

Diary of Ebenezer Parkman, 1773

1773 January 1 (Friday). I bless God with all my Powers for His unwearied Patience: I implore Forgiveness of my great Ingratitude, unprofitableness and unfruitfulness: I beseech God most gracious and merciful throughly to rouse me, and bring me to so Sense of my infinite Obligations to Him; and I earnestly entreat that I may be deeply affected with my frail, mortal State, that especially now I am come to be so old a Man, I may be continually in Readiness. I Spent the Day, principally in *Thanksgiving* for the divine Goodness, for the Mercys bestowed, especially in the year past: in *Humiliation* for my many and great Sins, especially what I have been guilty of (neglects, or actual Commissions; and the Sins of my holy Things) this year past: in *reviewing the Changes* -- in considering how liable still to Changes continually. In *renewing my Covenant* Engagement to be the Lords; committing my Self and mine to Him: and now *would rest* in His infinite Favour and neverfailing Faithfulness. Read Dr. *Tillotson*¹ on the divine *Perfection*, His Eternity, *unchangeableness*, *Incomprehensibleness*. Received a kind, affectionate consoling Letter, from my Children in Brookfield -- all of them, men and women, and their Brother *John* also, Signing it. The Spirit in which it Seems to be writ, of piety, and tender sympathy, is very agreeable; I am heartily Thankful for it; and pray that it may be blessed to me; I earnestly pray also that God would be pleased to bless each of them, and all of theirs! And may He support and comfort all, with divine Consolations and prepare us for His blessed will! Neither can I forget, in the meantime, my dear son *Moore*, who bleeds exceedingly under his wounds; or his dear motherless Babes, whom the Lord take up, and make rich Blessings in their Generation! The Town met to day, partly on account of the Ministerial Lot -- and they Send a Committee (viz. Capt. *Brigham*, Messrs. B. *How*, and A. *Gale*) to See whether I would consent to its being Sold; and they include also the Ministerial Meadow. This latter I consented to (the Interest of the money being duely paid to me, while I continue in the Ministry): But concerning the Wood-Lot, I desired to have Time to consider of So important an Affair as the Selling of it. However, the Town, I said, might be Sure of it that I Should not consent to their Selling it except they would pass a vote to find me my wood. And whereas there was Complaint that great Spoil and Ravage was made there, upon the Timber and the wood, of late, by John Kelly (Capt. Jonas Brigham in particular had informed me of it), I prayed the Town would take effectual Care of that matter, and if they Should please, promote the dividing the Lot. The Sooner, the better, that some effectual Care be taken about this. In the Evening Came *Elijah Brigham*, who tells me he is sent for to keep School at *Royalstown*, according to his word to them heretofore; but he did not receive their Letter for him to come, though writ some time past, till since he had promised me; and therefore can't serve me; he is Sorry for the Disappointment.

1773 January 2 (Saturday). My Son *Samuel* from Boston, accompanied by Mr. James Foster Condy, arrive here.

¹John Tillotson (1630-1694), DNB?

1773 January 3 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Rev. 2.10, *last Part*. "Be thou faithful," etc. P.M. on Prov. 3.6 (which I had delivered some years ago). Read in Mr. *Mitchel*² at night. May God add His effectual Blessing!

1773 January 4 (Monday). *Samuel* acquaints me with his Desire to be married (God willing and if I pleased) next March -- and Should be glad of my and his Mothers company. Mr. *Whitney* of Northborough here and dined with us. Soon After Dinner our Company except Mr. W. left us to return to *Boston*. Mr. *Whitney* acquainted me with Mr. *Mellen's* Troubles at *Chauxit*, by reason of the *Bolton* Contests. He also talks with me about dividing or selling the ministerial Lot -- and boldly tells me that he had agreed with *John Kelly* to do what he supposes he has done in the Ministerial Lot etc. etc. Mrs. P_____ not well. Town Meet to receive their Committees Draught of Instructions to their Representative. At Eve agree with *John Fay* (Capt. Benjamin's son) to live with me 3 months for 24£ old Tenor, or if the weather be good, 25£. Read in F. *Lorings* Diary.

1773 January 5 (Tuesday). A more than ordinary number of Teams, with Quantitys of Pork, going to market, are weighed by *Breck*. Preached at Lt. *Bakers* on *Rom.* 8.11. I hope God was with us, though we were but few. And may these Exercises prove truly beneficial to us all. Asked advice about Selling or dividing Ministerial Lot. The general voice was, *divide, not sell*.

1773 January 6 (Wednesday). *John Fay* came to live with me. *Phinehas Forb.* a.m. to shew *John* posts at Ministerial Lot. *Ripley* here from Cambridge. Dines here. Wrote by him to all my Children in Brookfield. At Eve Mr. *Isaac Johnson* here. Wants to See what the ministers signed about Bolton. I read.

1773 January 7 (Thursday). Sent the XVII, XVIII, XIX, XXth volumes of the World displayed back to Dr. *Peter Green*, the owner, by *Elijah Brigham*, who is going to keep School at *Royalstown*. Spent a great part of the Day in reading in F. *Lorings* Diary: where I meet with what Serves deeply to abase and humble me for my Slothfulness and unprofitableness; my low experience in the divine Life, and that I have done So very little for God and for the Souls of Men; my own or others. O that God would please throughly to awaken me, pardon, assist and quicken me! And bless to me the reading over these MSS for these purposes!

1773 January 8 (Friday). [No entry.]

1773 January 9 (Saturday). Heard of the Sudden Death of Mr. *Thomas Walker* of *Hopkinton*. O that God would grant I may be always ready for my own Departure! Deacon *Wood* came and killed a large Swine (a sow) for me. Mr. *Joseph Harrington* being here, assisted. Very unexpectedly Mr. *Jesse Reed*, Candidate, and preacher at *Grafton*, came and dined with us. His Errand is to request me to Preach at *Shrewsbury* tomorrow in his stead. Mr. *Sumner* being to administer the Lords Supper at *Grafton*. I complied and went.

²Jonathan Mitchel (1624-1668)?

1773 January 10 (Sunday). Having lodged at Mr. *Sumners*, and he having gone this morning to *Grafton*, I preached at *Shrewsbury* on *Rom. 14.8* a. and p.m. and baptized *Betty*, daughter of *Benjamin Baker*. I have a great Weight upon my Spirits, concerning Death and Eternity. May the word delivered be of Saving Efficacy, and be blessed to me and to all who heard it! Mr. Sumner returned home. I lodged there.

1773 January 11 (Monday). I made a Visit to the widow *Jemima Miles*. Mr. *Sumner* accompanied me part of the way. I called to see deacon Miles and prayed with him. Dined and prayed with the widow *Miles*, who is very low. Her bodily State weak and grievously afflicted, but her mind dark. I gave here what Counsel I could. May God bless it to her and to my Self also! Called at Dr. *Crosbys*. N.B. James *Maynard* [senior?] and Mr. *Edm. Rice* were there. N.B. I inveighed against Idleness and Laziness. I am informed, at my Return home, that Mr. *Reed* preached yesterday on *Phil. 4.*, p.m. on *Joh. 3.7*, and this forenoon he has left us to go to *Grafton*. By a Letter from Ashburnham *Sophy* to *Hannah*, we are certified that *Sophy* has been sick, but is in a Way of Recovery. To God be Glory!

1773 January 12 (Tuesday). Read chiefly *Wise's Church's Quarrell espoused*:³ which, considering that the Cause of that bitter Satyr has ceased; and there are no ministers now on the Stage who are of the mind which the Authors of the *Proposals* were of, that I know of, or there can be no pretence among any Ministers to offer any such to the Churches; it is pity it is reprinted. It may have a great Tendency to raise groundless Jealousies, to enflame the minds of many, and promote Divisions.

1773 January 13 (Wednesday). Variously employed -- partly in my Preparations. *Hannah* to Capt. *Maynards*.

1773 January 14 (Thursday). Rode to Mrs. *Bellows* -- find her somewhat revived. Discoursed with her -- rebuked her etc. etc. Dined there -- prayed with them. N.B. I called to see Mrs. *Hardy* (Mr. *Samuels* wife) as I went; and at Mr. *Snow's*, Mr. *Beemans* and Mr. *Haskills*, when I returned. *Hannah* came home. Mr. *Morse* who carryed the large sow (which was killed last Saturday) to *Marblehead*, for me, came back. It weighed 324. He got 2/9 per pound, gave me 2/6.

1773 January 15 (Friday). Sermonizing. Hear sorrowful News of what occurred yesterday at Mr. *Smiths* School. *Asa Fay*, Son of Ensign *Jeduthun*, resisting, Striking and abusing the Master. Also this afternoon a Fire began to rage in Mr. *Smiths* Chamber, at Mr. *Jonathan Grouts* -- but was seasonably put out. Mrs. *Kelly*, who went last Sabbath Evening to see her sister *Dunlop*, returned here this afternoon.

³ John Wise (1652-1725), *The Churches Quarrel Espoused: Or, a Reply in Satyre to Certain Proposals Made, in Answer to This Question, What Further Steps Are to Be Taken That the Councils May Have Due Constitution and Efficacy in Supporting, Preserving and Well-Ordering the Interest of the Churches in the Country* (2d ed.; Boston, 1715). Evans 1795. This was reprinted as part of Wise, *A Vindication of the Government of New-England Churches...* (Boston, 1772).

1773 January 16 (Saturday). Having prepared for the Sabbath by last Evening. This Day Jej. and prec. priv.

1773 January 17 (Sunday). Preached a. and p.m. on Rev. 2.10. May God be pleased to bless these Sermons to my own and the Hearers highest Good! O that I might have the Grace to *be faithful!* Master *Barnard* dined here. Received 3 Letters from my dear sorrowful *Moore*. May the Lord support him, that he may not be utterly overwhelmed and sink under the Sad bereavement!

1773 January 18 (Monday). Mr. William Brigham here and gives leave to Cut wood in his Uncle Ephraims Lot. Am reading Mr. Loring's Diary. May God bless this Benefit to me for my Instruction, Assistance and Quickening! At Eve came my son *Forbes* and lodges here. He tells me his Daughter has a Wen growing on her side. May the Lord sanctifie this great Trouble, and prepare for His holy Will!

1773 January 19 (Tuesday). Mr. *Forbes* goes to Boston. N.B. Mrs. *Dunlop*, weak and Feeble as well as aged, goes in a sleigh to her Daughter *Wilson's*, at *New-Braintree*, to dwell there. A Sad parting from her Twin-sister *Kelly*, who can hardly bear it.

1773 January 20 (Wednesday). Sermonizing. Read Expos[itions?] etc. Visit at Neighbour *Arnolds*. Mrs. P. was there. *Hannah* receives a Letter from *Sophy*, who does not come home as expected. Mr. *Jacob Cushing* Sends me his Ordination sermon at *Sudbury*.⁴

1773 January 21 (Thursday). Read Mr. L.'s Diary. *Elias* was not well accepted at School yesterday by reason of their fears of the Meazles. For Mr. *Reed* has had the Distemper since he preached here; and *Elias* may have taken the Infection. He therefore Stays at home to Day. At night *John Parkman* came from *Brookfield* by the way of *Oxford*. Wants me to consider and consent to an Agreement he has made with Mr. *Hitchcock* for his time.

1773 January 22 (Friday). Mr. *Reed* returning to *Abington*, calls here; green from the Meazles. P.M. Mr. *John Merrit*, who preaches at *Marlborough* came in a Sleigh with his Aunt *Martyn*. They drink Tea -- return at Eve to *Northborough*. Mr. *Ebenezer Chamberlin* calls in here, and has many things to Say. Applauds the Governors Speech to the Court. Mr. *Forbes* returns from *Boston*: informs that Mr. *Bailey's* and my Kinswoman *Winter's* Desire of Marriage is clogged by Dr. *Byles* and his Church, of which Mr. *Bailey* is a Member.

1773 January 23 (Saturday). *John* goes to *Brookfield* with Mr. *Forbes*, to whom I have committed *John's* Indenture, and have writ to his Master *Hitchcock* concerning his Coming away -- Since he is So uneasy there, and has in part agreed with his Master about the Terms etc. This is also the 2d Journey *John* has taken to me on this Affair. As Wisdom is profitable to direct and

⁴Jacob Cushing, *A Sermon Preached at the Ordination of the Reverend Mr. Jacob Bigelow to the Pastoral Care of the West-Church in Sudbury, November 11th, 1772* (Boston, 1772). Evans 12,370.

a good man orders his Affairs with Discretion, May we have divine Guidance to manage this important matter to divine Glory and with success!

1773 January 24 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Hos. 5.10.11. P.M. on Prov. 3.6. N.B. Ensign *Jeduthun Fays* wife was at Meeting again, after long Disorders and Distractions. Its thought they were caused by the Conduct of her Husband: but through the great Goodness of God she is now composed. There being no preaching at Grafton, a Number of the people were here at Meeting and Capt. *Brooks*, Mr. N. S. *Prentice* together with his Daughter *Suse* and another young woman, were at dinner here. At Eve came Mr. Hezekiah Taylor, who had preached at *Northborough*. Came here at Eve; but did not tarry; went to Mr. Jonathan Grouts.

1773 January 25 (Monday). *Breck* and *John Fay* take a ride with Some young people. Mr. *Nathan Thompson* of *Conventry*, having been to the general Court as one maimed in the Wars, and obtained 60£ Lawful (as he says), is returning home, pedling Rev. *Sampson Occums* Sermons.⁵

1773 January 26 (Tuesday). Elias having, as we think, escaped the Infection of the Meazles, goes to School again. Mr. *Ballard* of *Oxford* and Mr. *Jacob Davis* of *Charlton*, here, going to *Boston*. Sermon -- Loring Diary.

1773 January 27 (Wednesday). Mrs. *Crosby* (Doctor's Wife) was here, with the Rye which the Doctor pays in the name of Mr. James Maynard. Her son Samuel with her. They drink Tea with us. Master *Waters* here at Eve. My Son John returns from *Brookfield* -- having purchased his Time; a Year and almost Six months for 14£ and a Note of hand of 14 sh. both Sums lawful Money, besides. But I did not Consent to his giving up the Note. However it is irrecoverable and the Indentures are given up.

1773 January 28, 29, 30 (Thursday, Friday, Saturday). Was engaged in my Preparations chiefly. Mrs. P. has for a great trouble [*sic*] with a Cold -- and in general been tenderer than heretofore. Hear that the widow *Martyns* Mill was burnt on the 29th by a pot of Coals left in it. The Lord Sanctifie!

1773 January 31 (Sunday). Preached on *Hosea* 5.12 p.m. on v. 13. May God be pleased to add His Blessing! That we may be profited both as to our public State and our own individually!

1773 February 1 (Monday). *John* left us to go to *Shrewsbury* and work with Mr. Joseph *Stone*, sadler. *Town Meeting* -- they vote to Split the Meeting House and add 14 feet. Wrote several Letters. One to Mr. David Hitchcock of *Brookfield*. Another to the Honorable Mr. Hubbard in

⁵Probably one of the many editions of Samson Occom (1723-1792), *A Sermon, Preached at the Execution of Moses Paul, an Indian, Who was Executed at New-Haven, on the 2d of September 1772, for the Murder of Mr. Moses Cook, Late of Waterbury, on the 7th of December, 1771. Preached at the Desire of the Said Paul* (New Haven, 1772). Evans 12,494. At least eleven printings of this sermon appeared between 1772 and 1774.

behalf of Neighbour Morse, Levi Warrin and John Ball. Mr. *Edmund Brigham* in a sleigh and Company carry off *Breck* at Evening, though very Cold and high Winds.

1773 February 2 (Tuesday). The Day was very Cold, the wind high and sharp, yet I ventured to go to the private Meeting at Capt. *B. Fays*. John Fay drove the Sleigh. *Hannah* went with me. More people than I expected. Preached on Numb. 23.10 to p. 13. O that God would prosper the word of his Grace! To me in Special! Mrs. Fay informs me that Mrs. *Jemima Miles*, widow of the late Mr. *Joseph Miles*, dyed last Friday. The Lord grant I may be ready also!

1773 February 3 (Wednesday). Visit my Neighbour *Newton* under Trouble by the illness and Languishment of their youngest Child. Discoursed with them upon their Affliction and of Sin the Cause of it -- of their living in the neglect of their Duty. Prayed with them. N.B. Mr. *Jotham Maynard* there. He informs me that the Town of Bolton were to have a Meeting last Monday to see whether they could not agree to do something or other, to put an End to their Difficultys. P.M. read Mr. *Lorings* Diary.

1773 February 4 (Thursday). Rev. *Josiah Thatcher* of *Gorham Town*, going to *Lebanon*, calls and dines here. Acquaints me with Squire *Solomon Lombards* conduct, especially in turning to the Church of England. N.B. He has been heretofore Pastor of the Church in *Gorham*. Also that Dr. *Whitaker* meets with much Difficulty in *Salem*. O that God would Pity all of us who are in the Ministry and grant the Grace, so absolutely necessary, that we may give no offence in any thing that the Ministry be not blamed! May God grant to me His gracious and most needed presence at all Times! And blessed be God for the happy Peace we here enjoy! May it be continued and duely improved by us! Letter from my Son *Samuel* inviting to his Wedding.

1773 February 5 (Friday). Visited Mrs. *Bellows* again, being very low and helpless. Discoursed with her, and prayed there. Dined there also. Called at Mr. *Samuel Hardys*. Returned in safety. D. Glor. Mr. *Jonathan Wheeler*, Trader, here; drank Tea: is Sociable etc.

1773 February 6 (Saturday). Closely employed in preparations.

1773 February 7 (Sunday). A.M. preached on *Hos.* 5.14. Delivered my discourse with a great deal of Resolution. I hope I felt what I said. The Lord pardon what was amiss, and Succeed my humble attempts in His Name! P.M. [*illegible*] on Heb. 12.25. to page 8 (for I Spent my time and pains in Composition on the forenoon Sermon. May the Lord bless this Exercise also and may it prove very awakening to us all. In the Evening repeated the forenoon Discourse, Neither my Wife nor old Mrs. *Kelly* having been at Meeting.

1773 February 8 (Monday). It was So very Cold I could not go out to visit the Sick. Read in Mr. *Loring's* Diary. It throws me into Shame and Confusion. It fills me with Grief of Heart to see how extremely below him I fall. The Lord pardon, quicken, Strengthen and assist me!

1773 February 9 (Tuesday). Visited Mr. *Nathan Maynards* Wife who is very ill, and in peculiarly distressing Circumstances. Discoursed and prayed with her. At Eve Mr. *Bathrick* made a Visit

here. Mrs. Beeton to see her Mother -- her Husband did not come in. I write a Letter to my Son *Samuel* With regard to his Marriage, Since I conclude not to go to it.

1773 February 10 (Wednesday). *Breck* goes to *Boston* designing to attend his Brothers Wedding. May the Lord guard, restrain and conduct him! And let him return in safety. Master *Smiths* School finished yesterday: so that now *Elias* is at home. P.M. to my Surprize come *Sophy* from *Ashburnham*, accompanied by a sleigh full from *Shrewsbury*, viz. her Brother *John*, Mr. *Joseph Stone* and his Wife and Wifes sister With Misses *Lydia* and *Lucy Cushing*. At Eve the Sleigh returned. *Sophy* acquaints me with her Sickness at *Ashburnham* -- being taken ill on December 14 of a bilious Fever, in great Extremity of Pain; continued ill that week. Dr. *Thaddeus Maccarty* of *Fitchbourg* attended upon her and was Succeeded, by divine Blessing, and was very generous -- receiving no pay for his Visits (4 times, 8 miles) nor for his Medicines, except one which was half a Dollar. But chiefly Thanks are due to God her Sovereign Healer! And may She devote her Spared Life to the divine Glory! The Company acquainted me that the aged Col. *John Jones* of *Hopkinton* is dead. He was a worthy man, and greatly instrumental to promote the Settlement of that Town, and Support the Cause of God in it. May the Lord Sanctifie this Stroke of His holy Providence to them of that Place; raise up others to maintain and forward the great Interest there, Now almost every one is gone that were at the beginning and founding that Church! And O that God would Sanctifie it to Me who have lived to See so many changes among them that I may be ready also, for the time of my own Departure can't be far off. He alone can fit me for it.

1773 February 11 (Thursday). Having writ a Letter to Capt. *Silas Bailey* and Mr. *Longley* of *Bolton*, in vindication of the Association etc. Sent it to Mr. *Stone* that he might See it, because it was of common Concernment to the Ministers. At Eve received a Letter from him of Approbation and Concurrence in it. But having heard of proposals etc. and of a Meeting they were to have for a Tryal to accommodate, I wrote another Letter to those Gentlemen which might Supersede that first Letter, and would Send it as Soon as may be. My dear son *Samuel*, I suppose, is married this Eve to Miss *Sally Shaw*, at *Boston*. Though I have not thought it best to attend the Solemnity, yet do Seriously committ the important Affair to God and earnestly pray He may be graciously among them, Sanctify them, Pardon them, and make them great Blessings mutually! O may they be Espoused to Christ as to one Husband, and live together, as Heirs together of the Grace of Life! May divine Blessings be on the Family with which my Son is connected, and the whole Company that may be together in that Celebration of those Nuptials!

1773 February 12 (Friday). Much engaged in my Study.

1773 February 13 (Saturday). Nigh night came Daniel Chamberlin to desire me to go to [Mrs. *Bellows*?] But it was So exceeding Cold, I could not think it my Duty to go at so extreme a season; and just before the Sabbath; as She was not able to converse, and I could not return this Evening against the Sharp wind, not could lodged there: But I had no Horse, and what the young man rode was a Colt which I could not venture to ride.

1773 February 14 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on *Hos.* 5.15, which may God bless to all of us! Am informed Mrs. Bellows dyed last night. Cousen *Anne Davis* dined here. P.M. delivered the other part of my Discourse on *Heb.* 12.25. And pray it may be to our awakening and edification. At Eve read a portion of Mr. *Mitchel's* excellent sermon on the Glories of Heaven. I hear that the Meazles have broke out among us. The Lord help us to prepare to Meet Him in the Way of His Judgments!

1773 February 15 (Monday). Visit and pray with Mrs. *Lucy Maynard*. Town meeting to see whether they will Sell the Pews that may be made in enlarging the Meeting House. Squire Whipple here. Mr. *Richard Martyn* and his wife came and drank Tea with us. At Eve Mr. *Belknap* and Mr. Daniel Forbes have long Debate about Mr. *Hutchinsons* Dismission.

1773 February 16 (Tuesday). Attend the Funeral of Mrs. Mary Bellows wife of Mr. *Ithamar Bellows* -- aged 62 last Sept. -- has lain ill 13 weeks. The Lord graciously Sanctify this Death to Me, to her Husband and Children. N.B. To day first Saw what this Town Sent to Boston Committee of Correspondence.

1773 February 17 (Wednesday). Read Mr. *Lorings* Diary -- which fills me with Shame and Grief.

1773 February 18 (Thursday). Rode in the Sleigh, and *Breck* with me, to Mr. *Gale's* -- and thence to *Southborough*. Dined with Mrs. *Stone*. Mr. Stone is gone to Boston. In returning, was at Mr. William Brigham's, and at his Brother Edmunds. This Evening Capt. *Benjamin Fay* made me a visit and brought me several presents. Tokens of Reconcilement. Thanks to God!

1773 February 19 (Friday). *Jonathan Maynard* (Son of Mr. *Ebenezer Maynard*) was here and is willing to live with me Six Months for 80£ old Tenor -- 8 Months for 95£ of like money -- 12 Months for 50 Dollars -- but expects to have his Mending, and liberty to go to Lecture without making up the time; also to have my Horse, if he wants to ride a mile or two in an Evening a few times. N.B. I had Sent by Mr. *Daniel Willard* to *Joshua Willard of Grafton*; and therefore can't Settle the Agreement till I hear from and have done with him. *Jonathan* engages not to let himself to any body else, till he hears from me. Hear that Mr. James Wilson of Hopkinton lately dyed suddenly.⁶ O that I might be always ready for my own Decease!

1773 February 20 (Saturday). Capt. Brooks of Grafton here -- tells me Joshua Willard is engaged. At Eve came Mr. *Hezekiah Taylor* to preach for me. Lodged here.

1773 February 21 (Sunday). Mr. *Taylor* preached for me a. and p.m. on 2 Cor. 5.20 last Clause. "We pray you in Christs Stead, be ye reconciled to God." May we especially that *preach* the Word of reconcilement See that it have success with us our selves. May these great Truths have power and Effect with all the Hearers! Mr. *Taylor* left us at Eve, after Repetition and prayer. N.B. It was one of the Coldest, and most tedious Days that ever comes; yet there was a tolerable Assembly. However, Some Ears were touched by the Frost, and all got home, no

⁶Not in Hopkinton Vital Records.

doubt with great Difficulty. Might we be always willing to undergo some disadvantages of the weather that we may obtain the far greater advantage and Happiness of Communion with God!

1772 February 22 (Monday). The Vendue of the additional Pews. *Breck* buys one, viz. a floor pew including part of 3 hindmost of the mens Seats, and next the great Isle, for 90£ old Tenor. Capt. *Benjamin Fay* the Opposite, which costs him 113£. N.B. Capt. *Jonas Brigham* is in great Displeasure at *Breck* buying that pew, which must not only join to but take in some part of his present pew. Complains that he is wronged, because when the Towns committee brought in their Judgment concerning the Space which is taken out of Capt. *Brighams* Pew to make another pew before it (and their judgment was that the Town Should pay him 3 Dollars for that Room, or if he chose the Pew which would be built before it, then he should Pay 3 Dollars), he complied with this last, and offered his 3 Dollars yet the Town would not accept the Committees Report, but Sold the pew he wanted. At Eve I understood that all the Pews are sold.

1773 February 23 (Tuesday). I rode in my Sleigh to *Grafton*. *Breck* and *Hannah* went with me. We dined at Mr. *Hezekiah Taylors*, and his Son (from *Wrentham* whither he has been Since he went from us) met us there. Thence I went to visit old Mr. *Prentice* (which was my principal Design in going), he being far gone in a Dropsy. Found him pleasant, and his wife also Sociable. She Speaks of her Husband under the name of Brother *Solomon*. She gave me Some Account of the wonderful Change in her Body -- her Sanctification -- that God had shewn to her His mind and Will -- She was taught henceforth to know no man after the Flesh -- that She had not for above 20 Years -- not so much as Shook Hands with any Man etc. There came in Mr. *Benjamin Leland* and Mr. *Samuel Cooper*, whom She called Brother *Benjamin*, and Brother *Samuel* -- etc. I could not know much about Mr. *Prentice* as to his spiritual state. N.B. Nothing was Said about prayer. I took leave, and went to Mr. *Hutchinsons* where was Mr. *Bowman* of Oxford. Thence to Mr. *Andrew Adams's* where the Present Preacher, Mr. *Isaac Biglow* boards. In returning home called at Mr. *Nathaniel Whitneys* junior. Arrived in safety. D.G.

1773 February 24 (Wednesday). *Breck* rides to *Providence* to promote Trade there. *Sophy* chiefly tends his Shop. N.B. One Mr. [blank] *Kimbal* of *Fitchbourg* with Several Teams, loaded with Lumber, came here last Evening. He lodged here last Night. I wrote by him to Dr. *Maccarty*. Mr. *Nathan Maynards* wife has been delivered of a dead child. I visited and prayed with her. Exhorted the Children etc. at her Desire.

1773 February 25 (Thursday). [No entry.]

1773 February 26 (Friday). Mr. *Bass*, his Wife and Child here. This is their first Visit. Rev. *Josiah Thatcher* returning to *Gorham*, calls here. *Breck* returns.

1773 February 27 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1772 February 28 (Sunday). Preached on Deut. 32.46. The Lord grant his Blessing! For Christ's sake. P.M. On Consideration of the Town Meeting tomorrow to choose Town Officers, and the

irreverence and customariness, of many, as may be feared, in taking their Oaths, I preached on Heb. 6.16, repeating in part what I formerly delivered on this Text, and on the Same Occasion. May God be pleased to Succeed it! N.B. Cousen Maynard dined here. Repeated the forenoon Sermon at Evening to my Family; and O that God would help me thus to finish this Month with this very *Setting of my Heart* and commanding my Children to observe and do All the Words of His Law!

1773 March 1 (Monday). I am affected with the Consideration of the Flight of Time: that we have been carried through another Winter, is also matter of praise to our gracious God. To His Name therefore be the Glory of our preservation! And may the End hereof be diligently attended to! *Town-Meeting*. Two Men, Messrs. Gale, and Jonathan Grout, came to Me from the Town to desire me to go to the Meeting House and pray with them. I complied -- went and prayed. N.B. The Town Clerk, Mr. *Moses Wheelock*, is Sick. Memor[andum?]. I asked publicly to be gratified with the pamphlet which the antient and respectable Town of Boston had sent hither, for I have neither seen it nor can find where it is. I would Seek the Peace and Welfare of this place, of this Province, and of the British Realm, on which we are dependent. But I could not hear of Said Pamphlet.

1773 March 2 (Tuesday). Reckon with Neighbour Thomas *Arnold*. Visit Miss *Lydia Nurse*, who is confined by grievous illness and lameness; dined there -- prayed with her. P.M. attend the private Meeting at Mr. *Jonathan Grouts*, on *Numb.* 23.10. May it be a word of Power to all of us! N.B. I find by Conversing with some persons after meeting that the minds of many are disturbed with what is doing about the Meeting House. Call to see Mr. *Wheelock*, who is sick.

1773 March 3 (Wednesday). Mr. Thomas Arnold and his Family move from the Town to go to *Hadley*. Mr. *William Spring* and his Family are come to live nigh us in Mr. Arnolds room. Mr. Hancock the Taylor at work here for Breck. Rev. Fish of *Upton* dines here. He came upon Business with Breck; and after little Conversation with me, returned home.

1773 March 4 (Thursday). Received and read the Boston Pamphlet, of their Votes and Proceedings, and Letter of Correspondence. O that God who is infinite Wisdom would grant to His people Wisdom and Direction, in this dark and difficult Day! Am closely engaged in my preparations -- may I enjoy the presence and Help of God!

1773 March 5 (Friday). Mr. *Henry Quincy* of Boston came to Breakfast with me. Brought me a Letter from his worthy Father (which was as welcome as long) expressive of his cordial Friendship, his pious Sense of the Necessity of Religion to render us happy, and of *Charity* to make this World what we would wish it; in it he presages a Political Storm arising, the Event of which may finally be the Glory of *America*. Received from Mr. *Stone*, his Desire to 'change. John Fay Having killed a pig yesterday about [blank] Months old, to day he weighed, cut up and Salted it. Weighed 9 score and [blank] Pound. *Sophy* rode to deacon Batchelors at Grafton for him to weave a Coverlid. At night she returns, and Mr. *Isaac Biglow* with her. Deacon *Brown* came from Leicester, in his way home. They both lodge here.

1773 March 6 (Saturday). Brother Brown and Mr. Biglow leave us. P.M. I rode to *Southborough* and Mr. Stone came hither. The Roads bad; hollow and dirty. But God is our preserver! His name be magnified!

1773 March 7 (Sunday). Preached at *Southborough* a. and p.m. on Zech. 2.5. "For I saith the Lord will be a Wall of Fire" etc. Will the Lord please to add His Blessing! There were indeed but few, being rainy and stormy -- till late p.m. It cleared off and the Evening pleasant, but having much desire to confer with Mr. Stone on various subjects, had agreed to stay there, did so.

1773 March 8 (Monday). Brought home from Mr. *Stones, Clarks* Lives of 10 English Divines, and a Number of other eminent persons. 4to. Arrived in safety and my Tabernacle in peace. D.G. N.B. In returning, I visited the widow *Gale* and son *Amsden*. Also called at the workhouse to see *Garfield*, but he went off. I nevertheless went in to see his Wife and Children. My son *John* came home from *Shrewsbury*; his time with Mr. Stone being expired. Read Mr. *Jeremiah Dummers* Defence of the New England Charters.⁷

1773 March 9 (Tuesday). Visit at Mr. Ebenezer Millers, his little son *Willard* being very ill. Prayed there. Visit at Mr. Isaac Millers also.

1773 March 10 (Wednesday). Visit at Mr. *Nathan Maynards* and prayed with them. Mr. *Lorings* Diary. *Clarks Lives*; in which the Life of Mr. John Cotton.

1773 March 11 (Thursday). Mr. *Hancock the Taylor*, at work for *Breck* and *Elias*, making Coats for them. Mr. *Hannaniah Parker* pays me £75 old Tenor. I bought of *Breck* (through necessity) a *Russel* and *Calamanco* Gown; which *Sophy* makes. *Isaac Davis* here at Eve.

1773 March 12 (Friday). *John* and *Elias* go to *Brookfield*. P.M. Capt. *Maynard* and his Wife make us an afternoon Visit.

1773 March 13 (Saturday). *Hancock the Taylor* is here at work for *Breck* from Day to Day. I am endeavouring to prepare for the Sabbath, but meet with many avocations and interruptions. Have received last Evening a Letter from Mr. *Thomas Adams* of *Medfield*, with Several Books I had lent him, and Dr. *Evans* of the *Christian Temper* which he had bargained to me and was long looked for. Mr. *Isaac Biglow* going to *Grafton*, and Mr. *Nathaniel Whitney* junior dine here. Towards Eve came Mr. *Henry Quincy* from *Rutland*, and lodges here.

1773 March 14 (Sunday). Much disconcerted by Company. Thought it most convenient to postpone my intended and unfinished preparations and preached a. and p.m. on, what might be more seasonable, *Mat. 16.26*. Mr. *Quincy* dined at Lt. *Bakers*. He was here after Meeting and at Eve -- but lodged there.

⁷Jeremiah Dummer (1681-1739), *A Defence of the New-England Charters* (Boston, 1745). Evans 5576. Another edition appeared in 1765 (Evans 9960).

1773 March 15 (Monday). Wrote by Mr. *Quincy* to his Father. He returns to *Boston*. Mr. Hancock again at work here for Breck. Miss Molly Badcock came here about noon to Spin for us.

1773 March 16 (Tuesday). Went to See and talk with Solomon *Batheric* and his Wife, they having had a Child too soon. The man not at home. Admonished the woman, calling her to Repentence. P.M. Visit Mrs. Fisher who also has lately brought forth a Child prematurely. Admonished and exhorted her -- her Husband not there. So that I determined to take another time. N.B. Capt. *Thomas Mellen* and his Wife, with Deacon *Wood* and his wife, made us a Visit. N.B. Solomon Prentice of Grafton we hear was seized lately for putting off Counterfeit Dollars: and two more [blank] for making them. The former is bailed, the two latter are committed. My Son Breck is gone to *Worcester* to secure his own Interest with one of them.

1773 March 17 (Wednesday). Breck returned from *Worcester*. Mr. *Isaac Biglow* preached my Lecture from *Joh. 3.5*. Tarrys and lodges here. N.B. Susanna Brigham brought her Relation. My Son William came this Way from Medfield and Medway and lodges here. His Wife, he tells me is, and has been for some time, much out of Health. Mr. *Biglow* tarries with us.

1773 March 18 (Thursday). Mr. Biglow goes to Holden. *Billy* pays me £14 old Tenor for the Steer he bought of me. He pays me also 31£ for the fat Heiffer which he had with the Steer. P.M. he leaves us to go home. At Eve came my Son *Alexander* and laments it that he hath missed again of Seeing his Brother *William*, this being, he says, the 3d or 4th time when it has been so; and he has not seen him for [blank] Years. *Elias* also came with *Alexander* in his returning from *Brookfield*. Tells me *John* is in Mr. *Hitchcocks* Business for a while -- and then is to go to *Oxford*. By a Letter from my Son Ebenezer am informed that one of his little Boys (*Neddy*) with a sharp Ax, cut two of *Lewis's* fingers almost off. Viz. the fore and middle Fingers of his right Hand.

1773 March 19 (Friday). *Alexander* having tarried over Night and dined, took leave. And *Hannah* goes with him to be with them a while, by reason of his Wife's great Incapacity for Business, being near her Time.

1773 March 20 (Saturday). Am as Separate in my preparations as my Circumstances will well permitt. But alas how brokenly! And to how little Effect!

1773 March 21 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Ps. 41.4, a Discourse prepared at first for Mrs. *Sarah Smith*, but now first (with many Additions) delivered in public and accommodated to the Communion. It is No. MDCCXXVIII. Admitted Mrs. Elizabeth Fay (Capt. *Benjamin's* Wife) and *Susanna Brigham* junior into Church Fellowship. Mrs. Maynard and Phinehas Forbes dined here. P.M. preached on *Deut. 32.46.47*. At Eve read in the Family part of Dr. Calamy on vows, ch. 10. Of the dreadful Case of those who keep vows etc. without any Serious Sense etc.

1773 March 22 (Monday). Deep Concern etc. Varietys of Studys.

1773 March 23 (Tuesday). A.M. Visit Mr. Barnabas Newtons Family. His wife lay in when She had the Meazles: and 4 Children visited also. Went to See Mr. Fisher and his wife. Reckoned and settled with Mr. *Townsend*. Mr. *Stone* here to trade with *Breck*. Dined with us. He goes to *Northborough*. I Spend some time with the Diary. N.B. Mr. *James Pierce* a Cripple.

1773 March 24 (Wednesday). I had Brecks Mare to ride to *Bolton* Lecture. Called at Mrs. *Martyns*. A Vendue of part of her Goods last night. Took Mr. *Whitney* with me to *Bolton*, but Mr. *Stone* (who lodged at Northborough last night) goes to Marlborough to a Singing Lecture there. Dined at Mr. *Goss's*. Rev. Messrs. *Morse* and *Johnson* there. Mr. *Morse* prayed before sermon. Mr. *Johnson* preached: his Text Eph. 4.1 -- "walk worthy the Vocation" etc. The Church with Mr. *Goss* asked our Advice, but I little to say. Returning with Mr. *Whitney* called at Mr. *Nat. Longleys* and read to him the Letter which I composed some time ago to be sent to Capt. *Bailey* and him, but was not Sent. Lodged at Mr. *Whitneys*.

1773 March 25 (Thursday). Was at Mr. *Samuel Allens*; and at Mr. *Richard Martyns*, who lent me, a Number of his Fathers Notes; and an Answer to a Question concerning Moral Vertue. Came home in Safety. D.G. Apply my Self as Soon as I can to my preparations.

1773 March 26 (Friday). [No entry.]

1773 March 27 (Saturday). At Eve Sent for and went to Mrs. *Lucy Maynard*, Mr. *Nathan Maynards* wife, who has been ill a great while, and whom I have visited many times, but now extremely low: (thought to be nigh her End) prayed with her, etc.

1773 March 28 (Sunday). Read *Hosea* VI. Preached on the 3 first v. P.M. read 1 Joh. 2 and went on with the Discourse begun awhile ago from *Mat.* 16.26. Proceeded to the End, though with Some considerable omissions. O that God would be graciously pleased to bless these Exercises, to my own and the people's greatest Good and Benefit! In the Evening read in the Family an excellent portion of Mr. *Mitchel* on the Glorys of Heaven, Sermon 8.

1773 March 29 (Monday). Mr. *Jonathan Batherick* came, at Brecks procuring, to work upon the Frame of an Hog's Sty. I wrote to Mr. *Bradshaw*. Visited Mrs. *Lucy Maynard* again, and prayed with her. P.M. Visited old Mrs. *Woods*, She being in distressing pain, prayed with her. Visited at Mr. *Cooks* and his sons. Viewed his many Contrivances at his Damms; Gutters; Mills etc.

1773 March 30 (Tuesday). Mr. *Batheric* and *John* are framing. *Jonathan Maynard* here, confirms the agreement to work for me for 8 months etc. He dines here, as does Mr. *Batheric*, and Mr. *Collins Moore*, who calls here in his way to Boston. Afterwards came my Kinsman *Bradshaw*, and though late dined here. Then came Master *Taylor* and one Mr. *Emmerson*, an Housewright. Neither had they dined till now, but Dinner was got for them. At Eve came Master *Waters* from *Sutton* and lodges here. Also my Kinsman *John Bradshaw* came from *Stoughtonham*, hoping there might be room for him to live with me and labour for me, but he is too late.

1773 March 31 (Wednesday). My Kinsman tarrys with us. I rode to *Shrewsbury*: dined at Mr. *Sumners*. Rev. Messrs. *Morse*, *Goss*, and *Davis* dined there also. I preached the Lecture -- on 2 Cor. 4.1-4. Mr. *Sumner* Stayed the Church by reason of a Letter from *Bolton* disaffected Members -- but post-poned the affair for two months. N.B. had but a little Discourse with poor Mr. *Davis*. Mr. *Goss* and two of his Brethren, viz. *Benjamin Bailey* and *Joshua Johnson* go to *Worcester*. I returned home. Found my Son *Cushing* here who had waited on his Mother from *Ashburnham*. N.B. Old Mrs. *Kelly* much indisposed.

1773 April 1 (Thursday). I catechized at the meeting House. Upward of 40 Boys. It rained p.m. Only 4 Girls. N.B. my Kinsman *Bradshaw* left us in the morning to return to *Stoughtonham*: and my son *Cushing* (taking with him his 2 first vols. of the Dictionary of Arts and Sciences) went to *Shrewsbury* (in his way home) carrying with him Several Volumes of Spectator also.

1773 April 2 (Friday). [No entry.]

1773 April 3 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1773 April 4 (Sunday). I rode over to *Northborough* and preached there on Heb. 12.15, former part, a. and p.m. Mr. *Whitney* here. His text a. and p.m. 1 Joh. 3.21.22. May a gracious God add his Blessing, and teach us who dispense the word, and those who have heard it to profit by it! We returned home respectively. Squire Wood of Colrain and his Kinsman *Joseph* Wood of Hopkinton visit here.

1773 April 5 (Monday). *Jonathan Maynard* came to live with me and work for me, the Terms, Eight Months for 12£ 13.4 Lawful Money. Miss *Hannah Fish* here, dined with us. I understood by her that her Father designed to go to *Bolton* tomorrow. I therefore wrote to him a Letter earnestly advising and cautioning him against the threatening Evils etc. P.M. Visited at Mr. *Amasa* Maynards, his Daughter *Annis* being very ill: Lethargic. Was at old Mr. *James* Maynards.

1773 April 6 (Tuesday). Capt. *Silas Bailey* and Mr. *James Goddard* here, and desire Copys of what our Association wrote upon the *Bolton* Affairs. N.B. I read the Letter which I had prepared Some Months past, to Capt. *Bailey* and Mr. *Nathaniel Longley*. But Capt. *Bailey* Said he did not desire it. Mr. *Mellen* of *Chauxit* came while I was reading it. Mr. *Fish* also came, and we had a good deal of fervent Debate. What I chiefly insisted for, was, that they would proceed according to the Constitution -- that they would call a mutual Council, and prevent a Rupture. Mr. *Mellen* dined here. The rest left us to go to Capt. *Maynards*. P.M. Mr. *Mellen* to Hopkinton. My wife and I to private Meeting at Mr. *Whitneys*, where I preached on Ps. 34.8. Which O that God would Succeed to His Glory and our highest Advantage!

1773 April 7 (Wednesday). Very much taken up with our gardening. *Breck* has Sent to *Boston* for an Assortment of Seeds for his Shop -- supplys me with several Sorts, and assists in the work we are engaged in. *John Fay's* Time was out last night, but he works for me to Day, and spends his Time and Pains in the Garden. At Night I paid him as he expects from my promise £25 old Tenor.

1773 April 8 (Thursday). Mr. *Mellen*, returning home, calls here -- acquaints me further with his own Troubles; that his people are about to call a Council; that he believes that the major part of the Church are against him, though the major part of the people, he thinks, are for him. He goes to Mr. *Whitneys* to dine. I visited Neighbour *Nurse*, She being very low and weak. When I returned found that Mr. *Fish* had been here: he tells Mrs. *Parkman*, that the best way to put an End to the Contention in *Bolton*, is to Settle a Minister there as fast as they can. As if the true method of quenching a Flame was to throw Oyl upon it. Unhappy People to be guided in this manner! So out of all Rule or Reason. At Eve came Messrs. *Eli Whitney* and *Joseph Harrington*. The former brought a present of a Number of Trees of some bigness, that had been graffed at the Ground. Four of them with which he much gratified me. But the Latter has the Affair of *Bolton*, and the new-published Narrative,⁸ in his mind, and therefore he wants to discourse of that. I gave but few, and cautious Replys. Chiefly, That Mr. *Goss* was not (as I apprehended) orderly dismissed, because 1.) If he were guilty, yet it has not been made to appear by a fair Trial. The Council (large and mutual) had not found him guilty: and there had been no Trial Since. 2.) There had been no Church meeting called according to the Constitution to dismiss him -- no Meeting So much as asked for according to the Platform. And 3.) The members were but few who met and did this important work, compared with the whole Church. And 27 out of 52 or 3, had, Since that Vote, received the Communion of Mr. *Goss*: That if they were more now who were against him, and if he were *bad*, and ought to be dismissed, yet there ought to be regular Steps taken in order to accomplish it. And Further, the Narrative is very defective in divers parts of it.

1773 April 9 (Friday). Strictly engaged.

1773 April 10 (Saturday). Mr. *Bradshaw*, with my Son *John* (who works with Mr. *William Watson* at Oxford) came here. They lodge here.

1773 April 11 (Sunday). Read Ps. 27.4. P.M. read 1 Joh. 3. Mr. *Bradshaw* preached a.m. on Ps. 27.4. *John Fay* dined here. P.M. Mr. *Bradshaw* on *Prov.* 23.17, last Clause, "but be thou in the Fear of the Lord" etc. Very useful Discourses. May God succeed them! At Eve he repeated the Heads of both. O that we might obtain the divine Concurrence!

1773 April 12 (Monday). Mr. *Bradshaw* leaves us to go to his Fathers. P.M. sister *Cushing* came to See us. *John* goes away, designing to go to Mr. *Watsons*. A Town Meeting about the Pews. To pacifie Several old men and gratifie some others, they vote that the Two designed Rows, of three Pews each, before the fore seats, be built back of the long Seats. N.B. Neighbour *Newton*, and *Joseph Bond* assist in plowing my new-broke up Land.

⁸Not clear what the "new-published Narrative" was. In 1773 there appeared *The Result of an Ecclesiastical Council, Convened at Bolton, August 3, 1773, at the Desire of the Pastor and Church of Christ in that Town* (Boston, 1773). Evans 12,686. See entry for August 17.

1773 April 13 (Tuesday). Miss *Molly Taylor* and her Sister *Nabby* came to see us. Sister Cushing p.m. returns home. Miss *Molly Taylor* tarrys with us. Company so frequently interrupting, can follow my Studys but too brokenly. William *Sergeant* from my son *Alexander* came for *Ruth Bellows*: but he lodges here.

1773 April 14 (Wednesday). My Kinswoman Mrs. *Bradford* came her son *William* and Daughter *Dorcas* with her. They dine with us: They also tarry with us. *Molly Badcock* becomes of our Family. Hear from *Leicester* that my Son *Alexander* has another son born. The Lord be magnified for His great Goodness! May the Child be blessed and prove a Blessing! Will the Lord please to perfect the begun Salvation and restore His Handmaid.

1773 April 15 (Thursday). *Public Fast*. I preached a.m. on Ps. 51.14. P.M. repeated, with omissions and alterations, Sermon on Mat. 24.15 to p. 7, accommodating the Discourse to the present state. The Lord hear our prayers, make Hearts truly contrite, and pardon our Many iniquities.

1773 April 16 (Friday). My Kinswoman and her Children left us after dinner, to go to Mr. *Allens* at *Shrewsbury*. Miss *Molly Taylor* yet with us teaching *Sophy* to knit a curious Lace. Mrs. *Bowker* of *Sym* [*illegible*] here. Cousen *Nanny Davis* here to be examined. At Eve Mr. *Henry Quincy* and Lt. *Baker* who gives Account of his *Great Ox*, [*marginal notation: Drapers Paper for Apr. 8 says, the largest fat Ox ever Seen in America*] which he sold at *Boston* for 50£ lawful money, He weighed alive 2501 neat. Measured from his Nose to his Rump, 12 feet 2 inches. 9 feet [*illegible*] round: 5 feet, 11 inches high. 5 feet from top of Weathers to Br[*illegible*]. Mr. *Quincy* lodges at Lieutenants. N.B. My Son *Baldwin* came from *Brookfield* and my Daughter *Hannah* from *Leicester*. My Horse (which she rode) has been sick.

1773 April 17 (Saturday). Mr. *Baldwin* towards *Boston*. Mr. *Eli Whitney* graffs for me at Mr. *Joseph Bonds*.

1773 April 18 (Sunday). Read Hos. 7. Preached on Hos. 6.4. P.M. read 1 Joh. 4. Preached on Mat. 24.12 from p. 7 to 11. At Eve read in Mr. *Mitchell*.

1773 April 19 (Monday). We undertook to break up what we have been wont to call the Middle Pasture. Assisting my Young Man with my 4 Cattle were Mr. *Barnabas Newton* with a Yoke of Oxen, Neighbour *Nathan Kenny* with Do., Neighbour *Nathan Maynards* Son *Nehemiah* with Do., Mr. *Ebenezer Maynards* and Mr. *Joseph Bonds*: in all 14 and Capt. *Jonas Brigham*s large Plough. "*Manus ad Stivam, Oculus ad Caelum!*" P.M. rode to Lt. *Harringtons* to See old Mr. *Stretton*, and a Sick Child. Prayed there. *Breck* to *Providence*, and Sends 3 Load of Shingles there.

[1773 April 20 (Tuesday). [No entry]?]

1773 April 21 (Wednesday). Break up again. The Help was Lt. *Harrington* with a Yoke of Oxen, Mr. *Nathan Kenny* with Do., Mr. *Silas Hill's* Do., Mr. *Joseph Bonds* Do. Just before noon Mr. *Thomas Frost* work with his Cattle -- So that with mine there were still 14 Cattle at the Work. I

rode to Ministers Meeting at Southborough. But few came, viz. Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Goss*, and Mr. *Peter Whitney*. Mr. Stone delivered a serious, useful Sermon on the Passage 1 John 3.5, "And ye know that he was manifested to take away Sin" etc. We hear that Mr. *Adams* of *Lunenburg* is preparing to answer the *Bolton* narrative.⁹

A Paper for subscriptions head, and we Signed it, for a Number Books. Returned at Even -- all Well -- Blessed be God! Hear the *Bolton* people have chose Mr. *Walley* for their pastor. N.B. Mr. *Daniel Hemingway* and a Number of other Carpenters came to Work at the Meeting House: framing etc. Two of the Carpenters board and lodge here at 30/ *old Tenor* Each. Viz. Mr. *John Harrington* and *Nathan Caruth*. Mr. *Hancock* the Taylor comes to work for *Sophy*, making her a Riding Habit. Daughter *Hannah* droops as if with Jaundice. I visit Mr. *Amasa* Maynards little Daughter again -- prayed there. The Child is extremely ill. The Lord prepare it and the parents for the Event! *Breck* returns from *Providence*. Miss *Molly Taylor* returns home to *Grafton* by Help of Deacon *Stow*.

1773 April 22 (Thursday). *Breck* is Summoned to Court at *Worcester* to give Evidence in the Case of the *Holbrooks* who are imprisoned for making Dollars and now to be tryed. I change 4 Bushel of Rye for 4 Bush. of ground Malt with Mr. *Samuel Allen*, and receive 20/ *old Tenor* Difference.

1773 April 23 (Friday). [No entry.]

1773 April 24 (Saturday). Hear that at *Wor'ster* the money makers have suffered according to Law.

1773 April 25 (Sunday). Read *Hos.* 8. Preached on *Hos.* 6.4. P.M. read 1 *Joh.* 5. Went on with *Mat.* 24.12 from p. 11 to the End.

1773 April 26 (Monday). *Breck* and *Sophy* Sat out for *Boston*. N.B. gave *Breck* 12 Dollars to lay out for me in *Boston*. An old England Man, one *Joseph Keenes*, of *Warminster* in *Wiltshire*, a Taylor, came to work here for *Breck*. Mr. *John Maynard* came to acquaint me with the Death of his Brother *Amasa's* little Daughter *Annis*, and to desire me to attend the Funeral tomorrow.

1773 April 27 (Tuesday). Mr. *Keenes* at work here again. 4 of the workmen at the Meeting House, board here. I attended the Funeral of Mr. *Amasa Maynards* Child.

1773 April 28 (Wednesday). Wrote to my Son *Moore* and sent it to *Boston* by Mr. *Elisha Forbes*. Gave 50/ to Mr. *Thomas Whitney* going to *Boston* to pay *Edes* and *Gill* for my News-Paper. The Workmen at the Meeting House have very much demolished the inside of it, as well as Defac'd the out.

⁹Zabdiel Adams (1739-1801), *An Answer to a Pamphlet Lately Published, (Under the Signature of a Neighbour), Intituled, "A Treatise on Church Government." Wherein the Errors of This Anonymous Author's Narrative of the Troubles and Transactions in the Church at Bolton Are Corrected* (Boston, 1773). Evans 12,636.

1773 April 29 (Thursday). Visit Mrs. Nurse. Discourse and pray with her.

1773 April 30 (Friday). Mr. *Keenes* at work here Still. Several others of his Friends came here. *Breck* and *Sophy* at Eve arrive from *Boston*. Inform me that my Kinswoman *Winter* is married to Mr. *Bailey*.

1773 May 1 (Saturday). Mr. Ballard of Oxford from Boston, returning home, calls here: Mr. *Stone* changes with Mr. *Hall* of *Sutton* -- as he goes to *Sutton* takes a Dinner here. Rev. Joseph *Willard* of *Mendon* came and dined here also. P.M. *Alexander* came with *Ruth Bellows*, and returned with a Bush. of Rye and a Bush. and half of Indian Corn. Sorrowful News of the Death of *John Arnold* (well known among us) by the fall of a Tree a few days ago, at *Heneker*. O that this solemn Warning might be improved suitably by all of us! By me especially, that I may be always ready! Lord, make me know my End! O that young people, his Acquaintance in special, who are gay and walk in the Vanity of their Minds, might be awakened to Repentance and prepare for Sudden Death!

1773 May 2 (Sunday). Read *Hosea* 9th. Preached on *Hos.* 6.4. P.M. Read 2 Ep. *John*. Preached on 2 *Pet.* 3.11. Was Sent for to go to Mrs. *Maynard* (*Lucy*). Found her very low -- more reconciled to Dying. Prayed with her. Mr. *Stone* returning from *Sutton* dined here.

1773 May 3 (Monday). The workmen prepare to attempt the moving the *East End* of the *Meeting House* -- with three windlasses, and a Number of Chains. Mr. *Stone* went with me, and at my Request he prayed before they actually began. Through divine Favour it was with good Success. Thanks to our most Merciful God!

1773 May 4 (Tuesday). The workmen and a great Number of people undertake the moving the *West End*. Messrs. *William Brigham* and *David Brigham* with their Wives, dined here, as did Mr. *Keenes*. Mr. *Peter Whitney* (whom I had writ to, apprizing and inviting) came p.m. N.B. Mr. *Walley* and Coll. *Whitcomb*, going to *Upton*, Stop at the Meeting House, and the *Movings* there being accomplished, the people requested me to Return Thanks publicly; to perform which we gathered into the House -- and after prayer we Sung part of the 132 Ps. Deacon *Wood* invited me, Mr. *Whitney* etc. to an Entertainment at his House. I went, but Mr. *Whitney* to Capt. *Maynards*. Thus this arduous Enterprise was finished without any Disaster. The Praise to God our Preserver! N.B. *Harrington* and *Caruth* did not come home at Night.

1773 May 5 (Wednesday). But they return to Day. I rode over to *Northborough*. Din'd at Mr. *Whitneys* and preached his Lecture from *Mat.* 25.6.10. As I returned, called a little at Capt. *Maynards* and but a little for he was not at home. Before I got home, Mrs. P_____, who had been to see our good Neighbour *Nurse*, would have me turn in to see Mrs. *Nurse*, because it was thought she was near her End. I went, conversed and prayed with her, as one hastening apace out of this Life. She her self thought She was like soon to go.

1773 May 6 (Thursday). Between one and Two o'Clock in the Night came Neighbour *Jonas Kenny* and alarmed us with the Death of my good Old Neighbour Mrs. *Ruth Nurse*, newly entered into her 68th Year -- a woman of great and many Infirmitys for many Years. A very prudent House-Keeper according to her Circumstances, and much exercised in Entertaining Strangers and Pitying and relieving the necessitous. In the morning went over to them and prayed. N.B. Mr. *Walley* and Col. *Whitcomb*, returning from Upton, call here, but would not tarry to dinner -- our Discourse chiefly of *Bolton Affairs*. N.B. Col. *Whitcomb* cant say that they asked Mr. *Goss* to call a Church Meeting for the express Purpose of his Dismission. Mr. *Walley* says he wants Advice of his Rev. Fathers and Brethren in the Ministry concerning his settling there. At Parting at the Door I Said I could not but be greatly dissatisfyed with their Proceedings etc. P.M. preached at Mrs. *Kendalls*, principally to old Mrs. *Woods* (old Mr. Joseph *Stretton* of *Waltham* was also present) from *Mat.* 25.6.10 from p. 37 to 61, omitting from p. 46 to 51. May the Lord be pleased to add His Blessing, to our Saving Benefit! My Grandson, *Ebenezer Tertius*, from *Cambridge*. Has left Mr. *Barrett*; is on his was to *Brookfield*.

1773 May 7 (Friday). Mr. *Joseph Arnold* of *Grafton* calls to see me. He is very mournful for the Loss of his son *John* (whose Death he confirms) and desires public prayers here. P.M. Attend the Funeral of Mrs. *Nurse* and pray'd there. Mr. *Eleazer Ward* of *Paxton* there. He is the only Residue of the Family that used to dwell in that House. May I have profitable Reflections on this speaking Providence! Hear that old Mr. *Charles Rice*, the oldest male member of this Church, dyed at *Brookfield* on Monday last. Also that Rev. Mr. *Daniel McClalland* of *Colrain* is dead. Lord make me know my End etc.!

1773 May 8 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1773 May 9 (Sunday). The Meeting House very open and broken: the Floors much disordered -- neither mens nor womens Seats Standing: but have reason to fear our own Hearts much more unfit for divine Worship. The Lord set us to rights by His almighty Grace and Spirit! Read *Hos.* 10. Preached on *Prov.* 27, adding to what I formerly delivered on that Subject, and especially on Account of *John Arnold* and his Sudden Death. N.B. several young Men, Some of them members of the Society to which he belonged, desired this Death may be Sanctified to them. Mr. *Barrett* of *Hopkinton* came to Meeting here, and din'd with us; Mr. *Fitch* being absent. P.M. Read 3d Epistle of *John*. Went on (in preaching) with the Discourse on *2 Pet.* 3.11, but could not deliver all. The Lord grant us a Spirit of true Seriousness, that we may be Savingly profited by the *Word* and *Providences* of God!

1773 May 10 (Monday). In the morning went over to Neighbour *Nurse's*. Mr. *Eleazer Ward* of *Paxton* Still there. Visit Mrs. *Maynard* again who lyes in a very low and distressed Condition yet -- discoursed and prayed with her. May I Suitably consider who makes me to differ! Called at Neighbour *Pratts*, *Bonds*, and *Williams* and drop Some Serious, quickening words among them. Mr. *Hancock* the *Taylor* came to make me a black, cloth Coat and Jacket which *Breck* bought for me at *Boston* -- 6£ old Tenor per yard, in the wholesale way.

1773 May 11 (Tuesday). Mr. Hancock at work. Read on Redeeming the Time; and Dr. *Chauncy* on Breaking of Bread a Gospel Institution¹⁰ and *Burroughs* Commentary on *Hos.* [Ch.?] 6.5. At Eve Mr. *Keenes* here, and the young woman he is published to, viz. Miss *Mary Painter*.

1773 May 12 (Wednesday). No Mr. *Hancock*.

1773 May 13 (Thursday). Mr. Moore and his little *Sukey* Safely arrived from *Rochester*. She rode behind her Father on a Pillion, and bore it well. D.G. They lodged here. At Eve Mr. Hancock came to excuse himself.

1773 May 14 (Friday). Mr. *Moore* Windbound by the Storm. Capt. Curtis of Boston and Dr. Curtis of Marlborough here and dine with us. Mr. *Ephraim* Ballard of Oxford in his return home from Boston, came in, and dines, though late; and then prosecutes his Journey. Mr. *More* [*sic*] tarrys.

1773 May 15 (Saturday). The rainy weather prevents Mr. Moore's going to *Ashburnham*. *Elias Parkman* of *Brookfield* comes with my Horse, and with Letters from his Father and from his uncle *Forbes* informing me of the Sickness of *Ebenezer Tertius*: having been taken ill upon his Journey to *Brookfield*. Arrived there with Difficulty, grew very ill, was delirious, and remains bad, though better than he was a few Days agoe.

1773 May 16 (Sunday). Read *Hos.* 11. My Son *Moore* preached on *Rom.* 1.18. P.M. Read the Epistle of *Jude*. Mr. *Moore* preached on 2 *Tim.* 2.10. And repeated at Evening. O that it might be to saving Effect!

1773 May 17 (Monday). Mr. *Moore* setts out for *Ashburnham*. I visited Old Mr. *William Nurse* who desired prayers yesterday for himself and son in *Law Stacy*. Called to see the Widow *Brigham*. Left my Horse there, to be pastured by Mr. *Nathan Fay*, who lives there.

1773 May 18 (Tuesday). This morning *Elias* of *Brookfield* with his Horse Load of Rye (4 Bushels) left us, and *Jonathan Maynard* with 5 of my Cattle to go to *Brookfield* to be pastured at my Son *Baldwins*. Mrs. *Lucy Maynard* (wife of Mr. *Nathan Maynard*) after 13 years Suffering of Pain and illness, and in the 45th Year of her Age, dies, about noon, hopefully in Christ. A Pattern of Patience and Meekness. May God sanctifie this Breach! P.M. I visited Mr. *Stacy* of *Hopkinton*; in a low Condition of Mind and Body. Discoursed and prayed with him. A very Sorrowful Spectacle! Visited also at Mr. *Daniel Adams's*, Mr. *Jonah Warrins* etc. N.B. Mr. *Whitman* of *Hartford* and a Daughter, Mr. [H?]insdell of *Windsor* -- and Capt. *Bull* of *Hartford*, journeying to *Boston*, were here in the morning at Breakfast with us.

¹⁰Charles Chauncy (1705-1787), *Breaking of Bread in Remembrance of the Dying Love of Christ, a Gospel Institution. Five Sermons on the Lord's Supper* (Boston, 1772). Evans 12,350.

1773 May 19 (Wednesday). Mr. Hancock and Wheeler, Taylors, at work here, making a black Coat and Jacket for me. P.M. Mr. *Whitney*, his wife and Child, from *Northborough*, make us a Visit.

1773 May 20 (Thursday). *Hancock* a.m., *Wheeler* a. and p.m. finish their Work and paid for it. P.M. Mrs. Maynards Funeral. Cousen *Maynard*, Dr. *Hawes* and his Wife were here after the Burying. Mr. H. Parker Sends me 40£ old Tenor.

1773 May 21 (Friday). Hear that poor Mr. *Samuel Stacy* dyed Yesterday -- and unhappy [Man?] in a very despairing Frame: but as he was under hypocondriack Affections, and he was Sometimes, at least partly, delirious, a Judgment cannot be made concerning him. My Kinsman *Bradshaw* from Western and dined here. He is journeying to *Brookfield*. P.M. Cousen *Maynard* came with her sister Miss *Betty Gott*, waited on by Mr. *Daniel Gilbert* of *Brookfield*. N.B. This afternoon was a session of the Meeting House Committee, who Enquire into the Conduct of *Henry Marble*, who stole some of their Rum. I hear he was brought to Confession and Humiliation.

1773 May 22 (Saturday). Hear that Rev. Mr. *Solomon Prentice* of *Grafton* expired this Morning. May God Sanctifie this to me for my Awakening and Quickening. P.M. Came Brother *Breck* of *Springfield*. He tarrys with us.

1773 May 23 (Sunday). Mr. *Breck* preached for me on *Gen. 22.11.12*. This Chapter I read and p.m. read [blank]. Mr. *Breck* preached on *Gen. 4.3.4.5*. This Evening I marryed *Joseph Keene*, a transient person, to *Mary Painter*, a transient also; both of them from old England. Mr. *Breck* and my neighbour, Mrs. *Spring*, were present.

1773 May 24 (Monday). Mr. *Breck* and I sat out for *Boston*: but he went through *Framingham*. I went to *Sudbury*, and dined at Mr. *Daniel Lorings*. Gathered up a Number of Manuscript Books of his Grandfathers, and left my Desire that his Father would Convey them to me -- which he promised. Called at Mr. *Jacob Biglows*, at Mr. *Bridge's*, at Dr. *Robys*, at Mr. *Woodwards*, where I lodged.

1773 May 25 (Tuesday). Arrived at *Cambridge*. Visit Brother *Champney* at the widow *Prentice's*. Waited on Judge *Danforth* concerning my Guardianship of my first Children. He directs me either to bring the Receipts from them, or make out an Account which he will allow and give a [illegible] Dined at *Barretts*. Called at Mr. *Adams's* at *Roxbury*. Called at My Kinsman *Baileys* at *Boston*, and Saw Cousen *Winter* at his House -- understand they are married -- but I manifested Dissatisfaction with it. At my Sons -- at Cousen *Bradfords* -- at the Sale of Sir *Francis Barnards* Library. Bought *Origines Sacrae*, folio and Sir *Thomas Moores Eutopia*.¹¹ Lodge at my Son's.

¹¹Possibly the 1753 Philadelphia edition, Thomas More, *The Common-Wealth of Utopia. Containing a Learned and Pleasant Discourse of the Best State of a Publick Weal, As It Is Found in the New Island Called Utopia* (Philadelphia, 1753).

1773 May 26 (Wednesday). Attended the *Election* Sermon preached by Mr. *Charles Turner* of *Duxbury*¹² from *Rom.* 13.4. "For he is the Minister of God to thee for Good" -- a Sermon much applauded by all who were for Liberty. I dined in Concert Hall, not knowing that the Commissioners were there. After Dinner I went to Mr. *Surcombs*, who is his Chaise waited on me to the School House where the Convention usually (of late years) Met. But not discerning any Body nigh, thought they did not meet, I passed away, concluding there was and would be, none: For which Reason I did not Attend with them. At Mr. *Shaws* at Evening -- Supped there. Visit Mr. *Quincy*. Several of my Children there also, viz. Mr. *Forbes* and his Wife, Mr. *Moore* (my Daughter *Baldwin* was at Mr. *Bailys*), besides Samuel and his Sally. It was dark and rainy returning to our Lodging.

1773 May 27 (Thursday). Attended the *Convention* (which was at the school House) from whence we proceeded to the public Exercises at the Old South. Dr. *Pemberton* Moderator. Mr. *Edward Barnard* preached from *Gal.* 6.7.8. The Collection amounted to [blank]. I dined at Dr. *Eliots*. P.M. met with the Ministers, who seemed to meet together with one accord, to consider the present state of Ministers and Churches -- moved hereto by the sorrowful Aspects at *Bolton*. A greater Number of Ministers at this Convention than usual. "Upon a Motion made and seconded, the Question was put, whether it is the Opinion of this Convention that the state of the Churches in this Province, with respect to Church Order and Discipline is Such as to require the Attention of this Convention?" Passed Affirmatively Nem. Con. Question put -- Whether the Convention will now choose a Committee to make diligent Enquiry into the Sense and meaning of the Platform of Church Discipline and the general Practice of our Fathers and of the Churches in this Land from their Days with respect to Church Order -- They to lay the Result of their Enquiries before the Convention at their next Meeting. Passed affirmatively. Nemine Contr. The Committee chosen, Dr. *Chauncy*, Dr. *Pemberton*, Dr. *Eliot*, President *Locke*, Dr. *Cooper*, Messrs. *Cook* of Notomy, *Adams* of Roxbury, Professor *Wigglesworth*, Dr. *Appleton*, Messrs. *Rogers* of Littleton, *Chandler* of Rowley, P _____, *Shute*, *Barnard* of Salem, *Gorden*. I prayed at the Conclusion, when the Convention was adjourned to the Day after Commencement, 9 a.m. at the Same place. Was at Mr. *Mathers* after the meeting. Borrowed of him Cotton of the Keyes and other Tracts. 4to. At Mr. *Quincys* -- Mr. *Cranch's*. Paid him two Dollars for mending my Watch -- but he gave me Dr. *Brays Bibliotheca* paroch.¹³ N.B. I bought out of Governor *Barnards* Library *Stillingfl. Orig. Sacr.* and *Mori Eutopia*. We, My Children abovesaid and *Lucy* as well as I, Supped at my Son *Samuels* where were Brother *Shaw*, his Wife and Friend, Mrs. *Pidgeon* of *Newtown*.

1773 May 28 (Friday). Was at Mr. *Scolleys* Yesterday to Speak with [torn] *Melvill* concerning an English *Eutopia*, which She promises to lend me. This morning attend another Sale of Books at Mr. *Russels* Auction and bought *Voiages into the Levant*, Lives of *Wickliff* etc. and *Clarks* *Caesars*

¹²Charles Turner (1732-1813), *A Sermon Preached before His Excellency Thomas Hutchinson, Esq; Governor: The Honorable His Majesty's Council, and the Honorable House of Representatives, of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England, May 26th, 1773. Being the Anniversary of the Election of His Majesty's Council for Said Province* (Boston, 1773). Evans 13,053.

¹³Thomas Bray (1656-1730), DNB?

Commentaries. Visited my Cousen *Corser* at Capt. *Jonathan* [Clarks?]. Being invited, with my Children to dine at my Brother *Shaws*, we went (except Mr. *Moore*, who sat out on his Journey home); we were there entertained with great Decency; Several of their Friends also present; Particularly the aged Mrs. *Burt*, and Mrs. *Pidgeon* of Newtown. N.B. I have visited Mr. *Lathrop*. We discourse of the Sad State of Boston. Lodged every night at my Sons. Bought of him an handsome Sealskin Trunk for his Mother for only 3 Dollars.

[1773 May 29? (Saturday)]. Called at *Proctors* and *Baileys*; at both which heard their sorrowful complaints of my Brothers Condition, as if my [torn]ter was too incapable of taking Care of him. Returned home. In my way called at Mr. *Adams* (Roxbury) [torn] refreshed. At little *Cambridge* Mr. Thomas Jackson, Taverner ([who?] married Miss Suse Dana) invited me to dine, which accept. Mr. *Cushings* Waltham. At Mr. *Wheelers* in Sudbury to look [torn] his Division of his F. Lorings Books and Papers. At Mr. [torn] *edge's*, where was his son (who is to preach at Marlborough tomorrow). Arrived safely, though late, and found my Family well. All Thanks [torn]raise to God! Mr. *Forbes* and his Wife here, but their sister *Lucy* [torn] were obliged to leave at Coll. *Brighams* at Southborough.

1773 May 30 (Sunday). Read *Hos.* 12. Mr. *Forbes* preached on *Gal.* 5.5 a. and p.m. [Torn] God be graciously pleased to add His almighty Influences and [torn] the Exercises Savingly Beneficial! N.B. p.m. read the [torn] wherein was the Text. Sad News from Brookfield of the dying State [torn] *evi Rice*. A message is come to Mr. *Forbes* to hasten home. [Torn]y God be with the Distressed, and be a present Help in time of Trouble!

1773 May 31 (Monday). *Breck* goes with a Chaise to *Southborough* and brings my poor Daughter *Baldwin*, who is weak in Body, and Sunk in Spirits. O that a gracious God would extend His Pity to her! P.M. Mr. *Forbes* and his Wife, with their distressed Sister, leave us to go as far as Worcester, or Leicester [torn] they can: Riding and Diverting Objects being best for her. N.B. Mrs. P _____ informs me that while I was gone last week came Mr. *Leonard* of Woodstock and Miss [blank] *Jarvis* of [torn]ston, in the Journey to *Boston*. [Torn] has put up shutters in our dining [torn]

1773 June 1 (Tuesday). Am informed that Mr. *Fish* with Delegates and others, are gone over to *Bolton*; but did not favor me with their Company. *Breck* to *Boston*.

1773 June 2 (Wednesday). Was very hoarse with a Cold, yet attempted to go to the Family Meeting at Mr. Daniel *Forbes's*, and preached, though with Difficulty, on *Mat.* 21.10 from p. 61 to the End of p. 68. Old Mrs. *Woods* and Mrs. *Grow* present. May the Lord accept us, and bless His people and the means of Grace among us.

1773 June 3 (Thursday). Am deeply concerned about *Bolton*: And the rather because those who are Most Set and determined are gone before hand, that they may be Sure to accomplish the work. The Lord grant Light and Truth, Righteousness and Peace! Read variously. N.B. Dr. *Dunsmoor* of *Lunenburg* and one Mr. *David Spaffard* of *Townshend* here in the morning With Design to buy my Lots of an hundred Acres in *Townshend*. They came up to my Terms of £500

old Tenor and I gave a Deed to Mr. *Spaffard*, of it; and for it he paid me [*torn*] down, and two Notes of Hand, one for 125£ to be [*torn*] at or before the 3d of October next, the other of 250£ [*torn*] be paid on or before this time 12 months, with Interest [*torn*] paid. The Doctor assures me repeatedly that *Spaffard* [*torn*] a responsible Man, and to be depended upon. Read *Calcotts* Disquisition of the Principles and Pro[*torn*] of *Free Masons*.¹⁴

1773 June 4 (Friday). The workmen at the Meeting House, as they did at moving [*torn*] compass of the front Door, So now taking down Wind[*torn*] disturb a very great multitude of Batts.

1773 June 5 (Saturday). Breck and his Company (who had been out a fishing) returned. Mr. *Fish* and his Delegates, together with the Mill-river D[*torn*] (without their Pastor: he went not) returning from *Bolton*, call here: Shew me their Result, and [*torn*] I am informed that they did not install Mr. *Wall* [*torn*] but that the Council is adjourned to August next. N.B. Mr. *Jewet* of *Rowley* was Moderator but he and [Mr.?] *Chandler* (of *Rowley* also) left them before the fini[*torn*].

[Note: Here there is a gap in the manuscript from June 5 through June 14.]

1773 June 15 (Tuesday). I rode to Ministers Meeting at *Bolton* by the Way of *Marlborough*. Had Mr. *Smith's* and Mr. *Morse's* Company. There were present Messrs. *Stone* of *Southborough*, *Harrington*, *Mellen*, *Maccarty*, *Bridge* of *Sudbury*, and *Whitney* of *Northborough*. Nine of us besides Mr. *Goss*. Being Moderator I prayed and Mr. *Goss* being Still under So great Difficultys, we advise him and his Brethren to call a Council to meet at the Same time that the aggrieved Council are to meet. I was writ down for one to be Sent to, but I struck out my name. In returning through *Northborough* had Mr. *Whitneys* Company, but did not tarry at his House. At Home found that Capt. *Maynard* had brought a great Bundle of Court's Journals, Laws, Sermon at Election, Governors Speeches and the Answers etc.

1773 June 16 (Wednesday). Read Mr. *Lorings* Diary.

1773 June 17 (Thursday). Catechized (after dining at home) at the South school-House. Above forty Boys and Girls. Afterward Visit at old Mr. *Warrins*. In the Evening Thunder, Lightning and Rain. After we were got to Sleep were alarmed by a Beggar who was of ill behavior and my Wife and Sophy requested I would not let him come in to the House, but I bid him go to the Barn, but he was high and Malpert -- he went off. I regretted it. I wanted to take him in, but I had not convenience to lodge him and it would have disordered my House, by reason of the Fright that several were put into by him. N.B. John waited on his Sister *Hannah* to *Marlborough* to get two Gowns made, viz. Taffety and Bengall.

¹⁴Willens *Calcott*, *A Candid Disquisition of the Principles and Practices of the Most Antient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, Together with Some Strictures on the Origin, Nature, and Design of That Institution* (Boston, 1772). Evans 12,345.

1773 June 18 (Friday). [No entry.]

1773 June 19 (Saturday). Rode to *Grafton*. Lodged at Mr. *Andrew Adams's*.

1773 June 20 (Sunday). *Preached at Grafton* a. and p.m. on *Rev. 16.15*. "Behold I come as a Thief! Blessed is he that watcheth" etc. Mr. *Taylor* preached for me, a.m. on *Mat. 11.28*, p.m. on *1 Joh. 3.9*. After Meeting, by Desire visited Deacon *Batchellors* wife who was extreme low. Prayed with her. Returned home at night.

1773 June 21 (Monday). Rode to Mr. *Stone*. We rode to *Marlborough* -- to Mr. *Jonathan Lorings* -- principally to Father *Gardners* at *Stow* -- found him low and weak, yet reviving a little [and?] he had rid out to Day. His Wife was also poorly. [*illegible*] there from thence we went to my Son *Williams* at *Concord*, and lodged there.

1773 June 22 (Tuesday). We rode together to *Sudbury*. Called at Deacon *Plymptons*. I wanted of him the Paper which the Deacon read to me in March last, was twelve month, as being Sealed up with the last Will and Testament of the Late Venerable Mr. *Loring* and in which he was pleased to Committ his Private Papers to us. But the Deacon was gone to Court, he being one of the Representatives. We then went to Mr. *Nathan Lorings*, where we were courteously received, and conducted up into the deceased's Closet. From thence I received of Mr. *Loring* one Folio (parchment covered) containing many Extracts from various Authors, also folio Leaves of Extracts on many Books of the Bible. I have also a Small bound Book dated 1715 containing *Rules for Prayer*. Also Ten Paper Books of *Adversaria* (marked Capitally), also a Bundle of various Copys of *Covenants; Letters* etc. N.B. The Paper of the Contents mentions a Number of *Abstracts*, which are not there. Furthermore, here is a Bundle of paper Books, which contains Prayers on various Occasions, in Number, 6 Books -- Together with 8 Books of the following Titles, viz., Days of Prayer and Thanksgiving, Self-Examination etc. to my Spiritual State, Self-Examination by Marks of Growth etc., Covenants, Promises of the Covenant, Rules for the Sanctification of the Lords Day, Examples of Heavenly Meditation, The Order of Celebrating of the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ -- and -- of Baptism. Besides these a Book entitled "Places where I have preached." I received also 12 Bundles of Letters, to and from different persons. One of which contains Letters from a religious society of women in *Boston*. O that I might be faithful in improving this Treasure. N.B. Mr. *Stone* took Several others which I have not an Account of. I borrowed of Mr. *Loring Glanville's* *Sadducismus triumphatus*¹⁵ and Dr. Increase Mather *Mystery of Christ*.¹⁶ We dined at Rev. Mr. *Biglows*.¹⁷ In my way home was requested to go in and See Mr. *Thomas Biglows* Daughter, Mrs. *How* in Consumption -- and prayed with her. Arrived safely. *Deo Laus!*

¹⁵Joseph Glanvill, *Saducismus Triumphatus: or, Full and Plain Evidence Concerning Witches and Apparitions. In Two Parts. The First Treating of Their Possibility, The Second of Their Real Existence* (London, 1681).

¹⁶Increase Mather, *The Mystery of Christ Opened and Applied. In Several Sermons, Concerning the Person, Office, and Glory of Jesus Christ* (Boston, 1686). Evans 416.

¹⁷Jacob Biglow (1743-1816), Harvard 1766; see *SHG* 16:324-25.

1773 June 23 (Wednesday). Rode over to *Northborough* Lecture. Dined at Mr. *Whitneys*. Mr. *Sumner* preached on [*blank*]. May God forgive my Dulness and [unprofitableness?!] Was detained there by heavy Showers till Evening when I returned. At Evening came Mr. *Seth Morse* Treasurer who pays me, in Notes which I drew to Mr. *Beeton*, Constable, old Tenor £55.14.2, in Cash £164.5.0, in all £219.19.2 old Tenor. May God grant me Grace to improve it in a right manner!

1773 June 24 (Thursday). *Reckoned with my Son Breck* and paid him his Book Debt. Having received from Mr. *Woodward* of *Weston* a Letter by Desire of Dr. *Eliot* of *Boston*, to inform me of the Meeting of the Committee of the Convention the first Wednesday of July at Dr. *Chauncy's* at *Boston*, wrote part of an Answer to Dr. *Eliot*. Catechized at the *Grout* School House. 49 Children of both Sexes. After the Exercise was entertained at Mr. *Jonathan Grouts*. May the Lord be graciously pleased to Succeed these Endeavours! Conversed with aged Mrs. *Grout*. N.B. Deacon *Batchellor's* Wife, late of *Grafton*, dyed last Monday, O that I might prepare!

1773 June 25 (Friday). Have a peculiar Favor in divine providence by a good Crop of Clover between the Garden and meeting House-Road. Three of our common Loads between 60 and 70 Cocks. D.G. Engaged in my preparations.

1773 June 26 (Saturday). An hot Season for Several Days. To Day especially. Cousen *Needham* returned from *Boston*.

1773 June 27 (Sunday). Read *Joel* 1. Could not get my new preparations ready -- wanted to preach a preparatory sermon to Contribution and also to young people and especially against Fornication. Took therefore Discourses on *Prov.* 10.10 with various Additions. P.M. read Rev. 3. *Cornet Brigham* acquaints me that he was yesterday at my Son *Cushings* at *Ashburnham*, and tells me my Daughter was o' Bed. Was delivered on the 24th of another Son. Mother and Child in an hopeful State. Blessed be God for His great Goodness! May it be perfected! Received a Letter from Dr. *Eliot*, of my Kinsman *Needhams* Case: also of the Committee of the Convention's Meeting.

1773 June 28 (Monday). The *Town Met* partly to See whether they would build a Steeple (a number of persons having Subscribed to give a Bell and Clock if the Town would prepare for them) but it passed in the Negative. Visit Mr. *Jonas Kennys* Wife, ill of bilious Cholic. Prayed with her. Cousen *Needham* left us.

1773 June 29 (Tuesday). Rode to *Hopkinton* through our East Corner. Called at a Number of the Houses. *Bellows* (new married), *Baker*, *Belknap*. Thence to Dr. *Wilson's* -- but my principal Design (as to visiting) was to Capt. *Clarks*, who had lately lost his Wife. Dined there. Went to Mr. *Fitch's* -- has lately erected an House. *Hopkinton* Meeting House is repairing. Visit Mr. *Barrett* -- Generous in *Cherrys* to bring home, with me. Borrow *Magnalia* again. Take it at Capt. *Burnaps*. Arrive safely. God be praised for it!

1773 June 30 (Wednesday). Miss *Joanna Stone* here, and dines with us. Read *Magnalia* and other Books, on the Order and Discipline of the Churches. Visit and pray with Mrs. *Kenny*. At Night three Lads (I know not who they were) probably from Mr. *Amasa Maynards*, brought me a present of a large Turtle.

1773 July 1 (Thursday). Dr. Haws came at my request in the Morning and dressed the large *Turtle*, which was brought last Night. He dined with us. P.M. I catechized at the Whipple School-House. 24 Children only. After Exercise was refreshed (Tea etc.) at Mr. Whipples.

1773 July 2 (Friday). My Cattle very disorderly caused my riding to Mr. Thomas Bonds and Mr. *Levi Warrins* to try to change away an unruly Ox. Mr. *Joseph Arnold* and his Wife dined here. N.B. Upon reading the Report of the Committee of his Majestys Council concerning his Excellencys and his Honours Mr. *Olivers Letters*, and the Resolves of the Board thereupon, am filled with deep Concern respecting the Event. May the Lord Sanctify His holy Frowns upon His people!

1773 July 3 (Saturday). Was in great Expectation of Mr. *Frost*, to call, as he goes to *Bolton* to preach tomorrow and administer the Lords Supper there (notwithstanding the Disorder there) but I believe he was more cautious; and that he went not. By what I am informed, Mr. *Walley* went South in the morning, and Mr. *Fish* Northward p.m. May the Lord grant Light and Peace!

1773 July 4 (Sunday). Read a.m. *Joel* 2. Preached on *Hos.* 6.6. P.M. read *Rev.* 4. Preached again on *Prov.* 4.10. Master *Taylor* dined here. Contribution for the Widow *Eunice Cook*, Still dwelling at *Douglass*. May the Lord accept the Offering!

1773 July 5 (Monday). This morning found the Contribution for Mrs. *Cook* to be £13.6.6 old Tenor (Thanks to God!). This I committ to Deacon *Wood* in trust for the Woman. At 2 1/2 p.m. Sat out on my Journey to *Boston* according to the Request by Dr. *Eliot*, [*illegible*] of the Convention-Committee. Called at Mr. *Stones*, at Coll. *Buckminsters*, lodged at Deacon *Browns* at *Framingham*.

1773 July 6 (Tuesday). Mount my Horse before the Sun. Breakfast at Mr. *Woodwards*. He goes with me to *Cambridge* and as we go, call to See poor distracted *Stearns* (Mr. *John Stearns*). Was at Cousen Thomas Barretts, at Dr. *Appletons*. Dined at President *Locks*. P.M. at Professor *Wigglesworths*. Call at Mr. *Adams's* at *Roxbury*. There was Lady *Pepperil*, whom I had the honour to converse with. The Drought So great that instead of Pasturing Horses, the people at *Roxbury* give Hay to their own. Lodge at my Son *Samuels*. His wife watches with Mrs. *Perkins*.

1773 July 7 (Wednesday). Wife of Dr. William Lee Perkins, heretofore Rev. *Joseph Condy's* Widow: who gives up the Ghost, in the early Morning. Walked to See the Cadets Exercise. Breakfast at Mrs. *Holbrooks*, where was Mr. *Joseph Ward* a school-Master. At 9 a.m. according to Request, was at Dr. *Chauncy's* to meet the rest of the Conventions Committee. There came Drs. *Appleton*, *Chauncy*, *Pemberton*, *Eliot*, *Cooper*, Messrs. *Lock*, *Wiggleworth*, *Cook*, *Barnard* of *Salem*, *Shute*, *Adams* of *Roxbury*, *Gordon*; and Mr. *Howard* of *Boston*, by Mistake, was present.

Messrs. *Rogers* and *Chandler* were absent. The Boston Ministers had prepared Something more especially upon the important Articles of *Constituting and dismissing a Minister* and Mr. Professor *Wigglesworth* had Collected authoritys. Those were read over, and the former Paragraph by Paragraph and consented to by all, after proper alterations and corrections. An *Introduction* and *Peroration* were prepared, chiefly by Dr. Cooper, were read, altered, and then resolved upon -- to be all writ out by Mr. *Adams*, to be presented to the Convention, and to be transcribed fairly for the press, if So the Convention Shall see fit.¹⁸ It was observable that the Committee were closely applyed, and dispatched our Business with happy Success and unanimity. We all dined there and continued till the whole was finished as above, by the Help of God, to whom be Honour and Glory! Dr. Chauncy gave me a Letter from Mrs. Hyslop [and?] her Letter to Mr. Loring. We broke up but little before Sunsett. I went to Mr. *Quincys*, who told me it had been Visitation Day in the [Several?] Schools, and the performances of the Youth were to great Satisfaction. I Visited Cousen *Loyd* etc. Lodged at my Sons.

1773 July 8 (Thursday). Went to See Mrs. *Scolley* (wife of *John Scolley* Esq.) to acquaint her as one of the female Society, with the Letters fallen into my Hands among F. Lorings Papers. Borrowed of her Daughter *Melville*, the Translation of *Eutopia*; Mrs. *Scolley* desired me to visit Mrs. *Jeffries*. It was in my way to Lecture. I complied. I was most kindly accepted by both the Deacon and his Wife. The latter communed with me privately about the Affairs of their Society, She being the Writer of the Society's Letters to Mr. Loring in his Day; and desired that I would visit them at their Meetings on Wednesdays at Mrs. *Browns*. Attended the Lecture. Mr. *Lathrop* preached on Joh. 13.17. "If ye know these Things, happy if you do them." Visit Mrs. Margaret Procter, on account of her Letters to F. Loring. Dined at Mr. *Moses Gills*. N.B. His Mother Mrs. *Brigden* there. Mr. Gill communicates to me the admirable Letter Mrs. Gill wrote just before her Death to Dr. *John Erskine*. N.B. Dr. *Charles Coffin* has lately marryed Miss [blank] Carns and desired a Visit. I called accordingly. P.M. Visit my aged Brother and other Friends. My Kinsman *Elias* has a Child lately born, a Daughter, which may God bless! Took a Tour in the forestreet to view and Compare old Things with late. Visit old Mrs. Lydia Dyar, formerly *Hough*, or Huff, an aged infirm Woman. Was at Mr. Mathers. At my New Sister *Shaws* (and drank Tea). At Mrs. *Jones's* (once *Apphia Coffin*) Daughter of Mr. John Coffin of Newbury. Lodged again at my Sons.

1773 July 9 (Friday). Rose very early. Was mounted about Sunrise (fearing the Heat of the Day) and rode to Mr. Cushings for Breakfast, by 7 o'Clock. Mr. *Hubbard*, my worthy Class-Mate, lay at Mrs. Williams's very ill. I would fain have gone in, but all advised the Contrary, as he was too low to converse. I therefore desisted. Rested at Mr. Bridge's at Framingham. Got to Southborough by noon. Dined at Mr. *Stones* and Stayed till after three. The Heat great -- got home with Difficulty. Was much worried. Mrs. *Chamberlain* here to talk with me. Dr. Hawes

¹⁸*Observations upon the Congregational Plan of Government, Particularly as it Respects the Choice and Removal of Church-Officers, Supported by the Testimony of the Fathers of New-England, and Unanimously Offered to the Consideration of the Churches. By the Convention of Ministers of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay, May 26, 1773 (Boston, 1773). Evans 12,857.*

and Wife here, but I was not well able to wait on them. Was forced to lie down. N.B. My Daughter *Baldwin* came Yesterday with Mr. *Bradshaw*, who returns today to *Brookfield*.

1773 July 10 (Saturday). *Alexander* came, tarrys and dines. Stays till the Sun falls, it being an uncommon hot Day. The Earth exceeding dry, and the Pastures burnt. Aged Mrs. *Kelly* much indisposed. Was taken ill on the 8th p.m.

1773 July 11 (Sunday). Read a.m. *Joel* 3 and preached on v. 13. The Subject was *Harvest* considered in the [II?]d part of my Discourses on this Text in the Year 1744. P.M. read *Rev.* 5 and preached on the *Harvest* as in the first sense mentioned in those former Sermons -- omitted much -- and the Text was *Mark* 4.29, latter part. Will the Lord graciously accept and bless!

1773 July 12 (Monday). Mrs. *Kelly* grows worse. [I take a?] Taste of my *Eutopia*. We are thrown into perplexity by means of having sent away one of my Oxen to Mr. *Baldwin's* pasture at *Coi's* Hill and depending upon Lt. *Baker's* young Man driving with Some of theirs, one of my young Oxen down from thence to mate the Ox which was left behind at home, the Said young Man has returned without mine, and in the mean time we are forced to be at the Charge of getting Oxen at our Neighbours to get in our Hay.

1773 July 13 (Tuesday). Visit *Joseph Grout* junior. Dine at Mr. *Grout's* -- pray there. In returning called at Capt. *Jonathan Fay's*, at Deacon *Woods* and Mr. *Bass's*. N.B. The Missionary *Crosby* from *Onouage* here, and Mr. *Biglow* and Mr. *Taylor* call here, as they go from *Grafton* to *Boston*. Mr. *Biglow* desires me to write to Mr. *Bradshaw* to come and Supply *Grafton* the two next Sabbaths. Mrs. *Anne Davis* here.

1773 July 14 (Wednesday). *John* has the disagreeable Task of a Walk to *Brookfield* to drive down a Steer. Cousen *Maynard* and Mrs. *Beeton* visit Mrs. *Kelly*.

1773 July 15 (Thursday). Search into and Sort many of Mr. *Lorings* Papers and Letters. Mrs. *Kelly* we hope is better. *Jonathan Kelly's* Wife here and tends her.

1773 July 16 (Friday). She watched here last night -- is here till late p.m. Mr. *James Maynard* junior dyed yesterday at his Brother *Amasa's*. To Day I attended his Funeral. A mournful Spectacle!

1773 July 17 (Saturday). Mrs. *Kelly* very low -- much worse. *John* (who came home last night with the Ox, much fatigued) brought me an Answer from Mr. *Bradshaw*, that he would (D.V.) Supply *Grafton*.

1773 July 18 (Sunday). Mr. *Crosby* came from *Grafton* to preach for me. Read *Amos* 1. Mr. *Crosby* preached on 1 *Pet.* 3.18. P.M. Read *Rev.* 6. Mr. *Crosby* on [blank]. N.B. Administered both the Sacraments. The Child that was baptized was *Lydia*, the Daughter of *Levi* and *Deborah Warrin*. May the Lord accept us and bless His holy Ordinances to us, for our Saving Good!

1773 July 19 (Monday). Mrs. *Kelly* is very low; but I was obliged to go to *Boston*. Sat not out, however, to Day partly because she is So ill. Mr. *Forbes* and sister *Champney* from *Brookfield*: and Mr. *Bradshaw*, who preached at *Grafton*, here.

1773 July 20 (Tuesday). Undertake my Journey, Since Mrs. *Kelly* is no worse. N.B. one or other of her Children steddily here to attend upon her. *Jenny* is here most commonly. Mr. *Forbes* and Sister *Champney* leave this place before me. And Mr. *Bradshaw* goes back to *Brookfield*. Rode down to Deacon *Stones* at *Framingham* to see his wife, an old acquaintance. Proceeded to Mr. *Roberts's* in *Weston* and dined with him. Thence to Mr. *Merriams* at *Newtown* where I very agreeably lodged.

1773 July 21 (Wednesday). Blessed be God for the plentiful Rains last night, when the Earth had been long and greatly parched. But my Horse had got out of the Stable, and a Gate having been carelessly left open, he was gone. I was thrown into great Perplexity. Hired one *Cook* and Sent him to look after him. He Succeeded and brought him back. D.G.! Attended the *Commencement*. Mr. *John Hicks* takes Care of my Horse. I improve *Barretts* for my Self -- where was also Mr. *Forbes* etc. Went to Sir *Smiths* (Manaseh) Chamber. Dined in the *Hall*. No Governour nor Lt. Governour nor Life Guard. Mr. *Crosby* pronounced an *Indian Oration*. Performed Decently, for what we could See and hear, though few understood any Thing. President *Locke* was Created Doctor of Divinity. Dr. *Winthrop* read the Diploma, Dr. *Winthrop* Doctor of Laws, and Mr. *Samuel Mather*, Doctor of Divinity. President read their Diplomas. I was at Sir *Whitneys* Chamber where I heard of the Death of Mr. *David Stearns* of *Lunenburg*, which may God be pleased to sanctifie to me, to the Widow, to his Mother etc. He has dyed in the very Glory of Life. Lodged with Mr. *Forbes* at *Barretts*.

1773 July 22 (Thursday). Rode to *Boston*. Attended the *Convention* at Mr. *Lovells* school House. The Committee presented the Report we had prepared. It was read over -- then was read distinctly paragraph by paragraph. After a few Amendments it was accepted and voted Thanks -- then that it should be printed. Above 50 Ministers were present. No one dissented. The Moderator prayed at the beginning. We repaired to the public Lecture. Mr. *Bacon* had asked me to preach, but So late that there was no time to prepare. He preached himself on *Eph. 2.10*. I pray I may have the divine Spirit renewing and sanctifying me and enabling me to bring forth good works to the divine Glory! Dined at Dr. *Coopers*. A great Number of Ministers (about 12) dined there also. N.B. Mr. *Frost* came. I shewed him what I had prepared to communicate to him, if he had gone over to *Bolton*. Visit Mr. *Surcomb*, who is very ill, and reduced to his Bed. Went to see my Brother. Found him in a yet weaker state, but he still walks abroad. Went over to my Kinsman *Elias's*: N.B. Capt. *Bradford* (newly returned from sea) and my Kinsman *Oliver*, were there. We made a Settlement with *Elias*, and he paid me the proportion of what Rents he had received for this year past, viz. (old Tenor) £11.8.2, and we who were present gave him Power of *Attorney* to act in our name respecting the House etc. Thence I went up with Capt. *Bradford* to his House to congratulate her on her Husbands arrival. I thence went to my Sons where I lodged, and Mr. *Moore* with me. My Horse being at Mr. *Simonds*.

1773 July 23 (Friday). Breakfast at Mr. *Simonds*. Left with my son Twelve Dollars to buy his Mother a Gown. In coming out of Town called at Mrs. *Scolleys*, Mrs. *Jeffords*, *Holbrooks*, *Procters*; *Baileys*. Rode up to Mr. *Hyslops* -- refreshed there. Dined at Mr. *Merriams*. Was at Mr. *Roberts's*. Borrowed *Lowman* on Revelation. Was at Mr. *Stones* at *Southborough*. Arrived in safety. Found Mrs. *Kelly* living and mending. D.G. Mr. *Moore* arrived also a little after me, and lodges here.

1773 July 24 (Saturday). Mr. *Forbes* and sister came -- dined with us in their way to *Shrewsbury*: where my Sister will tarry a while. Mr. *Forbes* goes to *Grafton* to preach for Mr. *Bradshaw*, who Supplies for him at *Brookfield*.

1773 July 25 (Sunday). Mr. *Moore* had the Care of *Northborough* Pulpit, by Exchange from *Rochester* hither: and as he had rather preach here, I went to *Northborough* and preached there. A.M. on *Heb. 12.15* and p.m. on *Joel 3.13*. "Put in the Sickle" etc., respecting Gods Judgements. Returned at Evening.

1773 July 26 (Monday). Mr. *Moore* tarrys with us. We read together Mr. *Zabdiel Adams's* Answer to the *Bolton Neighbour*.¹⁹ Mrs. *Kelly* is still mending. Miss *Jenny Kelly* is still with her mother. Mrs. *Beeton* here to see her, likewise.

1773 July 27 (Tuesday). Mr. *Stone* sends to me a Verbal message to preach his Lecture on Thursday. We finished reading the Answer to *Neighbour*.

1773 July 28 (Wednesday). My Son *Moore* left us to return home: and may God grant him a prosperous Journey by His holy Will! N.B. He leaves me to read Mr. *Cotton* of *Plymouths* Essays on the Custom of the New England Churches relating to Baptism²⁰ -- and Mr. *Robbins's* Reply²¹ -- and carried with him my Sermon-Notes on *Ezek. 24.16*, on *Lam. 3.19.20*, on *Rev. 6.8*, "a Pale Horse." P.M. came old Mrs. *Baker* and Old Mrs. *Newton* to visit us.

¹⁹Zabdiel Adams (1739-1801), *An Answer to a Pamphlet Lately Published, (Under the Signature of a Neighbour), Intituled, "A Treatise on Church Government." Wherein the Errors of This Anonymous Author's Narrative of the Troubles and Transactions in the Church at Bolton Are Corrected* (Boston, 1773). Evans 12,636.

²⁰John Cotton, *The General Practice of the Churches of New-England, Relating to Baptism, Vindicated; or, Some Essays on This Important Question, Whether the Practice of Persons Owning or Renewing the Covenant, and Having Baptism for their Children without Coming Immediately into Full Communion, be Warrantable? Delivered at Several Church-Meetings in Plymouth. With Some Letters that Have Passed on the Subject* (Boston, 1772). Evans 12,367.

²¹Chandler Robbins, *A Reply to Some Essays Lately Published by John Cotton, Esq; (of Plymouth) Relating to Baptism*... (Boston, 1773). Evans 12,984. Cotton replied to Robbins in *The General Practice of the Churches of New-England, Relating to Baptism, Further Vindicated: Containing an Answer to the Rev. Chandler Robbins's Reply, Relative to this Question, Whether the Practice of Persons Owning or Renewing the Covenant, and Having Baptism for their Children, with Coming Immediately into Full Communion, be Warrantable? Wherein the Affirmative Is More Fully Confirmed. Together with Some further Remarks on Mr. Robbins's Injurious Treatment of the Author. In Three Parts* (Boston, 1773).

1773 July 29 (Thursday). To *Southborough* and dined at Mr. *Stones*. Would have carried my Daughter *Baldwin* there, but She was too poorly -- vomiting a great many times. *Hannah* rode with me, in my Daughters Chaise. I preached the Lecture on *Mat. 13.39*. May the Grace of God be given to render the word Effectual to the salvation of many! In returning call in to See Mr. *William Wood's* Wife who was lately delivered of a Child which dyed at its Entrance into the World.

1773 July 30 (Friday). Attend my Studys as I can; but am obliged to attend the Solemnity of burying Mr. *William Woods* Child, though about 3 Mile off, and prayed there. *Sophy* rode *Brecks* Mare to *Alexanders* at *Leicester*. *Isaac Davis* here to prepare for Admission.

1773 July 31 (Saturday). Mr. *George Caryl* brought me a Letter from Mr. *Forbes* of *Brookfield* concerning his having found Some Dates relative to the *Champney* Money. *Sophy* did not come till into Evening.

1773 August 1 (Sunday). Read *Amos* 2d. Preached a. and p.m. on *Eph. 5.2*. P.M. read *Rev. 7*. N.B. Benjamin *Tainter* junior was seized with a Fit, to the great Disturbance of many of the Congregation, it being in the Time of divine service. A.M. and p.m. was a heavy Rain, accompanied with Thunder and Lightning. Blessed be God for His great Goodness, both in the refreshing Rain, and the compassionate Preservation from Dammage by the Thunder. Mrs. *Kelly* is recovering, but my Daughter *Baldwin* is in a weak, low and distressed Condition. Frequently vomiting. Dr. *Hawes* visits her and administers to her Such Physick as may clear her Stomack.

1773 August 2 (Monday). Mrs. *Kelly* recovers -- but my Daughter B. but little better. I wrote to her Husband, but can't Send it to him. Mr. *Thomas Arnold* here.

1773 August 3 (Tuesday). Mr. *Stone* calls in his way to *Northbridge* where his son *Thomas* lives. He brings me two more of Mr. *Lorings* Diarys: in all now (as I think) 24. Messrs. *Frost* and *Fish* and Delegates are going to the Council at *Bolton*, but they did not call at my House. By Invitation I dined at Mr. *Springs*, on *Pickerell*. N.B. My son *Breck* went to *Providence*, takes with him my Horse for Sale. He Sends a Team also. P.M. Preached at the Widow *Grows* on *1 Cor. 15.67*. Mr. *Bradshaw* from *Grafton* here and is going to *Mistick*.

1773 August 4 (Wednesday). My Horse being gone, had Neighbour *Newtons* to go to Lecture at *Shrewsbury*. Dined at Mr. *Sumners*. Mr. *Gleason* and his Wife there -- and Mr. *Whitney* of *Northborough*. Mr. *Gleason* preached on *1 Cor. 11.29*. I returned at Evening. Our Hearts tremble for the Ark of the Lord -- for the dark Aspects at *Bolton*! O that God would graciously appear and turn the Hearts of the Partys to Himself and one another! That He would be pleased to guide and direct both the Councils, which I suppose are now engaged in Controversie, and that the issue may be holy Peace! *John* is not well, yet goes about.

1773 August 5 (Thursday). My Son *Cushing* came to See us. He was at the *Bolton* Council yesterday, when they had a public Conference, but he fears to little Effect. Mr. *Fish* was

Moderator of the Council to install Mr. *Walley*. Dr. *Chauncey* led in the Council for Mr. *Goss*. Mr. *Cushing* has but little Patience when he relates the Speeches and Conduct of Mr. *Fish*. So unreasonable and precipitant! Mr. C. lodges with us. Breck returned with my Horse.

1773 August 6 (Friday). My Daughter is Somewhat better yesterday and to Day. Mr. Cushing acquaints me that he had paid my Rate and Charges at *Ashby* and took a Receipt of it from the Collector, old Tenor 38/9. This I paid him and besides this I lent him 3 Dollars but gave him two Bushels of Indian Corn which he has received from me Some time agoe. Mr. *Simon Tainter* here; he has been to *Bolton* Council and Seems much Dissatisfyed with the people who So refuse Mr. *Goss's* proposals. Mr. *Zebulun Rice's* Wife, of *Brookfield* dined here, as did our Cousen *Anna Davis*, who brought her Confession and Relation.

1773 August 7 (Saturday). My Son *John* has been in relaxation this week. Is not altogether well. Sometimes worked a while in the Garden. Sometimes Assisted *Jonathan* and took Care as he thought needful, of my Affairs, and Set his own to rights, and looked after his own Things, to repair etc. and get himself ready for his own Business. *Elias* begins again to look into his Books - - and recover Something of his Lessons. Rev. *Frost* and Dr. *Jenison* breakfast here in their Return from the *Bolton* Council: Inform that it is dissolved without doing any thing about installing Mr. *Walley*, and without any Result. The other Council also, called by Mr. *Goss* and his Adherents, are, they Suppose, gone off. But tis feared the Contest still unhappily remaining. May the Lord Himself who has the Hearts of all men in His Hand, graciously interpose for His own Cause, So sorrowfully bleeding there; and grant some happy Issue!

1773 August 8 (Sunday). Read *Amos* 3. Preached on *Eph.* 5.2, first Clause, "and walk in Love." This was improved with view to *Bolton's* unhappy Situation. Mr. *Leland* and his Wife dined here. P.M. Read Rev. 8. I had attended Several Exercises in the Course of the Week so that I could not prepare another Sermon. I preached on *Isa.* 6.9 and 10, a very awakening Subject! May a divine Blessing accompany what was delivered, to my own Soul and the Souls of all the Hearers! My Daughter Baldwin went to meeting p.m. To god be Glory! At Eve I read (by my Self) Mr. *Rowland* of *Providence's* Convention Sermon,²² in part. In the Family repeated the Afternoon Sermon on *Isa.* 6.9.10.

1773 August 9 (Monday). In the morning Mr. *Seth Morse* brings the remainder of the Money which as Treasurer he owes me, and desires to borrow it for a while which I consent to. Mr. *Joseph Harrington* talks with me plainly about the late *Bolton* proceedings, the Conventions etc.: that he is in Difficulty concerning them. He will take a Time to come to me (he had now his Team) and Seems disturbed. My Son *John* is at work for *Breck*, making an Housing for him. P.M. came Mrs. *Townsend* to be examined; and I desire to acknowledge the great Goodness of God to her. May it please God to carry on and perfect the work of His Grace in her. There came also two poor Beggars, viz. *William Robinson* of *Inverness* in *Scotland*, who had been

²²David Sherman Rowland, *Catholicism: or, Christian Charity. Illustrated and Improved in a Discourse, Delivered before the Congregational Ministers of the Colony of Rhode-Island, in New-England, at their Convention in Bristol, May 20, 1772* (Providence, 1772). Evans 12,546.

maimed (as he says) by a Fall from a Yard Arm at New Haven. His Wife was also with him. Lord have Compassion on Such Miserable Creatures! May I be truly thankful for what I am favoured with and enabled faithfully to improve the divine Favours to me and mine!

1773 August 10 (Tuesday). Miss *Suse Brigham* here to make a Gown for Mrs. *Baldwin*. John Still in his own *Sadlery*. I look over those of my papers which respect my *Champney* Affairs, and to see what I have done for my four first Children.

1773 August 11 (Wednesday). *Suse Brigham* here at work for Mrs. *Kelley*. *John* takes the Horse and *Elias* with him, and rides to *Mendon* designing to go to one Mr. *Smith* a Sadler there. P.M. *Elias* returns with the Horse. Transcribe Mrs. *Gills* dying Letter to the Rev. Mr. [blank]. Mr. *Wellman* of Cornish here.

1773 August 12 (Thursday). Mrs. Parkman has a [*Dycape?*] Gown from Boston. Miss *Suse Brigham* undertakes to make it. I visit young *Joseph Grout*. Prayed there and dined also. Mrs. *Hitty Brigham* visits here. Mrs. *Esther Chamberlain* was examined.

1773 August 13 (Friday). *George Ratcliff* is at work on the New Hogsty -- boarding and Shingling it.

1773 August 14 (Saturday). Expected Mr. *Taylor* to come in order to his preaching for me to morrow, but he came not. *Skidmore*, the Baker, brought Letters from Mr. *Baldwin* -- shewing his Dependence upon me to aid his Wife home.

1773 August 15 (Sunday). Read Amos 4. Preached on Eph. 5.2, which may God bless! Old Mrs. [*Mary?*] *Steward* dined here. P.M. Read Rev. 9. Delivered another Exercise on Isa. 6.9.10, and O that God would Please to grant Grace to Search our own state, and that we may be exceeding Cautious! Repeated it at Evening. My Daughter did not go to Meeting -- nor Mrs. *Kelly* yet.

1773 August 16 (Monday). My Daughter *B.* is so much better and so desirous to return to her Husband and Family that I provide Mr. *Thomas Bonds* Horse, and her mother prepares to accompany her in her Chaise to *Brookfield*. Previous to her going I delivered her 60£ old Tenor with which she Says She is fully Satisfyed as to all Demands and Expectations on Account of the *Champney* Money. They Sat out in the p.m. to go as far as *Alexanders*. At Eve came my Grand Daughter *Molly Forbes*, accompanied by *Ripley* of College. They lodge here.

1773 August 17 (Tuesday). They Set out for *Boston*. I rode (though not well) to Ministers Meeting at *Marlborough*. Dine at Mr. *Smiths*. Our Association was only of the following, viz. Mr. *Stone*, Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Goss*, Mr. *Bridge* and Mr. *Whitney*, besides me. Our Chief Business (besides praying together) was *Bolton* Affair. Mr. *Goss* read the Result of the late Council at his House. The Association voted to desire me as Moderator to write to Rev. *Adams* of *Roxbury*,

the Scribe, to forward its being printed.²³ This I did accordingly whilst I was there. N.B. I received of Mr. Goss and paid for three more (having had of Mr. Whitney three already) of Mr. *Adams* of Lunenburg's Answer to the Neighbour.²⁴ In returning home, visited Mrs. Brigham (widow of the late Capt. *Ephraim*). Arrived safely. D.G.

1773 August 18 (Wednesday). Read in Mr. *Lorings* Diary. Mrs. *Stone* (Wife of Deacon *Stone* of *Framingham*) and her Daughter *Submitt Nichols*, called here in their Way to her son *Goddards* of *Shrewsbury*.

1773 August 19 (Thursday). Ensign *Snow* having yesterday married Miss *Susanna Gleason* and invited me to his house, I went and with a small Number of Friends dined there. Returned before night.

1773 August 20 (Friday). Mr. *Maccarty* of Worcester here, and dined with me. Though it was very agreeable to have a Visit from Such a Brother yet it proved a Sad interruption to my Studys; but bend to them afterwards.

1773 August 21 (Saturday). Am favoured with an entertaining Letter from Mr. *Moore* of the 16th containing his Journey to Newport and the Curiosities and Conversations he met with there.

1773 August 22 (Sunday). Read Amos 5 to 14 and delivered an Exercise upon it. P.M. Read Rev. 10. Preached again from *Isa.* 6.9.10, using further my old preparations on those words. May it please God to awaken us all hereby! *Isaac Davis* and his wife Offered their Humilliations and Relations. Were restored to Charity and added to the Church. Mr. *Barrett* of Hopkinton and his Wife were with us and dined here. Mr. *Fitch* preaches at *Mendon, Chestnut Hill*.

1773 August 23 (Monday). The Town Met to See whether it will be agreeable to them to build a Steeple and have a Bell. Several persons have Subscribed an hundred pound apiece old Tenor. One (Mr. *Seth Morse*) 150. Lieut. *Baker* 50 Dollars. Capt. *Maynard* 100£. But it did not obtain. A great Majority against it. My Daughter *Hannah* very poorly. Dr. Hawes with her. Mrs. *Bass's* Maid (one Betty Thomas) came to help *Sophy*. Read in Mr. *Lorings* Diary etc.

1773 August 24 (Tuesday). Mr. *Charles Lawrence* of *Ashby* here desirous to buy my 37 Acre Lot joining to him.

1773 August 25 (Wednesday). I have sent my Request to Mr. *Fitch* to preach my Lecture but he did not come. I preached my Self. My Text was *Prov.* 9.1-6. After Lecture Mr. *Peter Whitney* and his wife called here in their way home from *Southborough*. N.B. Their Brother *Hammock*

²³*The Result of an Ecclesiastical Council, Convened at Bolton, August 3, 1773, at the Desire of the Pastor and Church of Christ in that Town* (Boston, 1773). Evans 12,686.

²⁴Zabdiel Adams (1739-1801), *An Answer to a Pamphlet Lately Published, (Under the Signature of a Neighbour), Intituled, "A Treatise on Church Government." Wherein the Errors of This Anonymous Author's Narrative of the Troubles and Transactions in the Church at Bolton Are Corrected* (Boston, 1773). Evans 12,6

late of *Boston* is dead and bury'd: also Mr. Jacob Biglows Wife, of Sudbury. And I perceive by the Public Papers that my generous Friend Mr. *Richard Surcomb* is dead!²⁵ The Lord sanctifie this Dispensation to Me, that I may prepare for my own Departure! The Lord extend also His Pity to the Desolate Widow, and to Mrs. Flagg the Daughter of the Deceased! Mr. Ebenezer *Chamberlain* and his Wife here with their *Relations*. Hannah very poorly to Day: can't keep off from the Bed. *Elias* also not well. Vendue of front Gallery Pews.

1773 August 26 (Thursday). Deacon *Merriam* with Mr. *Bradshaw* from *Grafton* here. N.B. The Carpenters raised the West Porch at the Meeting House. Have been in daily Expectation of Mrs. P _____ from *Brookfield* but She doth not come. Both *Hannah* and *Elias* not well. The Doctor visits and administers but *Hannah* is no better.

1773 August 27 (Friday). *Elias* as well as *Hannah* Still laid by. Can't but wish for Mrs. P _____'s Return, but it rains hard a.m. and can't wish her to be in it. However I hope She got to *Alexanders* last night. [*illegible*] *Joshua Johnson* of *Bolton* here, going to Mr. *Fish*, to Mr. *Chaplain* and to Mr. *Stone* of *Douglass*, to deliver each of them a Copy of the late Council at *Bolton* called by Rev. *Goss* and Adherents, that each of those Churches may know what they are going to do if they Send to and assist in the Installment of Mr. *Walley* at *Bolton* as things are now circumstanced among them. N.B. I advise Mr. *Johnson* to wait upon the Pastors of the Churches that are or may be sent to, in the main place, and leave the Copys with *them* and as to engaging any private Brethren of those Churches therein, if the Pastors refuse to read them to their Churches, or to take them, I would leave him to his own Discretion, charging it upon him that Order be kept to strictly in Every Thing and wishing him divine Direction. P.M. the storm cleared off, and at Eve came my Wife and Daughter in Law *Kezia*, with her little *Alexander*, but Mrs. P _____ was much indisposed, and has been ever since She has been gone. My son *Ebenezer* came with her as far as *Alexanders* yesterday, and she lodged there. N.B. A little before my wife and Daughter arrived, came Mr. *Benjamin Webb*; our Circumstances did not admitt of my inviting him to lodge here. He therefore left me to go to Deacon *Woods*.

1773 August 28 (Saturday). My Daughter in law pursued her Journey to *Framingham*. My Family are much indisposed. My Wife poorly; *Hannah* is ill; the Jaundice appears evidently; her stomach much disordered. The Doctor has given her a Vomit, which works as expected. *Elias* is exercised very much with Pain -- is capable of very little. Mr. *Levi Wilder* dines here.

1773 August 29 (Sunday). Read Amos V from v. 14 to the End, And preached upon it; especially v. 25, 26. Admitted Ebenezer Chamberlain and his Wife. Administered the Lord's Supper. Mrs.

²⁵"Last Saturday Night departed this Life, Mr. Richard Surcomb, Aged 57, a Noted Baker of this Town; his Funeral is to be on Tuesday 5 o'Clock, when his Friends and Acquaintances are desired to attend." *Boston Gazette*, Aug. 23, 1773, Issue 959, p. [3]. His widow Mary announced that she intended "leaving off the Baking Business very soon," taking "this Opportunity of returning my hearty Thanks to those Gentlemen and Ladies who had favoured me with their Custom since my late Husband's decease." *Boston Evening-Post*, Feb. 28, 1774, Issue 2005, p. [3]. She also had "A very good Horse and handsome Chaise to sell." At the same time, William Flagg announced that "the Baking Business will be carried on as usual by the Subscriber, who is determined to give universal Satisfaction."

Maynard dined here. P.M. Read Ps. 81 and took v. 11 for the Text, delivering another of my Sermons on the awful Judgment of Mens Hearts hardening etc. from *Isa.* 5.9.10 from page 38 to p. 48. O that there might arise powerful Effectual Conviction to Such as were heretofore hardened and secure!

1773 August 30 (Monday). Visit Benjamin *Tainter* junior who is grievously exercised with Fits. His Case is very Sad. May the Lord shew Pity! Prayed there. Dined with them also. Mrs. Rebecca Warrin came to See us. She tells me her youngest sister *Lydia*, who married a *Williams* in *Uxbridge*, dyed lately, of the Meazles. The Lord Sanctifie it to all Survivers! Mrs. P_____ poorly. Messrs. Barnabas Newton, Joseph Bond, with four Oxen apiece -- joined to my Team, Jonathan with them -- but Elias only a.m., break up at the Island. Write to Mr. *Moore*.

1773 August 31 (Tuesday). Mrs. P_____n very poorly -- lyes by. Messrs. *Fish*, *Chaplin* and *Stone* of *Douglass*, and 10 Delegates, as I hear, from their 3 Churches, go to *Bolton*. They do not call here. P.M. Mr. *Whitney* endeavouring to take a Girl, calls here, acquaints us with the *Dudleian* Lecture to be tomorrow. I am Sorry I can't leave my Sick Family to attend it: That besides the Council at *Bolton*, one is to sit Thursday also at *Chauxitt*. O how dark these times grow! How ill-boding these Symptoms! The Lord prepare us for His holy will!

1773 September 1 (Wednesday). My Wife is Still worse; the Doctor visits her. *Hannah* is, through divine Compassion, better. So is *Elias*; but does very little at his Books. At Eve hear that the Council have installed Mr. *Walley*.

1773 September 2 (Thursday). In the Morning came my grand Daughter *Molly Forbes* and Miss *Hannah Coffin*, accompanied by *Ripley* of College. After breakfast They Sat out for *Brookfield*. P.M. Mr. *Fish* called here in his Return from *Bolton*. He Said he came in to See Mrs. P_____ in her illness, or he should hardly come in. He would fain Say nothing of what he had been about; but I was not able to forbear charging him and them that had done this Deed, with unparalleled, astonishing *Temerity*. He said they had sent an Account to the press. He inveighed against the *Convention*, and charged them with either a Spirit of Divination or Lying -- namely (for I handed the Book) in p. 19, l. 17, "But it is certain that they *neither of them* -- he wildly interprets *the them* of those *one or two Churches* -- whereas it most Evidently means the nearer and expressed Antecedents, those Venerable *Gentlemen*. He also condemns the Book as Clandestinely and obscurely done, because not Signed by any Moderator or Scribe. In the Eve came Mr. *Daniel Forbes* and Mr. *Joseph Harrington* to talk with me about the Doings at *Bolton* and know my Opinion. Mr. *Forbes* Said he Supposed that We must immediately have to do with them. I told them I conceived they had gone directly contrary to the Platform: but we must wait and see how the Effects would appear. They Seemed to think there must be something done among us *Soon*. I answered that the Apostles Direction must be taken to "Study to be quiet, and to do our own Business." It would be an Odd thing for us to be so fond of meddling with *Bolton* Quarrell, and Set ourselves all in a *Blaze*, while we ourselves lived in Such criminal Neglect of Church Discipline towards one of our own Members, who was So grossly guilty, and yet was let alone from one year to another -- etc. etc. etc. N.B. Received a

Letter from Mr. *Cushing* that they were well -- that he had found a Boy in his Parish that might Suit me. Sent to *Boston* a Packet for Mr. *Moore*, containing a Letter, and a Book, viz. Mr. *Zebulon Adams's* Answer to the *Neighbour*.

1773 September 3 (Friday). Mr. *Isaac Haven* of *Framingham* dined here. P.M. Lt. *Rufus Putnam* and his Wife here. Relates to me Remarkables of his Tour to *Messasippi*.

1773 September 4 (Saturday). *Ripley* returning to *Cambridge* breaks fast here. Young *Roger Brown* dines. *Alexander* and his Wife are returning home, after going to *Framingham* and *Concord*. They come here to take Dinner.

1773 September 5 (Sunday). In the morning came Capt. *Samuel Wilder* of *Ashburnham* being upon a sorrowful urgent Journey to *Providence* to see his Brother *Nahum* who lies Sick there: in a Relapse after the Small Pox. Mr. *Levi* and his Sister *Sally* went over Yesterday. May God graciously appear for the poor young man, and prepare him and his dear Relatives for His holy will! Read *Amos VI* and gave an Exercise (too broken and imperfect, alas!) for the a.m. service, from it. Mrs. P _____ could not go to Meeting. P.M. Read Ps. XCV. Made v. 8, first Comma, the Text, and delivered the greatest part of the Improvement of Sermon on *Isa. VI.9.10* from p. 48 to the End. I most earnestly and importunately beg of God to awaken all of us, and teach us to profit by the word dispensed. Obtained Dismission for Mrs. *Persis Putnam*, heretofore *Persis Rice*, now Putnam. Appointed the Family Meeting to be at Mr. *Joseph Grouts* next Tuesday, at 2 p.m.

1773 September 6 (Monday). Mr. Bradshaw goes to Boston -- breakfasts here. Mr. *War* [illegible] *Cadaman* of *Oxford*, merchant, brought a Letter from Reverend Mr. *Bowman*, asking Advice concerning Mr. *Ely's* Ordination at *Sommers*. Mr. *Cadaman*, also Mr. Bradshaw from *Grafton*, for *Boston*, at Breakfast here. Hear that Mr. *Joseph Warrin* of *Brookfield* dyed yesterday morning. He was but lately at his Father's, Mr. *Timothy Warrins*. A Solemn Warning!

1773 September 7 (Tuesday). Mr. *Hall* of *Sutton* and his son *Joseph* dined here. I preached p.m. at Mr. *Joseph Grouts* because of his Son *Josephs* languishment, on *Isa. 54.13* to page 9 and the addition of the Exhortation in p. 19: which may God graciously bless! At Eve came Capt. *Wilder*, his Brother and Sister from *Providence*, who have been burying their poor Brother *Nahum* in the very glory of Life. O how great a Change! How awful the Thought! May God Sanctifie this Dispensation to all nearly concerned especially! To Young Men.

1773 September 8 (Wednesday). *Breck* goes to *Worcester*. Hath sued two Men. But not [till -- illegible]. Mr. *Jonathan Child* dined here. N.B. *Hannah Forbush* junior (Daughter of Mr. *Ebenezer*) came to work in the Family. Mrs. P _____ remaining poorly Still, and my Daughter *Hannah* not firm. *Sophy* is at *Brecks* Shop. N.B. have received a Book I have long desired, viz. "Remarkable Passages in the Life of a Private Gentleman."

1773 September 9 (Thursday). *Lieut. Ward of Grafton* here; and was Smooth. Sermonizing. I am So near to compleating my 70th year, that I have my Thoughts running Chiefly upon the words in Ps. 90.10.

1773 September 10 (Friday). Next Lords Day, if I shall live to it, will be the last sabbath of my 70th Year. My Mind is very closely exercised hereupon. May the Lord help me in preparing for it! Both my Sermons, and the Frame of my Spirit. *Sophy* droops.

1773 September 11 (Saturday). Mr. *Samuel Salsbury* of *Boston*, Merchant, at Breakfast here. P.M. whilst I was much engaged in my preparations for the Sabbath, especially as it will be a peculiar Sabbath to me, came Mr. *P. Whitney*, desiring we might Change tomorrow. I have no way to avoid it: but must keep my preparations to another Week. He informs me of his Necessity, and I could not deny. He has been at the Court at *Worcester* to hear the Tryal of Mr. *Goss's* Case, who has obtained, against the Town of *Bolton*, but the latter have appealed.

1773 September 12 (Sunday). Through the great Goodness and Astonishing Long Suffering of God I am favoured with this morning! It was rainy, and I thought I Should Stay at home, but towards nine o'Clock Mr. *Whitney* came. I rode over, and preached at *Northborough* a. and p.m. on *Isa.* 6.9.10 to page 32. I Baptized *Samuel*, Son of *John* and [blank] *Gamwell*, the woman being a member of the Church. After Exercises called to See the Widows *Martyn* in my way back; and drank Tea there: and went in also to see Capt. *Maynard*, who has been confined for Some days. My Care has been to keep this Sabbath, the Last Sabbath of 70 Years! as not knowing but it may be the last I shall ever have. But alas have brokenly and imperfectly! Each returned at Evening. Mr. *Whitney* preached on *Rom.* 6.23 a. and p.m. May the Lord add His Efficacious Blessing to each!

1773 September 13 (Monday). Visit at Mr. *Springs*, his Mother *Whitmore* being come to see her Daughter. My Daughter *Sophy* is laid by with sickness. Was much engaged in reading Mr. *Lorings Diary* etc. etc. At Eve came Mr. *Water* [s?] who has been for about a Week keeping School at the South school-House. He speaks much of the flourishing State of *Dartmouth* College.

1773 September 14 (Tuesday). Visit Lt. *Harrington* who is Lame. Visit old Mrs. *Grow* who is exercised with fainting Fits, falls, and is greatly bruised. Prayed with her and Mrs. *Steward* etc. Discoursed, exhorted -- and returned to dine at Lt. *Harringtons*. Discoursed with him and urged -- prayed with him and his Family. In returning call at Mr. *Joseph Harringtons*. He shews himself greatly dissatisfyed with me about *Bolton* Matters. Mentions two things, viz. my Signing with the Association against those Brethren who were against Mr. *Goss*, and forbidding the two young women (Miss *Suse* and Miss *Persis Baker*) whereas I kindly besought them as to their coming to the Communion with us. I answered him with regard to both of them. But he plainly told me what I Said did not satisfy him a Jot. He lent me the second Treatise of *Neighbour*. May the Lord sanctifie to me this Trouble, and grant me Grace to improve it! Prepare me for what is before me and conduct me through it! When I came home, Mrs. *Esther Belknap* (wife of *Joseph*) was here and examined.

1773 September 15 (Wednesday). Employed chiefly in preparing for, and suitably improving this important Season, viz. Closing my 70th and beginning my 71st Year.

1773 September 16 (Thursday). Dies Separat. Devot. Gratul. Humill. and prec. [quiby?] addit. Jejun. At Eve came Rev. Mr. *William Gordon* and Lady from *New Haven*, in their Journey home to Roxbury; and lodge here. Old Mrs. *Kelly* goes to Capt. *Maynards*.

1773 September 17 (Friday). Mr. *Gordon* informs me that Mr. *Ely* of *Sommers* is very much rejected by the ministers, and that it is not likely the Council will meet, or if they *do*, will accept of Him. He heard so much of it among the Ministers at Commencement (and especially mentioned President *Doggett*) that he believes there will not be ordination. They go on their Journey home. Mr. *Bass* here a.m. Discourse of the late Pamphlets published about Church Government²⁶ and Seems not to like the proceedings at *Bolton*. *Joseph Belknap* was here and was examined in order to joining with the Church. Finish a Letter to Mr. *Bowman* of *Oxford* (at his Request) concerning Mr. *Ely's* Ordination at *Somers*.

1773 September 18 (Saturday). Sent it by *Samuel Campbel* (son of Squire).

1773 September 19 (Sunday). My Mind has been, through the Grace of God, exceedingly engaged and wrought on, considering my advancement in Age. And now desire most unfeignedly and with all my best Powers, to bless the Lord that I am permitted to see the Light of this Morning, and to begin another Year of Sabbaths! O that I might Spend this, and every one I may be indulged with, in the best manner! I hope my Soul is Set *in this*. Read publickly the XCth Psalm. Preached a. and p.m. on v. 10. P.M. Read Ps. CXLV. I bless God I have Some lively Sense of my Situation in Life: but wish it was more impressive and effectual. May God graciously afford His almighty influences!

1773 September 20 (Monday). Went to Lt. *Bakers*. Borrowed the Letter which was Sent him some time agoe from Capt. *Silas Bailey* and Mr. *James Goddard* of *Bolton*. P.M. Mrs. *Whitmore* (Mrs. *Springs* mother) made us a Visit. Mr. *Joshua Johnson* of *Bolton* was here with another Message from Mr. *Goss* praying that I would not fail to go to *Worcester* tomorrow, inasmuch as the Lawyers of the Opposite Party would oblige him to prove his Ordination, the Churches Choice and his Acceptance; and 'tis Said I was Clerk or Scribe at that time.

1773 September 21 (Tuesday). Had Mr. *Haskills* Chaise and Deacon *Woods* Horse to go up to *Worcester* with *Elias* who is Summoned to Court, to give Evidence in *Ensign Fay's* Case against Mr. *Manasseh Smith*. I went to Court and heard the Chief Justice's Charge to the Grand Jury. Mr. *Maccarty* prayed. I dined with him. *Elias* with *Ensign Fay*. P.M. at Mr. *Samuel Bridge's*.

²⁶Bass may have been referring to John Wise (1652-1725), *The Churches Quarrel Espoused: Or, a Reply in Satyre to Certain Proposals Made, in Answer to This Question, What Further Steops Are to Be Taken That the Councils May Have Due Constitution and Efficacy in Supporting, Preserving and Well-Ordering the Interest of the Churches in the Country* (2d ed.; Boston, 1715). Evans 1795. This was reprinted as part of Wise, *A Vindication of the Government of New-England Churches...* (Boston, 1772).

Also visit Mr. *Richard Pratt*, who took Care of my Horse and Chaise, and kindly invites to Lodge etc. *Elias* goes there, lodges. I at Mr. *Maccarty's*.

1773 September 22 (Wednesday). Neither of the Causes, neither *Fays*, nor *Bolton* people's against Mr. *Goss*, being at all likely to come on, We rode up to *Leicester*, to my Son *Alexander*. Dined there. At Eve came there Messrs. *Eli* and *Abel Con [i?] t*, my Daughters Uncles and lodge there, as we also did. N.B. Mr. *Conklin* called in, discoursed of the *Somers* Affair.

1773 September 23 (Thursday). We returned to *Worcester*. Was at Mr. *Maccartys*. Dined at Mr. *Bridge's*, with young Mr. *Hutchinson*, the school Master. P.M. at Mr. [*Pains?*] where was Coll. *Worthington*, who informs me Mr. *Breck* is just upon his marriage with Mrs. *Dor* of *Hartford*. I was at Mr. *Putnams*, Dr. *Willards*, at Judge *Chandlers*. The Cause between Ensign *Fay* and Master *Smith* was tryed. *Elias* was not Sworn. I attended part of the Time. After Court at Eve retired to Mr. *Maccartys* -- had a faint turn, while I was there, and at the Smelling of the Supper -- but through divine Favour recovered, and at length Eat of the Food prepared. May it be a memento to me! Lodged at the Same Place.

1773 September 24 (Friday). Understood that the Jury brought in their Verdict for Mr. *Smith*, upon which I prepared to return home. Mr. *Goss* informs me that his Cause will be deferred to next *April*. Called at Capt. *Curtis's*: and at Mr. *Sumners*. Arrived in Safety at my own House. The Praise to God! At Eve came Mr. *Marsh*, Tutor from *Weathersfield* where he has a Call: and lodges here.

1773 September 25 (Saturday). Mr. *Marsh* goes to *Cambridge*. Mr. *Hutchinson* going to *Concord*, dines here. Mr. *Nathan Townsend* is examined in order to his joining with the Church. Every Day of the Week I have, unhappily, Avocations.

1773 September 26 (Sunday). Have made some Preparations but could not compleat them, and therefore was obliged to have recourse to what I formerly delivered: and therein I had what with Some Alterations and Additions were exceeding pertinent to what was preached last Lord's Day -- and very fit to follow upon those Exercises. Therefore having read *Amos 7*, and given some expository Glances upon it, I preached on Ps. XC, v. 12, "So teach us" etc. And which may a gracious God be pleased to accompany with His Almighty Spirit! Mr. *Cornelius Waters* dined with us. P.M. Read Ps. 142 and 143 and went on with the Discourse on Ps. 90.12 to page 15. I earnestly request I may my Self in a peculiar manner be savingly benefitted hereby, as well as my Hearers! *Nathan Townsend* and his Wife were propounded. I bless God the Hearts of Such a Number of my People have been of late so much wrought on. May they all be truly Sincere and upright, and walk accordingly! At Night came *John* from *Providence* -- from *Wrentham* to Day, and not well. I had sent him my Horse by Mr. *Dupec*.

1773 September 27 (Monday). *John* is poorly and can't go to *Oxford* as expected. Mr. *Lorings Diary*. A Town Meeting, to See if the Town would not consent to Some Alterations to be made in the Situation of the Pews proposed to be built before the foreseats below, and to take away the great Pew that is next to the Pulpit before, and above the Deacons Seat. Also to dispose of

Pew-places, at the Wall, in the Galleries. The former of these things the Town did nothing of: the latter was accomplished. They were sold at Capt. *Woods* at Night. *Henry Barns* Esq. here.

1773 September 28 (Tuesday). In the Morning my son *Alexander* came with my Speckled Cow, and 2 quarters and head and [Ploock?] of the Calf. But *Alexander* not well: worried with driving the Cow in the Night. P.M. He and *John* go away together, one to *Leicester*; the other to *Oxford* to work at Mr. *William Watson's*. O that God might be the Guardian of them both! Mr. *Hall of Sutton* here, and dines. He is again going to *Boston*. He gives me some Account of his Conduct at the Association last week at Mr. *Chaplins*: when he prayed before the sermon, and Mr. *Walley* after. Master *Waters* at Eve -- supps and lodges here.

1773 September 29 (Wednesday). Mr. *Morse* Treasurer pay £34.15.8 and has a Receipt for it. Rode to *Shrewsbury*, to an Association Lecture. Mr. *Bowman* prayed. Mr. *Curtis* of [*Charlton?*] preached a profitable sermon on Ps. 149.9. Mr. *Conklin* prayed after sermon. May God grant His Blessing! Dined at Mr. *Sumners*. Mr. *Nathan Goddard* was approbated as Schoolmaster. Mr. *Sumner*, Mr. *Whitney* and I signed the *Certificate*. Memorandum. The Lord was pleased to remember His people, in a Time of distressing Drought and sent a Plentiful Rain. Praise to His glorious Name! Supped at Mr. *Sumners*, but lodged at sister *Cushings*, and Mr. *Davis* of *Holden* with me.

1773 September 30 (Thursday). Though rainy and stormy yet I returned home, and dined here. P.M. Reading and studys various. But how Swift my Time flies! Another Month gone! Lord make me know etc.!

1773 October 1 (Friday). Blessed be God who upholds me from one Month to another. May I have Wisdom and Grace Suitably to improve my Time; this rich Talent! Mrs. *Prudence Rice*, Wife of Mr. *Elijah*, from *Hennecker*, and her sister Miss *Lydia Hardy*, dined here. Cousen *Maynard* made us a Visit. Mr. *Joseph Belknap* brings his and his Wife's Relation. At Eve Neighbour *Newton* with his Oxen, assist in plowing, and a Number of Neighbours in levelling the Knoll at the back of the House. But *Breck* went to *Lancaster*.

1773 October 2 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1773 October 3 (Sunday). Read *Amos XIII*. Preached on Ps. 55.22 a. and p.m. N.B. Mrs. *Lucy Maynard*, when she drew nigh to Death, desired I would preach on this Text. P.M. Read the 55th Ps. N.B. Mrs. *Prudence Rice* dined with me. Mr. *Benjamin Webb*, who keeps School in Town, here after Meeting. Supped with me.

1773 October 4 (Monday). In the morning came Capt. *Samuel Wilder* of *Ashburnham*, Mr. *Levi Wilder* of *Lancaster*, and Miss *Polly Cook* of *Providence*, who had been at *Lancaster*; all in their way to *Mendon*, and *Breck* goes with them. P.M. Mrs. *Beeton* to See her Mother who is much exercised with Rheumatism. Miss *Hannah Fish* drinks Tea with us. At Eve the Committee of the Church who visited Mrs. *Eunice Rice*, met here. Viz. Deacon *Bond*, Mr. *Nathaniel Whitney* and Capt. *Benjamin Fay*. They draw up, 2 of them Sign the Return of what was done; and they leave

the Paper for the Church. N.B. [Last?] Eve Mr. *Joseph Harrington* lent me again the *Second Neighbour* but injoining to return it by *Elias* when he goes next to School.

1773 October 5 (Tuesday). Mr. *Joseph Harrington* calls at *Brecks* Shop and takes his Book: for though it is so gross and outrageous there are not wanting those who (unhappy men!) too greedily Swallow the Strange stuff which it contains. May the Lord be pleased to convince and forgive the injurious Author, or authors of it, and those who are infected with the Contagion it contains! And may I have Grace Patiently and Meekly to bear the groundless Reflections upon me and numbers of other Ministers, which are slandered therein! P.M. I rode with Dr. *Hawes* to Mr. *Artemas Bruce's* to see his Sick Child, and prayed there. In returning took Opportunity to talk with the Doctor about his and his Wife's joining with the Church. My Kinsman *Bradshaw* from *Brookfield* here and lodges. *Breck* has returned from *Mendon* from the Vendue of the *Wilder* goods. *Lucy Fay* married to *David Mathews*.

1773 October 6 (Wednesday). Mr. *Bradshaw* to *Boston* and carryed for me 2d and Third Vols. of *Burroughs* on *Hosea* to Dr. *Samuel Mathers*. Mr. *Sumner* came and dined with me. Preached my Lecture on *Cant. 1.7*. May a gracious God add His Blessing! Stayed the Church at the Request of the Deacons, who wanted to acquaint the Church, and did so, with the Legacy which the late *Deacon Tainter* left the Church, of 50£ Old Tenor and which was let out to his son *Benjamin Tainter*, now the Time of the Note being up, they want the Church Should direct what they would have done with it; but don't desire the Church to act anything upon it immediately. They choose it should be deferred to next Lecture Day. Mr. *Waters* here after Meeting -- and tarrys here over night. Squire (or Capt.) *Samuel Wilder* returning from *Mendon*, came and lodged here.

1773 October 7 (Thursday). Several letters from Mr. *Moore*. The Dates, Sept. 27, 28, 30, and Oct. 4 by the way of *Boston*. P.M. Mr. *Solomon Bakers* Wife makes us a Visit: also her Sister *Tabitha Brigham* from *FitzWilliam* here. Dr. *Samuel Curtis* of *Marlborough* came in. By him I returned the Life of Dr. *South* to his Mother *Woods*. Mr. *Nathan Townsend* here with his Relation. Mr. *Ballard*, Capt. *Larnard* and one of their Neighbours who had been a long Journey to *Kenebeck*, call in as they are returning home to *Oxford*.

1773 October 8 (Friday). Mrs. *Townsend* here, about her Relation. Mr. *Joseph Belknap* and his Wife came upon the like Affair. Deacon *Merriam* to desire me to administer the Communion at *Grafton* on the 17th Day.

1773 October 9 (Saturday). Mr. *Mellen* and his Wife in returning home, call here; acquaint me with the Result of the late Council there, and the non acceptance of both Church and Precinct. Mr. *Gillam Bass* dined here with *Breck*. Rev. Mr. *Joseph Willard* goes to *Southborough* to change with Mr. *Stone*.

1773 October 10 (Sunday). Read *Amos 9*. Preached on *Ps. 55.22*, which may God bless to our divine Consolation! Admitted *Joseph* and *Esther Belknap*, and *Nathan* and *Sarah Townsend*. Administered the Lord's Supper. Omitted Reading p.m. Preached on *Mat. 6.12*, to page 10 to

the bottom, but with many omissions and alterations. At Eve came Mr. *Willard of Mendon* and lodged here. N.B. He gave me some Account of Mr. *Balch*, late of the South Parish in *Mendon*, and the unfitness of his leaving them.

1773 October 11 (Monday). Mr. *Willard* returned home. Mr. *Stone* of *Southborough* came from *Mendon*, but from Mr. *Frost's* Parish where he kept sabbath. Mr. *Sprague* of *Boston* (Doctor's Son) preached for Mr. *Willard*. Memorandum. Mr. *Stone* received of me Mr. *Lorings* loose folio leaves of Collections on the *Bible*; except on the Revelations which I detain a while.

1773 October 12 (Tuesday). Mr. *Nathaniel Whitney* informs me that Mr. *Samuel Fay* (whom he has been to See of late) is not only poor, but expressed himself concerning *me*, his Pitying Friend, as if he was out of Frame. Mrs. *Martyn* and her Daughter in law, Mr. *Richards* Wife, made us a Visit, and dine here. Wrote to my Son *Baldwin* about my Cattle, and to *Alexander*. Mrs. *Martyn* took the Care of these Letters.

1773 October 13 (Wednesday). My Kinsman *Bradshaw* came from *Boston* and from his Fathers. He brought me *Reynolds Gods Revenge against Murder* and *Gods Treasury displayed*. N.B. I delivered to him 60£ old Tenor to be delivered to Mr. *Forbes*, and for it I have his (*Bradshaws*) Receipt. He dines here as do Dr. *Joslyn* and Mrs. *Cotton* from *Hopkinton*. The Men go to *Grafton*, Mrs. *Cotton* tarrys with us.

1773 October 14 (Thursday). I rode to *Grafton* Lecture. Called to See *Joseph Grout* junior. Dined at Mr. *Daniel Grosvenors* Lodgings, viz. at young Mr. *Merriams*. Mr. *Sumner* preached on *Deut. 32.47*, which may God bless and prosper for our Saving Good! We retired after Meeting to Mr. *Jonathan Wheelers* and drank Tea. We also stepped in to see Mrs. *Hutchinson*, her husband being gone to preach at *Colrain*. I returned home at Evening. Though *Jonathan Maynard* had laid aside the Design of our Husking to day, yet he undertook to get Hands together and they cut up, carted in the rest of the Corn, So that at Eve about 30 Hands came and husked it out. We got 'em a supper, and had Mr. *John Harrington* to tend and Mr. *Thaddeus Warrins* Wife to Cook. Dr. *Joslyn* and Mrs. *Cotton* here, but the Doctor went with Dr. *Haws* to lodge. Mr. *Benjamin Webb*, School master, among the People; and he returned Thanks. We Sang part of Ps. 65, v. 2 and v. 8 to the End of 11.

1773 October 15 (Friday). Dr. *Joslyn* tarries at Dr. *Hawes*, Settling difficult matters between them till after Dinner. P.M. he came and waited upon Mrs. *Cotton* home. The Town had a Meeting to Sell their Remnants of Stuff and Stock. The Carpenters, House-Joyners etc. finish their Work at the Meeting House.

1773 October 16 (Saturday). The Painter and Others are finishing the *colouring, tarring over [illegible]* etc. the Roof of the Meeting House. P.M. I was at the Funeral of Mr. *Artemas Bruce's* Child, of about 2 Months old. Rode to *Grafton* and lodged at Mr. *Joseph Merriams* (the Deacons Son's). Mr. *Daniel Grosvenor*, Candidate, to *Westborough*.

1773 October 17 (Sunday). Preached at *Grafton*, a.m. on *Mark XIV.14.15*. Administered there the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, and dined at Mr. *Jonathan Wheeler's*. P.M. preached on Ps. 139.23.24. All Success depends on God. I implored pardoning Mercy, His gracious acceptance and Concurrence! The Vows of God are upon me: O that I might perform them! Returned to Mr. *Merriams* at Eve, and lodged there. The Deacon and his Wife came there to Supper. Mr. *Grosvenor* (having preached at *Westborough* a.m. on *Phil. 3.19* and p.m. on *Prov. 13.7*) returned, and Lodged with me at Mr. *Merriams*. N.B. Lieut. *Phinehas Leland* lies dead: am informed that he dyed (hopefully) in Christ. And Blessed are the Dead that dye in the Lord! By desire, I appointed the Funeral. O that we might be followers of them that through Faith and Patience inherit etc.

1773 October 18 (Monday). Mr. *Grosvenor* and I broke Fast at Deacon *Merriams*. N.B. I committed Mr. *Hall* of *Suttons* Book, Mr. *Burroughs* on *Hosea* Vol. 1 to be delivered safely to Mr. *Hall*. In returning, called at Mr. *Benajah Brigham's*, who and Wife are newly come to their place among us, to make them a Visit. At home find that *Breck* has hired Mr. *Jacob Snow* to work for him, in building a Pew in the Meeting House. With him *Joshua Chamberlin*: and here they diet.

1773 October 19 (Tuesday). Both those workmen here. *Breck* (p.m.) Sets out for *Boston*. I send by him Mrs. *Melvilles* Book, viz. the Translation of Sir *Thomas Mores Utopia*, which I have read. An happy Common Wealth no doubt! But with great Defects! [Here a Greek word.] It is the Day for the Association to meet at Mr. *Bridge's* at *Sudbury*: but I am unable to attend. My Horse being sold, I tryed in Vain to get an Horse. It was also very rainy in the early Morning and the Journey so great as to require very early Setting out, so that after my Disappointments yesterday, there was no time nor room to [illegible]; though it was to my great Trouble. Employed in Mr. *Lorings Diary*. It takes up much Time to read it so as to make the Table of Contents; but affords Quickening and Instruction. God grant I may be profited by it!

1773 October 20 (Wednesday). Mr. *Joseph Pope* is this Day to be ordained, at *Spencer*. May he and the people he is to be set over, and those Servants of God that carry on the Solemnity, have much of the divine Presence with them! And I wish they may have lasting peace and Joy! May I ever remember the Solemn Charge which I have received! May I be humbled under a sense of my unfaithfulness and unprofitableness this long time that the Lord has continued me in the work; for which Patience of God I would bless His Name; and entreat Grace that may be sufficient for me the little Time I may be still endured.

1773 October 21 (Thursday). Capt. *Peter Coffin* of *Cape Ann*, and his Son in law Mr. *Nathaniel Smith* going up to *Brookfield*, came, and dined here. It is supposed that his son *Peter* (who has been sick) is so recovered as to be gone up to be married. May a gracious God extend His Favour and Smiles, and may my grand Daughter, as well as the Bridegroom, be espoused to Jesus Christ! Mr. *Harrington*, *Chamberlin* and *Champney* dined here. At Eve came Messrs. *Hezekiah Taylor*, *Benjamin Guild*, and *Amariah Frost*, made me a Visit and lodged here.

1773 October 22 (Friday). The young Gentlemen left us. The workmen did not lodge here, and Except Mr. *Harrington* (being two of them now at work for Lt. *Baker*) did not come to dinner here. Mrs. P _____ not well. At Eve *Breck* returned from *Boston*, says he saw the poor Criminal hanged. The Crime was Burglary. His name was *Levi Ames*. O that others might take Warning! Hear and fear, and do no more so wickedly.

1773 October 23 (Saturday). *Swift* the Painter at the Meeting House, finishes his part and goes home. Mr. *Davis* of *Holden* calls here in his way to Southborough where he is going to preach tomorrow. He brings me Dr. *Fullers* Holy and profane state.

1773 October 24 (Sunday). Read the book of *Obadiah* and preached a.m. upon it. P.M. Read Ezek. 35 because of its illustrating what we have been upon in the morning. Repeated Sermon on Mat. 6.12 from p. 10 to 18. I humbly ask divine Concurrence. Stayed the Church to communicate to them the Return of the Committee which was Sent to Mrs. *Eunice* Rice, and since she sends word that She can do nothing more, the Church concerns them Selves to get the Copys of the Evidences against her. Vote that Mr. *Tainter* go to the Secretarys office for them.

1773 October 25 (Monday). Read Dr. *Fullers* Holy and Profane state. Survey my Papers Searching for Mrs. *Eunice* Rice's Confession.

1773 October 26 (Tuesday). On the Search still for said Confession. Catechized at Mr. *Timothy* Warrins House instead of the school House, it being rainy. Had 36 Children -- Boys and Girls. May God be pleased to bless what was delivered to them.

1773 October 27 (Wednesday). Too wet to go abroad. Can't visit Mr. *Thomas* *Frost* who is sick. Read Expositors on *Jonah* and Dr. *Fullers* holy State. At Eleven o'Clock or past, came home *Jonathan* *Maynard*, having been out the night before beyond any of our Knowledge. I give him some *monitorys*, and he returned me [*monitorys*?] of his going where he might have leave if he could not here, to be *out* as he saw Occasion. I let him know that as he had promised me at our first Agreement that he would observe the Order of my House, so I expected it, and that he that would not be orderly Should not live in my House.

1773 October 28 (Thursday). Visited, discoursed and prayed with Mr. *Thomas* *Frost*, who is Still confined by Sickness. A Letter from *John* of his having sold my Horse to Mr. *Ezra* *Bowman* of *Oxford* for 14£ lawful. P.M. was engaged in my preparations. At Eve came Mr. *Tainter* and wife. But especially Capt. *Coffin*, his Son *Peter* and his new-married Spouse, my grand Daughter, his son *William* and Daughter *Hannah*, his son in law Mr. *Nathaniel* *Smith*, Miss *Sally* *Hill*, My Son *Ebenezer* and Kinsman *Bradshaw*. Four lodged here, viz. Mr. *Peter* and his Wife, his Sister and Miss *Sally* *Hill*. Three went to Deacon *Woods*. *Ebenezer* to Brother *Bonds* and took Mr. *Bradshaw* with him.

1773 October 29 (Friday). Great Interruption by the Company, who breakfast here, and bid adieu. Mr. *Morse* here and pays me the 16 Dollars which I lent him for the Towns Service. I

was obliged to assist in preparing for the work designed this Evening. Went to Mr. *Newtons* and Deacon *Woods* etc. to ask my Neighbours to come. Accordingly a Small Number were so kind as to assist me at Evening in *drawing off the Gravel* from the Knoll behind my House. Deacon *Wood* with a yoke of Oxen, Mr. *Barnabas Newton* with his Plough and oxen, Mr. *Jonathan Grout* with a large Gravel-Drag (except the Tongue), Mr. *Spring, Wheelock*, Several of the work-men from the Meeting House. However, there were in all, but a few for such a Work - - neither *Breck* nor *Harrington* nor *Caruth* nor *Snow*, could be with me. Yet a good Job was done. Their *Treat* was Drink and Bread and Cheese.

1773 October 30 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1773 October 31 (Sunday). Read *Jonah* I and preached on the first five verses. P.M. read *Rev. XI* and delivered something of Exposition extracted from Mr. *Lowman*. Preached again on *Mat. 6.12*, which I had delivered some years ago, and it being writ Small, was obliged to use a Glass in reading. Mr. *David Maynard* junior of Ashburnham dined here. Mr. *Levi Wilder* of Lancaster came here after meeting -- and lodged here.

1773 November 1 (Monday). Read variously. *Joshua Chamberlin* brought me *Langley* on Architecture, enriched with Plates, Plans etc. Mr. *Wilder* left us. At Eve I went to the Committee for the Meeting House, who sit at Deacon *Woods*; and carried by Desire of Mr. *Seth Morse*, my Account of the Boarding etc. of the Workmen: but it was not to Effect. For they would not allow of my making Distinctions of Caruths being with us over the Sabbath -- so that I took it again.

1773 November 2 (Tuesday). Miss *Suse Brigham* came to make Sundry Gowns. I visited old Miss *Steward* who is very low: also old Mrs. *Grow*. Mr. *Fish* and his Wife came there. We dined together. But no word of Controversy between us. I left them to go to the private Meeting at Mr. *Tainters*, where I preached on *Ps. 119.126*, 8 pages, and recapitulated to page 10, which God bless to all of us!

1773 November 3 (Wednesday). P.M. Mrs. *Godfrey* here to be examined. Went through what I could. Lent her Mr. *Doolittle* on the Lords Supper.²⁷ Capt. *John Tainter* of *Watertown* called to See me.

1773 November 4 (Thursday). My Son *Ebenezer* was to have returned from below, last Evening: I expected also Mr. *Bradshaw* with him: but neither Came. P.M. while I was much engaged came Mr. *Cook* (the miller) to talk with me about Church Government and wants to have something about the Platform inserted in our Church-Covenant. I told him the Church would not be likely to be pleased with Innovations. But Mrs. *Stockwell* was waiting to be examined as

²⁷Thomas Doolittle (1632?-1707), *A Treatise Concerning the Lord's Supper: With Three Dialogues for the Full Information of the Work* (19th ed.; Boston, 1700). Evans 909. Subsequent American editions appeared in 1708 (Evans 1349), 1713 (Evans 1606, 39,565), and 1727 (Evans 2865).

Candidate for the Communion. She was examined in part. Night approached and therefore I was obliged to defer the rest. Mr. *Phinehas Hardy* asks 35/ O.T. per Barrell for Cyder.

1773 November 5 (Friday). I Sent Elias to Mr. Phinehas Hardy for 4 Barrells of Cyder, and he Sends me 5 and Apples.

1773 November 6 (Saturday). I am informed that Miss *Mary Steward* expired this Morning. A Person of Solid understanding and much given to Reading; and esteemed a pious woman.

1773 November 7 (Sunday). This being the last Lords Day *in our Ecclesiastical Year*, Thanks were given to God for His Goodness and Longsuffering in continuing us for the Space of 49 Years. With Humiliations and Prayers according to the Occasion, Read Ps. 34. Preached on Jonah 1.6. Mr. *Nathaniel Oake of Bolton* dined here. P.M. Read Rev. XII. Preached again on the Subject of *forgiving* from *Mat. 6.14.15*, repeating from page 23 to 32 (N.B. pages 30, 31, 32 Capitulation). I would earnestly beg of God to bless these Exercises both to Me and to the People. In the Evening recollecting find, that since this time 12 Months, I and my Family have been exercised with divers and grievous Frowns of divine Providence. In particular by the Death of my dear Daughter *Moore*, and by the Sickness of divers of us -- Old Mrs. *Kelly*, Mrs. P_____, *Hannah*, *Elias*. May we be humbled and (Since they are so recovered) thankful to the Lord our Healer!

1773 November 8 (Monday). *Suse Brigham* who Stayed here after Meeting yesterday and lodged, works for *Sophy* and *Hannah* in *making* New Crape Gowns -- *altering* etc. etc. Mrs. P_____ with me to the Funeral of Miss *Mary Steward*, AEtatis 85. I prayed. May God Himself teach us hereby etc.!

1773 November 9 (Tuesday). My Children have among them the Life of *Patty Saunders*: I thought it needful to know what they read: find it a Piece of, I wish, I could say, *innocent*, Entertainment. But whilst such Amusements are apt to teach *Amour*, and Intrigue, they are like to engage the mind and ensnare the Heart too far, and to consume too much Time: But besides, they being designed to *Polish*, they *instruct* in the *fashionable*, which are the most *pleasing*, though *corrupt*, *principles* and *Ends*: The loose, gay Sentiments are also clothed in the ensnaring Language of the Age. These are observable in this Author; though they occur, perhaps more rarely here, than in some other Writings of this kind. The very little regard shewn to our glorious and blessed Savior in this Sort of Compositions, is no Small Defect, in a Christian and Protestant Country: The Apostrophe's or Exclamations -- *Lord!* -- *Bless me!* etc. -- with Signs that the Heart is very remote from the Frames of Devotion, are too vain and irreligious. The Duke of C_____ns making so light of his grandson's deflouring Miss *Lucy Hawley*, and telling her she had done nothing to be ashamed of, deserves heavy blame -- and it is inexcusable to teach young persons to disparage the Ordinance of God, *marriage*; by shewing that the union of their Affections is the Marriage to be looked for, whereas besides the union of the Affections, we are obliged by the Institution of God devoutly to acknowledge Him in it. I Catechized at the south School House. A Young man, Master *Nathan Burnap*, keeps the school. He had his Children together and he tarried through the Exercises. There were about 26

Children, and I wish divine Blessing might accompany what was Said, both on the Answers and in the Conclusion. Rev. *Whitney* and his Brother *Lambert* made a Visit here, but I saw them not. Mr. *Joshua Locks* Wife also, from *Husuck*; but was gone when I returned.

1773 November 10 (Wednesday). Mr. *Zebulun Rice* here. Mrs. *Lock* came again.

1773 November 11 (Thursday). *Breck* and *Hannah* to *Lancaster*; the Latter expecting to go to *Ashburnham*. Having Read, I wrote some Remarks on writings of Amusement and Entertainment. Lent Mr. *Silas Hill* £6.13.4 Lawful Money, For which he gave me his Note.

1773 November 12 (Friday). Mr. *David Clark* of *Ashburnham* came with his Son *Benjamin*, to live with me till he shall be fourteen years old: He, the said Mr. *Clark*, Says his son is in his twelfth year. Will be twelve on the Sixth Day of next January. They eat their Dinner here, and tarry to night. My Son *Baldwin* here: he has sold my Sp[ar?]ked Ox for six pounds thirteen and four pence to Mr. *William Watson* of *Brookfield*, for which I have his Note of Hand. Mrs. *Stockwell* here again to be further Examined -- and is to be propounded, though not immediately. This Evening I wrote a memorandum of what Mr. *David Clark* promised about his Son, but we were interrupted. Deacon *Fisher* of *Wrentham* here. I spake to him of his Son *Nathans* neglect to offer his Confession.

1773 November 13 (Saturday). Mr. *Clark* in the Morning Signed the Said Memorandum and *Jonathan Maynard* and my Daughter *Sophia* witnessed it. He leaves *Benjamin* here, and setts out for home. Cousen *Larkin Williams* came in to see me, and was full of Talk in Defence of the Conduct of the Town of *Marlborough* towards Mr. *Smith*: and has divers Exceptions against Ministers in general -- their settling for sallerys, and presently crying out for more, their preaching old sermons, which were paid for already etc. etc. *Breck* returns -- has been with *Hannah* quite to *Ashburnham* and left her there. At Eve Mr. *Sumner*, going to preach at *Southborough*, calls here. May it please God to prepare me by his Grace for this Sabbath!

1773 November 14 (Sunday). It being the first sabbath of the Church's and my *Fiftieth* year. But by Reason of Mr. *Whitneys* Request to Change and the [*illegible*] Argument wherewith he urged it (neither was I at home when he came over on purpose to speak to me) I rode over to *Northborough*, and preached a. and p.m. on Isa. VI.10. At Eve Mr. *Thomas Lambert* with me. It was a cold Evening, but Mr. *Whitney* returned and Mrs. *Briggs* being very ill, I by Desire went with them to see her. Lodged at Mr. *Whitneys*.

1773 November 15 (Monday). In returning home I called at Mrs. *Martyns* and wrote to my son *Baldwin* at *Brookfield*, about my Cattle there: also at *Ensign Rice's*; at Capt. *Maynards* but did not see him; at *Beetons* etc. Dined at home, but presently rode to Mr. *Thomas Bonds*, who is about to go to *Brookfield* to drive down Cattle. N.B. Mr. *Jacob Snow* builds a little House for *Breck*, and diets with us.

1773 November 16 (Tuesday). *Breck* (who did not return till Saturday Evening, having accompanied his Sister *Hannah* to *Ashburnham*) goes to *Mendon*. Lent him 27 Dollars. *Breck*

returned from *Mendon* the Same Night. Mrs. *Thankful Rice* (*Josephs* Mother) brought me, at my desire, the Copy of Mrs. *Eunice Rice's* Confession to the Church, and with it the Decree of the Governor and Council dissolving the Marriage etc. She dines here.

1773 November 17 (Wednesday). P.M. Mrs. P_____ visits Mrs. *Bass*. I went at Eve to accompany her home. Capt. *Baldwin* Sends my Cattle home, viz. three -- My Steer of 4 years past, and two heiffers. Six yearlings of his also are drove here to be kept for him the winter ensuing. *Issachar Bates* and *Isaac Baldwin* came with them and lodged here. Mr. *John Marsh*, late Tutor at *Cambridge*, came from thence here, and lodged. He has taken his leave of College, and they have chose another Tutor in his stead, namely Mr. *Gannett*.

1773 November 18 (Thursday). Mr. *Stone* and Mr. *Smith* made me a brotherly Visit, and dined here, but knew not of the Lecture to Day and were unprepared to preach. Mr. *Stone* prayed and I preached my Self on *Isa. XII.1*. Stopped the Church on Account of Mrs. *Eunice Rice's* Affair, and on Account of Deacon *Tainters* Legacy. On the former, did nothing further than to desire Mr. *Tainter* (who had not been to *Boston* and therefore had not done any thing for the Church as expected) and Squire *Whipple* to endeavour to procure Copys of the Evidences in the Case, if they could. On the latter, voted that it Should lye as it was. At Eve Mr. *Benjamin Webb* (our School-master) here. Sups, but does not lodge with us.

1773 November 19 (Friday). My Son *Alexander* and his Wife's sister *Ruhamah*, accompanied by Young Mr. *Buckminster* of *Rutland*, who is going to preach at *Charlestown*, came and dined here. At Eve came Mr. *Forbes*, his Wife and son, returning home from *Cape Ann*, whither they had been to visit their new-married Daughter.

1773 November 20 (Saturday). They pursue their Journey to *Brookfield*. *Alexander* returns from *Framingham* -- dines and goes home.

1773 November 21 (Sunday). *Omitted Public Reading*. Preached on 2 *Tim. 1.12*, partly on Account of the Revolution of the Year with this Church (lasts Lords day was the first of the New Year, but this was the first when I could be at home) and partly on account of the Communion, which was administered. P.M. on *Mat. 6.15* and finished the Discourse on those words. O might it please God to render my weak Efforts beneficial! Deacon *Bond* and Mrs. *Maynard* dined here.

1773 November 22 (Monday). Mr. *Elisha Forbes* going to *Boston*, I wrote to my son *Samuel* and Sent him a small Token before Thanksgiving. Am very sollicitous about my Subject to preach on, upon the Ensuing Solemnity.

1773 November 23 (Tuesday). Engaged in my preparations. Town Meeting for Debts etc. but adjourned.

1773 November 24 (Wednesday). Much engaged -- but one *Robert Rose*, an Hatter, here, interrupts me with his work.

1773 November 25 (Thursday). *Public Thanksgiving*. Preached on *Eph. 5.4* fervently but too long. N.B. read also, and made use of v. 3. May God grant his Blessing and Success! Invited Mr. *Benjamin Webb* (who also came) to dine with us, and tarried till Evening. [Mr.?] *Benjamin Rice* (Mr. Ebenezer of Annapolis' Son) and *Sarah Green* were married.

1773 November 26 (Friday). I visited Mr. *Hannaniah Parkers* wife, who had newly lain in, and was poorly. Prayed there and went also to see Mr. *Thomas Frost*. *Breck* went to *Lancaster* on Wednesday Eve, and returned to day. The Town met by adjournment. *No Vote for getting my Wood*. P.M. Mrs. [Keen?] makes a Visit here. Her Husband at Eve, and Mr. *Gleason*.

1773 November 27 (Saturday). A Number of Teams are joined to bring a great Stone to the Meeting House for a Step at the East End. [Lieut.?] *Baker* has given me one of the great Ladders which were used at the Meeting House, and it is brought hither accordingly. It is also laid on my House. I rode to *Southborough* (though it rained) to Change with Mr. *Stone*, but he had agreed with Mr. *Smith* of *Marlborough* to come here, though I knew it not. I lodged there. N.B. Lent Lt. Baker £13.6.3 for which he gives me his Note.

1773 November 28 (Sunday). Mr. *Stone* went Early to *Marlborough*. I preached at *Southborough* a. and p.m. on *2 Cor. 4.1.2.3.4*. Blessed be God for all Assistances. May there be Success! At Eve I returned home, neither was I any way hurt. D.G. Found that Mr. *Smith* had preached here a. and p.m. on *Heb. 11.14*.

1773 November 29 (Monday). A Number of Men with Teams, and others, bring Stones and level the Ground and make what steps they can, at the East End of the Meeting House.

1773 November 30 (Tuesday). In my preparations for the next Sabbath. Mr. *Lorings Diary*.

1773 December 1 (Wednesday). Mr. *Whitney* and his Brother *Lambert* came to See me (Mrs. P_____ was gone to visit Mr. *Hannaniah Parkers* Wife). Mr. *Whitney* informs me that Mr. *Smith* of *Marlborough* had on Monday a fit of numb Palsey. The Lord pity and relieve him -- and prepare for His Sovereign Will! He (Mr. *Whitney*) acquaints me with a shocking Rumour about the President, which is incredible! That he has gone away -- was Seen at *Westminster* etc. etc.

1773 December 2 (Thursday). Catechized at the *Grout-School* House, and though it rained, had 30 Children. Went in to See Old Mrs. *Grout*, who was poorly. I was generously entertained there. Mrs. *Mary Bradish* came to see me and lodges here. So did Mr. *Benjamin Webb*, who this day finished his School and his boarding at Mr. *Whipples*, and now makes me a visit. He prayed in the Family at night.

1773 December 3 (Friday). Both Mr. *Webb* and Miss *Bradish* left us, not without some of my free, plain Discourse to each. Mrs. *Godfry* here and was further examined. Approbated. *Breck* to *Lancaster*.

1773 December 4 (Saturday). Mr. *Mellen* of *Chauxit* calls here. He confirms the Shocking Story of President *Locks* awful Fall! O how lamentable this Dispensation of divine Providence! How unsearchable are Gods Judgments! May I suitably improve this [tremendous?] Tryal! Thanks to God for His restraining Grace to me! And let him that thinks he Stands take heed lest he fall. *Breck* returned -- and *Hannah* with him.

1773 December 5 (Sunday). *Omitted public Reading*. Preached a.m. on 2 Chr. 6.18 on Occasion of the So far completing the enlargement and beautifying the Meeting House. *Ruth Bellows* (who is published to *Daniel Godfrey*) dined here. P.M. Delivered the Application of my Discourse on *Rev. 3.3*, former part. May the Lord set it home upon our Hearts and render it profitable!

1773 December 6 (Monday). Mr. *Bass* waited on *Sophy* and *Hannah* home (after their visit to Mrs. *Bass*), and Spent the Evening here. N.B. I had been reading Mr. *Lorings* Diary in the Day, but *London Magazine* Vol. 2 at night.

1773 December 7 (Tuesday). Wrote to Rev. *Rawson* at *Hadlyme*, via *Boston*, to the Care of Mr. *Gamaliel Rogers*. N.B. have sent a Letter to Mr. *Adams* of *Roxbury* to certifie me about Dr. *Locke's* Case. Wrote it in Latin. P.M. Preached at Deacon *Bonds* on Ps. 119.126 to p. 18. May divine Blessing be added! My Daughter *Hannah* went with me. An handsome entertainment followed. At Eve came Mr. *John Messenger* of *Wrentham* and with him Capt. *Samuel Cowell*. Mr. *Wheelock* conducted them here. They lodged with us. They confirm the Sad Story of Dr. *Locke*.

1773 December 8 (Wednesday). Those Gentlemen left us. *Nehemiah Maynard* comes to acquaint *Jonathan* with *his Mothers Death*. An awful sudden, Sorrowful Bereavement! May God be very gracious to my dear Neighbour to Support and direct him, and take Care of the numerous Company of little ones! The last, but about six Weeks old. A Letter from Mr. *Adams* of *Roxbury* lamenting the State of the College and of Mr. *Locke*. Another from Master *Waters* of *Dartmouth College*. In returning I have Talk with Mr. [Joseph Kean?] [*illegible*] at Neighbour Nurse's.

1773 December 9 (Thursday). Great Obstruction to Study by some Domestic Trouble. May God graciously Sanctifie and remove it! P.M. *Catechized* at Mr. *Whipples* and had 19 Children, viz. of both Sexes.

1773 December 10 (Friday). Mr. *Samuel Wesson* of *Worcester* (or the *Gore*) came, earnestly requesting I would search among the News Papers of the Year 63 for an Act in favour of Canada Soldiers, granting lands etc. He finds it, but not to his Expectation. He lodges here.

1773 December 11 (Saturday). *Reckoned with John*. There remains half a Day due to me. P.M. my wife and I attend the *Funeral of Mrs. Maynard*. The Obstruction abovesaid removed. D.G.

1773 December 12 (Sunday). Preach on 2 *Chron.* 6.18. Happy Shall we be if we rightly improve it. I beg divine Concurrence by His Spirit and Grace! N.B. Mr. *Ebenezer Rice's* Wife, from *Annapolis*, dined here. P.M. I thought it best to follow the forenoon Discourse with repeating the first Sermon on Ps. 51.11. I could not prepare a new one. May both I my Self and the people profit savingly hereby!

1773 December 13 (Monday). *Jonathan* came p.m. and goes to the widow *Brighams* Lot to get Wood. He puts Brecks mare into the Team, this first time of drawing with her, and thus *Jonathan finished his Obligation to Serve me.*

1773 December 14 (Tuesday). Mr. *Lorings Diary.* The Lord bless the reading it, and excite me to Imitation. P.M. The two *Mrs. Bakers* and *Mrs. Ball* (heretofore *Molly Baker*) with her Child, made us a Visit.

1773 December 15 (Wednesday). P.M. *Ripley* and *Eaton* from College, and going home as Invalids, came this way. Drink Tea etc. They inform me that President *Lock* having resigned his Office, removed to *Sherburn* yesterday [*illegible*] Sennight -- that there is great stir at *Boston* against Landing the *East India Company's Tea* etc. They pursue their Journey before night. Sent by *Ripley* to Mr. *Stephen Salisbury*, *Huntingtons Sermons*.²⁸ At Eve agreed with *Jonathan* to stay a month longer at the rate of 7£ 10/, but upon some Conditions, viz. he must go away if there should come Sledding or if *John Parkman* comes home.

1773 December 16 (Thursday). *Jonathan* goes to work anew. I am closely engaged. Have made a visit to several Houses -- to Mr. *Bass's*, drank Tea there. Borrowed a Volume of *Court Miscellany*, the year 67. *Mrs. Rice* of *Annapolis* makes us a Visit and lodges here.

1773 December 17 (Friday). *Mrs. Rice* leaves us. At my preparations.

1773 December 18 (Saturday). The world is filled with the News from *Boston* of the Tumultuous rising, and destroying many Chests of *Tea*, Sent by the *East India Company*. *Mrs. Godfrey* here with her *Relation*. *Mrs. Stockwell* with hers. As to the latter, am Obligated to transcribe what She brought.

1773 December 19 (Sunday). Preach a.m. on Ps. 51.11. At noon Mr. *Gale* informed that one Mr. (*Elias*) *Jones*, a Preacher, was at Meeting. I invited him home. He dines with me. The way was not clear him to preach, having no Credentials. I went on p.m. my Self with the Same subject, though I had made some preparations on another Text but had not writ the whole of what I designed to deliver; and therefore laid it aside. Mr. *Jones* lodges here.

1773 December 20 (Monday). Mr. *Jones* goes on his Journey. He is going to *Jersey* College, though at this, as it now proves, rigorous Season. *Elias* goes to Mr. *Whipples* Mill with a Team loaded with Salt to be ground; 25 Bushel; for his Brother *Breck*. N.B. *Breck* and a Number more

²⁸Probably John Huntington (1736-1766), *Sermons on Important Subjects* (Boston, 1767). Evans 10,655.

meet at Lt. *Bakers* in order to Unite in Society to collect a Library of useful Books. Read in *Court-Miscellany* the Lives of Dr. *Sydenham*, Rev. *Laurence Sterne* (Author of *Tristram Shandy* etc.). I read also a Number of other Pieces.

1773 December 21 (Tuesday). *Jonathan Maynard* goes to his Aunts Funeral, viz. Mrs. *Abihail's*, the Wife of his uncle *Jotham*, a woman for whom I had great Regard; She was Daughter of Mr. *Ephraim Allen*, and was our Maid for Sometime; She bore me and mine much respect, and ever glad to entertain us. She dyed of a Consumption last Saturday. As She was a serious, religious Woman, I hope she is gone to eternal Rest and Glory. O that I might be ready to follow! Mr. *Isaac Johnson* of *Southborough* came with a Message from Mr. *Stone* requesting me to assist in a Fast tomorrow at the House of Mr. *Jacob Gibs* on the *South* of *Southborough* on Occasion of a great Mortality by the Throat Distemper. The Said *Gibs* having buryed four of his Children within a little while; a fifth ill and like to die. Sundry others of that Neighbourhood have also lost Children and the Distemper more than ordinarily Mortal. May the Lord Sanctifie this awful Visitation -- Stay His Hand and in the middst of wrath remember Mercy! O that God would please to direct and assist me and others in the Solemn Work before us!

1773 December 22 (Wednesday). Rose early and rode to Mr. *Jacob Gibs's*. I found it an House of great Distress. Another Child, a Daughter in her 14th year, dyed this morning; and a *Sixth* is taken ill, and is grown bad in the manner of the rest. Mr. *Stone* and Mr. *Fitch*, after a while came, and we went through the Exercises. Mr. *Fitch* began with prayer. Mr. *Stone* preached a seasonable, useful sermon on *Lam. 3.39*, "Why doth the living Man complain" etc.? I prayed afternoon and stood between the living and the Dead to plead etc. I preached on *2 Sam. 24.14.15*. O that God would hear and answer. We were entertained after Exercises at Mr. *Bemis's*, who was one of the Sufferers. None that have been taken by the Distemper in the Neighbourhood, have lived. In returning at Eve, called at Several of my Westborough Neighbours -- *Chamberlin*, *Bellows's* etc.

1773 December 23 (Thursday). Employed on London magazine for the year 1760, Vol. 29. Miss *Mary Bradish* has opened a School at Mr. *Barnabas Newtons*. We Send *Benjamin Clark* and *Sukey Moore* to her. *Sukey* dines at Mr. *Springs*.

1773 December 24 (Friday). [No entry.]

1773 December 25 (Saturday). I desire to give most hearty praise and Thanks to God for the Birth of Jesus Christ, the Great and only Saviour, though I don't know that this was the Day: nor do we publickly Solemnize it as Such. Wrote to Mr. *Cornelius Waters* of *Dartmouth* College, in Answer to his concerning *Cagnawaga* and the *Rices*. Committ it to the Care of Mr. *Ebenezer Waters* of *Sutton*.

1773 December 26 (Sunday). Preached a. and p.m. on Ps. 24.3.4.5. May God add His Blessing! Mrs. *Maynard* dined here. *Hephzibah Rice* is still with us. Mr. *Joseph Belknap* has a Child very ill of the Canker and Fever.

1773 December 27 (Monday). Visit Mr. *Hannaniah Parkers* Wife who is dangerously Sick, and prayed with her. Was going to Mr. *Belknaps*, but hear that their Child is Dead. Hear a *Sixth* Child of Mr. *Gibbs* is dead -- and that another of Mr. *Joseph Bucks* is Sick. The Girls visit at Mr. *Bass's*.

1773 December 28 (Tuesday). It was a great Storm of Snow and a Cold, tedious time. Mr. *Belknap* had Sent to me yesterday desiring me to attend the Burial to day; but I could not go out in so severe weather, and so far. Sent word to them that I could not venture, and prayed them to defer the Solemnity -- but yet they came, the women almost suffering. They came in here, of necessity, to warm etc.

1773 December 29 (Wednesday). [No entry.]

1773 December 30 (Thursday). Write a letter of Condolence to Mrs. *Surcomb* at *Boston*, on the Death of her *Husband*. Write to Mr. *Merriam* at *Newton* desiring a Dismission for Mr. *Thomas Frost*.

1773 December 31 (Friday). This Last Day of the Year am disposed to improve religiously for Humiliation, Supplication and for these Purposes in Recollections, Abstinence and Mortification. The Lord pardon the many Sins of the past Year, for the sake of Jesus Christ! And grant me the due Qualifications herefor; Repentence, Faith etc. Mr. *Seth Rice* junior here on Account of the Letters concerning his uncles etc. in *Canada*. Mrs. *Kenny* (wife of *Nathan*) here to be examined. She was so, and approved. Several other women visiting here. My Daughters, *Sophy* and *Hannah*, being invited to dine at Mr. *Edmund Brighams*, they are gone down there, and visit at *Gales*. At Eve John P_____ came from Mr. *Watsons* at *Oxford*: has done living there: brings me a Letter from Mr. *Bowman*, concerning the Transactions of another Council at *Somers*, and Mr. *Eli* and his Brethrens Renunciations and his Dismission. Thus Closes the Year. O may I be prepared for the awful Time, when my *Life* Shall Close!