

SELECTIONS FROM THE JOURNAL OF
LUCIEN C. BOYNTON, 1835-1853

EDITED BY SOLON J. BUCK

INTRODUCTION

THE journal of Lucien Cyrus Boynton is a leather-bound book, eight and a-half by ten and a-half inches, 437 pages of which are filled. Boynton was born in Weathersfield, Vermont, on February 13, 1811, the son of Cyrus and Hannah (Graves) Boynton. He was graduated from Middlebury College in 1834 and, after some experience in school teaching, entered Andover Theological Seminary in 1835. Failing to find a church after his graduation in 1838, he drifted back into school teaching and spent over a year as a pedagogue in Delaware and five years in Virginia. Then he returned north to continue the reading of law, which he had already begun. In 1846 he was admitted to the bar in Woodstock, Vermont, and in 1847 to the Massachusetts bar in Worcester. He finally settled in Uxbridge, Massachusetts, to practice, and lived there at least until the year 1853, when the diary closes. He married Sarah Judson Cole, widow of Rev. Albert Cole of Bluehill, Maine, September 15, 1852. Some time later, perhaps in 1858, he removed to Springfield, Illinois, where he practiced law and where he died February 14, 1886.¹

The journal contains a wealth of material about life and conditions in New England, the Middle States, and Virginia. Among the places described in some detail are Boston, Cambridge, Worcester, Amherst,

¹Andover Theological Seminary, *General Catalogue, 1808-1908*, 167; John F. and Caroline Boynton, *The Boynton Family*, 1897, 102; *Middlebury College Catalogue*, 1901; and *Uxbridge (Mass.) Vital Records*.

Albany, New York, Philadelphia, and Richmond. The subjects of travel, literature, religion, philosophy, education, politics, abolition, temperance, mesmerism, phrenology, and table-rapping are among those that come up for discussion. Through all this material runs the thread of the writer's personality, an interesting compound of Puritanism and egotism. Boynton recounts his experiences in two blighted love affairs, several tentative advances toward eligible ladies, and his final marriage and wedding journey to Niagara Falls with a woman, who, the diary hints, had some pecuniary charms. Unfortunately marriage seems to have changed Boynton's habits as a diarist; there are only twenty-one pages of the journal after the writer's return from his wedding trip.

In preparing portions of the manuscript for publication, the punctuation and orthography of the original have been kept. Many abbreviations and contractions, however, have been expanded, and in dealing with Boynton's peculiar cipher, which appears in some passages and which was made by writing down the consonants of words without the vowels, the missing letters have been supplied. These changes have been made without burdening the reader with the paraphernalia of brackets.

JOURNAL OR A RUNNING RECORD OF SOME
OF THE THOUGHTS, FEELINGS AND EVENTS
OF MY LIFE. L. C. BOYNTON

PREFACE.

Fryday November 8th [1835.] I purchased this volume at Middlebury Vermont about the time when I graduated August 1834, at \$2.25. . . . I have long been aware of the usefulness, as well as pleasure of keeping a private Journal, and I now rather regret that I had not commenced one earlier in life. I am fully aware however, of the inconvenience, as well as entire inexpediency of attempting to confine myself to write in

it daily, or regularly at any successive periods; and this is, therefore, by no means, my intention in this volume but rather, as occasion and circumstances may dictate. The design and object of this Journal may be seen more particularly in the following article which I shall call the Introduction.

INTRODUCTION.

Perkinsville [Vermont] Saturday November 9th. My object in filling these pages is my own improvement and pleasure: Improvement not in acquiring skill and readiness in composition merely, but my religious moral and intellectual improvement. I write here for myself only. I design that this shall be a kind of chronicle of my life; an imperfect record of my feelings and emotions, my thoughts and my actions. . . .

[JOURNAL]

Andover Theological Seminary, Monday May 9th 1836. I am now here at Andover spending a vacation. I entered the Seminary last term 4 weeks after the commencement of the term. I, of course found some difficulty in overtaking the class, and was not fully up with them in Hebrew till the close of the term. In the other branches, I overtook them in a few weeks. The studies (for which see catalogue) have been very interesting, especially the investigation of the original language and exegesis of New Testament, Natural Theology, and the Evolution of Christianity. The Hebrew, it being my first attempt at the language, and under the disadvantages of having entered so late in the term, was of course rather difficult. But the greatest difficulty is, now I think surmounted. Dr Muzzy delivered a course of lectures, commencing December 28th on Physiology and Daetetics, which I attended. They were very amusing and instructive. . . . He seems to be a man of very careful observation and sound judgement; yet in regard to his exclusive vegetable system, I think he is a little extravagant, and somewhat in error. Some of his reasoning on this point is not conclusive. Every other point he seemed to establish with the most perfect satisfaction.

. . . I adopted a systematic course of exercise immediately at entering the Seminary. This, together with very plain fare in Commons, has kept my health very good. . . . I have overcome, during the term several bad habits and been enabled to apply myself pretty regularly to my studies.

I think I have made some advancement in piety, though it has been very little to what it ought to have been. Near the beginning of the term, I had some seasons of very high religious enjoyment, especially in my private devotions. In these I at times seemed to have some due sense of my sinfulness and a strong desire for the promotion of the cause of Christ. At other times, however . . . I seemed to have no religious enjoyment. The heavens were brass over my head. Yet I feel that the fault was mine. Have had many struggles with ambition, and selfishness, and wrong feelings towards others. Find it difficult to keep these in subjection to the great and holy principle of living to God, and of loving others as myself. . . .

My reading, this term, has been chiefly periodicals. I have looked over regularly each week 8 or 10 Newspapers, besides Reviews &c. I perceive I have read too much such trash. Have read also besides regular studies "Life of H. Page" "Reed and Matheson visit to American Churches," "Miss Gould's Poems" 2d volume of Boswell's Life of Johnson, "Channing on Slavery," Burder's "Mental Discipline," finished A's Corner Stone, examined (superficially) Book of "Daniel" and "Hosea." Read also the "Irish Heart" and some other trifles.

. . . The whole term I perceive has not been so well spent as it might have been.

Andover Theological Seminary May 31st 1836. The vacation is now passed, and the term has commenced. It has been spent at this place and vicinity. 1st visited Lowell, with Brothers Drake and Kitchell. Examined carefully the railroad, cars, engine &c. Very ingenious. It is an exhibition of human art, of which man may almost be proud. . . .

June 1st. 1836. Have just returned from the Anniversaries at Boston. . . . It had been so long since I had been in any considerable city, that in approaching it, my feelings were considerably aroused, and when the wheels began to rattle on the pavements, and we were entering the narrow streets, of the

very city, with buildings mounting high over our heads on either side, and men hurrying hither and thither, I was on the tip-toe of excitement. In the midst of the novelty and liveliness of the objects and scenes around me, my mind was relaxed and refreshed and for several days, I was in a kind of ecstasy of enjoyment. We put up at Mr McComber's on Elm Street. Accommodations and table here very good, but a little too much drinking in the barroom. . . . We attended all the principle meetings, and the rest of the time we spent mostly in walking about in the city, "to see what we could see." Visited nearly every part of the city, was much amused and interested. . . .

. . . Cambridge looks very natural; it seems hardly to have altered at all, since I was here last in the winter of my 13th year of age. Visited the college. The buildings are old and rusty, and have very little beauty of appearance. There are however some very pleasant walks and groves around them, except the trees are rather too thick. The Library is very large and splendid, and adorned with a great number of likenesses of eminent men. Having called in at the tavern while it rained we soon saw sufficient evidence that the morals of the place were not very high, and that the Temperance reform had not yet finished its work there. . . .

October 26. [*Andover.*] Sat up till 11. last evening packing &c and started for Andover at 2. this morning. Took the Forest line, as it is called, and came through Charlestown, Marlow, Stoddard, Wilton, Milford, Nashua, to Lowell, the first night. The country, on this route, is for the most part, very dry and barren, especially in Stoddard. Some of the way it is very stony. Milford is a pretty large, and very excellent town. It is distinguished for raising hops, and a large number of the farmers have made themselves rich in this business. Their houses are large and handsome, and their farms neat and well cultivated. There is an Academy here. Stopped at the Merrimack House in Lowell. . . . In the stage to Andover fell in company with an operator in some one of the departments of manufacturing. He complained that the agents &c received all the profits, and that the operator was poorly paid. He laid it to the division of labor, and large establishments. . . .

April 21 [1837]. Religion in the Seminary has been in a

rather low state, this term. . . . The studies of this term have not had so great an influence on my piety as they ought to have had. I think the doctrine of the Divine Attributes and of Human Depravity, (especially the latter) have had more influence in this respect than any other. I have had times of considerable religious enjoyment, during the term, but a large portion of the time, I have been too far from God. I have indulged, at times, in a kind of sceptical doubting feeling, and my piety has been chilled. I hope and pray that I may be delivered from such a cold and wicked state of mind, and that I may receive light in my path, and that I may be inclined to walk in the light. . . . ¹

Books. I have read the following books, this Term, in connection with the lectures on Theology, on the following several subjects. 1st *Attributes*. Dwight's Theology, Ridgely, Storr and Flatt, Howe, Knapp's Theology. *Unity and Trinity of the Godhead*. Dwight, Stuart's Letter to Channing, Wardlaw's Discourses, Channing's Discourse at Baltimore, Some of Priestley's Early Opinions and Some of Yates' Vindication. *Sonship of Christ*. Stuart's Letter to Miller, Ridgely, &c. *Holy Spirit*. Dwight, Ridgely and Wardlaw's Discourses. *Moral Agency*. Edward's on the Will. Read on the Will, Stewart on the Will, Appen. V volume his works. Upham on the Will, Woods on Mental Philosophy in the Literary and Theological Review, volume 1st and 2d. Dwight &c. *Original State and Apostacy*. Dwight, and an Article in the Biblical Respository by Barns entitled The Law of Paradise. *Man Since the Fall, or Human Depravity*. Dwight, Woods' Essay on Natural Depravity, Some of Whitby and some of Taylor on Original Sin. *Atonement*. Dwight, and Symmington.

Books, not connected with the course of Study. 1st Read, *On the Mind*. 1st volume. This is very good, especially on Analogical reasoning. His Style is very clear. 2. Finished *Johnson's Life by Boswell*. 3. *Goldsmith's Life*, prefixed to his Works. He seems to have been a very generous, open-hearted man, but one of the most reckless, undecided, improvident men that ever lived. He had, I should think, a very estimable Father and Brother. 4. Read also his "Traveler," "The Good-

¹Here a prayer is inserted.

natured Man," and "She Stoops to Conquer." His *Traveler*, is a very beautiful poem. One feels in reading it, that he is taking a very delightful tour with a very interesting and agreeable companion. His descriptions are "to the Life," and his delineations of character, show him to have been a careful and minute observer of human nature. . . .

5. *Shakespeare's Hamlet*. This is one of the most masterly pieces of composition that I have ever read. It seems to exhibit almost all the different shades of human nature, and that in a most striking manner. . . .

7. *Sterne's Sentimental Journey, Expurgated Edition*. He is a very powerful writer. He has a lively and strong imagination, and he wields a pen with great power. It is very lamentable that such talents should not be more worthily employed.

8. *Lady of the Lake*. This is one of the most beautiful stories in the English Language. I had read it once before, but it has charms and excellencies, which I then entirely overlooked. Its poetry is like the glassy stream, gently meandering through rich and variegated scenery. . . .

9. *Waverly*. I need not say that I was very much pleased with this. I think it is the best novel I ever read. I was particularly interested in the character of *Waverly* and the *Barron of Bradwardine*. The former, I think, is very instructive.

10. *Foster's Essay on the importance of Religion*. Very good, but less so than I expected.

11. *Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress*. It shows him to be a person of talents, and christian experience.

Besides these I have read the news and some other Periodical literature, pamphlets &c. . . .

July 4th. Mr J. Q. Adams delivers an oration to day at Newburyport. I had some intention of going to hear him, but gave it over, thinking it doubtful whether I should be able to get into the house. There has been a celebration here of the Sabbath schools, and of the Anti-Slavery Society. The former in the A. M. and the latter in the P. M. Had some very interesting speeches in the latter. . . . I have been convinced for some time that this Society . . . is, upon the whole doing great good on this subject; especially by inciting attention to it, by bringing it to bear on the consciences of christians, and in-

fluencing them to labor and pray for it. I believe, if the subject can be brought home upon the conscience of the church at the North and their moral influence can be brought to bear steadily and powerfully upon it, that it cannot stand before it. That the efforts of the society have this influence and that great effects in this respect have already been produced is most evident. I believe that the substantial leading principles of the Society are correct, are founded on truth, and that they are destined to stand and to operate till slavery shall be abolished. I think, that, though the obstacles are great, the present principles and efforts must result with the blessing of God in the abolition of slavery. With these views and feelings and a strong desire to do something in this cause, I have to day, subscribed my name to the constitution of the Society in this town. . . .

September 11th. [Perkinsville.] . . . Journey Home. Started for home on Thursday after Anniversary, at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock and arrived in Claremont New Hampshire 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock at night, of the same day. Arrived in Lowell at 9, went to Nashua in the steam-boat, the stage-coach being full. It was a large and very old boat. The river was very low and we run aground, when about $\frac{2}{3}$ of our way, and were thus detained some time before the boat could again be started. My route was through Nashua, Amherst, New Boston, Weare, Henniker, Fishersfield, Newport, Claremont. Found my classmate Means at Amherst. . . . Amherst is a very pleasant little ville, but still and inactive. There is some very good land around it. There is no academic school in the place. The people of the vicinity are very intelligent. One of the oldest Papers of the state (about 30 years old) is published here. . . . The land through New Boston, Weare and indeed all the way to Claremont is sandy, stony, and miserably poor. At Henniker, the Bar-tender, Waiter, horseler, and every man and boy in the Tavern Porch had a segar in his mouth, puffing away as hard as they could. . .

Thursday. September 14th. I attended the Vermont Convention, which took place at Springfield. . . . The subject of Abolitionism is shaking the Ministers here in Vermont to their foundation. They must come out, and they begin to see it. . . .

Monday, [June] 18, [1838. Andover.] I caught a slight cold last night, and I have been in a miserable state of mind all day.

I am considerably in debt, here and I do not know how I shall get out again. My Theological course is nearly at an end, and I know not whither I shall go or what I shall do. I often feel that I am very poorly qualified for the work of preaching; and perhaps I ought not to have undertaken it. . . . I think, I might have done well in the Law, and should have liked the profession. And, if I had not advanced so far I dont know but with the feelings I have now, I should pursue that Instead of Theology. . . .

Sabbath June 24. . . . I have heard 4 sermons to day and, I hope I may derive some profit from them. . . .¹

January 2, 1839. . . . *Wilmington, Delaware.* . . . Journey. Left Andover Monday morning and arrived at New York Tuesday at 9. o'clock. Came the Stoneington route, and paid \$4.00 fare. Regular fare 6.00. Passed Tuesday in New York. Did not see any of our cousins there. Came to Philadelphia on Wednesday. On arriving at Camden, the river was so frozen that we could not cross in the boat. But after remaining there all the P. M. we at last crossed in a ferry Boat about a mile up the river. Stopped at Philadelphia at Congress Hall, a pretty good place, and arrived at Newark Delaware the next day about noon. And here I met my Dear Cousin Nelson and his helpmate. And a right glad and hearty meeting it was. And is it possible that I have arrived here at last? Yes, I am at last here in Newark. And a somewhat old and shabby village it is, in appearance, compared with our Northern villages. Passed the remainder of the week and the Sabbath here. Had rather pleasant time with cousin upon the whole. Some very pleasant conversation &c. Cousin has considerable affectation of high life which rather indicates he is not very much used to it. I think he says "my dear" rather too much. I think he does not keep things quite so neat and tidy as is desirable, and his wife seems to be somewhat of the same temperament. I think however, that She . . . will make him upon the whole, a very affectionate and good wife. He seems to like her very much. . . .

¹After Boynton finished his theological course he preached three sermons on trial at Amoskeag, New Hampshire. Apparently he was not offered the pulpit there. Late in December, 1838, at the suggestion of his cousin Nelson Graves of Newark, Delaware, he set out for Wilmington, Delaware, to take a temporary teaching position.

March 6. Cousin Don arrived here from Milwaukie Wisconsin Ter., a few days ago. He has been gone almost two years, and has a child here almost a year old which he has never seen before. According to his own account he has got himself pretty well established there in his profession. I think he has improved very much in his manners. He has less ostentation and display. In a word, he has become "sobered down a little." A person, when he first goes out into the world, from college, and meets with a little success, and is flattered a little, is apt to get too high notions of himself, and it takes some little time to correct them. After a few reverses of fortune, after enduring for a while the rough handling of criticism and opposition, we begin to find that we have faults as well as others, and that we are not such "wonders of the world" as we had supposed. It was so in some respects with me; I think it has been so with my cousins Don and Nelson. I have corrected my high notions of myself; Don has corrected his in part. But Nelson always having a more correct estimate of his talents than either of us, yet, no doubt, generally much too high, has not been brought into circumstances that are adapted to correct his opinion fully. Yet I think he will correct it before long. . . .

Monday. 11. Don and Lady went to Newark on Thursday last, and myself with Miss Jacques and Miss Piper on Saturday. . . . The meeting of so many cousins far from their native home was very agreeable, and to me attended with many interesting associations and reflections. But however interested I was in this meeting of cousins and however well pleased I was with their society, I soon found that my interest began to concentrate in a single individual, a person who came from Wilmington along with us, and that my pleasure was dependant more and more upon a single source. This being observed by my cousins, they seemed to take every occasion to encourage it, which together with the clearly expressed evidence which I had, that the object of my interest, was in a similar situation with respect to myself, led me on till I at length found, that I was not only happy but miserable. Or, in the language of Romance, Poetry, and the fine arts, I was—in—love. . . .

Trifling aside, I find that in such social visits where some are gay, some thoughtless, and all lively and cheerful, I am apt too

much to forget the more solemn matters of life, the high duties to God and men, for which I ought to live . . . and I am resolved to guard against it in the future.

March 13. Received a letter from home to day giving an account of an extensive revival of religion in Perkinsville and vicinity. . . . It was a severe reproof to my spiritual slothfulness. . . .

. . . I must be more active, and the Lord assisting me, I will be more active, in religion and the work which I have to do here on earth.

April 1. Mr. Johnson, since the decease of his wife has altered the plan of his school somewhat, making it a day school instead of a boarding, and thinks he shall not be able to support a teacher longer. He says however he will pay all my expenses here till I can get a situation, and if I please I may still hear the Latin classes. It will be rather doubtful I suppose whether I get a situation before fall. If I could be earning some here, I should rather remain till I could find a place that may suit me.

[*April*] *5.* I find I have formed an acquaintance which troubles me a little. After the formation of a pretty warm friendship, I find a defect of early education, which somewhat surprises me. The question is whether, accomplishments, good natural talents, and a warm heart in a companion, will sufficiently compensate for this defect. Then whether this acquaintance possess these.

*May 4.*¹ How may we know when a lady is artful (as the phrase is)? Answer. When a lady sees that a gentleman is becoming partial to her there are a thousand little acts and sayings and allusions, that are peculiarly adapted to encourage this partiality. If she understands these well, and is skillful and ready in the use of them, she may be called artful, yet such a person is not necessarily a coquette. She may in this way, seek to secure the affection of the person she loves.

If however we meet with a lady who possesses and practices this skill or art, we may I think infer as follows.

¹In this entry Boynton first uses his shorthand or cipher based on the omission of vowels. The passage in the journal begins: "Hw my we knw whn a ldy is artfl (as t phrse is)? Ans. Whn a l. sees yt a g. is bcmng prtial to hr . . ." Later in the journal he uses the same cipher in the discussion of other affairs of the heart and in a comment on slavery in Virginia.

1. That she possesses considerable natural talents: else she could not perform the part so successfully.

2. That she has practiced these arts considerably toward others. For skill in art is acquired only by practice.

3. You cannot put confidence in such a person. For (1.) you know not how far she is sincere in what she says and does, or how far it is mere art. And (2) she has become so accustomed to practice this art on others, you may not be sure she will entirely cease for you.

4. There is some reason to expect, that such a person has not strict and well-established moral principles. For the art even requires the violation of strict morality. . . .

Tuesday May 21. Have just returned from a visit to Philadelphia. Went to the city last Fryday, on the boat. The ride along the Delaware is delightful. The country upon the shore, is almost perfectly level, and is now clothed in a deep rich green. The sameness of the scenery however wearies the mind in a little time.

The city struck me very favorably on Fryday as I entered it. All seems to be life and beauty and Indeed in some parts of the city such as Washington and State house squares, with its walks thronged with ladies and gentlemen in their sprightliness, and gay attire, almost equal one's highest conceptions of a garden of Eden, or of the "elisian fields."

Saturday morning commenced my ramble about the city with Brother Norris. Visited—1. The Mint. They were coining. An extensive establishment. The machinery is very strong and perfect, composed, I believe of steel. It is carried by steam. In one place they were coining dimes, and another eagles. They are rimmed and stampd, cold. We were not permitted to enter where the metals were melted and refined, but we looked in at the window.

2. The Pennsylvania University. Dr Ludlow of the Dutch Reformed Church is Provost. Visited Dr Neare's Laboratory, one of best as to extent, and quality and arrangement of its apparatus, in the country. Dr. N. was in, and was prepering for an experiment with the galvanic battery. The object of it was to test the power of the battery, by the combustion of

Phosphate of Calcium. He performed the experiment while we were present. . . .

4 State house. Old building, and ordinary workmanship. Good view of the city from the cupulo. City appears very level.

5. Post Office. Extensive Reading Room. Clergymen, officers of Government &c admitted free. . . .

10. The Girard College. An astonishing work. Two buildings completed. The third which is to be the centre building, is entirely without timber. Fine view of the country and city from the top of it, being the most elevated place for many miles around. Thirty-four marble pillars cost \$15,000 each. Returned sore-footed and fatigued.

11. Went to the Philadelphia Museum in the evening, but was so fatigued, that I went about but very little. The Mammoth is certainly a very interesting sight. . . .

Remarks. 1. Philadelphia is a meeting-going city, and apparantly very moral. 2 Some of the ladies with whom I became acquainted are pleasant and affectionate, but seem to be characterized by a degree of melancholly, which it seems to me proceeds in part from not being more busily employed. 3. A minister in the city must be very particular about his dress, and manners.

Fryday May 24. [*Newark.*] Have taken up my abode to day with Cousin Graves. Shall probably remain with him till I get a situation somewhere as teacher. . . . It is my design while here to pursue my studies with diligence. I intend taking up a course of Mathematics and of Classical reading, and also to write occasionally a sermon. . . .

June 29. Miss Carry Jacques and Miss S. L. Piper have been here at Cousin's all the past week on a visit, and I of course have done nothing by way of study. The week has left a painful vacancy in my mind, and the "Blues" seem to be already gathering around me. My soul feels as though it had been feeding on wind and vapor. . . .

. . . I must adopt more system and rigidly adhere to it or I never shall effect any thing. I will immediately adopt a plan both particular and general. It shall go into operation on Monday 1st of July, the Lord assisting me.

The above visit was attended with some circumstances a

little painful at the time, but ending on the same ground where we were at first, or perhaps a little more positive ground, respecting Miss Piper. . . .

Saturday [July] 6th. [Wilmington.] Walked up the Brandywine this morning with S. L. P. Full reconciliation. Free conversation as to circumstances of each. Correspondence agreed upon. Returned home with Mr. Graves. Felt my affections increased. . . .

Saturday 13. [Newark.] Received letter from S. L. in answer to mine of Wednesday. Confidence and affection increased. . . .

Wednesday 17. S. L. came to Newark on Monday and returns with me to Wilmington tomorrow. Some things in her manner to the other gentlemen, and toward me much astonished me, and are somewhat unaccountable. It gave me much pain during her visit, and unless she can explain it satisfactorily, I now think it will be decisive with me.

18. Rode to Wilmington to day with Miss Piper and took along with us Mr. Adams, who has sons here at Newark in school and who resides in Philadelphia. Started 5 o'clock A. M. Conversed with Mr. Adams among other things . . . of marriage and celibacy, early marriages &c. He thinks that a man ought to marry to be happy. Is in favor of early marriages. Miss Piper very attentive after arriving at Wilmington. Left her somewhat coldly, enough to signify that something was wrong. . . .

Saturday August 17. [Newark.] In about two weeks after S. L. left Newark I wrote her a letter mentioning some objectionable things in her conduct at last visit, and signifying that unless a reasonable explanation could be given, it would be decisive with me. Received a conciliatory answer in which a pretended reason was given, but it is mere pretence does not at all excuse her conduct. . . .

S. is a remarkable person in many respects. She possesses some qualities which if they were real and founded in a good heart, and regulated by good moral principles, would be very valuable. Indeed, if she was what she has sometimes seemed to me to be, and in addition had a well educated mind, and virtuous and industrious habits and some other things, I should value her higher than any earthly object. But now her ex-

ceptionable qualities are such as to put to the foil all her excellencies. She has all the leading qualities of a coquette. Her art in certain traits of character, and feelings is very remarkable; but her plans and schemes are very imprudent and foolish and such as will not fail to expose her very soon wherever she may go. But I have reason to believe that she is naturally unprincipled and selfish. She will sacrifice anything, no matter what, to the object she may have in view which may be merely the gratification of vanity. Yet I have no doubt but her object in her intercourse with me has been from the first to gain me if possible. . . . I have long regarded her as a very improper person for me, in most respects and do now consider it a most fortunate circumstance, that my eyes were opened and I receded as soon as I did. I think the Lord permitted me thus to be led away, for the purpose of teaching me my frailty and the importance of looking to him, in all things. After some time I came so much to myself as to make it a subject of prayer. . . .

August 28th 1839. Wednesday. Rode to Wilmington to day with Mr and Mrs Graves on a narrow, cramped seat behind. I had communicated to them a day or two before, in confidence some account of my affair with Miss Piper, read them the final letters &c. Mrs. Graves apologizes for her, and thinks her faults are chiefly those of ignorance. . . .

Just before starting for home, my cousin, Mrs. Graves, because in putting a water-melon into the wagon, I accidentally let it roll over some of her peaches, addressed me in a very angry and disrespectful manner, calling me a "goose" &c. . . . Such language both astonished me and injured my feeling in the highest degree. . . .

August 29. Mrs. Graves has sufficiently indicated to me her sorrow, for her expression to me yesterday, and as I know her to have the infirmity of expressing herself rashly, when under sudden excitement, I gladly excuse her. . . .

November 1. Have just returned from the meeting of the Synod at Elkton Maryland. . . .

Two colored ministers came in with the other ministers from Philadelphia, and were intending to take their seats with the other members of the synod, but it produced such an excite-

ment, in the village that it was thought best by synod that they should leave, which they did. Mr. Barnes however opposed it strongly, and proposed that the whole synod leave if they did. He introduced a resolution which was rejected. . . .

December 3d. Newark. Miss Piper came to Newark the Thursday before I went to the city and is here still at Mr. Graves. . . . Has explained many things which I considered as exceptionable toward me, and which made her appear to me to possess some very undesirable traits of character. Though I think her very censurable in many respects yet I am persuaded that she is less so than I supposed, and that I have done her injustice. The concessions she has made, her forbearance in view of the plainness and severity of my language, have been such as to indicate, what I consider some very good traits of character and that she has some regard for me. . . .

December 10. Evening. Was extremely low spirited this evening. Went to Temperance meeting. Heard Fowler the Phrenologist on Temperance. Being weary, went out and tried to read at home. But could not keep my mind on my book. Shut my book, sat down in the corner, and there let my feelings have vent in tears. I did not use to have such feelings, but I have lately had some reason for them. . . . I came here with the expectation of obtaining a situation suitable for me. I have now been here almost a year and done almost nothing which has yielded me any compensation. And now shall probably accept a school in Virginia which is not suitable for me, and where I do not wish to go. But I must do it because there is no other opening at present. . . .

Wednesday, January 1, New Years. [1840.] . . . Settled last night with Mr Graves, for board &c. He charged me \$2.50 per week for board, for 29 weeks. This, I suppose is not more than I should have had to pay elsewhere, and I should have no fault to find, if I had been boarded in the same manner, that I should have been elsewhere. But with such fare as I had most of the time I was there, it seems to me considering all the circumstances, it is rather exorbitant. It is expected that there will be some proportion between one's fare and the price of it. I ascribe it however to Mrs G. I believe that Cousin N. would have done differently if he could have had his own way. I think very well of his kindness and benevolence. . . .

But I must record my testimony against Mrs G. in some respects. Wherever I have been since I first left my father's I am certain I have never been treated so ill—with so much neglect, and disrespect, and in some cases, I might say—meanness. Had not my circumstances in some measure compeled me, I am sure I should not have remained there three weeks. . . .

Fryday. January 9. Buckingham County. House of Colonel Moseley. I set out for this place, this day week, and arrived day before yesterday. I have just got my books unpacked, and my things a little arranged. The following copy of a letter . . . to my cousin N. L. Graves, will give some account of my journey hither.

“Well, my dear Cousin, I have arrived here at last, safe and sound . . . You will perhaps be surprised when I tell you, I was 6 days on the road. When I came into Baltimore they told me there was no possible means of conveyance South; that the Potomac being frozen over, the steam-boat had stopped, and that they had not yet started the stages between Washington and Fredricksburg. . . . I concluded to proceed immediately . . . [to Washington] where I arrived at 6½ o'clock P. M.; and it so happened that the stages started the next day. So, I spent the evening in running about, (and a bitter cold evening it was), visited the capitol, the President's house, the War, Navy, Treasury Departments &c. The Capitol, embracing the yard, and walks it seems to me, is the most perfect specimen of the grand and beautiful, that I have ever seen. It was a sublime spectacle I assure you. Even, if I had room here, I would not have the presumption to attempt a description of it. The President's house too was very grand. But I must not stop too long here. We started by stage for Fredricksburg at 4 o'clock Saturday morning and arrived at F. late at night a distance of only 45 miles. The fare too (which by boat would have been \$3.00) was \$7.00. . . . We came to Alexandria before light, where we exchanged an Omnibus for two coaches. I wish I had room here to describe to you some of the various remarkable events and discoveries of this day's ride. But I must deny myself the pleasure and you the benefit of such a description. I will only say that the roads seemed to me to be about as bad as could be, and the drivers, if possible still worse. The latter

did not refrain from drinking "for conscience' sake." They "went in for temptation." Of this we soon had sorry evidence. . . . We arrived at Stafford Court House about dark. This was 11 miles from Fredricksburg. Two new drivers took the charge here. This was a rowdy, drinking place and I soon saw that no good could be expected from such a hole. Well,—as we proceeded on our journey it was soon evident from the darkness and the manifest carelessness and booziness of the drivers that we had no good to expect. The passengers began to indicate their fear and anxiety, and to look for the worst. . . . "Had we not better let down the windows" said one, "so that if we should upset we could escape?" A whimsical little old gentleman in the corner, took the negative of this question, saying that he could not endure the chilly air. In the meantime we had begun to descend a long hill upon a rapid trot. On we went—"full split" the coach sometimes balancing on the wheels of one side, sometimes on those of the other, till by and by, the off wheels went into a deep hollow, the nigh ones at the same time striking a knoll, and over we went—smash!—And then, such a scrambling—and groaning—and screaming and treading into each other's faces—"Get off"—"Get off—you will press me to death."—"Don't tread on me sir" cries another. "I'm kill'd—I'm dead" cries the whimsical old gentleman in the corner. "Open the window—quick" screams a fourth. "Don't be in too much haste gentlemen—be calm" exclaims a fifth. (This last was a gentleman by the name of L C Boynton.) Well, suffice it [to] say, we soon got out of the coach, one badly jarred, another with his face badly cut and the blood running down his clothes, another with a bruised nose, and several with "bumped heads." As it happened, I was on the upper side, and having caught hold of the straps so eased myself down that I received no injury. I will not describe the sequel. . . . Arrived in Richmond Monday 5 o'clock P. M. Fare \$4.00. Now as to my purse, how do you think that held out?—I will tell you. When I arrived in Richmond I had just two dollars left. 50 cents of this I had to pay to the Porter, for carrying my trunks to the tavern 50 cents more was in a bank note which I took at Baltimore, and which would not pass here. So, there was one dollar left—not quite

enough to pay my fare over night at the Hotel. I went immediately to the stage office, and enquired what was the fare to Buckingham Court House and found that it was \$6.50; that the stage started the next morning and would be on the road a day and a half. What was to be done? Why, I hope you will not think that I was so forgetful at this crisis as not to remember that I had a letter of introduction to Mr Pollok of Richmond. I called on him in the evening and had a very pleasant visit. He was exceedingly glad to see me; urged me to put up with him and stay several days, and become acquainted in Richmond. . . . At the close of my evening visit, in as polite a manner as I was able, I made known to him my case.—“Detention on the road—expense that was not anticipated &c”—He was “extremely glad that I took the liberty. It was not strange” he said. “He had been caught so himself.” And then he told me a story to that effect concerning himself. So, he handed me a ten dollar note which carried me through. . . . As I said I arrived here at Buckingham on Wednesday. Col. Moseley met me at the Court House and escorted me home. I have a room here entirely by myself where I also sleep at night. I have a servant to bring my wood and water, build my fire in the morning before I am up., clean my boots and do whatever I wish to be done. I am also treated with great respect &c. And there is no person that likes to be treated well better than I. But What of all this! I have always been well treated as yet wherever I have been at the North. And there are many persons there whom I remember with the greatest kindness and shall as long as I live. For a reason which perhaps I may mention to you sometime, I shall never be contented where I am now.

Notwithstanding the calamities of my journey, on account of the various interesting objects that presented themselves to my observation on the way, I enjoyed it much. It was to me a continual mental feast. But when I reached the end of my journey and came in sight of the house where I was to stop, the spirit of sadness stole upon me, and in spite of all that I could do, it covered me like a garment, and weighed down my head like a bulrush. I have thrown it off, however now, and shall keep it at bay, if possible. Your cousin L. C. Boynton. . . .

Monday, January 13. Attended court to day at the Court House. A large number of the people of the county were assembled, coming mostly on horseback. Was introduced to Mr. Fairfield and Mr Armstead. The latter chews tobacco excessively. . . . Saw two slaves sold here at Auction to day, one a man, at \$245. the other a woman at \$456. I must say there is something shocking to my feelings in such a spectacle.

January 14. Sent a letter to day to [S.] L.[P.] at Philadelphia.

February 1. Saturday. . . . Col. Moseley was prizing his tobacco to day, and I rode down with him this P. M. to his tobacco-house, and saw the men strip the tobacco and "prize it" i.e. lay it into hogsheads, and press it down—fit for market.

After coming home heard Mrs. M. play on the piano in the parlor. She has a natural taste for music and plays well. . . .

Monday March 9. My school has now increased to 26. I have as fine a set of boys as I have often seen. If my school was of a little higher order, and I was not occupied so many hours and was receiving a higher compensation, I should be much pleased with my situation. . . .

March 14. One of my greatest privations here is, that I have not access to such books as I wish to read. Mr Armstead has a pretty good Theological library, but I have not yet asked the loan of any of his books. I think I must do so soon. . . .

Saturday August 15. Last Monday there was a political meeting here of the Van Buren party. Several speakers were invited from the adjoining Counties. viz.—Gen. Gordon and Jefferson Randolph, from Abemarle, Mr Hogue from Montgomery, and a Mr Daniel from Lynchburgh. New England was held up to the free people as every thing that was odious and monstrous. I saw more persons under the influence of liquor than I have before seen for a long time. It makes one blush for poor human nature to see such beastliness in men. . . .

Fryday September 18. . . . There was a great Ladies Fair to day in Cumberland or rather at the Buckingham Springs. It is got up by the Ladies of the Episcopal Church in Cumberland. They are conducted with great extravagance and much artifice here, I understand, and are not approved of by the most conscientious and judicious christians, out of the Episcopal church. . . .

Saturday May 8 [1841]. Received a letter last Saturday bringing intelligence calculated to affect me not a little on account of its nature and its being so sudden and unexpected. My friendship for L had been upon the whole increasing for the last six months, though because I thought I saw important faults in her I had withheld a very strong expression of it. I intended to have visited the North last Fall but circumstances were such as to render it almost impossible. My desire to remain here another year without visiting the North together with my previous apparent neglect in writing her so seldom &c., I suppose, led her to conclude that she could not depend on me and perhaps had little to hope. She therefore perhaps encouraged attention from other sources as much as possible and was successful. . . . I, as yet know no particulars concerning her marriage which I suppose is consummated before now. If she took the step chiefly on account of my delinquency in the expression of my attachment and desire, I can blame her only for not having previously given me some intimation of it. However, the chief fault, I suppose was with me and the circumstances in which I have been placed. The intelligence affected me somewhat for a few days, but does not much now. It has been ordered by Providence and is of course all for the best. . . .

Fryday May 17. Received a letter to day, giving an account of the intended marriage of L. She was to be married the 5th instant to a bachelor of Smyrna¹ aged 52, and with \$50,000. A knowledge of the character of the individual has filled me with astonishment and grief. This step is so inconsistent with the sentiments she has always expressed to me—even in her last letter before her engagement, that I cannot easily believe she has taken it in accordance with her own inclination, but perhaps through the influence of her friends, or misrepresentations of my own character. . . . There is another view that may be taken of it however, A fondness for the society of gentlemen, without much discrimination, and an inclination to flirt with them has seemed to me to be a fault with her of which I have complained. That her affection for any one individual would

¹Probably Smyrna, Kent County, Delaware. The town name is conjectured from Boynton's elliptical "Smrna."

not be deep, but would be easily changed from one to the other, and that she would be apt to accept an offer from one person almost as soon as another if of decent standing. If this was the case, and she accepted this offer of her own accord, and would have done it if she had been sure she could have me, then, of course, it would concern me but very little. I should even be glad of the step she has taken. But in charity I cannot fully believe this. . . .

Saturday, November 13. Have received a letter to day, informing me, that I have been chosen President of the Northumberland Academy, Virginia. The situation seems from the representation, to be a favorable one in many respects, and I shall probable accept it. . . .

December 26. Northumberland. I am now in very deed in Northumberland. Here again I plant myself for a period, I know not how long. . . . Am stopping now in the Academy with Mr Brent, the steward. The academy building appears exceedingly well from first view and things are in a better state here for a good school than expected. . . .

New Year's—1842. . . . My situation here as President of this institution is adapted in some degree to my age, and qualifications, and being highly honorable, it will give me some hold on the community. The plan of the Institution is very much to my mind. The construction of the building might be improved in many respects, but upon the whole it [is] very convenient. My own house, is a pretty good house, but it is built too low, and old fashioned. I also dislike the location of it very much, it being behind the Academy. . . .

February 2. Have just returned from a tour to Norfolk, Virginia. On Saturday the 15th ultimo having heard that a schooner was about to sail, for Norfolk with wood, I set out with the intention of taking a passage in her and of visiting Warrenton, N. C., via Norfolk. Having arrived late at night at Mr. Robert Coles, on the Little Wicomoco, who was also going in the same Schooner, I learned that she would not be loaded before Monday evening, at which time Mr C and I rode to the vessel and found her nearly loaded, but the wind was contrary. . . . Saturday evening Mr. Hughs and the cook went out in Low tide, and in a few minutes, upon the shore picked up a

bushel of oysters. Saturday night, a little after dark, the wind changed to the North West and Sunday morning we started. . . and arrived at Norfolk about 7. P. M. . . . Ducks, and wild geese were floating upon the waves most of the way. . . .

Tuesday August 16. . . . Baptist Camp meeting at Westmoreland. After the examination had closed Fryday evening went to Mr Claybrook's, to stay over night, and take an early start with him in the morning for the Camp meeting at Westmoreland. But Mr C. altered his mind on account of his wife, and I rode up with Dr Middleton. Arrived at Camp-ground at 12. M. The concourse of people was not so large as I was led to expect from the accounts which I had heard of these large Camp Meetings. The ground was surrounded with cabins made of boards or logs, with an arbor in the rear for the table. A stand was elevated 5 or 6 feet for the Preachers, and an alter fenced off in front of it for the church members. Before this were the seats for the congregation, with a fence running up in the center to divide the ladies from the gentlemen. These seats were exceedingly low and uncomfortable, as well as scantily shaded. On Saturday and Sunday there was not a little prominading and courting on the part of the beaux, and belles, somewhat to the vexation of the preachers and the annoyance of the attentive part of the audience. . . .

Fryday November 18th. Attended a Wedding yesterday evening at Dr Harding's. His Charlotte was married to a Mr Gaskins. Though rainy there was a large crowd present. The company were plain and somewhat rustic in their manners. The waiters, as they are here called, i.e., the bridemen and bridemaids, being 3 or 4 of each, waited on the table at supper and were the general waiters (according to their name) of the evening. At the ceremony, the bridemen, brought each of them a candle in his hand, and held it during the ceremony, and as soon as the knot was tyed, they each kissed the bride, while the bridegroom stood by her side, not daring to oppose them. . .

Sunday February 26th [1843]. . . . Law. I have been reading law, now since about the beginning of last November; i.e. during my leisure hours. I came to the determination to pursue a course of legal study and to acquire the profession, after much thought and deliberation on the subject. I am

aware that I have not all the requisites of a first-rate lawyer. But I believe I can acquire and sustain a respectable standing in the profession. . . .

It may be asked—"As you have studied Theology, why not be a minister?" I answer—that neither my talents, my taste, nor my inclination fit me for that office. Though I am interested in some of the themes of Theology and could write tolerable sermons on some subjects, yet I am not fitted for preaching stated and periodical sermons on practical religion, nor for the private and other duties of a clergyman. In a word, I am fully convinced that I could neither be successful nor happy, as a clergyman. The ministerial character does not become me. When I put it on, or when others put it on me, I feel awkward and uncomfortable in it, like a boy in his father's, or his uncle's coat. I am aware too that I have not sufficient faith and zeal, and ardor in the cause of religion, to fit me for one of its ministers. . . .

. . . Perhaps I am as well qualified . . . for teaching as for any other pursuit. My knowledge of the philosophy of the mind, and my fondness for the study of the mind in the different circumstances of its manifestation and development, render teaching interesting to me, and qualify me to conduct and discipline the "young idea" as well perhaps, as most persons. As further tributaries to my fitness and pleasure in this profession, I may mention my natural fondness for the didactic mode of communicating my thoughts, and that weakness, (if it may so be called,) which I possess in common with many of my fellow beings, of taking pleasure in wielding "a little brief authority." I have thought that no situation would be so agreeable to my mind, and taste as a professorship, or the presidency of a college, provided my talents and learning were adequate to the duties of such a station. But, to attain either of these, (allowing it possible,) it would be important for me to have commenced my education earlier, and to have gained a higher reputation for scholarship while in college; but though I sustained a respectable standing in all the departments of learning in college, I was not distinguished in any. I excelled most however in subjects of abstract reasoning, and which are imbodyed in general principles, such as logic, rhetoric, Natural

Theology, and especially Moral and Intellectual philosophy. . . . No branch of learning was ever pursued by men with so much pleasure and interest as the Philosophy of the mind, and among the different branches of collegiate study, I am obliged to consider this my forte. But the professorship in this department in college is usually united with the Presidency, and requiring talents of the very first order, as well as dignity and reputation, it is the most difficult, of the professorships to be obtained by a young man. By taking the right course I might possibly after a while get an appointment to this department in some Western College, but it would be attended with uncertainty, and if obtained, the situation, being in an infant, struggling and half-supported college, among a population of Western hunters and squatters, might not be worth retaining. But however an eligible situation in this department, where I could devote the larger part of my time to philosophical and literary studies, might accord with my taste and inclination, the idea is not now to be entertained by me. An all-wise Providence has seen fit so to shape my life and circumstances as to preclude such an expectation. It only remains to me therefore, either to pass the remainder of my life as teacher in a situation similar to this which I now hold, or to enter upon the profession of Law.

. . . I come now to my direct reasons for studying law.

1. It will afford me an opportunity to fix myself in a permanent situation, which I so much desire.

2. In this part of the country, it is the most respectable of the learned professions, and gives a person a higher standing in Society than any other.

3. It affords a better field for debate and the exercise of the reasoning faculties, than any of the other professions, or teaching. I am now as I ever have been, exceedingly fond of debate. The stimulus of opposition or of an important occasion, arouses my thoughts on any subject, and it affords me a pleasure to present clearly, the strong arguments on my side of the question, and to detect the fallacy of, and overthrow those of my opponent. If I excel in any kind of mental effort, it is in close, clear and discriminating reasoning. . . .

4. The excellence of the principles of law; being those of right and justice. The working out and applying of these

principles to the conduct and differences of men, has a favorable influence upon the mind, especially in disciplining the reasoning powers and the sense of justice and virtue. For this reason, there are few persons, for whom I entertain a higher respect and admiration than our most distinguished judges. . .

Among the above reasons which have had some influence in determining my mind to this step, it is proper to mention that those under the 1st and 3d heads had much more influence than the others. . . .

April 4th Tuesday. Yesterday, Mr. Wise addressed the people of this County at the Court House, as candidate for congress, from this the 7th District. He came to Col. Basye's Sunday evening. I dined with Mr Claybrook Sunday, and Mr. C. and I called on him in the afternoon. We went with him to Captain De Shield's, to tea, and spent the evening there, when he returned home with us, to Mr C's and stopped over night. I lodged in the same room with him, and in the morning shaved with his razor. His manners would not be considered highly polished; indeed he is occasionally, a little rough, in his conversation; but he is cosy and familiar, assuming no statliness and reserve, nor any affected airs for the sake of preserving his dignity. . . . I discussed several subjects with him, among which were the 21st rule, Character of J. Q. Adams, abolitionism &c.¹ His address to the people was 5 hours long. In the course of it, he took occasion, on the tarriff and the means of education, to mention Northumberland Academy in such a manner as to commend it to patronage. . . .

July 10th. Court Day. There were considerable many persons out to day. I sat about several hours among the crowd, but became tired, restless, lonely, miserable. I can seldom, in such an assemblage, here, find any person with whom I can converse on any subject of interest. . . . On every subject, except law and politics, there is an almost perfect stagnation of thought and feeling, in Virginia. The mind of the community

¹The twenty-first rule, more commonly known as the "gag rule," first adopted in 1836, provided that thereafter the House of Representatives would entertain no petitions relating to the abolition of slavery or of slave trade within slave territory. It was finally abandoned in 1844, largely as a result of the persistence of John Quincy Adams. Henry A. Wise (1806-1876), congressman from 1833 to 1844 and governor of Virginia from 1856 to 1860, was one of the leading opponents of Adams in the controversy over the rule.

is, for the most part, in a dead calm. Nothing agitates or ruffles the still, quiet surface except occasionally a law case, or a political election. Ladies' society, (if we except a few young ladies of Westmoreland who sometimes visit this neighborhood) is scarcely more known than in Turkey. The married Ladies are fully content with the society of their husbands, and seem to care very little whether they ever see any body else. (Good and devoted wives, they are, doubtless. It must be an unspeakable happiness, I opine, to possess such a paragon of conjugal fidelity and devotedness. I could almost wish such happiness was mine. But let that pass.) And then, there are so few occasions which bring a person before the community, so few opportunities to exercise one's faculties in a public manner, that one scarcely communicates with the people publicly or privately. But perhaps, I am now in a rather querulous mood.—Perhaps. . . .

August 19th. Saturday. Last Tuesday 7 P. M. Set out on board the *Osceola*, with a company of 70 or more, for a "pleasure trip" to Norfolk, Sand Shoals &c. Arrived at Norfolk next morning 6 o'clock. At 10½ do. started for Sand-Shoals where we stopped over night; Returned next day, stopping an hour at Old Point, two hours on board the *Penn. Ship*,¹ and arrived at Norfolk 4 P. M. So large a company made it exceedingly inconvenient at meals, and lodging at night.

Our company made so much noise, the whole of the first night, that there could be no sleeping in the cabin. A young man from Washington, after having endured the noise a while, joined the company in making as much himself as he could. By his odd humour he kept the company in a roar of laughter through the night. On inquiry, we found he was the son of Gov. Porter, now of Tyler's cabinet. He stopped at Old Point, and returned with us, for Washington on Fryday. On our way to Sand Shoals Wednesday stopped a moment at Old Point and was introduced to President Tyler, who was staying there. . . . Fryday morning started for home. President came on board at Old Point, and a young daughter about 15. The President takes particular pains to be polite to every one. . . .

¹On February 2, 1842, Boynton had written: "Visited the Navy Yard in Portsmouth, and was exceedingly interested. . . . I intended to have visited the *Pennsylvania*, which was lying in harbor, also Old Point, but I did not get time."

January 25. 1844. Journey to Warrenton. Started for Warrenton the 21st ultimo at night by the steam-boat Osceola. Arrived in Norfolk next morning, to breakfast. Stopped in Norfolk one day, Fryday. Saturday morning at 9 started for Weldon, on the Portsmouth rail-road. The rails being wet, the engine wheels slipped on them, and we were 6 hours, going the first 30 miles. When we at length acquired a more decent velocity, the baggage car before us ran off the track, and was jagged and twitched along, over the cross pieces, till the engine broke loose from it. Were then detained 3 or 4 hours, in restoring the car to the track. The passengers all lent their aid, but myself. I had had a chill the night before at Norfolk and this being my day for another, I had been taking quinine pills, all day, which made me very sick at night. Instead of 4 o'clock P M., the regular time for the arrival of the cars at Weldon we arrived at 2 next morning. The stage, across to the Raleigh railroad, and Wilmington cars had both left. So we were all obliged to tarry over a day, Sunday. No Church near. Soil in the vicinity poor, covered chiefly with yellow pine. Fire wood of the Hotel, red oak, with a stick of Pitch Pine under it. Doors of the parlour set wide open, in Southern style, Tolerably good Hotel. . . .

At 12 o'clock, at night, we started by stage for the Raleigh Road. (12 miles.) But, there being a double mail, and double number of passengers, they took a larger coach than they usually drove, for which the gear was not sufficiently strong. The night was cloudy and dark, and rather cold. When within three miles of our destination, one hind wheel broke the end of a plank over a small run, and sunk down a foot and a half, and at the same time 5 traces broke. . . . We must remain where we were, till the driver went to the end of the route, 3 miles and obtained another harness and help. So, we went out into the woods, and kindled a large fire, from the coach lantern . . . Gathered around this fire, on the wet leaves, or wet logs, in the depth of an extensive forest, surrounded by darkness and a dense mist, and (as I suppose) by owls, foxes, wild turkes, and rabbits, we spent the rest of the night. The heavy hours were lightened by the high spirits of our company, by occasional stories, witticisms &c. At length, the morning came—Christmas morn. In an

hour afterwards came the driver, with his help &c. We were soon on our way, and, at 8 o'clock were set down at Sledges tavern, near the rail road,—a little old country tavern. Here we spent our Christmas, not altogether without enjoyment. . . .

Saturday May 11th. Attended the great Whig Convention, of the 1st and 2d Instant. . . . A pleasant company and a pleasant trip. Stopped two or 3 hours at Washington which we spent in the Capitol. Saw Mr Clay at the Capitol. When we first arrived he was in the Rotundo, there was a considerable gathering around him, and the process of introductions was going on. His manners are exceedingly affable and graceful, and for a man of his years, he appears remarkably vigorous and sprightly.

Started for Baltimore at 4 P. M. Tuesday April 30. . . .

The procession, together with the triumphal arches, flags, banners, various designs and fancies suspended from the windows and across the streets, and immense mass of people closely packed on both sides of Baltimore Street, the whole length of it, with all the windows, balconies and porticoes, filled with ladies waving their handkerchiefs, formed a spectacle, such as I think, I have never before witnessed.—Nor do I think I have ever witnessed, in any political party, so much enthusiasm, unanimity, and good feeling. On the Canton grounds, I had the pleasure of hearing a short speech from Mr Webster. He has grown old not a little since I last saw him. . . .

Wednesday November 20. I have now received sufficient returns from the states, to ascertain for certain, the issue of the great Presidential contest. . . . It must be mortifying and humiliating to every true American, that Henry Clay, one of the first statesmen of his age, whose genius and high intellectual endowments are second to those of no man living, and who, in patriotic and important public services, has scarcely been surpassed by a Washington,—it must be humiliating, I say, to see such a man, in a contest for the highest office of his country, defeated, by so insignificant, and so little deserving a competitor as James K. Polk. It must be humiliating to every patriot and true Republican, to every lover of civil liberty justice and good order, that the highest office within the gift of the people, cannot be conferred on those best qualified and most meritori-

ous. But so it is, and so has been for the last 16 years—yea, and, (I have reason to fear,) so it will be for I know not how many years to come. But let the faithful be not too easily disheartened; let them, like, the Father of their country, and the Patriots of the Revolution, persevere amid difficulties and discouragements, true to their principles, true to their country, and if complete success shall not crown their efforts, they may be sure that impartial history will do them justice, and that posterity will bless their memory. Let them act in accordance with the sentiment, said to have been uttered by their great leader, Henry Clay, himself—"I had rather be right than be President."

December 14 Saturday. . . . My pedagogical career here, and perhaps elsewhere is ended. My intention is to remain here a few weeks, to close up my affairs and then to look around a little in the southern parts, for a permanent situation in the law, then visit the North, then establish myself. &c., &c. But more on these subjects at another time. . . .

January 5th [1845]. I have made my collections, with better success than I expected, having collected all that is due, with the exception of two cases, where I shall make a deduction of \$8 or \$10, and one case, where I take a bond for \$76. . . .

February 22 Saturday. At Henry Duncan's [Weathersfield, Vermont] . . . The journey home. . . . Thursday January 23 arrived at Washington by cars and Boat, and stopped at the Exchange Hotel. . . .

Saturday removed to Mrs Buck's Boarding house. . . .

The joint Resolution for the Annexation of Texas passed the house on Saturday January 25, when the House was crowded with spectators, and the greatest interest was manifest. I heard a number of very good speeches on the subject, among which, those of Messrs Dromgool of Virginia, Barnerd of New York and J. Q. Adams, were the best. . . . The narrow, thoughtless, crude, unstatesmanlike views, and declamatory speeches of many of these Western members, are hardly worthy of Sophomores in college. One cannot, but feel a degree of mortification that such men should be permitted to disgrace the Halls of Congress with such puerilities.

The Whig Representatives and Senators appeared somewhat surprised at the passage of the joint Resolution and were somewhat fearful, at first, that it would pass the Senate.

The postage Bill was introduced into the Senate while I was there, by Mr Merrick, of Maryland. His proposition didn't seem to meet with much favor. Mr Phelps opposed it, though he was in favor of reducing the postage even much lower, but not of abolishing the franking privilege. He detailed to me the abuses of mail contracting as now conducted, and said that the contractors received twice as much as they ought &c. The Post Office Department should not be made an instrument of party intrigue, and party power, and to this end the Post Master General should not be a member of the Cabinet &c. . . .

Left New York for Albany Fryday, 14th, by the boat and Housitonic Rail Road. . . .

Attended the Legislature at Albany.—In the House they were attempting to pass a bill providing for the pay of the militia that were called out to suppress the anti-rent riots. A large rabble were collected in the gallery to hear the issue, and many members courted mob favor by opposing the bill. The Legislature of New York is perhaps about equal as to talents to that of Virginia. . . .

The Barbers, draymen and servants at the Hotels of Albany talk politics and the measures of government with as much gravity and self-importance as the Lords of England.

Tuesday 18th left Albany for Rutland Vermont. As you pass from Albany into Vermont, you seem to leave the region of plunderers, swindlers and pick pockets, and to breath a purer atmosphere.—This side of Troy and in Troy, you can confide without risk in the drivers and agents—You feel secure. . . .

Tuesday April 22. Woodstock. Came into Mr. O P Chandler's office the 14th instant. Am rather agreeably situated. . . . Probably there is not more than one office in the village that has more business.

During the time I have been here, I have attended court nearly every day, and listened to some very interesting cases. It appears to me that the proceedings are conducted with more regularity, especially in collecting the evidence, and distinguishing between fact and law, then in Virginia.

. . . The further I advance in the knowledge of the law, the more I am convinced that I shall like it. My great difficulty is in selecting a good location. . . .

April 20 [1846]. On Fryday, last, 17th I was admitted to the Windsor County bar. Sustained, I think, a good examination before the Committee. I have now entered within the pale of the Profession—I am a Lawyer. Now for a location and business! and —I shall be happy—humanly speaking . . .

Tuesday April 28th. [Perkinsville.] . . . I have made one acquaintance in the village whom I leave with some reluctance.—I have permitted myself to become more interested in her than I ought perhaps unless an important and serious result was expected. She has what is called smartness and tact, a quick sense of propriety, presence of mind, with the ordinary female accomplishments, and a good form, an interesting face, and the ripeness and warmth of early womanhood. The peculiarities of her mind in many respects accord with my taste—But she has one fault, in which however she is encouraged by her mother and family—artfulness or manoeuvring for a husband. It may not be a radical fault, but it mars the beauty of her character. It is a spot on that beautiful image of innocence, sprightliness and female loveliness which I had formed of her. . . .

Worcester Massachusetts American Temperance House. Wednesday June 10th 1846. I came into this place yesterday in the cars from Boston, where I arrived last Fryday night. I had been told by every body that Worcester was a very pleasant place, and for this reason I suppose, and because I came from Boston, the place, as to its pleasantness and apparent size, does not quite meet my expectations. Main street however is rather pleasant and there are a good many very good dwelling houses. Some of the public buildings look well. It seems to be an active, moral, thriving place.

Temperance is much discussed in the papers and strongly advocated. Among a certain class however there is considerable drinking.

I have not yet presented my letters of introduction, having made my observations thus far, *icognito*. There are many more lawyers here and in the County than I expected, and the

prospect is, *prima facie*, not so flattering as it has been represented.

Boston. I was in Boston about 4 days, including Sunday. I did but very little except examine books in the Book-stores. . .

The Boston lawyers, appear anything but superior

Monday, June 15. I have remained here in Worcester longer than I expected for the purpose of attending the Court of Common Pleas which commences its session tomorrow.

On Thursday, last, in the Morning I called on E. Fuller Esq. with my letter of introduction, he received me very cordially, and gave me all the information I desired, as far as he was able with respect to Worcester, town and County, and thought it a favorable location for a lawyer &c. He spent a half day with me showing the town &c. He has a grand deal of information with respect to the place and the practice, and he is communicative and friendly.

In the afternoon of the same day, I left my letter of Introduction to Gov. Lincoln, at his house, and called in the evening.¹ I was conducted to his parlor, where sat the Governor, his lady and two daughters. Before this company I must do my business or not at all. For the Governor after introducing me to his lady and daughters, immediately commenced the subject. The surprise of being ushered into such a presence, and immediately drawn into the subject, made it a little embarrassing for me to proceed. Since I should have been reluctant to proceed, in the presence of any third persons, much less in such a presence. The Governor's representations, on the whole were not very favorable—he scarcely knew anything of the profession—had not been in the Court House for 20 years—had two sons just commencing the practice—they did not succeed much—&c—would introduce me to any gentlemen, whom I might wish &c.

The ladies were silent and deferential during our conversation—the daughters are rather pretty, and of good manners—the Governor seems conscious of his ex-gubernatorial dignity, and is careful to preserve it. The information I gained from

¹Levi Lincoln (1782-1868), a native of Worcester, had been governor of Massachusetts from 1826 to 1834 and a representative in Congress from 1834 to 1841. He was a member of the governing boards of Harvard University and of Leicester Academy, was interested in agriculture and achieved success as a practical farmer, and was one of the founders of the American Antiquarian Society.

him concerning Worcester and the Law—did not over-burden me. I value much more the knowledge I gained of himself and family—though that is not worth a great sum.

Sunday. It is pleasing to see the noise and bustle of the week, as Saturday night draw nigh gradually die away, till a little after sundown all is calm and quiet. After a continual clatter of cars and stage-coaches, and wheel-barrows—and the arrival and departure of travellers, the bringing in and carrying out, of trunks, almost without cessation, which one witnesses here at the American through the week, it is agreeable to one's feelings of fitness and propriety, as well as to his religious feelings, to awake on Sunday morning and find all quiet—the noise of the streets hushed—within and without, a solemn stillness—Why this change? Why is this day so different from yesterday and the day before? It is the Sabbath. There is a pause in the business and turmoil of life, and the thoughts are permitted to revert to sacred themes—for a moment, we may think of our moral relations of our destiny—of God, and heaven. . . .

Wednesday June 15 [i.e. 17]. Worcester yet. Yesterday I attended the Worcester Court of Common Pleas and saw the larger part of the Bar together. It appears respectable, but I doubt whether it is stronger, if so strong, as that of Windsor County Vermont. The first thing that struck me was the want of dignity in the Judge. (Washburn.) He is a small man and has a young look, and his language and demeanor on the Bench, is more that of a lawyer than Judge. Often when he attempts to explain the law the advocate, in the case, will interrupt him sometim[e]s rising and sometimes sitting. One, in hearing him give a decision on a point of law &c. has no idea of any superiority in him, to the Counsel. He looks and speaks like a lawyer and not a judge. . . .

Upon the whole, I think, Worcester a favorable location for a lawyer, if he can once get established. But this would take some little time, and in my case there might be some risk. I should hate to attempt to establish myself there, and by and by be obliged to go to a smaller place. It would be surer to start in a smaller place, I am not quite certain as I had better run the risk of this place first. The place is growing very rapidly, but

the question is shall I grow as rapidly as the place, if I plant myself here? . . .

July 29. [Perkinsville.] Went yesterday to Bellowsfalls, returned to day. Carried Mr Nichols [a brother-in-law] with me who took stage there for Boston.

The directors of the Rutland road met there to day. Their object is to make arrangements for surveying, contracting &c., taking the question of making the road as settled. They seem at the Falls to expect that great things will happen to their place,—that, when the roads are built, it will be a sort of central, half way, crossing place &c., like Springfield on the Western Road. . . .

Saturday August Worcester. American House. Started from Perkinsville last Tuesday night, for Fitchburg &c. where I arrived Wednesday night. Stopped at the Washington House. Was asked on my entrance, if I wouldn't take a glass of beer, or something else. "Something else," meant rum. This and some other rather ominous indications led me to think I had "got caught."—as indeed I was—caught in company I did not prefer, but I was shown to so good a room, and there was such a disposition on the part of the landlord to render my stay agreeable, that I left in good humor. Fitchburg is exceedingly active and thriving. . . . The buildings appear almost all new, and the hammer and the plain are heard in every part of the village. . . . Remained there till yesterday at 4 P. M. when I left for this place by stage—passing through Leominster, Sterling, West Boylston.

Mr Fuller says so much in favor of my locating here, immediately, that I am almost persuaded to do so, though I had previously all but decided otherwise. . . .

Saturday September 5th. . . . I purchased a small law library when at Boston, to the amount of \$80, which I have set up in Mr Fuller's office at his request, and have been here during the week, to learn as much as possible of the practice in different parts of the Country, (it being Court week) and to become acquainted with the peculiarities in the practice of this State.

I am convinced that Fitchburg is a good opening, and that I could pretty readily get into practice there. But there are some

things rather favorable in my case to this place, if I could hold out, long enough to get a-going. My taste rather inclines me to a smaller place, but there are two considerations which will perhaps be sufficient to induce me to hazard the attempt to build up a practice here.

1. The so much greater facilities for learning practice, by being where the courts are held and where every variety of business is done.

2. My chance prospect, here, in a particular point of view, on account of the number of wealthy individuals in the place, in whose society I shall be likely to mingle. I have a disinclination however and a fear in establishing myself in a place where the expenses of living are so great, and where, I shall be so nearly lost in the multitude. . . .

Friday 11th September. . . . The idea of spending nearly or quite all my money before I can receive any thing, with little certainty of receiving much then, and of being obliged to remain single several years longer, when I have remained so too long now, with several other things of like nature, constitute a gloomy picture.

Monday September 14 The weather continues warm. Yesterday and to day have been summer days Thermometer at 84° to 88°. I am boarding at the United States Hotel, at \$3.00 per week. Table is good, but I am not very well pleased and doubt whether I shall remain long. . . .

Sunday October 18th. . . . I am not exactly satisfied with the place here and my present plan. . . . My taste and better judgement are for a smaller place, where the expenses are less, and where I could be sooner known.

My own judgement has been and is, that so far as business is concerned, I should do much better to have gone to Westboro or Uxbridge—or even Fitchburg—The fact that the Unitarians have so strong a hold here will operate, somewhat against me.

Monday October 26. Licence Laws &c. No licences have been granted here this year, though the traffic has been continued, and . . . some efforts have been making by temperance men, to suppress it. There were several prosecutions at the late criminal Court of Common Pleas and larger part of them convicted, and they have been followed up pretty closely since

before the justice of the peace, especially this last week. The warrents have been mostly issued by Fuller, my present associate and Bigelow. Consequently upon all the above, last Saturday night, this office and Bigelow's were attacked with stones, and the windows broken in. They were driven into exceedingly close corners, and reduced almost to despair, and thought they must make some effort at resistance, before they were entirely routed. But this sort of effort in this law and order community will probably do them much more harm than good. I doubt however, whether they can entirely suppress the traffic. . . .

November 12. Thursday. This is pleasure going week in Worcester. Night before last, Samuel Lover, the Poet, Musician, Painter &c., gave one of his Irish Evenings. Last night, the Hutchinsons gave a concert; the Apollonian are to come off, to night, and the Hutchinsons again tomorrow night.

I attended Mr Lover's performance and was somewhat pleased, though he did not come quite up to my expectations.¹ His Irish anecdotes, recitations and stories, I think superior to his musical performances. His tale of Shamus O'Brien, was admirably recited, and the Comic story of "The Gridiron" was excellent.

His character is decidedly Irish. He is quick in his motions, and mental operations, and occasionally stammers a little in speaking. He has small sparkling eyes, small mouth, full and rather fresh cheeks, rather low, and retreating forehead, and when he speaks at the commencement he knits his brows, and appears a little embarrassed. One would not judge him from his appearance, a great man.

I was also present at the Hutchinson Concert last night.² Their performance appeared to me to be about as near perfection, as I have ever heard from singers of this kind. Their music is simple, their voices excellent and well trained but

¹Samuel Lover (1797-1868), artist, song-writer, musician, and novelist, was the author of *Songs and Ballads*, *Rory O'More*, and *Handy Andy*. In 1844 he began to give entertainments illustrative of his own works and in 1846 came to America on tour. He twice visited New England, where his performances were not so warmly received as elsewhere.

²The Hutchinson brothers, Asa, John, and Judson, of Milford, New Hampshire, were popular touring singers of the day. In 1855 the "family" was still giving concerts and had extended its itinerary as far west as Milwaukee. The brothers were responsible for the founding of the town of Hutchinson, Minnesota.

limited in compass. Their forte is simple natural music. The town Hall was crowded—probable 2,000 persons were present.

Wednesday I rode to Uxbridge, with a Mr Stone, a contractor on the rail road and originally [from] Vermont. Uxbridge is now as good an opening for a lawyer, as any place I have visited, if one can be contented to live there. . . .

Fryday November 20. The Worcester Lyceum met this evening for the first time this season. Mr Hillard Esquire of Boston delivered a very beautiful lecture, on Education, and was followed by Washburn, with a poem. The Upper Town Hall was crowded. The Lyceum has a Library of more than 1000 volumes, and is increasing every year. The tickets for the season, are \$1.00 for gentlemen, and \$.50 for minors and Ladies; for a single evening .12½. A season ticket entitles a person to the use of the Library for a year. . . .

December 27. Sunday. . . . This evening I heard Wendell Philips and Garrison, on Anti-slavery. They declaimed chiefly against the Mexican War, and those Northern Politicians, who now sustain it. G. quoted from a Georgian Democratic paper, that the object of the war was the increase of Southern power, by adding to its territory.

W. Philips is a very able speaker, Superior I think to any of the party I have heard. . . .

Monday [March] 29 [1847]. Last Saturday came off my first regular trial, since I have been here. The case was Foster v. Barnes, and I was for the Plaintiff and gained my cause. On my side, I had only one witness, a Mary Billings, but she was a good one. She sustained admirably a cross examination of 2 hours. The case is Number 6 on my docket.

Wednesday. 31. Yesterday, received a certificate of Deposit from, The Bank of Virginia of \$40. The Defendant in the case of last Saturday also paid in the Judgement of that case. A lucky day was yesterday. . . .

April 1st. A clear sunny, but rather cold day. Snow on the ground, but fast wearing away.

I have been deliberating, several weeks, past, at times whether I had better remain here. I am not pleased with the place, and have not enjoyed myself, since I have been here. I have thus far succeeded in business as well as I expected, for

ought I know, at least, as well as any other one has done, here, under similar circumstances. But the prospect is not encouraging. It requires a large business here, in order to do anything, even to live with a family. And a young lawyer here cannot marry, and live according to his rank, unless he has wealth of his own, or marries it. I am obliged to live in a style, that is not according to my taste.

My introduction in the place too is unfortunate, being such as brings me into contact, with a class of society that does not recommend me; and does not accord with my taste. Yet they are forever in my path.

A man is judged of here, by the manner in which he comes at first and those with whom he associates. There is too much of the self-sufficiency and haughtiness of wealth, and clanism, and not a due appreciation of merit, and worth. The exclusive feeling, characteristic of Unitarianism, shows itself too much here. . . .

May 8th Saturday. Last Wednesday evening, (5th) was examined by Judge Dewey for admission to the bar in this State, and Thursday morning took the oaths.

The rules of this State require a person from another State to have been admitted to the highest courts of that state in order to be admitted here on motion. I was not aware of this fact, till I had been here some time having been told by E Fuller Esq. to whom I was introduced at this place, that I could be so admitted.

Finding it not so, and that there was no statute provision for my case, except, that for students of this state, viz. by Examination, I opened an office, and commenced practice, (as Fuller said was often done, here in such a case as mine,) and deferred presenting myself for admission, till the meeting of the Supreme Court . . . (preferring in my case, the Supreme Judicial Court to the Court of Common Pleas,) and availed myself of the first convenience of the Judge (Dewey).

He examined me in a manner exceedingly appropriate, and well fitted, to test my knowledge, asking a few of the more important and difficult questions on each subject. I answered correctly all his questions, many of which he seemed not to expect me to be able to answer, for, he said very few young

lawyers understood them. He declared himself fully satisfied, and if I can judge myself, I have no reason to be ashamed of the manner, in which I acquitted myself. . . .

July 10. I am now in my new office have concluded to remain here a while longer at least. If I get very homesick again, I shall go suddenly to Milbury or Uxbridge. I have no doubt now, but as to mere business I could do double, at either of these places, what I do here. But other considerations for the present, induce me to remain here. . . .

August 20. Commencement, at Yale. . . . New Haven the most beautiful city I think that I have ever seen. Almost every street is adorned with shade trees, and elegant dwellings, with gardens and shrubbery. The place breaths of literature. The principle objection to the town in point of pleasantness is the levelness and lowness of its situation, the ground being almost perfectly flat.

The College buildings are of brick, old and small. The library Hall is a splendid building, and the books are excellent copies all well bound.

The Cabinet of Minerals is extensive and well arranged. The geological specimens are numerous and valuable. . . .

September 5. Sunday [Worcester]. Spent the day in my room. Not very well. Accomplish but little.—Am not very well satisfied with myself, and with my condition here. My time does not pass remarkably agreeably. Cant stand it so long. Am spending the best part of my life, without happiness and with very little progress in knowledge or means. Had rather live in the humblest village, with a house, a family and things according to my taste. It is my misery, and curse to be unmarried. Happiness, I am satisfied is entirely inconsistent with my present condition. . . .

Sunday February 6, 1848. Uxbridge. Came to this place yesterday evening, to open an office here. Have engaged for the present, for an office, a room over the Blackstone Bank.

Attended the Orthodox Church here to day, have heard two very good sermons from Mr. Orcutt. Stormy—snow a foot deep, and it looks likely for more. Meeting thin. Faces of the men hard. Faces of women, plain, bordering upon ugliness.

The Hotel where I stop is ill constructed, and ricketty,—

not kept in the best order. A pane of glass being out in my sleeping room, I caught cold last night, and am nearly "done up" to day. My office not being ready, and there being no stove in my chamber, and company in the parlour, I have been obliged to doze out the day most in the bar-room,—and be gazed at by the loafers. Horrible! Horrible! Can a man live here? Mr Chapin, of Worcester, who has been in practice here, from the time he commenced practice, 7 or 8 years says there is some very good society here, it is a pleasant place to live &c. I hope I shall find it so, but I hope against hope, and against present appearances.

Tuesday, February 15. I have been in my office now, one week, yesterday. On Fryday evening last, my first client called.—Mr Cummings, painter, of this place, whom I advised concerning some notes, payable in R. I. 8 years old &c. On Saturday I had another, Mr. — and on Monday, another, Mr. John Taylor, of Northbridge, and to day I have had two, and made my first writ—and drawn my first lease. These however are rather small matters—though something more may grow out of them. So far, so good.

Fryday April 7. Took a trip to day with Mr Orcutt to Valley Falls and Providence. At the former place visited the Coal mine now working there by the Blackstone Company under the superintendence of Mr Clark. They have sunk a shaft more than 100 feet, and are working the mine by steam power, at the rate of about 25 tons per day. . . .

From Valley Falls we went on foot to Pautucket, where we called at the office of a Homopathic Firm, to see Mr. Chadsey, by previous appointment. Thence we proceeded on foot along the bank of the river till we came to a locality lately discovered, by the Worcester Coal Company and where they are making further exploration under a Mr Chandler. . . .

December 22. I am now in the Office formerly occupied by H. Chapin, in the Union Building. Came into it, the 2d instant. Dr Bennett has not yet left it, but intends doing so as soon as he goes into his new house. The rooms are convenient, but not quite sufficiently lighted. . . .

May 16 [1849. Uxbridge]. Rode to day to Wigwam Hill, so called, and Mendon, with Misses Fletcher and Wardwell which

latter is spending a few days here with the former. The day was pleasant except a little too much wind, the air fine, the company unexceptionable, and—we had a charming ride. . . .

June 21. Thursday. Misses Knowles and Ripley, left Mr F's this morning where they have been stopping for a few days. . . . On Monday last, I carried them and L. A. Fletcher to "Purgatory." Dr Bennett and wife and Miss Cook accompanied us. The day was hot. The scenery along the road rough and interesting. We had a delightful ride. The ravine at Purgatory picturesque and grand. The view is such, that one does not tire of it. Dr B. in going thither led us out of the way 2 miles, to "Break neck hill" as it is called. And, though we did not any of us break our necks, there, I broke the whiffle-tree of my carriage. . . .

July 3. I have adopted to day on[e] rule, which shall endeavor to observe till I change. That is—to read or study law, on an average, 3 hours a day,—in addition to business and other reading. . . .

August 18th. Yesterday afternoon in the 5 o'clock train, Mr Clay passed here on his way to Newport. He did not leave the cars, but talked with the farmers and others who gathered around the car window where he sat. I went into the car and had a fine view of him. He scarcely appears to have grown old since I saw him last, in '44 (I think.) at Washington. His countenance is bright and benign, and is immediately lighted up when he begins to converse. He appears the Great man, that he is. Those who travel 50, or 100 miles to see him with their expectations raised to the highest point, as to his greatness will not be disappointed when they come to see him. . . .

December 9. Sunday. Last Friday evening Mr Fletcher and his family went to Providence to stay through the Winter. They began to talk about going about a month since. I have studiously avoided mentioning the subject when I have been in their company during that time. Because from the manner in which Miss F and her mother speak of Providence and Uxbridge it is not a pleasant topic to me. I think they do not judge well on some practical subjects. Though Miss F. is a lady of superior acquirements, and accomplishments, she seems sometimes to have less self control and less knowledge of human nature than is desirable. . . .

May 2 [1850]. Mr Fletcher left his house yesterday, having sold it to Warren Lackey, and removed to day, with his family to Providence. This is a sudden movement, and to me unexpected, and I think no less so to them, till within a few days before they left. For several reasons I regret very much that they have left, and I suppose "if some things had been a very little different," they would have remained.

May 17. Friday. I went to Providence yesterday. Called on L. A. F. Explanation of the past, and an understanding with each other. . . .

November 20. Thursday. Yesterday I went on an Excursion to Providence, to see Pratt's picture of the garden of Eden, from Milton. A great crowd of persons were along. Mrs Cole and Mr Judson, Miss Day and a Miss Georgia Williams, who has been here at school, were of our company. It was a beautiful day, and with the crowd and the excitement and the good humor of the company, we had a charming trip. . . .

The picture was much more beautiful than I expected. The landscape scenes were charming, and the trees and flowers were natural, and beautiful beyond description. Adam and Eve appeared in three places, in a state of perfect nudity, their skins white and fair as that of persons who wear clothing in our day.

Their appearance was a little stiff and unnatural. They did not seem to be in the enjoyment of that easy, quiet, charmed life, which one would expect such persons would lead, amidst so much beauty and magnificence. The botanical part was interesting, exhibiting some of the most beautiful plants of the Tropical regions. . . .

November 25. Saturday. Went to Whitinsville yesterday evening, with a few persons of this place to hear a lecture, by Park Benjamin, before the Whitinsville Lyceum.¹ He delivered a poem on "Fashion," the same as I am informed, which he delivered, at the Commencement Anniversary at Brown University this year.

It was an able performance. He touched upon most of the customs of our own people, which may be embraced under the

¹Park Benjamin (1809-1864) was a poet, literary critic, and editor of various short-lived magazines. His poetry figures prominently in the early American anthologies, but was never collected for publication.

head of Fashion, holding them up in a sufficiently ridiculous light. The Fop, ignorant, unprincipled, base, yet, "the nice young man," the very "pink of fashion," he lashed and beat into very shreds and tatters. Nor did any class of the devotees of fashion escape his keen satire. Among other things he commented on the life and miserable death of Brommel, who long reigned the King of Fashion in England.

The lecture, it seems to me cannot fail to have a good influence. . . .

March 18th 1851. I have witnessed three times, one of which was last night, the "Rappings &c." A Mr White from Providence, a mason by trade, is the "medium." The responses are made by tipping up the table. Mr White sits at the table, and puts his hands on it, and others put their hands on the table. After sitting a while he says—"If there is any guardian Spirit present, tip the table." After calling several times, the table tips. He then finds out whose spirit it is by calling the names or numbering them and the table tips, when he comes to the right one. He then asks the Spirit when it died, how long since it died, how old it was when it died, whether the person whose guardian Spirit it is, has a father mother brothers, sisters &c. And the Spirit answers by tipping the table for each year month, day, &c.

Last night, the Spirit told a young Hayward here, that it was his sister—that she died 5 years and 2 months and 10 days ago, that she was 20 years old when she died, that she had a father living but no mother—that she had one sister living, only,—and 3 brothers living besides Warren Hayward, before named, and several other similar questions. All which it was afterwards ascertained were given correctly. Mr W. the medium, had never seen this young Hayward before and was entirely unacquainted with his family.

. . . . I sat on each evening where I had an excellent opportunity to observe,—and I am convinced, that the "Medium" uses no deception, and that the table rises without any visible agency. But what the cause is I know not. I go no farther than the facts. On the subject of Electricity, Galvinism, nervous fluid, the mysterious connection of mind and matter, &c., there is an extensive field, that has never yet been explored by man. . . .

May 17. Saturday evening. Miss L A Fletcher was married on Tuesday, the 6th instant, to Rev. Henry I Coe, of Indianapolis. . . .

Mrs. Cole says he does not appear to be her equal in intellect,—is tall, slim and pale. He preaches in three parishes, at different places and makes his home in Indianapolis. . . .

October 18 Saturday evening. Geo. S. Taft Esquire opened an office here 3 or 4 weeks ago. He is almost the only representative of his father's family to which his father's friends look to sustain the name and reputation of his father.

The connections of his father's family here are so numerous, and many of them wealthy and influential,—together with a strong influence from the Unitarian Society, and a certain class of young men, that he comes in here under the most favorable circumstances of that kind. . . .

If he succeeds, it will affect my business seriously, because the class of persons who favor him are such to a great extent as have favored me. I have been here now over 3 years and my business has gradually increased, though I have made no special effort for that purpose.

April 5, 1852 [Uxbridge]. . . . Mr Nichols is still at Burlington Vermont—has in contemplation the purchase of a tract of land containing a mine of white or China Clay,—which he thinks may be used for making paper hangings.

He gave me some account of his trip at the West last Fall and of our Cousins and Brothers there. . . .

. . . Brother Nichols thinks that Chicago is to be the great place in that part of the West, on account of its central position. All the business of that part of the West, below Milwaukie, naturally comes to that place. Therefore it necessarily grows, though the place is unhealthy, and the land immediately around is poor, for the West.

Brother N. passed across the country from Chicago, to Springfield Illinois and to Waverly Illinois where Brothers David and John are. The soil in that part of the state is of excellent quality, and it is cultivated with almost no labor. The crop most relied upon is corn, and this they do not sell, but feed out to cattle and hogs. They harvest it, often, and other crops such as oats by turning their cattle and hogs into the

fields. Corn is planted and cultivated entirely with the plow. Hoes are not known. . . .

Lawyers generally do well there, and are much respected &c. The principle objection to trade is, that credit is too long. . . .

Monday [July] 12. [*Burlington, Vermont.*] There was a Whig meeting held this evening in the Public Hall. Addressed by Mr Elsmore from Pennsylvania, son of the Anti-masonic Candidate for the Presidency who run with Wm Wirt—and Ra[y]mond Editor of the New York Evening Times. . . .

There was at this meeting considerable enthusiasm for Scott. There are men in the village, who would have preferred Webster as the Nominee, but they now give their hearty support to Scott. . . .

[*Saturday, 24.*] Burlington is a pleasant village in the Summer, but is said to be cold and bleak in winter. The society here is select, and in some degree, refined, but the prevailing taste, I should say, is for wealth and show, rather than for education and mental accomplishments.

There are, here, one Congregational Church—one Episcopal—one Methodist, one Baptist, two Roman Catholic and one Unitarian. The Congregational is one of the oldest and embraces some of the most wealthy citizens. But, I should say the religious influence in the village is small. The spirit of worldliness seems to prevail among all classes. The congregational church embracing the faculty of College, it would seem ought to have a more decided religious influence and to be larger in numbers; and one cannot avoid contrasting it unfavorably in this respect with the Congregational Church in Middlebury, Vermont, which is similarly situated, and where the religious influence is predominant.

Friday 30th. Arrived in Uxbridge, to day at noon. All well. My friends here glad to see me back. Found a great story in circulation about me and another. Most of the People expected to see me return married, or to learn something concerning me quite as outrageous as that. I was very sorry to disappoint them.

Saturday October 2. *My marriage and Trip.* On the 15th day of September, last at 8 o'clock A. M. I rose from the state of Bachelorism to the dignity of married life. We, myself and

wife, started immediately for Niagara Falls. In the morning (commencing before daylight,) there was a mild, gentle rain in Uxbridge, which continued till we arrived at Springfield, about noon, when it cleared away, and we had a beautiful afternoon, in passing from Springfield to Albany. The scenery through the mountains is beautiful, and the cars went so slow that we had a good opportunity to view it. Stopped at Troy, and at the Troy house, the first night. It being Wednesday evening I went to Dr Beman's church to hear the Lecture. But Dr. B. was not present, and the meeting was a very thin one.

Started Thursday at 10½ o'clock A. M. for Saratoga by cars,—passing through Ballston, and arrived at Saratoga about 2½ o'clock P. M. stopped at a private house, a Mr. Carpenter's (a Methodist) where we had very pleasant quarters. Ballston is a pleasant place, in its location and size. But its once celebrated Spa, is now almost, if not entirely superseded by the Springs at Saratoga.

The larger part of the company at Saratoga had left, there being only a hundred or two at each hotel. The place itself is a plain country village. You see the whole of it, in two hours; which consists of 3 large hotels, the Springs, the pleasure grounds, and groves, near Congress Spring,—and the Cemetery. The groves and Cemetery are quite beautiful. But there is nothing in the place to interest one, except the company, and perhaps the Baths, after the first day.

I doubt the healthiness of the water, except perhaps in some particular cases. It made me and my wife both sick. . . .

Saturday September 18. We left Saratoga this morning at 10½ o'clock for Schenectady, where we took the cars for Rochester. (Express Train.) There were 7 or 8 cars, all full of passengers, mostly business men, as one would judge from their appearance. This train stops only at the larger places, and goes with great speed. Pent up among the crowd, in a close, and not the purest atmosphere, the substantial idea, kept continually uppermost in the mind, is—"onward—onward—swiftly onward! Jarred and jolted, rocked, shaken and jerked—but still onward! Onward, swiftly and unceasingly onward. Along the river, across the bridge, by the side of the mountains, through the village, rolling, rocking, jolting, jerking, but with

the speed of lightening hastening, onward! unceasingly onward!" . . .

We arrived at Rochester at 6½ o'clock P. M. sufficiently fatigued by 8 hours unceasing, and almost unvaried motion of the cars, to be glad, to reach a stopping place. Stopped at Congress Hall over the Sabbath. We had here very comfortable quarters, and a good table.

Went to a New school Presbyterian church on Sunday and heard a sermon on "the imputation of Christ's righteousness to the sinner." The subject was explained, it appeared to me, in rather an ultra New School way.

Monday September 20. Had time this morning to look about in the city. Rochester is a large city and apparently still growing, lying on both sides of the Genesee river. There is a large fall of the river in the midst of the city, which affords a power for Flour mills, iron foundries, and other large water works. The older part of the city is on elevated ground, and is rather pleasant. We started for Niagara Falls, at 9½ o'clock A. M. by cars, and arrived at 12½ P. M. It was cloudy in the forenoon, and began to rain about 12 and continued raining till the next day at noon. The scenery on this road presents considerable variety, but the soil does not seem to be as good, as it is East of Rochester. We pass through several large villages of which Lockport, I believe, is the largest. The people that we see at the Depots, are ugly—and appear rustic, dwarfed, and weather beaten, like knotty, shrubby trees on the top of a mountain. . . .

On Tuesday morning early I went out in the rain to get a glimpse of the Falls, and soon fell in company with a young Virginian and we visited the rapids, and crossed the bridge to Goat Island together. We then returned and went to the Ferry, and carefully avoiding a view of the American Fall from above, we descended the inclined plain, in the car, and went under the American Fall, as near as could go without being drenched with the spray. The first view of the mighty Fall of waters, fills one with intense interest, and with the deepest emotion of the grand.

We stopped at the International Hotel which is the largest and perhaps the best Hotel in the place. The rooms are large

and pleasant. The only other First Class Hotel is the Cataract House, The charges at these are \$2.00 per day. Judging from what I saw of the cheap Hotels I should say they were of the very plainest and dirtiest class—and the company—ditto.

In the afternoon (Tuesday,) I went to Buffalo, by cars, and returned same day. The cars run nearly all the way on the shore of Niagara river, and you have a fine view of it. Buffalo city appears low and level in its situation, and one would suppose, it was unhealthy. There were several large Steamboats at the wharf,—and the grog and fruit stands in that part of the city were nearly as numerous, as in the corresponding part of the city of New York. . . .

Wednesday. 22. This was our great day for sight-seeing, and a clear beautiful day it was. Sarah, having visited the Falls before, and not being very well, I crossed the Ferry alone in the boat, and she returned to the Hotel. The view from the boat, in crossing fell short of my expectations, for I had been told, it was the most favorable point of view. The spray from that point greatly obstructed and marred the view—and to me it was not so good a view as on the top of the bank of the opposite shore. But the best view for me was from Table Rock and vicinity. There you approach the great-horse shoe Fall so near, that you may step into the water as it pours over.—and you have a near and clear view of this mighty rolling and roaring of waters. While you stand there and gaze, its awful grandeur expands and rises under your view, till your soul is filled, and the attribute of boundlessness—of infinity, appears to attach to the beautiful and sublime scene before you. Now, you are ready to admit, that the fame of Niagara Falls.—as the greatest natural curiosity which the Earth has, as yet, revealed to man,—as “the wonder of the world,” is not unmerited. You see—you feel, that the systematic pen of science has no power to describe this mighty rolling and plunging of waters; that the artist’s power is here weakness; and that Poetry itself, under its highest inspiration, and with its very best efforts, cannot tell half the truth. . . .

In the afternoon, I rode with Sarah, around Goat Island. The points of interest here are the wind cave, the place where Sam Patch jumped—the Tower by the Horse Shoe Falls,—

the rapids between the island and the Canadian side,—view of Chippewa &c.

Took the cars at 5 o'clock for Rochester where we arrived at 8½ o'clock.

Thursday 23. Started this morning for Albany where we arrived at 6½ o'clock P. M. Stopped at the Delevan House. The same crowd of passengers as when we went the other way. 7 or 8 cars to a train, all full—and 4 trains a day. Can one travel the road from Albany to Buffalo, and not be convinced that it is an immense thoroughfare. Two thirds of the Passengers who came along with us, were going to New York, I should judge.

Friday 24. Started for home by the 9½ o'clock train. Arrived safe and sound by the evening train from Worcester and took up my quarters at my new home. It was a pleasant trip, but we were glad to get home.

1853. Uxbridge February 4. Have just recovered from a light attack of Scarlet fever. Was taken on the evening of January 25. Was quite sick about 2 days. Since that have been, rather comfortable. I find that it is not the same thing to be sick now that it was 6 months ago. No. The company and kindness and tender nursing of one of the best of wives, removes, (as I believed it would,) half the burden of sickness. . . .

Monday February 14th 1853. Trip to Salem. I left Uxbridge last Thursday morning at 8 o'clock A. M. and arrived in Salem at 11 o'clock a. m. Called on J. G. King Esq., a cousin of my wife, on business with respect to her estate. Found him at his office. He is sociable and polite, with a lively bustling manner. I must needs take dinner with him. "His family expected it," he said, "and he must insist upon it." His wife and two daughters were at home; all accomplished and agreeable. He has a large and commodious house on Essex Street, which he says he bought 27 years ago, and has occupied it ever since. He is wealthy and lives in good shape. He told me he was formerly member of the Legislature and that he had not done business in court for 14 years. His business is conveyancing, making writs, Insolvency business, (having been Commissioner in Insolvency ever since the insolvent law of the state

was first past.) and taking care of the property of his friends. I should judge him, shrewd, and perhaps a little artful. . . .

This was my first visit to Salem, and my first introduction to Mr. King and family. The place is small, but pleasant in its appearance. It increases very slowly.

Returning, I stopped at Swampscut. The cars stopped but a moment, and having begun to move when I was informed that it was Swampscut, I left the car so suddenly that I forgot my carpet bag. The next morning on the most careful inquiry at the end of the route, at the Eastern Ferry it could not be found. No one had seen it. It was probably stolen by a passenger, or the brakeman.

Stopped over night at Swampscut, with Mr Woodford. The village is upon the beach a little distance from Nahant. The sea breeze must be, as cool and refreshing here, in the Summer, as at Nahant. It is a pleasant place. There are a large number of Summer residences along the beach, built by wealthy persons, some of whom are of Boston, and some of New York city. The land between this and also on the East, has been purchased by wealthy persons, and is held at high price. Real estate has risen here $\frac{1}{3}$ within 3 years. . . .

May 17. Tuesday. . . . On Friday morning went to Boston in the 7 o'clock train from Worcester. Several members of the Convention, for revising the State Constitution, now in session in Boston, and members of the Legislature were along. Among the former of whom were Chas. Allen, Isaac Davis, and Chas. Thurber, all of Worcester. Many of the Worcester members board at home and attend to their duties as delegates in Boston going back and forth each night and morning. Some of the younger members talk largely and appear to feel their consequence, the more in inverse proportion to what they really possess. . . .

Dropped into the House of Delegates (the Legislature) about 11 A. M. They were discussing the Hoosac Tunnel Bill. At close of which, it was passed to be engrossed. Some of the speakers . . . were a little affected and declamatory. One of the Speakers said that he, as one of the Committee had conversed with Pres. Hitchcock of Amherst College and that he said there was not the slightest danger of coming to water,

in digging through the mountain, or of meeting with any insurmountable obstruction. . . .

Sunday June 5. Heard Mr. Abbott preach to day one of his best sermons on Job. 14:19. last clause. "And thou destroyest the hope of man." . . . He dwelt on the expectations which are disappointed by the early death of a friend, having reference probably to the recent death of W. Hayward. He illustrated his subject by some most striking and beautiful figures. It was an excellent discourse.

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