend Elisha Marsh. The Lord be with them and grant all needed Wisdom and Understanding, Counsel and Fear of God. And may there by an happy Event!

22. Cousen Sarah Tyley and I set out for Boston. The occasion of going to Day rather than next Monday, as I designed, was this, Mr. Jesse Maynard brought a message last night from

Mr. Martyn, that I Should have his Chair if I could not do without, but that he had rather not lend it. I concluded (charitably) that it must be because of feebleness of the Wheels; but if otherwise, and it was but half granted it was better not to accept of it: and another reason is I foresee I shall want to be at home next Wednesday. We called at Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlins, who being Collector, had money to pay me. We called also at Captain Goddards. N.B. his Chaise was gone down and not returned, but he readily lent it to me if I lit of it. Molly was at Mother Champneys and pritty well. Cousen Sarah and I proceeded to Boston, to her mothers—But I lodg'd and my horse kept at Brother Alexander's.¹²

23. I made a few Visits, dispatched a little Business, dined at cousen Elias's with Madam Delhonde,¹³ bargained with my Kinsman for Pools Synopsis 3 last volumes for his Debt to me. Bought my Wife a plad Gown at brother Sam Parkmans (9 yards for 9£) and paid him for it and for everything else I had there. Was with Mr. Whipple at Mrs. Keggels at Eve, and hastened to Cambridge (tho it rained somewhat) and lodged there. N.B. Ward of College with Molly.

24. It rained, yet I set out determining to ride as I could bear and as the storm Should permitt, tho it were no further than the Next Town. Stop'd at Justice Harris's in Watertown. Din'd at Mr. Cooks¹⁴ in Sudbury—called at Mr. Darlings and reached home in some Comfort, tho sometimes it rained hard, and was wet all the day. Found my Dwelling in Peace—tho bad News round—for Mrs. Chamberlin (Johns wife) lost her Pocket Book in Boston with all her money of her Marketing (10 or 12£). But this was a Small thing compared with the accident at Grafton last Thursday, when Mr. Boynes was about to blow up a Rock in a Well of Mr. Charles Brighams the Train took fire by his picking of the Rock—Mr. Prentice's son Solomon was greatly wounded and his Leg despaired of. Several others were much hurt yet one man who was in the well, along with Mr. Boynes escaped.

¹² Parkman's brother, Alexander.

¹³ Wife of Louis Delhonde, the physician.

¹⁴ The Reverend William Cooke of East Sudbury, which later became the town of Wayland.

25. Mr. Martyn here in the morning going up to Grafton to preach there. Mr. Stephen Frost for him. N.B. News that Solomon Prentice is Dead. I preached a. and p.m. on Rev. 20, 12, those words the Books were opened, and another Book was opened which was the Book of Life. At Eve Mr. Martyn returned and supped and lodged here. N.B. Mr. Prentice Sent me a message per Mr. Martyn to transcribe the Papers of the Council for him, but no word of his son's Funeral nor Desire that I or any of mine would attend it.

26. Mr. Martyn left us before Noon. No rupture about his Chair. N.B. Mary Bradish here, about having a Sermon at her House when she first goes into it. But we agree that the Private Meeting which is appointed to be at her Fathers next week be at her House, which is close by, to avoid Superstition and Ostentation.

27. Ebenezer fetched Clay from Mr. Abner Newtons to mend my Chimney Back. Read various things—in particular read part of Mr. Jerimiah Borrourghs of Gospel Remission.¹⁵

28. Took some Notice of the Lord's long Patience towards me, and his Church here, these 23 Years. O that God would forgive my great unprofitableness and quicken and assist me in all his Works! And O That I might observe how my precious Time wastes, and Eternity long Eternity hastens upon me! I felt but poorly in the Day, but had especially much indisposition of Body thru the Night. Ebenezer dugg Potatoes. We are laying up for winter of every Store we can. O may we lay up in Time for Eternity!

29. Much indisposed in Body, but I thank God my mind not greatly sunk.

30. Rain. As we have been blessed with a good Crop of Corn, so likewise of Turnips, which are now Cutting. Mr. Cushing on his Journey home in the Rain, here at Evening.

31. Thomme came at Evening.

¹⁵ Jeremiah Burroughs, *Gospel Remission, or a Treatise Shewing that True Blessedness Consists in Pardon of Sin* (London, 1668).

NOVEMBER, 1747

1. I deliver'd the whole of my Preparation in the forenoon that the Congregation might have at one View what I could think further proper from Mat. 24, 46 and on occasion of beginning a New Year of Sabbaths and Gospel Privileges. May the Lord impress especially my own Heart herewith and not only make me a faithful and wise servant but enable me to continue and persevere to the Coming of the Lord that I may be among those Servants who shall be truly Blessed! P.M. I repeated Some parts of sermons on Jam. 1, 21. N.B. Mr. Jenison¹ come into Town again and at Meeting here.

2. P.M. at Merchant Rice's, dining there with the Officers, Captain Baker etc. At Eve pray'd with the Company before they were dismiss'd. N.B. Brother Hicks among us. Mr. Hall² of Sutton on his journey to Concord, spake with him on the Road. He informs me that the people of his Parish lately voted him 400£ (Old Tenor) for this Year. N.B. Mr. Loring preach'd at Grafton yesterday but he was not here either going or returning. N.B. Reverend Mr. Reed call'd here with his wife's Mother from New Haven (whilst I was from home) and brought me a Letter from Mrs. Pierpoint.

3. Brother Hicks and I reckon'd, about my Cattle which he had kept in the Summer and I pay'd him 33 shillings old Tenor for keeping Six: and we reckon'd also on account of the Cow that calv'd at his House, whose Calf he kill'd and whose milk he had till Ebenezer fetch'd the Cow home and he allow'd me but 3£ for both the Calf and the milk, but I yielded to anything he would propose least we should by Some Means or other get angry, which would be worse than all the Controversy was worth. I dreaded the dangerous Minute! Thomme return'd to Marlborough. N.B. by him I sent to Deacon Rice³ 10£ Old Tenor being the full of 50£ borrow'd of him last March.

4. Ebenezer plough'd a little part of the Day. My Wife and I rode over to make Mr. Martyn a visit and din'd there. We after

¹ William Jenison.

² The Reverend David Hall.

³ Caleb Rice.

Dinner walk'd to their Meeting House, the workmen being then about the Pulpit and Mr. Martyns Pew. At Eve we return'd in Safety and Peace. Blessed be God! O the Sweets and Charms of Mutual Love and Friendship! May nothing ever invade or disturb this Sacred Calm! I afterwards went to Mr. Hezekiah Hows and bought a Couple of Geese for Store. Gave 18 shillings for the Couple.

5. Rainy yet I rode to the Private Meeting which was appointed to be at old Mr. Bradish's but we met at his Dauter Mary's. N.B. She had newly got into her House. I preach'd on Mat. 6, 33. Not many attended, but of elderly persons there were besides Mr. Bradish and his wife Justice Baker, Deacon Forbush and Deacon Newton, Captain Warrin, Lieutenant Tainter—Several women, and young people of both sexes.

6. I preach'd my Lecture from Neh. 10, 29.

7. Mr. John Chamberlin here.

8. Sacrament. Before I went to Meeting came the Reverend Mr. Caleb Rice of Sturbridge. I preach'd a.m. on Song 2, 4. Mr. Rice p.m. on Col. 3, 3. Mr. Rice lodg'd here.

9. Mr. Rice left us to go to Marlborough. My wife and I accompany'd with old Mr. Whipple and his wife rode up to see old Mr. Thomas Knowlton and his wife. In my way I went to Mr. Eleazer Bellows to admonish his Dauter Charity for her Repeated Fornication, which Duty I (as I was able) discharg'd and she thank'd me for it. We call'd also at Mr. Joseph Knowltons. We din'd at Mr. Abraham Knowltons, they having provided purposefully very plentifully. As we return'd we call'd at Mr. Joseph Miles's and at Mr. Gershom Brighams and at Mr. Francis Whipples. At Eve we return'd in Peace. D.G.

10. This Day met here the Committee of Ministers appointed by the late Association to look over the Answers which had been given to the Question: What had best be done to prevent the Threatening Defection in Religion and gather out what may be reduc'd to practice. They were Mr. Loring, Mr. Cushing and Mr. Stone. They din'd here. Mr. Loring pray'd before we began the work. But we could go no further than to mark and minute the

principal Heads without drawing up any Report. Mr. Loring stay'd all night. At Evening came one Mr. Rosebrook⁴ from Grafton with a Letter from Mr. Prentice desiring Copies of all the Papers of his Case. But I wrote to him to come here.

11. A Remarkable Morning, for the Conversation with Mr. Loring upon Christian Experiences—in which he was pleas'd to Relate much of his own. Mr. Loring din'd with me; as did also Mr. Prentice. N.B. They Two were together whilst I went to the Meeting House and Catechiz'd the Boys. P.M. Catechiz'd the Girls—the few that came. Ebenezer sows Rye about this Time.

12. I visited Martha Ward⁵ who is in a weak state. I was also at Mr. Abner Newtons, and at Evening at Deacon Newtons. Whilst I was gone from home Samuel Hicks⁶ was here as he return'd from Cambridge. N.B. On Monday morning last I Sold a Young Cow to Mr. John Chamberlin for 15£ old Tenor and last night a Spring Calf for 4£ of like money.

13. I rode up to Mr. Bezaleel Eagers to send a Letter to Deacon Whittemore⁷ about his looking out for a Chair for me: and sent it to Captain Saltmarsh's⁸ by one Randal. At Eve Mr. Benjamin Goddard here. N.B. His Discourse that Man by Adam Lost all—Natural Powers and all.

14. As it rain'd hard last night, so to Day. Yet at Evening I rode to Southborough and Mr. Stone hither.

15. I preach'd at Southborough on 2 Cor. 3, 15, p.m. on 10, 14, 17. Return'd home at Eve. Mr. Stone preach'd on Mat. 16, 24 and he also return'd home at Eve.

16. Neighbour Ebenezer Maynard kill'd a Pigg for me which at home Weigh'd 64. His Brother Nathan at Eve went with it to Boston. My wife and I at Mr. Whipples, his Dauter Lucy⁹ being married this Evening there. We had an agreeable Supper and Company. O may we remember the Midnight Cry!

⁴ James Rosborough of Grafton.

⁵ Daughter of Increase Ward.

⁶ The son of John Hicks of Sutton.

⁷ Samuel Whittemore of Cambridge.

⁸ Thomas Saltmarsh, an innkeeper of Watertown.

⁹ Lucy Whipple married Moses Pratt of Hardwick.

17. I read Mr. Hurrion's sermons on particular Redemption.¹⁰ After Dinner I sat down and wrote some Sketches on the second Commandment which I deliver'd at a Catechetical Exercise to young women this afternoon. After the Said Exercise I visited Martha Ward who is in a languishing Condition.

18. Nathan Maynard who carry'd a Pig to Boston for me, return'd last night and tells me that there was a great uproar and Mobb in Boston by Reason of a certain Man of War coming in there and pressing a great Number of Men the night before. A very rainy Time till p.m. towards Night. N.B. Mr. James Bowman was going down with an Horse for Forbush at Cambridge and a Letter to Molly—but he was prevented by the Rain. I went down myself as far as to Mr. Bavericks. N.B. My Cambridge Cow which we are fattening, Sick and lame. Captain Maynard here and at Eve Mr. Daniel Forbush informs that his Brother Jonathan as well as Bowman is going to Boston so that he can lead Molly an Horse down if I desire it.

19. I rode down to Neighbour Bavericks and Captain Warrins. Sent my mare and Sidesaddle by Mr. Bowman to Molly at Cambridge. Lieutenant Tainter here to see what is the matter with my Fat Cow.

20. Grows Cold, yet it is a pleasant bright Day. Mr. Jonathan Rogers thrash'd out some of my Rye for himself to Sow. He din'd with us.

21. Bright and pleasant but Cold and blustering. Expect Molly from Cambridge and she came at Evening with Forbush from Mr. Strattons at Waltham where they lodg'd having come from Cambridge the Evening before. They brot me Turretine's Theol. Elenct.¹¹ 3 volumes quarto which Mr. Eliot bought for me of Captain Wadsworth for 5£ old Tenor.

22. A. and P.M. on Jer. 8, 4, 5. O that God would give us a true sense of our Backslidings and recover us that there mayn't be a perpetual Backsliding!

¹⁰ John Hurrion (1675?-1731), an English Congregational minister, wrote *The Scripture Doctrine of Particular Redemption Stated and Vindicated in Four Sermons*. When this first appeared is uncertain but it may have been in his *Discourses*, 3 vols. (London, 1727).

¹¹ Franciscus Turretinus, *Compendium Theologiae Didactico-Elencticae* (Amsterdam, 1695).

23. [No entry.]

24. My wife and I visited Martha Ward—and from thence (Lieutenant Tainter there for us) we went over to the marriage of Samuel Baker and Susanna Tainter, at her Fathers.

25. At Evening came Two Gentlemen with a Letter from Mr. Edwards of Northampton. By the Letter I found em to be Messers Spencer and Strong, who were on their Journey to Boston, being Sent for by the Commissioners of the Corporation for Propagating Christian Knowledge in order to their going upon the mission to the Mohawks. They lodg'd here but I sent their Horses to Captain Maynards. By my Interruptions

26. was not able to finish my intended Discourse for the General Thanksgiving, which was on this Day, but was oblig'd to take a sermon I preach'd heretofore. It was on Lev. 3, 1 but made several alterations and large Additions. O that God would be pleas'd to accept the Sacrifice of Praise presented throughout this province to Day! and grant us Grace to improve Divine Benefits and Mercys to the Glory of the Great Bestower. In the Evening I had Opportunity to converse with our Two Strangers. Shew'd 'em Dr. Cotton Mather's Joyful Sound reaching to both the Indies; containing also an account of the Mission to Malabar, and Dr. Mathers Literary Correspondence with the Missionarys.¹² This Book I presented to the Mission to the Mohawks.

27. Messers Spencer and Strong pursued their Journey to Boston. I visited Martha Ward again, who continues very weak and low in mind and Body. She can't bear anything about her being in Danger of Death, but fills herself with Hopes that She Shall recover to Health. Forbush was here at Evening and brot a Letter from Mr. Martyn desiring we might Change next Lords Day.

28. Went down to Captain Maynards to Satisfie him for keeping the Horses I lately Sent there (viz. Messers. Spencers and Strongs) but I could not see him, being gone out from home, but I offer'd his son and his wife pay, tho they would not take it. I Sent Martha Ward a Fowl by Daniel Cook, Mr. Nurse's Boy.

¹² *India Christiana. A Discourse, Delivered unto the Commissioners, for the Propagation of the Gospel among the American Indians* (Boston, 1721).

29. I rode over to Mr. Martyns and preach'd to his people. A. and P.M. on 2 Cor. 3, 17, 18 and finish'd that Subject, which I began among them on March last. He preach'd to my people on Ezek. 18, 32 carrying on the Same Subject as he also began when we chang'd before. N.B. In the Northside meeting house a pulpit to preach in. Comfortable Day tho somewhat Cold. We both of us return'd home at Evening. May God to pleased to own and Bless our Endeavours! N.B. at Eve I understood that Eliezer Rice went away from Mr. Martyns Exercises again. Neither was his wife at meeting in the afternoon.

30. A Cold, windy, but bright Day. I am not a little concern'd about my keeping such a large Stock of Cattle for tho I have sold a Cow and one of the last Spring Calves yet have we 18 Horn Cattle besides our Horses and Sheep, and I fear my Hay will be short for them all, I therefore walk'd out toward Evening to see if I could either buy Hay or promote the Sale of Some of them or get some kept through the Winter. I went to Mr. Elijah Rice's and to Mr. Tennys. Call'd at the Shoemaker Garfields and at Neighbor John Chamberlins. We finish this month with a great deal of Comfort and Health both in person and in Family. Blessed be God!

DECEMBER, 1747

1. We din'd early and my Wife visited old Mrs. Crouch (Mrs. Rogers's mother) in her Blindness and lameness. I also call'd there and took her with me (Mrs. Crouch not able to go) to old Mrs. Dorcas Forbushs,¹ where, according to appointment made in my Name by the Reverend Mr. Martyn last Lords Day I preach'd to the Said Widow Forbush. Text John 9, 4. A Considerable Assembly. O that the word of God might have free Course and be glorified! After the Exercise we visited Martha Ward again and pray'd with her.

2. Lieutenant Tainter and his son Benjamin came over and kill'd my Cambridge Cow. Weigh'd 413, the Quarters—Hide 65, Tallow 35. Lieutenant was very kind and obliging—not only gave me freely his pains, but knowing my straights for winter

¹Widow of Thomas Forbush.

keeping for my stock, he took home a Cow to winter for me. N.B. A Sorrowful accident befell us in the Night. My son Ebenezer being greatly fatigu'd with his worrying in the Day, sat sleeping by the fire after we were come up to Bed, with his Head upon his Arms on his Knees: his Elbows slip'd from his Knees and his Chair slip'd away from under him, and he fell into the Fire—his Hands were both burnt, his right Hand especially which threw him into great pain and smart. For his Relief I immediately kill'd a Cat and he wash'd his Hands in the Blood. God be prais'd he was awak'd and enabled to get out of the Fire! May the Providence of God be Sanctify'd to both him and us!

3. A.M. Messers Spencer and Strong here in their Return from Boston and are now engag'd in the mission to the Mohawks, upon the Donation of Dr. Daniel Williams. As a Token of my Hearty good wishes I presented the Missions Calvins Institutions, an handsome large Octavo Edition. May the Hand of the Lord be with them and give them good success! P.M. My Wife rode with me to the private meeting at Captain Baker's. I preach'd on Mat. 7, 13, 14. A greater Number of hearers than I expected. I am very glad they can find in their Hearts to come together so roundly, tho it is a Second Time this week. May God give an efficacious Blessing! We supp'd their—Lieutenant Tainter with us. A snow storm to go home in. The storm increas'd very much, both the Snow and Wind. The Night was very Tempestuous. The House Shook exceedingly. But God safely preserv'd us. To his Name be Praise and Glory! N.B. After Exercise I desir'd their Help in getting Wood next Monday, because of my sons Lameness.

4. A very difficult Morning. The Snow deep—my son lame and unable to go to the Barn. I was oblig'd to go myself. We were also very much out of wood, but Neighbour Ebenezer Maynard and his brother Nathan came and both cut and sledded for me. And at Eve came Mr. Benjamin Tainter and offer'd to tarry over night to help me tomorrow notwithstanding his purpose to come with his Father and others to get wood next Monday. I bless God for those kind Tokens from my Neighbours! May I have grace suitably to improve them!

5. Benjamin Tainter came, and brought with him Noah How, who (together) having a Large Saw, saw'd off a Stout Pine Logg for the sawmill. They din'd with us and p.m. Benjamin Cutt and sledded down some wood. The Cold increases.

6. A pritty Cold Day, but few at Meeting. I preach'd all Day upon 1 Cor. 10, 31. Mr. Winchester and widow Sarah Forbush, (Phinehas's widow) din'd with us. It was so cold that I finish'd the Exercises early about 3.

7. Old Mr. Maynard informs me that Martha Ward dy'd last Evening. A Very Cold Day. There came only the few following Hands to cutt Wood (N.B. Not one Team came to sled) Messers Jonah Warrin, and Daniel Hardy, Solomon Baker and Benjamin Tainter, Charles Rice junior, and Timothy Newton. Benjamin Tainter took my Oxen, mare and sled and sledded down 8 Load. N.B. The first of the Hands came about 11 a.m. the rest at near Noon. Captain Maynard here at Eve whilst I sold Mr. Jonah Warrin (of whom, and his son Elijah, I had this last Fall 178£ of Beef at 12 d. per pound) Two Steers, one coming 3, the other coming 2 for 21£ old Tenor. Twas Captain Maynards Judgment that they were worth so much, and offer'd to give it for 'em if he hadn't 'em. N.B. I offer'd the Captain pay for keeping the Horses I sent to him at Thanksgiving Time, but he would not take it.

8. Cold Day. My Dauter Molly rode with me to the Burial of Martha Ward. May every Instance of Death awaken and quicken us! and in Special our Youth! After Burying we went to Deacon Newtons, and I sat there whilst Silas Sow'd a Soal, upon one of my Boots.

9. Last Night snow'd; this morning very Cold, but bright more moderate and pleasant afterwards. Read Dr. Owen of Apostacy.²

10. The Cold continues.

11. Snow'd again.

12. Very Cold. Old Mr. Maynard came repeatedly and chop'd wood for us at the Door, Ebenezer not being able to handle an Ax to any purpose—but he tends the Cattle. A dozen Fowls kill'd to send to Boston by Neighbour Richard Barns next Monday morning. P.M. Jonathan Grout came and chop'd wood for us at the

² John Owen, *The Nature of Apostasie from the Profession of the Gospel* (London, 1676).

Door. A great Kindness that my Neighbours thus help me in this the small article, it would outhewise take up so much of my Time since my son is so lame. N.B. We have the sorrowful News that the Town House in Boston was burnt last Wednesday.

13. A very Cold Day. On John 17, 4, and p.m. on Eccl. 8, 8. Our Exercise short for I am not able to undergo the Cold without much Care. The Lord accept up (wherein through Grace we are sincere) through his Dear son! Lieutenant Tainter and one Mr. Bond din'd with us.

14. A Very Cold Storm of Snow. Mr. Barns does not go to Boston. Precinct Meeting to call in Debts and to Consider my sallery—but was adjourn'd. (See Lee's Solomon Temple on Ministers Maintenance³ which I read at Even.)

15. Bright and pleasant but Cold. A very tight severe Season. But God is the preserver of Man and Beast.

16. A Cold Storm of Snow again. Ebenezer went at Evening to old Mr. Maynards, the young men meet to Settle their accounts for the year.

17. Exceeding Cold and stormy Some Hail and Rain and forms a Crust. Ceas'd storming p.m. but very Cold; as almost any weather that Comes. In the Evening Captain Maynard here. Winds exceeding high. N.B. I am inform'd that the Reverend Mr. Cheney of Brookfield is to be bury'd today (the 17th).

18. A very Severe night we have pass'd through, but God's Mercys are new this morning which is bright without Clouds, and silver'd by the Icicles everywhere shining and the Trees glistening. But it is still Cold. As the Day gets up the Wind rises. 'Tis as much as we can do to take Care of ourselves and the Children, provide for and Tend the Fires, and the Cattle. But our Eyes should be to the Lord our never failing Support. Benjamin Whipple came, and got wood out of the Snow and cut it for Me. The Evening somewhat moderate.

19. Several Neibours were so good as to come and assist in cutting wood for the Sabbath and getting in Loggs. Old Mr. Maynard—Neighbour Barns and Neighbour John Rogers.

³ Samuel Lee, *Orbis Miraculum; or, The Temple of Solomon* (London, 1659).

20. It Snow'd again last night—but to Day bright very pleasant and Comfortable. On Mat. 13, 53 to the End of the Chapter. P.M. on Eccl. 8, 13. Mr. Stratton of Waltham and Mr. Samuel Fay juniors wife din'd here. O that God would help us suitably to Entertain the Lord Jesus Christ and not by our Unbelief Prevent Him in the mighty works of his Grace and Spirit upon our Souls! and O that we might not be of the wicked, that vainly imagine they shall prolong their Day. May we remember that our Days are as a shadow and may we fear before God that it may go well with us!

21. A Moderate Day. Benjamin Tainter came before we were out of wood, and with my son got a little more to the Door. Mr. Cushing here and Captain Maynard towards Evening. The Chief I did today was reading Limestreet Sermons, some of which I can't but very highly esteem.

22. Heard there was a Man found dead on Boston Neck about last Wednesday, Suppos'd to have perish'd in the Cold. I rode to Merchant Rice's—and had further Conversation with him about his Case respecting Lydia Pratt of Grafton. I visited Mr. Jonathan Fay's wife who lyes sick. Call'd at Mr. Grouts where was Mr. Phinehas Hardy. But I made it my Business, according to my Intention when I went out from Home, to visit Neighbour Eliezer Rice, and talked with him about his going away from Mr. Martyn's Ministrations here, both when he preaches my Lecture and when we change. I desir'd his Reasons. He gave me these following, and Said that these were they, viz. That he had always understood that a minister should be blameless and of good character, but he heard Mr. Martyn had not, in the former part of his Life been so, and was not of good Report, and Secondly, he reckon'd that Mr. Martyn did not act like a man of good Conscience in taking that Money which was gather'd from those familys who had mov'd out of that Precinct. I endeavour'd to answer both these Reasons. N.B. In our Conversation Mr. Rice would by no means allow that any Man who had been vicious when young tho thro the Grace of God ever so penitent, and furnish'd with Gifts Should be admitted into the Ministry; or that any minister who Should fall into Scandal might on any Terms be

restor'd to his ministry, but to the Privileges of a Brother only. I dealt plainly with him—and may God Succeed what I Said.

23. Neighbour Eliezer Rice came with Neighbour Edwards Whipple and they kill'd a Sow which weigh'd 167 and a Barrow which weigh'd 175. They did it gratis. N.B. Captain Maynard and I had some Talk of visiting Father Prentice at Lancaster, but the Weather was such as I could not venture out in.

24. Cloudy and rainy.

25. God grant that I and mine may be happy partakers this Day with all those who Sincerely celebrate the Nativity of Jesus Christ! We had Captain Maynards Team, to join with mine and draw down Wood from my Hill. Mr. Biglo, Noah and Daniel How, Rody Smith, Benjamin Whipple, Nathan Maynard, Silas Newton, Jonathan and Robert Cook, Jonas Bradish, Jonathan Bruce, Samuel Warrin, Josiah Walker, Samuel Bumpso (Indian) and Elijah Bellows came and Cutt Wood. Receiv'd a Letter by Mr. Barns from Brother Samuel Parkman informing that Dr. Parkman had a Son born on the 9th instant, and which they have call'd Elias. May God make him a great Blessing!

26. [No entry.]

27. On Mat. 14, 1 to 4. P.M. repeated the first sermon on Eph. 5, 16 from Col. 4, 5. Mrs. Tainter and the widow of Nehemiah How din'd with us. Snowy Day.

28. Snow Storm. At Eve Mr. Benjamin Fay here to inform his aged Father was very low.

29. A Bright pleasant Day. Was at Merchant Rice's. Visited Captain Fay and din'd there. Pray'd and took solemn leave of him. N.B. his son James there. Call'd at Mr. Williams's he being confin'd by Rheumatism.

30. [No entry.]

31. I preach'd to the Young people, especially to the Society of Young Men, from Eph. 5, 16. This I thought seasonable at the Conclusion of the Year—for alas! how far have we been from rightly improving this precious Talent. If God Shall grant the Continuance of it to me, will He please to afford with all, the Grace rightly to husband it!

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