

Diary of Ebenezer Parkman, 1774

1774 January 1 (Saturday). How could I have imagined that So poor, weakly, and especially that So Sinful and unworthy a Creature would be Spared to this Day! That I am indulged with another New-Year's Day Still! The divine Compassions, the divine Faithfulness and Truth do never fail. I desire with all my Heart, with all my Powers, to bless and praise His glorious Name. I endeavored to present Thanksgivings to God most gracious and merciful for His Goodness throughout my Life, a Life so wonderfully protracted! For the Favours of the Year past in Special. That there is so abundant Reason to bless that to such old Age I enjoy Such Health of Body, free use of my Limbs; though many Years ago I was very Subject to the Rheumatism, yet now have Ease, except Sometimes the Cramps 'o Nights, and once in a while a Spasmatick turn of Pain, which has been very excruciating, but through the infinite Goodness of God is not lasting. I bless God for *Relative* Favour for His Goodness in restoring Mrs. P _____ from sickness -- and reviving to Such a Degree, my Daughter *Baldwin*; delivering and recovering my Daughter *Cushing*, when she bore a Second Son. And for *public* -- What an invaluable Favour of our most gracious God that no less than 15 have been added to the Church this Year! And Thanks are due that the people have been so Succeeded in enlarging, repairing and decorating the place of public Worship. That we enjoy So many of our invaluable Rights and Libertys, Civil and Religious, notwithstanding the Grievances we are under, and it is a Day of awful Frown of God upon us for our great Sins against Him. Spent the Day in other Acts of Religion as I could consistent with my Duty in my Circumstances, and of preparing for the Sabbath which I turned into this Channel. Read *Bennets* Christian Oratory on *Thanksgiving*, renewed my Covenant with God imploring forgiveness of all my Sins, especially of the last year -- by prayer committed my Self and all mine, all the accidents and Changes before me, whether I live a longer or shorter time, to an infinitely kind, faithful God. But O that I might be more deeply affected with the Shortness of my Time. Ah! How extreme Short, and how uncertain! O that God would please, of His infinite Mercy, to enable me to prepare for the awful Hour, which approaches apace! That Death may not terrifie, but be welcome and joyfull to me! *Jonathan Maynard* having lived with me Eight months, and according to another Agreement after the first was out, left me this Morning; (having paid him upward of Sixty Pounds old Tenor). Mr. *Nathan Kenny* here to desire me to defer propounding his Wife, as he had thoughts to come in a little time himself. At Evening came my son William and brought with him his own little son; to our Joy.

1774 January 2 (Sunday). Bless God we may begin the Sabbaths of the Year. Preached on Ps. 24.3.4.5, the *Application*. P.M. on *Isa.* 63.7. Which O that God would please to fasten upon us! N.B. Prayers desired for *Thomas Whipple* of *New Braintree* (if yet alive), under a terrible Fever. His Father and Mother, Brother etc. gone up, Some yesterday, Some to Day. May the Lord appear for his Help!

1774 January 3 (Monday). My Son and grandson tarry with us Still. Visit Mrs. Parker again and pray with her. At Eve came an old, miserable man *Ichabod Jones*, he says, of Dorchester. He lyes by the Fire. A poor distempered, rheumatic, [Scorbutic?] Object. I keep his Horse also.

1774 January 4 (Tuesday). *William* and his little *Billy* return to Concord. P.M. I preached at Mr. Daniel Hardys on Ps. 119.126 to page [blank]. On God alone may we depend for a Blessing: O that He would please to add it! N.B. At Eve Mr. Beeton and his wife are here to See Mrs. *Kelly*, and they inform that at the Vendue of Miss *Mary Bradish's* House yesterday at Deacon *Woods*, there was one Mr. Jones, who goes about as a Vagrant, Sings, makes Verses and is sometime Crazy -- that this Man is expected to preach tomorrow at Mr. *Beetons* House. But I represented the sin and folly of it, and forbid it.

1774 January 5 (Wednesday). Mr. *Beeton* last Evening acquainted me that Deacon *Wood* warned the meeting at his (*Beetons*) House, for Mr. *Jones* to preach. I Sent for the Deacon, who came, and told me what he had said about this *Jones's* preaching and endeavored to clear himself of any warning of a Meeting, but yet Seemed to Shew a Disposition to go and hear him if he did preach -- nay and asked if I would not go too? I answered with warmth, and Shewed him the utter impropriety of it, and that it would be to his great Dishonor if he Should so Countenance what would be So imprudent, disparaging to the holy Ordinance of Preaching -- that it would be a lifting up the Soul to vanity, etc. -- and I must depend upon his wisdom and steddiness to Conduct suitably in the Affair. But what he will do I know not. We reckoned and he gave me a Note of Hand for what he owes me, Except an Error in the casting up. May the Lord grant me wisdom and steddiness at this peculiar Juncture among my Flock and Save them from Evil!

1774 January 6 (Thursday). I hear that Mr. *Jones* aforesaid preached at Mr. *Beetons* last Evening, and that though it was very Stormy, a great many assembled there: that Deacon *Wood* was there, and read the Psalm, that Mr. *Edwards Whipple* sat the Psalm. But I am at my own Business. Mr. *Benjamin Webb* came from Deacon *Woods* hither and acquainted me that Mr. *Jones* was there.

1774 January 7 (Friday). Am in my Preparations.

1774 January 8 (Saturday). Hear that Mr. *Jones* preached at Mr. *Tainters* last Evening. One *Duntan* was here at Dinner with us.

1774 January 9 (Sunday). I had prepared to preach on Ps. 92.12 a.m. but thought it would be best to wave that for this time. I repeated with Alterations both a. and p.m. Sermons on Joh. 1.12. Mr. *Jones* at meeting. One *Town of Oxford* dined here. After Exercises Mr. *Joseph Harrington* came in here. Said he was going to Mr. *Timothy Warrins* to hear Mr. *Jones*: I let him know that I could not approve of it, Since he was a stranger, had never let me know what he was, had not come to me, and that it was very disorderly for him to thrust himself in thus; and that it was very improper for him who was in covenant with me, to countenance Such irregular proceedings, and which were of Dangerous Tendency, by going to hear him. But he went that way notwithstanding as I understand many more did at Evening though a Cold season.

1774 January 10 (Monday). Am informed that Mr. *Jones* preached at Mr. *Timothy Warrins* last Evening. It is too severe Weather for me to go abroad. No one comes to Speak with me about

the preaching stranger. Mr. *John Kelly* of Hopkinton Sick. Mr. William Pierce came here to inform of it; and desires me to go to him: but the Weather forbids.

1774 January 11 (Tuesday). Write Several Letters: particularly to Mr. *Daniel McAllister*: his Dismission with his Wife's, to the Society of *Myrifield* (as he writes it), and at his Desire a Copy of our Church Covenant. I inclosed them in a Letter to Rev. *Jones of Western*, requesting Some Account this Mr. *Isaac Jones*, who preaches to my Neighbours. Read part of *Dr. Watts* of the *Glory of Christ*. At Eve *Breck* and *John* ride in the sleigh to Shrewsbury, and return.

1774 January 12 (Wednesday). An exceeding Cold Season, yet my Son *John* is at the ministerial Lot cutting wood and sledding from thence. This Day, as I Suppose, Mr. *John Marsh* is ordained at *Weathersfield*. May his Soul be suitably apprehensive of the weight of the Solemn Charge, and May God most gracious Support him under it; help him in fulfilling, and in finally giving up his Account to God the Judge!

1774 January 13 (Thursday). Fine Day and good Sleighing, but I keep at home. Mr. *Benjamin Webb* came to see me. Tells me that Mr. *Jones* went from Deacon Woods to day, on foot, with his Bundle for Providence. *Hephzibah Rice*, who has lived here a Month, returns to her Grandfathers. *Breck* and *Hannah* go with her in a sleigh.

1774 January 14 (Friday). I keep close to my Studies. John with me to take Care of Barn etc.

1774 January 15 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1774 January 16 (Sunday). Preach two winter Sermons on Ps. 92.12. Mr. *Benjamin Webb* at dinner, and after Exercises. He lodges here. N.B. a Packet from Mr. *More* containing Letters and large pamphlet entitled "the Master Key of Popery," by *D. Antonio Gavin*.

1774 January 17 (Monday). Visit Mrs. *Parker* again and prayed with her. Read *Master Key* etc. N.B. Breakfast at Lt. *Bakers*. P.M. Lt. *Baker*, Neighbour *Newton* and *Silas Hill* came; and my fat Steer being led home, they Killed him and he weighed, the quarters 480 and the Hide 71. Not well tallow'd.

1774 January 18 (Tuesday). Read *Don Gavins Master Key*. My son *John* is full of Pain, having Strained himself by lifting, at divers times. Uncommon cloudy and stormy Weather, and the snow is now very deep. Mr. *Hancock*, the Taylor, for *Breck* and *John*, came and works. *Elias* begins *Virgil*.

1774 January 19 (Wednesday). Deacon *Wood* and Mr. *Thaddeus Warrin* killed two Hogs for me. One of them weighed about 300. (It wanted half a pound of it.) The other weighed 188.

1774 January 20 (Thursday). Read *Master Key* etc. Mr. *P. Whitney* and his Brother *Lambert* here. Mr. *Whitney* informs me that his Brother *Briggs's* Goods are Seized and that he is gone off.

1774 January 21 (Friday). I bought a young Store Sow of Mr. *Thaddeus Warrin*, weighed 120 at 17 per pound. Mr. Edwards Whipple here with piece of Beef. Mr. Thomas Bond with Spare Rib. In my Preparations on Ps. 92.12.

1774 January 22 (Saturday). Extream Cold. Too Cold for *John* to Sled Wood (having already his Heels froze, and *Benjamin Clark* two fingers). Hancock at noon ceases work.

1774 January 23 (Sunday). Extream Cold. Could have but Short Exercises. A.M. on Ps. 92.12. P.M. on Joh. 1.12. N.B. Took Notice in Prayer, of the Death of Rev. Mr. Thomas *Balch* of *Dedham*, Aet. 63. O that this, and every Instance of Mortality might be awakening and quickening to Me! Miss *Bradish* dines here. N.B. Prayers desired by Mr. *Hez. Taylor*, who is sick of a Fever, at Mr. *Jonathan Grouts*.

1774 January 24 (Monday). Visit Mr. *Taylor* in his Sickness. Prayed. Mr. *Grosvenor* and young Mr. *Frost* there. Was at Mr. *Bass's* (in returning) where was Mr. *Hutchinson* of *Grafton*; and Dr. *Hawes* likewise.

1774 January 25 (Tuesday). Visit Mr. *John Kelley* at Hopkinton being confined by Rheumatick Pains and Fever. Dined there. Prayed. N.B. Mrs. *Kelly* had fallen down Cellar and much lam'd herself. Young Mr. *Frost* at Evening. Mr. and Mrs. *Spring* made a kind Visit this Eve.

1774 January 26 (Wednesday). *Breck, John*, and *Hannah* ride in the Sleigh, to *Boston*. *Breck* has got Mr. *Joseph Bond* to go to the Ministerial Lot, breaking the way from Mr. *Beetons*, and Sledding a Load. *Elias* with my Oxen were there also. Mr. *Jacob Snow*, in Company with a Young man and two young women, came and dined here. At Eve *John Fay* here, and lodges in *Breck's* Store. N.B. Mr. *Stone* sent me by his Son, Master *Thomas*, the Letter he wrote to Mr. *Fisk* of *Upton* concerning his Conduct. Mr. *Fisk's* Answer and his Reply.

1774 January 27 (Thursday). The Day appointed for the *Ordination of Mr. Chapman* at *Uxbridge*. I desire to bear this Affair upon my Heart most tenderly before the Lord. May it please the Omnipresent, omnipotent and most gracious God, the God of Knowledge and who has the Hearts of all men in His Hands, to pity His own Cause, His own Servants and His people, grant Wisdom and Direction, Peace, Assistance and an happy Event! Remarkably Cold, Windy and tedious!

1774 January 28 (Friday). My lane, back of the Meeting House, So full of Snow, banked up, and blown compact and hard, that there is no passing but *upon it*. At Evening *Breck* and *John* returned from *Boston*.

1774 January 29 (Saturday). Mr. *John Tyler* here in his return from *Uxbridge* to *Marlborough*, acquaints me that the *Ordination of Mr. Chapman* was accomplished the Day before yesterday. Master *Thomas Stone* called here also, and I Sent by him the Letters which he brought me from

his Father. Mr. *Bradshaw* from Boston -- and tarrys with us. Says my Brother is in much the Same State.

1774 January 30 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on *Joh. 18.18* by reason of the very Cold and difficult Season. P.M. on 1 *Joh. 5.4* but carryed on the Repetition of the Discourse from *Joh. 1.11* from p. 21. N.B. could not quite finish the Subject-- no further than to middle of p. 27. After family Exercise at Eve Mr. *Bradshaw* and *Breck* went up to Mr. *Jonathan Grouts*, to see Mr. *Taylor*, who grows better.

1774 January 31 (Monday). Mr. *Bradshaw* leaves us, though cloudy, cold, and like to be a storm. Mr. *Morse* was here and paid me 4£ lawful Money on account of my boarding workmen at the Meeting House. P.M. Paid £3.0.0. old Tenor being Mr. *John Maynards* Demands for Making and Mending Shooes, except 3/ 3d. At Eve paid *Jonathan Maynard* Six Dollars More.

1774 February 1 (Tuesday). Preached at Mr. *Jonah Warrins* on Ps. 119.126. Finished the Subject; and may God grant Success!

1774 February 2 (Wednesday). It being a good Season for sleighing My Son *John* and I rode to Mr. *Stone's*, *Southborough* but Mr. *Stone* was unhappily gone to *Marlborough*. We Dined with Mrs. *Stone*, as did Mr. *Newell*, a Candidate. I wrote and Sent a Letter to Mr. *John Tyler* School Master at *Marlborough*, that his Watch which he had lost, is found, and in my possession. Returning at Eve called to See old Mr. *Abraham Gale* at his Son *Abijah's*. When I got home found here my Son *Alexander* and his Wife, with both their Children, *Robert-Breck* and *Alexander*, in a double Sleigh. Also Mr. [*David?*] *Clark* from *Ashburnham* to See his Son *Benjamin* -- and he lodges here.

1774 February 3 (Thursday). Mr. *Clarke* left us. I perceive that Mr. *Edward Barnard* of *Haverhil* is dead. Help Lord! My Son *Alexander* having a good sleigh and two Horses waited on his Mother and me (it being stormy, Snowing fast, and too bad for his wife and Children to go home) to Mr. *Eleazar Pratts*, to the Funeral of a Child of his Daughter Mrs. *Susanna Adams*. Mr. *Francis Whipple* brought home my watch from *Boston* (the Chain having been broke), and *Breck* had sent it to Mr. *J. Rowstone* at *Boston* to mend it.

1774 February 4 (Friday). *Alex*, his wife and Children sat out for home. Mr. *Hancock*, the *Taylor*, [is making?] Coats, turning a [block?] here for *Breck* and [*Clark?*], works here from Day to Day. Mr. *Newell*, a Candidate, dined here. Mrs. *Kelly* is taken into a Sleigh by her Daughter *Beeton*, and carryed to see her son *John*, who continues very low.

1774 February 5 (Saturday). Old Mrs. *Kelly* returned, with her Daughter *Beeton*, but She only called and went on Still with her Daughter to their House. P.M. Mr. *Stone* came to change with me. I rode to *Southborough*.

1774 February 6 (Sunday). Preached at *Southborough* on Ps. 92.12. a. and p.m. Returned at Eve. Mr. *Stone* preached here, on *Luk. 24.45* a. and p.m. May God grant it may be the divine

Glory and our highest Good and the peoples! N.B. Mr. *Nathan Kennys* Wife (*Abigail*) was propounded, and Mr. *Stone* baptized a Child of Mr. *Thomas Bonds*.

1774 February 7 (Monday). Read Mr. *Cottons* (of *Plymouth*) Essays on Baptism, and part of Mr. *Robbins's* Reply. We had Expectations of Mr. *Moore* having heard that he was last Week at Oxford. Mr. *Ephraim Ballard* and a young man with him, from *Boston*, dined here. Says he saw Mr. *Moore* at Mendon last week, going to Oxford.

1774 February 8 (Tuesday). This Day I remember the Wormwood and the Gall, when it pleased God to take away the Desire of my Eyes, by the Stroke of Death. Thirty Eight years have rolled off Since; my soul is still humbled within me. And have need to be much humbled this Day when I reflect upon the little improvement of the divine Patience and Longsuffering whilst I have abundant Cause to bless His glorious Name that He has spared me through so long a Course, with so many Advantages and Benefits. May a gracious God pity, pardon and be gracious to me and quicken me to a due improvement of the Short, uncertain Remainder of my Pilgrimage, and that I may be ready when He shall see meet to Summon me also!

1774 February 9 (Wednesday). Many serious Reflections etc. etc. Have gone through the unhappy Controversie at Plymouth between Mr. *Cotton* and Mr. *Robbins*. It is a melancholly time as to the weather. A great deal of Snow has fallen to day, deep as it was before -- but we have Some *Wood*.

1774 February 10 (Thursday). Bright, but so windy as to blow up Roads. Neighbour *Joseph Bond* with Team of five Cattle trys, with my Team also, to fetch wood from *Brigham Lot*. My Son *John* goes to chop, and young *Nathan Maynard* with him; but it was so tedious they broke off about noon; with Difficulty got two Jaggs part of the way; but they brought but one home though they joined all the Cattle to make one Team. Mr. *Moore* came from *Oxford*.

1774 February 11 (Friday). Though it is So very bad Stirring by reason of the deep snow, yet I rode to Mr. *Parkers*, whose wife is still living, but in a low Condition. Discoursed with her, found she had comfortable Hope through Grace, yet not clear. Prayed with her and the Family under their great Affliction. Called at Mr. *Solomon Bathericks* -- talked closely with them -- instructed them and expected them to Repent etc.

1774 February 12 (Saturday). A great Variety of Conversation with Mr. *Moore*, of the State of present Times at *Rochester, Dartmouth, Plymouth, Newport* etc.

1774 February 13 (Sunday). Mr. *Moore* preached for me, a.m. on 1 Pet. 3.18, p.m. on *Prov.* 13.4. A very difficult Season, nor could we well get to Meeting without Help. Lt. *Bakers* young man came with a Sleigh, and transported us through the deep Snow -- and it Snows Still, all Day. A very thin Assembly: but may the Blessing of God So accompany the Exercises that we may not repent of our Pains who did assemble! And may God be very gracious to His Servant, and make him yet a great and rich Blessing!

1774 February 14 (Monday). Extremely difficult to get Wood; The Snow lately fallen and blown about into the Roads and Paths rendering them very impassable to the wood Lots: but, through divine Favour we have some Supply at the Door, which lasts us yet. Mr. Moore tarrys with us, and we are glad of this visit.

1774 February 15 (Tuesday). Lt. Baker had proposed to go with other Neighbours to get wood to Day, but by Tryal they found it impracticable. Sophy not well. Mr. *Moore* undertakes his Journey to *Boston*, designing to go home that way. Mr. *Thomas Arnold* and his Wife and Mr. *Joseph Bond* and his Wife here. Three of them dined here. At night came Mr. *Caleb Wilder* from Mendon on Racketts and lodged here. N.B. *Hannah* remains still at *Boston*.

1774 February 16 (Wednesday). Mr. *Wilder* left us.

1774 February 17 (Thursday). Mrs. P_____ visits Mrs. Newton, who has been confined by a sore Breast. Mr. Benjamin *Webb* makes me a Visit. At Eve Doctor Crosby and his Wife here. Sup with us. Now first receive the *royal American magazine*, No. 1 of Vol. 1.

1774 February 18 (Friday). [No entry.]

1774 February 19 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1774 February 20 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Act. 26.20, p.m. on 1 *Tim.* 6.12, "Lay hold" etc. O that God would give Success to the word of His Grace! Especially for my own Saving profit and Advantage!

1774 February 21 (Monday). A number of persons came and got wood for me at the Lot which is called Capt. Ephraim Brighams. Eight went to Cutt, viz. Messrs. Nathan Townsend, Benjamin Fay junior, *Arthur Cary* (from Deacon Wood), *Joseph Keenes* (from Lieut. *Baker*), John Fay, *Richard Temple*, *Timothy Parker*, *Abel Tenny*, from Mrs. Spring. And John Parkman joined them. The following Neighbours sledded, viz. Lt. Baker with two Teams, 4 Oxen apiece. Mr. Barnabas Newton with 4 Oxen. Capt. Benjamin Fays Team 4 Oxen, drove by his son Stephen. Deacon Wood sent a yoke of Oxen to join with mine, and Mr. Jonathan Grout drove them. They all went Twice; and Mr. Moses Nurse also brought one Load. In all Eleven Load. At night, the most of them Supped here. May God reward them and bountifully! And grant me Grace to improve the Benefit!

1774 February 22 (Tuesday). They that went for wood yesterday, So broke the way, and made it fit to Sled in; and the Cutters cut So much more than was brought home; that therefore Lieut. *Baker* in his generousness sent his Team and Man again to Day, also to sled Wood for me; and Neighbour *Newton* in his Goodness likewise, sent his Team and Man to sled up, what was left and what another Number of Cutters cutt, viz. Mr. *Keene*, *John Fay* hired, *Stephen Maynard* hired, *Nathaniel Chamberlin* hired, and *Phinehas Brigham* (son of Widow *Hitty*). To the Teams, add my own of 3 Cattle, and p.m. Dr. *Hawes'* Steers instead of the Mare, and my son *John* drove. *Breck* also procured Mr. *Joseph Bond* to come with his 5 Cattle. They all went 3 times

each -- therefore brought 12 Load to day. P.M. rode to Grafton. Mr. Thomas Twitchell's Company to Mr. *Merriams* where I lodged. N.B. Elias received of Mr. *Taylor*, Davidsons *Virgil* borrowed of young Mr. *Frost* of Mendon.

1774 February 23 (Wednesday). Attended the *Fast* at *Grafton*, preparatory to Electing a Pastor. Mr. *Sumner* prayed a.m. Mr. *Hall* preached on Dan.9. I prayed p.m. and preached on Col. 1.11. Mr. *Sumner* also prayed after Sermon. The Church Stopped, and Chose Mr. *Daniel Grosvenor*. I hope we have had some good Tokens of Success for which the Lord be Praised -- but O that it might please Him to forgive the Iniquitys of our holy Things! Rode to Westborough with Mr. *Bowman* of Oxford. N.B. *John Fay* has killed two Swine for me a.m. and cutt wood p.m. One weighed [*blank*], the other [*blank*]. Mr. *Bond*, hired by *Breck*, sledged two Load of wood, and *Jonathan Maynard* with his Fathers Oxen and mine, two more. 4 to day.

1774 February 24 (Thursday). Miss *Suse Brigham* lodged here last night; by her I Send a Letter I wrote to Mr. *Cushing* of *Ashburnham* to the Care of her Brother *Elijah*. *John Fay* works for me from Day to Day in cutting wood in the *Brigham Lott* -- day to Day. And *Elias* a.m. sleds with our Team. P.M. *Breck* p.m. goes to *Lancaster*; and we have added to my oxen (instead of *Brecks* mare), Dr. *Hawes's* steers, and his young man to drive. Mr. *Joseph Bond* sleds to Day likewise. They brought home, in all, to day, Six Load. N.B. This Day received a Letter, dated this very day, the 24th, from my Son *Samuel* informing us that last Saturday at 5 p.m. his Wife brought him a fine Son. For which great Favour (Mother and Child being in a hopeful way) Thanks are returned to our most gracious God and Savior and may the parents have Grace to dedicate their offspring to the most high, and to bring him up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord! And may His Handmaid Still obtain Mercy and Kindness from God to perfect her Recovery! *John Fay* and *John P* _____ cutt out and Salted down the Pork killed yesterday. Mr. *Stephen Cook* brings me from Dr. *Coopers*, his *Dudlean Lecture*.

1774 February 25 (Friday). *John Fay* Still works for me. Mrs. *Barrett* of *Hopkinton* and a near Neighbour of hers, Mrs. *Hall*, make us a visit, and brought me a Letter from Mr. *Fitch* praying that I would Visit old Mr. *Charles Simpson*, who is dangerously ill. At Eve came Master *Thomas Stone* and *Joshua Winter* and both of them lodged here. Sorrowful Accounts of the *Breaking* of many persons, Traders and others, at this time. Especially Great Troubles have invaded my Neighbour *Spring*, who is now returned from an Excursion to *Providence* to trade off his Wares; but many Evils have lit upon him, which are too hard for him, as is feared.

1774 February 26 (Saturday). I was in great Expectation of Mr. *Bowman*, with my Daughter *Hannah* from Boston: and depend upon his preaching for me tomorrow, but he came not.

1774 February 27 (Sunday). Mr. *Bowman* has not come whom I hoped for. I had made Some Preparation but it was not completed. I preached a. and p.m. on *Jude* v. 21, first Clause, to p. 12, but with various Additions. I was Somewhat fervent but beg of God I many not only Strive with Others to be but may my Self *be* and *Continue* a Lover of God and an Object of *his* Love.

1774 February 28 (Monday). Visited and prayed with Mrs. *Parker*, who gives up Hope of temporal Life, but has, She trusts, good Hope, through Grace, of Life immortal. When I returned home my Daughter *Hannah* was come. Mr. *Bowman* and She came as far as *Southborough* on Saturday Evening but could get no further. He preached for Mr. *Stone*. P.M. Mr. *Bowman* made me a Visit (from Lt. *Bakers*) and Spent the Evening with us.

1774 March 1 (Tuesday). Through the Longsuffering of God we advance from Month to Month. P.M. preached at Deacon *Wood's* on *Eccl.* 8.12.13. Which will God please to Succeed! And that We may both renounce the paths of Wickedness and may wisely fear God that it may be well with us!

1774 March 2 (Wednesday). In Compliance with the Request of Aged Mr. *Charles Stimpson* of *Hopkinton* as Communicated to me by Letter from Mr. *Fitch* and brought me by Mrs. *Barrett* on the 25th ult., I rode over to *Hopkinton* -- but the Roads were so full of Snow, and the weather lowery, I chose to go in my Sleigh, and took *Breck* with me to drive. Called at Mr. *Barretts* Door -- he and his wife were going over to Mr. *Fitch's*. We proceeded there, and having taken Refreshment Mr. *Fitch* went with me in the *Sleigh* (instead of *Breck*) to Mr. *Stimpsons*, but it was difficult getting to the House, by reason of the deep snow. Mr. *Stimpson* I found in a very weak and languishing Condition; but in much Darkness and Distress of mind. Examined and assisted him as I could, and prayed with him and for him. He appeared to have good Tokens. I therefore endeavored to Strengthen and comfort, while I also admonished and Cautioned him. When I returned to Mr. *Fitch's* I resisted all Importunity to tarry, but though it was about 6 o'Clock we hastened home, lest tomorrow Should be worse. We arrived at about half after Seven, and without Harm. Glory to God our Preserver. N.B. Mr. *Barrett* gave me Dr. *Owen* of the true Nature of a Gospel Church and its Government, a Quarto. This is the 2d part of the Design, the 1st part of which I have had some Years.

1774 March 3 (Thursday). Mr. *James Godfry* came to desire me to go over to Mr. *Davis's* to marry his Brother *Daniel* of *Lancaster*, to *Ruth Bellows*. Went and officiated. Had unexpected plentiful Entertainment. I earnestly pray they may have the gracious presence of God with them and His Blessing on them. As *Ruth* has been so much One of my own Family I have great Tenderness towards her.

1774 March 4 (Friday). Both *Breck* and *Sophy* were ill last night, and droop today.

1774 March 5 (Saturday). This I conceive is a Day of Concourse at *Boston*, when the honorable Mr. *Hancock*, at 12 o'Clock delivers an Oration etc. etc. Mr. *Jacob Biglow* of *Sudbury* going to *Sutton* calls and dines. He informs me of the Death of the Honorable Lieutenant Governour *Olivers* Death. That he dyed last Monday, between 5 and 6 in the morn in the 68th year of his Age. I have known him from a Boy: always appeared Sober and pious, but his political Conduct has rendered him obnoxious to the severe Resentments of the People. May God Sanctifie this Death to all in the Magistracy -- and may I have a right Estimate of Life, and be continually in preparation for Death!

1774 March 6 (Sunday). Master *Taylor* came in the morning and preached for me both Parts of the Day. A.M. on 2 Pet.1.10. P.M. on Ps. 95.7. I prayed both before and after the latter sermon. May a gracious God accept and grant Success, for His own Name's Sake: and for the Sake of the infinite Merits of Jesus Christ! I hope the Sermons were well received by the Hearers. The Lord make this His servant a great Blessing! He returned at Evening to his Lodging, though it rained.

1774 March 7 (Monday). Town Meeting. Mr. George Andrews Moderator. The Town Sent Messrs. *Batherick* and *Thomas Bond* to me to desire me to go and I went accordingly to the Meeting House and prayed with them. I understand the Affairs are conducted in Peace. D.G.

1774 March 8 (Tuesday). Went to Deacon *Woods*. Received of him £12.18 old tenor which was in full. Read to him some sentences of a Letter I this Day received from Mr. *Cushing*, concerning the Crazy *Isaac Jones* who preached a while agoe in this Town. In the Evening received a Letter from Mr. *Thomas Kendal* at *Dartmouth* New Hampshire, who had been at [*Caguadraga*?].

1774 March 9 (Wednesday). Wrote an Answer to Mr. *Kendalls* Letter. Lt. *Baker* paid me £100 old tenor which I had lent him last Nov. 27th and I paid him 4 Dollars for his fattening my Steer. Would have visited Several Sick, but it is exceeding bad travelling and Cold.

1774 March 10 (Thursday). Visit old Lt. *Bruce* whose Cancer prevails in his Nose and right Cheek and his wife who is very aged and dropsical. Discoursed and prayed with them. At Eve Mr. *Seth Morse* paid me thirty one pounds on the Account of boarding workmen at the Meeting House; but I gave him a Receipt in full, he promising to pay me the remainder (of a few shillings) hereafter.

1774 March 11¹ (Friday). Young Mr. *Hutchinson* going to preach at *Concord*, calls here. Sent by him a Letter to my Son *William* with an 100£ old tenor which he requested me to lend him. Last Evening heard of the Death of old Mr. *Joseph Stratton* of *Waltham*; may God Sanctifie this to survivors -- to *Me* that I may be ever ready for the Awful Hour!

1774 March 12 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1774 March 13 (Sunday). Preached a. and p.m. on Act. 26.20. And may it please God to grant a Blessing to accompany what has been delivered! Especially to *Me* that I may be excited by the Holy Spirit to a true sense of *Sin* -- what an Evil and what a Bitter Thing it is! Miss *Mary Bradish* dined here. Mr. D. *Batherick* informs me that Mr. *Hannaniah Parkers wife* dyed about 11 o'Clock a.m. She has lain in a low state about 4 Months. The Lord Support and direct his bereaved Servant, Shew Mercy to the Children, and make us all to know our End!

¹Waltham Vital Records, 292, give the death of Joseph Stratton on March 10, 1776, in 86th year, citing gravestone record.

1774 March 14 (Monday). In the morning Mr. *Levi Warrin* came for Dr. *Hawes* in all haste, who went with greatest speed to Mr. *Seth Morse's* wife and then came for me to go to her, being in a despairing condition and had taken some *Copercas*. She says what was delivered in the sermon yesterday, was directly to her. She had now no Business to stay here any longer -- no Desires of Good etc. I discoursed and prayed with her -- but she was little altered. In the Eve came young Mr. *Hutchinson* from *Billy* and brings his Note. He lodged here.

1774 March 15 (Tuesday). Mr. *Hutchinson* to *Grafton*. I visit Mrs. *Morse*, who is somewhat calmer, but far from Composedness. Reasoned with her and prayed. P.M. attend the Funeral of Mrs. *Parker* and prayed. At Eve came my Kinsman *Nathaniel Bradshaw* from *Stoughtonham*, and lodges here.

1774 March 16 (Wednesday). Mr. *Fitch* came, dined with us, and preached my Lecture from Ps. 92.13. Mr. Taylor after Lecture -- understand he is published.

1774 March 17 (Thursday). Cousen Bradshaw returns home. Breck goes to Wrentham.

1774 March 18 (Friday). Breck returns, and acquaints me with his having hired a man to work for me, one *Ware*, for six Months.

1774 March 19 (Saturday). Mr. *Hutchinson*, going to *Concord*, calls and dines with us. Receive a packet from Mr. *Moore*, containing a Number of Pamphlets. Three from Mr. *Robins* of *Plymouth*: and two others.

1774 March 20 (Sunday). *Communion Day*. Preached a.m. on 1 *Cor.* 11.29. P.M. on *Jude* v. 29. Old Mrs. *Kelly* and Mrs. *Maynard* dined with us. N.B. Mrs. *Kelly* resides at Capt. *Maynards*. May God forgive the Iniquities of our holy Things and accept our Offerings through Jesus Christ!

1774 March 21 (Monday). Messrs. Francis Whipple junior and Joseph Bond here to desire Land to build Stables on back of the Meeting House: but this I could not now consent to at present, as might interfere with what Lt. Baker has already requested, respecting that spot. At Eve Mr. *Thomas Stone*.

1774 March 22 (Tuesday). Master *Thomas Stone* returns. Mr. Forbes came and Mr. [blank] *May*, Merchant in Boston. I visited Mrs. *Morse* again. Found and left her as despairing as before. Carried and lent to her Dr. I. Mathers Sermon on Gen. 4.13, but she was not forward to have me leave it. It would do no good.

1774 March 23 (Wednesday). Mr. *Forbes* and Mr. *Maynard* go to Boston. I visited and prayed with old Lt. Bruce and his Wife. Went to Southborough Lecture. Dined at Mr. *Stones*. Mr. *Smith* there and Mr. *Mathew Bridge* who preached -- on *Isa.* 53.10. Dr. *Hemingway* was among us: heard of the Sudden Death of the Rev. Mr. *Thomas Jones*, Minister of part of *Woburn*. O may I be ready also! N.B. Mr. *Jacob Gibs* requests of Mr. Stone and Me, that our Sermons at

the Fast at his House, together with Mr. *Fitch's* Some time after at the Same place, might be printed. Returning at Eve found Squire *Dorr* and Master *Taylor* here. The former lodged.

1774 March 24 (Thursday). A.M. Squire *Dorr* left us; and Capt. *Maynard* (a strange thing!) Visits us. My son *John* goes to *Lancaster* etc. to look for a place to Settle in. P.M. My Son *Cushing* came and lodges here. Brought the Books he had borrowed.

1774 March 25 (Friday). Mr. *Cushing* confirms what he had writ concerning crazy *Jones* the Preacher. Tells me my Daughter, and their Son *George* are grown better. D.G. He returns to *Shrewsbury*, in his way home.

1774 March 26 (Saturday). Mr. *Nathan Kenny* is under infirmity of Body and in Gloominess of Mind, Sent for me yesterday, but it was too stormy for me to go out. I was obliged to go today; found him very Sad; much afflicted with evil Thoughts -- told me that however, he was not hopeless. I directed, Supported and exhorted him, as I could and prayed with him as the Sorrowful Case required. But by Such interruptions of my Studys, I was obliged to have the greater Dependence on Mr. *Forbes* return from *Boston*, and preaching for Me, as I have requested him to do.

1774 March 27 (Sunday). I preached a.m. on *Act. 26.20*. But not being well, I did not read publickly. And having none of the help I expected, I preached my Self, delivering p.m. with Variations part of a Discourse on *Heb. 2.1*. Appointed a *Catechizing* for Children next Tuesday.

1774 March 28 (Monday). Read Mr. *Hutchinsons* "Meat out of the Eater." *Eli Harrington* here to be examined. Mr. *Jonathan Newall* visits and lodges here. N.B. Mr. *Hez. Taylor* finished his schoolkeeping last Saturday: am now obliged to teach *Elias* my Self.

1774 March 29 (Tuesday). Mr. *Newall* went to *Mill-River*. P.M. I went to See Mrs. *Morse*. Her Doctor from *Andover*, Mr. *Daniel How*, was there. Mrs. *Morse* was much the Same.

1774 March 30 (Wednesday). I carryed Mrs. P_____ to Mr. Samuel Fays. It happened that he was not at home. We called also to see Miss *Dilly Fay*, who is Sick, and is poor. We went to Mr. *Gleasons* and I left her there, She declining to go with me to *Shrewsbury*. I dined at Mr. *Sumners*. Mr. *Buckminster* (the young Gentleman) was there. I persuaded him to preach in my stead, the public Lecture. He performed very agreeably and profitably. His Text *1 Cor. 5.8*. I returned to Mr. *Gleasons*, and took up my Wife and came home in safety. D.G.

1774 March 31 (Thursday). I wrote to Mr. *Ebenezer Rice* of *Annapolis*. Mrs. *Beeton* came and Mrs. P_____ had Discourse with her concerning her Mother. *Catechizing at the Meeting House*. I had but few Children. 33 Boys and 19 Girls.

1774 April 1 (Friday). Mr. *Benjamin Webb* from *Marlborough*, came to See Me. Mr. *Cornelius Waters* brings me from Dr. *Wheelock* of *Dartmouth* College a Continuation of the Narrative of

the Indian School etc. Mr. *Waters* lodges here and gives me Some further Account of the College he comes from.

1774 April 2 (Saturday). Mr. *Waters* returns to Sutton, telling me I may expect Mr. *Kendal* of *Dartmouth*, here in a few Days. Read the Narrative.

1774 April 3 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Act. 26.20 from middle of p. 27 to middle of p. 34. P.M. Went on with sermon on *Heb.* 2.1 but made Sundry additions especially in the Close. May God Succeed my poor imperfect Labours for both my own and the people's Saving Benefit! But what a Surprize were we thrown into by hasty Riding, etc. for the Doctors, for me etc. *Mrs. Morse* unhappy Woman! has cutt her own Throat with a Razor! about 1/2 an hour before meeting was done. I hastened to the House of Distress. Saw the horrid wound -- about 2 inches long. Dr. *Hawes* tells me the Wind-pipe is cut about half through. She is alive and to appearance Sensible. Sits pretty still while the Doctor Sews up the Gashes. But I say very little to her, as she under the Operation least it should Set her a Bleeding. Dr. *Ball* came to Assistance. Many people were gathered in to behold the Sorrowful Spectacle. Mr. *Morse* requested me to pray. I found she was not against it "with respect to Mr. *Morse* and the Children, but it could do her no good," as she expressed it. I prayed, when they had done what was necessary in the Sewing and Dressing. The Doctors tarry all night, as well as several to watch her. But I returned to my Family. May the holy, Sovereign God sanctifie this very awful Dispensation! Guard and restrain the Miserable tempted, frantic woman; Support and direct my poor Sorrowful Neighbour. Pity the Aged Father (Mr. *Warrin*) and the Surprized astonished Children; and grant us all the peculiar Grace necessary for us rightly to improve so remarkable and distressing a Providence!

1774 April 4 (Monday). Mr. *Morse* sent for me again, early this morning. I went over -- found Mrs. *Morse* somewhat composed -- and supping Some liquid Breakfast. By Desire of Mr. *Morse* I prayed. Her answer to me before I began was much the same it had always been. *Elias* goes with a Team to Mr. *Whipples* Mill. Carrys 21 1/2 Bushels first, afterwards Ten more, and two more Still. *Breck* assists in filling, loading, emptying etc. P.M. My Son *John* left us to go to Mr. *Watsons* at *Oxford* to work there. Mr. *Mellen* of *Chauxit* calls here. Acquaints me with Some of his Brethrens (the major part of their Church's) proceedings.

1774 April 5 (Tuesday). Miss *Suse Brigham* here from Day to Day assisting *Sophy* in her work. Widow *Snow* dines here. P.M. preached at the *Widow Newton's*, on *Rom.* 8.11. Earnestly pray it may please God to grant Success; as I would be thankfull for the assistances afforded, and beg the Sins of my holy Things may be forgiven through Jesus Christ. Hear that *Mrs. Morse* was very bad last night. May the Lord extend Pity and Compassion! And may She be restrained and restored! Have Some Difficulty about Mr. *Silas Hills* not discharging his Debt to me, yet he is about moving to *Oakham*.

1774 April 6 (Wednesday). Dr. *Hawes* here about Mr. *Hills* affair (who has moved away), but does not undertake in it. The Doctor dines here. Mr. *Lorings* Diary. Mrs. P_____ has walked to Capt. *Maynards*. *Elias* is gone to Mr. *Waters* School, which I suppose begins to Day at

the South School-House. P.M. was going to See Mrs. Morse -- but a storm rising, thundering and it beginning to Rain I desisted. N.B. A poor old Beggar, who says his Name is William Salloy, of Suffield, here.

1774 April 7 (Thursday). Mrs. P_____ did not return home last night, but came this morning. Mrs. *Morse*, I hear, has been raving lately, but last night and this morning is more Composed. At about 10 a.m. I went over -- prayed with her. Her Expressions much the Same as heretofore. Mr. *Tinney* dined here. Mrs. *Godfrey*, who was *Ruth Bellows*, lodges here.

1774 April 8 (Friday). Mrs. *Godfrey* here helping Mrs. P_____ in some of her heavy work. Closely applied in my Study -- full of Concern about Mrs. *Morse*. O that God would be gracious to her and to the poor distressed Family.

1774 April 9 (Saturday). *Breck*, Nigh Evening, goes home with Suse Brigham. I am meditating and preparing on *Jonahs* prayer in the whales Belly -- the rather on account of Mrs. *Morse's* deplorable Case. The Lord pity her!

1774 April 10 (Sunday). Read *Jonah* [II?] and preached on it. P.M. did not read publicly but preached on *Jer. 4.1*, going on with the Subject from *Act. 16.20*. May the Lord concurr. N.B. a new Alarm from Mr. *Morse's*. The Sewing of the windpipe and the outward sewing are broke open by her Coughing -- nor can the Doctor sew it up again. Went over at Evening. Prayed fervently with her. O that God would look upon her next to desperate Case! Her mind not altered to any purpose.

1774 April 11 (Monday). Lt. Baker came to me with an earnest Message from Neighbour Seth *Morse* in his great Distress for his Wife, who is not like to live but a little longer: for now he requests there might be a Fast kept on her Account and that it be without Delay -- that it be tomorrow, notwithstanding the public Fast on next Thursday. I said what I conceived proper with respect to the necessary preparations. He would Send for the Neighbouring Ministers. And particularly the 4 nearest. Mr. *Sumner* and Mr. *Fish*. I objected against Mr. *Fisk* -- and let him know, it would give me inexpressible Disquietment. But he Said he knew they would peculiarly insist for Him; and entreated that in So extraordinary a Case, for the poor womans sake I would not refuse, that if we have any Mercy, and at Such an extraordinary Juncture etc. etc. The other Gentlemen named were Rev. *Stone* and *Fitch*; against whom I made no Objection -- but as to all of us it would be very difficult, to be interrupted in our preparations for the general Fast. In fine I consented to attend, and Mr. *Morse* requesting that I would write to the Ministers I agreed with Lt. Baker to send to Mr. *Stone*; which he (*Baker*) could carry as he was going to Framingham to Mr. *Sumner*, and Dr. *Flynt* could take it; to Mr. *Fitch*, and Dr. *Hawes* could convey it: but I could not write to Mr. *Fish* to come. I thought however that considering the Extremity they were in, for Mrs. *Morse's* Sake, hoping I Should speak to Him and bear Some Testimony against etc. I wrote Mr. *Morse* this word, that he might Send to him on this Extraordinary Occasion. At Eve I went there and Said a few things, and but few; She answered with as few. Prayed earnestly for her -- ripened the Desire of the Fast tomorrow by divine Leave and Assistance.

1774 April 12 (Tuesday). *Fast* at Mr. *Seth Morse's*, on account of his miserable Wife. Mr. *Sumner* came here, and going with me, he advised that not the least word of Opposition be uttered against Mr. *Fish's* being there and officiating considering the present Extraordinary Circumstances. Mr. *Fisk* and Mr. *Fitch* came. I began the Solemnity with fervent prayer. Mr. *Sumner* preached a Suitable sermon from *Luk. 15.17*. P.M. Mr. *Fitch* prayed and Mr. *Fish* (Mr. *Morse* insisting for it) preached on *Mat. 9.12*. May the Lord bless the word and accept the prayers, especially for this Miserable Object! Mr. *Stone* did not come. Mr. *Morse* told me last Eve that they could not well provide. I offered to for such as would come our way. Mr. *Fish*, Masters *Phinehas Bowman* and *Cornelius Waters*, also Old Mr. *Seth Morse* Eat at our House. At eve came *Asa Ware* from *Needham* to live with me Six Months for 78£ old Tenor or if after a Months Tryal he behaves and works well and deserves it, 80£ of like Money. Receive Letters from Mr. *More* [i.e., *Moore*], with Mr. *Charles Turners* Anniversary Sermon at *Plymouth*, Dec. 22, 1773, from *Zech. 4.10*.

1774 April 13 (Wednesday). Closely applyed -- but can't prepare for both parts of tomorrow.

1774 April 14 (Thursday). Publick Fast. I preached a.m. on *Ps. 51.[11?]*. P.M. on *Isa. 1.13*. May the Lord hear in Heaven the Supplications etc., bless the word dispensed, and enable us to walk uprightly! That *to days*, may not be vain [Objections?]? Mr. *Thomas Kendal* from *Dartmouth College* from *Boston* etc. came to Meeting. Lodged here also, and gave me account of his *Cagnawaga* Tour, and reception among the Indians. N.B. Mrs. *Morse* is delirious.

1774 April 15 (Friday). Rode with Mr. *Kendal* to Mr. *Seth Rice's*, and dined there. Visited also the widow *Martha Warrin*. P.M. Mr. *Daniel Forbes* here. Our Discourse of Church Government. Bolton Affairs. Read him my Letter to Capt. *Bailey* and Mr. *Longley*. Seems to be more satisfied by hearing it -- but is not quiet. Disturbed that *Persis Baker* of Bolton is refused Communion with us etc. etc. Mr. *Kendal* returns and lodges here.

1774 April 16 (Saturday). Mr. *K.* goes to Master *Waters*. I visited Lt. *Bruce* and his Wife, under great Affliction and prayed with them. P.M. rode to *Hopkinton*. Called to See Mrs. *Morse*. She is in much the Same Frame of mind. Met Mr. *Fitch*. Went to his House. Lodged there. N.B. In the Night came men in pursuit of Thieves, who had Stole from Mr. *George Aldrich* of *Mendon*: having broke open his store the night before.

1774 April 17 (Sunday). Preached at *Hopkinton* on *Gal. 1.15.16*. At Eve at Mr. *Barretts* and lodged there.

1774 April 18 (Monday). Returning home called to see Mr. *John Kelly* who walks abroad; and Mrs. *Morse* who is more composed. Prayed with her. At Eve came Mr. *Benjamin Bailey* of *Bolton*, and leaves with me a summons to go to Court, on Mr. *Goss's* Case.

1774 April 19 (Tuesday). The Association met here, viz. Mr. *Stone*, *Smith*, *Bridge*, and with them Mr. *Whitney*. Mr. *Goss* was at Court. Mr. *Sumner* was invited but his youngest Child is

extremely ill. I was chose Moderator. Prayed and delivered a Discourse on *Luk. 12.36.37.* "And you your Selves like to men that wait" etc. O that God would please to Solemnize my Spirit and assist me in Complying with the Directions given; and that we each of us might be in actual readiness!

1774 April 20 (Wednesday). Rose early. Rode to *Worcester*. On my way broke fast at Mr. *Sumners*. N.B. Their Child very ill. At *Worcester* Judge Trowbridge told me the Goss case would not come on to day. Rode therefore to Mr. *Maccartys*, Mr. *Isaac Pratts*, and thence to *Leicester*. Dined there with *Alexander*. P.M. he went with me to Mr. *Conklins*. Drank Coffee etc. Returned to *Alexanders* and lodged there.

1774 April 21 (Thursday). Mr. *John Southgate*, Juryman for *Lei'ster* my Company to *Wor'ster* -- hastened to Court. Mr. *Goss's* Case was pleaded a. and p.m. Mr. *Goss's* Ordination not disputed: and therefore I was not called to give my Testimony concerning it. Dined at Mr. *Maccartys*, with Mr. *Morse* and Mr. *Lawrence* of *Winchester*. Afterwards came Mr. *Mellen*. At Eve I came away from Court before breaking up. I grew weary and inclined to come home. Attempted and accomplished it, though not till 10 o'Clock. N.B. Squire *Henry Gardner* and Mr. *Morse* of *Shrewsbury* my Company part of the way. Mr. *Sumners* Child almost gone. Fear it will die to night. My Daughter *Cushing* came here to day. Capt. *Jonas Houghton* came before I got to bed with a Letter from Mr. *Goss* requesting, for the use of his Lawyer my Book containing the Results of the *Three Synods*; which I Sent accordingly by him. He went to Capt. *Maynards* for Lodging. Mrs. *Morse*, I hear, is worse. *Benjamin Whitney* came this Evening to desire me to go over to See her: She *her self* having wanted to see me.

1774 April 22 (Friday). Visit Mrs. *Morse*: found no great alteration as to the State of her mind, except that she is thought Somewhat more insane. Her Body is more emaciated and she grows weaker. The Doctor there, to dress the wound. It is externally very much healed up: the Hole not bigger apparently, than a Hazlenut might be put into. She said but little. Her swallowing not better, and Speaks but in Whisper and to be understood but difficultly. I prayed with her. I think it was not so much against her Will, as heretofore: but she was not rational enough to discourse much with. Tis feared she can't continue long. An Object of Pity! May a Merciful and gracious God extend His Compassion to her in this miserable Condition! Have, at home, my Daughter *Cushings* Company. She is but feeble and infirm, yet is able to be about with Some Alertness. *Elias* to School daily to Mr. *Waters*.

1774 April 23 (Saturday). An earnest Message in the morning to hasten to Mr. *Morse's*. It was feared she was dying. Her real Frame could not be known. I prayed with her. Alas for her deplorable Condition! I returned to my studys. She expired about 11 a.m. Mr. *Morse* himself here. May God direct and Support him! *Eli Harrington* here with his Relation. N.B. I take Notice he says in it, "that he is Satisfied with the Discipline in this Church."

1774 April 24 (Sunday). A.M. read *Rom. 11.33* and though I had so prepared for p.m. on another subject that I intended to preach upon it, yet what remained of the forenoon Discourse could not be omitted, as the solemn Occasion (Mrs. *Morse's* awfull Departure) engaged all our

minds; therefore I went on with it, making a variety of Alterations. Admitted *Eli Harrington* into the Church. May God grant His Blessing!

1774 April 25 (Monday). Breck went for Mr. *Morse* to *Northborough* and *Shrewsbury* (as he had gone to *Southborough* on Saturday) for Gloves, Cyprus etc. in preparation for the Funeral. I attended the *Funeral of Mrs. Morse*. Mrs. P_____ not well; and did not go. Nor my Daughter *Cushing*, not being able. A Great Assembly gathered. I prayed. After Funeral Mr. *Waters* here. I went up to Mr. *Newtons* about the driving up my son *Baldwins* and my own young Cattle, to *Brookfield*.

1774 April 26 (Tuesday). Sent up the Cattle to Mr. *Newtons* before Sun rise, but the Drove, to my Disappointment, was gone. Mr. *Fitch* of *Hopkinton*, his Wife and Child, going to *Connecticut*, come this way and dine with us. At Eve my son *Baldwin* and Daughter *Betsy* came and lodged here.

1774 April 27 (Wednesday). They sat out for *Boston*; and I send *Elias* with the Cattle. *Ben Clark* goes part of the way to help drive; but missed his Way in coming back from *Shrewsbury*, and did not get home till nigh night. My Daughters *Cushing*, *Sophy* and *Hannah* rode to *Northborough* and returned at Eve.

1774 April 28 (Thursday). I was obliged to preach my Lecture my self. The Text *Gal. 6.4* to p. 9. It was well I preached my self, there being so very few at Meeting that a Neighbouring Minister would have thought perhaps, that it was not worth while to be at the pains to come from another Town to preach to so small an handful of people. A great many pews both above and below, had no body at all: there was but one, a young woman in all the womens Gallery, both in Front and side. I could not but speak of it in my Sermon; but told those few who were present, that I was glad of *them* and wished they might find happy Reward etc. Mr. *Cushing* from *Ashburnham* at Eve, and lodged here. N.B. Cousen *Davis* dined here, with her Child, her mother *Maynard* after Lecture and drank Coffee etc. with us.

1774 April 29 (Friday). Mr. *Cushing* and his Wife are detained here by the Rain. They tarried till after Dinner, and till past 3 p.m. and then, though wetting, they attempted to go part of the way. May God grant them a prosperous Journey, by His holy will! At Eve came Mr. *John Piper* who is newly come to live among us, and asks the privilege to communicate with us, as also that his Wife *Mary*, may; they being Members of the Church in *Templeton*.

1774 April 30 (Saturday). *Nehemiah Maynard* came and brought a Certificat of his Wife's enjoying privilege at *Northborough*, requesting the like here. But his Certificate was lame; however, not so essentially as to reject it. At Eve *Elias* returned from *Brookfield*. Brought my Watch from Mr. *Earl* at *Leicester*. For a Chrystal, and enamelling the Figures 2/ Lawfull. Thus ends another Month. May God be praised for the Blessings of it! May the Sins of it be freely forgiven.

1774 May 1 (Sunday). Read *Jonah* 3. Preached on *Exod.* 14.13. P.M. did not read. Preached on *Luk.* 13.3. Administered the Lords Supper. Old Mrs. *Kelly* dined here. As did Deacon *Bond*, Mrs. *Maynard*, Mrs. *Godfrey*, *Suse Brigham*.

1774 May 2 (Monday). Young Mr. *Hutchinson* returning from *Carlisle*, calls here. Mr. *Grosvenor* has given a Denyal to the Call of *Grafton*. Mr. *Hannaniah Parker* was here and paid me £191 in Cash, and in notes 37.10.9.2, in all 228.10.9.2 old Tenor.

1774 May 3 (Tuesday). Mr. *Fisher* undertakes to do the work of my Fence against the Garden with Pales and to make two Cart and one Horse Gate, for one Guinea. And his Diet, I finding the Stuff. He begins to Day and *Abel Tinny* is with him. *Breck* rode to *Boston*. Mr. *Eli Whitney* here and talks with me about denying a member of (*Walley*) *Bolton* Church Communion. P.M. I preached at Lt. *Bakers* on 1 *Sam.* 25.32,33, which may God bless to our highest Benefit!

1774 May 4 (Wednesday). This Day was foul weather: yet I ventured to go to *Northborough* and dined at Mr. *Whitneys*. P.M. preached his Lecture from *Gal.* 6.4. Called to see sister *Martyn* -- (where was her Daughter *Minot*) and Mr. *Bass*.

1774 May 5 (Thursday). *Ezra Bellows* came in haste to call me to go to his Brother *Simeon's*, where was Mrs. *Hannah Warrin* (Wife of Mr. *Daniel*) in a dying Condition. I went and found her breathing but insensible. Prayed with them and exhorted them. Dined there. N.B. Mr. *Ebenezer Chamberlins* Discourse about *Bolton* and Church Government. *Ezra Baker* present also. In returning I called to see Lt. *Bruce* and his Wife. At Eve married *Caleb Harrington* of *Waltham* to *Sarah Miller* (Daughter of *Ebenezer*) and *Joseph Hardy* to *Lucy Parker*.

1774 May 6 (Friday). Mr. *Fisher* came again to his work; and had also Mr. *Moses Sever* to work at the Wall on which the new Fence is erected. Mr. *Daniel Warrin* came to acquaint me his wife was dead, to desire me to attend her Funeral tomorrow. Mr. *Peter Coffin* and his wife called here in their way to *Brookfield*. When we were at Dinner *Breck* returns from *Boston*. He tells me he went to see my Brother who is more and more infirm. An Awful Superannuation! O that I might be useful while I live, and ready and willing to die when God shall call! N.B. Received a packet from My dear Friend and Brother Mr. *Grindall Rawson* of *East Haddam*, of April 27 and May 2, which was very gratifying.

1774 May 7 (Saturday). I attended the Funeral of Mrs. *Hannah Warrin*, Wife of Mr. *Daniel Warrin*. I have had so many Interruptions of my Studys this Week, and different Calls of divine Providence one way and another that I could prepare but part of a sermon for the Sabbath. Mr. *Hutchinson* in his way to *Carlisle*, calls here. He designs also to go to Mr. *McGregore* at *Nutfield*.

1774 May 8 (Sunday). Read *Jonah* 4. I was obliged to use for the forenoon Exercise, chiefly Sermons 1 and 2 on *Rev.* 20.12, but preached from 2 *Cor.* 3.10. P.M. (having read *Ps.* 96) repeated with some alterations Sermon 3 on *Rev.* 20.22, that sentence, "the Books were

opened." N.B. Mr. *Samuel Barrett* of Hopkinton and his Wife, dined here. Mr. *Fitch* being absent, and gone to *Connecticut*.

1774 May 9 (Monday). *Alpheus Rice*, Son of the late Lieut. *Eliezer Rice*, and member of Providence College, here and dined with us. He wants Advice concerning his going from that College and entering at *Dartmouth* College in New Hampshire. At Eve came to the House Mr. *Joseph Harrington*, but after he had stayed some time, enquiring for me, my Daughter *Sophy* said I was gone from home; So he went away. I was apprehensive of what might be his Design in Coming, but God was pleased, in His Providence to over-rule this matter. D. Glor!

1774 May 10 (Tuesday). A.M. Read the Life and Sufferings of Lord *Cobham* by *Gilpin*, and made a Visit to old Lt. *Thomas Forbush*. P.M. Visit at Ensign *Jeduthun Fay's*; his wife and Several of his Children having Signified to me their Expectation and Desire of it. The man was not at home; the Woman and Children conducted with much Civility and Courteousness.

1774 May 11 (Wednesday). Am engaged in my studys except the unavoidable avocations by a Variety of workmen on the new pale Fence. At Eve *Suse Brigham* came and lodged here.

1774 May 12 (Thursday). *Suse* works as a Taylor, for Mrs. P _____.

1774 May 13 (Friday). Mr. *Bradshaw* came from *Boston*, having gone from *New Braintree* to buy Goods (with a Team etc.). My Daughter in Law *Elizabeth* with him. Having dined -- drank [sic] Coffee etc. they Sat out -- fearing a storm. N.B. Received by them the papers of yesterday containing the Act of Parliament for blocking up the Harbour of Boston -- and which is to take place on *June 1* next. Also containing General *Gage's* Appointment of *Governor* in the room of Mr. *Hutchinson*. May God most gracious behold our state! Rev. Mr. *Jedediah Jewets* Death pastor of the first Church in *Rowley*. May the Lord sanctify it to survivors!

1774 May 14 (Saturday). Closely engaged.

1774 May 15 (Sunday). Read *Micah 1*. Preached on the Subject of *Repentence* from *Act. 26.20* but the present Text, *Mat. 3.8* and finished that set of Sermons. May God add His Blessing! P.M. Read *Rom. 1*, and preached on v. 18. God grant we may all be thoroughly awakened hereby! N.B. My Son *John* came this morning. The Rain yesterday prevented his coming before. He has been to *Lancaster*. Mrs. *Molly Taylor* dined with us. She keeps school at Mr. *Jonathan Grouts* (or the School House near).

1774 May 16 (Monday). Town Meet to choose a Representative. Capt. *Maynard* is Chose again, and pritty unanimously. Read Dr. *Watts* on the Glory of Christ God man.

1774 May 17 (Tuesday). Mr. [*Henry?*] *Quincy* from *Boston* informs that Col. *Hancock* languishes -- that his Aunt is very ill -- that today General *Gage* enters *Boston* to take the Government of this Province. It is a very rainy season and our Business in farming is much retarded.

1774 May 18 (Wednesday). Breck Sends a Team to Providence and p.m. goes himself. Mr. *Jacob Gibbs* here to request my Notes of the sermon delivered at the Fast at his House last December that it may be printed. Tells me the Children he buried were these following.

Relyance, in her 12th year, dyed Nov. 25, 1773.

Jacob, in his 10th -- dyed Dec. 10.

John, in his 19th -- Dec. [1?]5.

Sarah, in her 17th -- Dec. 17.

Jerusha, in her 14th -- Dec. 22, the Day of the Fast.

Lydia, in her 8th -- Dec. 24

Elisha, in his 6th -- Dec. 29.

1774 May 19 (Thursday). I walked up to Widow *Brighams* to obtain her Mare for next week but She is bespoke. Walked to Mr. F. *Whipples* -- got an Horse there to ride to *Shrewsbury*, that is to Master *Goddards* and dined there. Agree with him to take to Board and Instruct *Elias* for 35/old tenor per week -- and to begin on the Monday after the Election. When returned home, found Mr. Fisher was come for the p.m. and made the Bench of the little House, but not the Partitions from the rest of the House.

1774 May 20 (Friday). Mr. Francis Whipple came and neatly underpinned my front Fence. Finished a little before 11 a.m.

1774 May 21 (Saturday). Mr. *Spring* works at the little House to the value of 7/6 Old Tenor. Mr. Breck and his Lady came at Eve and lodge. Breck returns from Providence and Boston. Mr. Levi Willard came and lodges.

1774 May 22 (Sunday). Read *Micah* 2. Mr. *Breck* preached on *Luk.* 17.32, "Remember Lots wife." P.M. read *Prov.* 6.6, "Go to the Ant thou Sluggard." May the Lord bless these useful sermons to us!

1774 May 23 (Monday). Mr. *Breck* and his Wife left us to go to Boston. I rode to my son *Williams* at *Concord*. Had an Horse of Mr. *Barnabas Newton*. In my way called at Mr. *Darlings* of Framingham to see his aged Mother -- of 96. They entertained me very kindly and generously. I called also at Mr. *Lorings*. But how observable the *Change!* Mr. Daniel son of Mr. *Nathan* keeps Tavern. The study and the Closet, so many Years improved for Prayer and other devout Exercises, is now used for *Drinking* etc. N.B. borrowed of Mr. Loring his Grand-Fathers 4to M.S. bound, and Alphabetical: and with a number of Extracts Miscellaneously. And Mr. Lord of Norwich's half-Century Sermon. Lodged at my Son William's where (D.G.) they are all in Comfort.

1774 May 24 (Tuesday). Rode to *Lincoln*, to Mr. *Ephraim Flynts*, where Sojourn My Kinsfolks, Mr. Samuel *Procter* and his Wife. Dined at Mr. *Jacob Cushings* at *Waltham*. Present their Mrs. William and her two sons, Dr. and Samuel. At Boston My Horse was committed to the Care of Deacon *Sherbourn*: I lodged at my son *Samuels* as did My Son *Moore* likewise.

1774 May 25 (Wednesday). We have One more Election Day. Thanks to God! Mr. *Gad Hitchcock* of *Pembroke*, preached on *Prov. 29.2*. I dined in *Faneuel Hall*. The preacher craved: Dr. *Appleton* returned. P.M. Attended the Convention. Dr. *Eliot* was chose Moderator and prayed. N.B. All persons I am with, in all Companys, lament and mourn for what is coming upon the province; and upon *Boston* in special. Visit Mrs. *Surcomb* who now dwells other where though I found her at the usual place. She shews me her House, where she now lives, Requests me to come again, that she may relate to me what Mr. S. did by Will, for her. I hasten to see my Brother -- him I find in a woeful broken state; I can't find that he knows me. I take Opportunity to talk with his wife of her Intemperance which is so much confirmed that I am full of Distress about it -- and lay it to her, though it sadly disturbs her. Call to see my Cousen Nabby *Tyler*, as well as sister *Rebecca*. Visit Cousen *Bradford*, who is very weak and low. Meet Cousen *Oliver*, etc. Was at Brother *Shaws* and *Loyds*. Lodge at *Samuels*. Mr. *Moore* and *Cushing* lodge there also. *Betsey Baldwin* boards at the same place also.

1774 May 26 (Thursday). I went again to the Convention. There were not only a proposal made of *address* to Governor *Gage*; but it was voted; a Committee was chose to prepare a Draught. This was nevertheless not perfected; but by reason of Some [limitations?] from Court it was put off till further Time and Experience. A Fast in this Distress agreed, is to be recommended to our people through the province. In publick Rev. *James Chandler* of *Rowley* delivered from [Tim.?] 4.7.8, a very serious and Profitable Sermon. I dined at Dr. *Eliots*. P.M. went to the Convention. I prayed at the Conclusion of this Meeting. The Convention was adjourned to the Day after Commencement. Then to Meet again at the same place, viz. Master *Lovells* School. Paid Edes for the News paper. N.B. Mr. *Gordon* has Sent to *England* for Dr. C. *Mathers* Magnalia for me; and it is come. I receive it and payed him for it. 4£ old tenor. Lodge again at my Son *Samuels*. N.B. My Brother *Shaw* came there to See me. Mr. *Moore* lodges there. He has bought *Shirting* for me, for which I payed him 24£ old Tenor.

1774 May 27 (Friday). At Mr. *Joseph Coollidge's* bought me a new pair of Gold Buttons, and paid him for them 8£ 6/. Undertook my Journey home. Called at Mr. *Adams's* at *Roxbury* where I saw Mr. [blank] of *Woodstock*, who was blind and deaf. The way to Converse with him, was by writing in his hand. I dined at Mr. *Gordons*. Mr. *Rowland* of *Providence* there also. P.M. Rode to *Needham* and lodged at Mr. *West's*; not venturing further, in unknown Roads at Eve.

1774 May 28 (Saturday). Came home in Safety, through divine Goodness and found all well. The Glory to God! N.B. In riding home, baited at Coll. *Buckminsters* and had Mr. *Pain* of *Worcester* for Company, to Mr. *Stone's* of *Southborough*.

1774 May 29 (Sunday). Rode over to *Northborough* and preached there a. and p.m. on *Mat. 25.10* from page 45 to 61 (or 62) and returned at Eve. May God grant Success to the word of His Grace! Mr. *Whitney* preached for me a. and p.m. on [blank].

1774 May 30 (Monday). My Son *Elias* left us to go to Mr. *Nathan Goddards* at *Shrewsbury* to board and to be instructed by him. I visited Lt. *Bruce* and prayed with him and his Aged wife.

He waxes weaker and weaker. P.M. came Brother and Sister *Breck* from *Waltham*, and lodge here.

1774 May 31 (Tuesday). Mr. *Breck* and Lady leave us. I visited aged Mrs. *Woods*, who dwells at Sergeant *Forbes's*. In returning called at Mr. *Morse's*; but he was not at home. At my Arrival I found my Kinsman Mr. *Thomas Loyd* was come to see me in his Way to *Blandford* and with him his Daughter *Nabby* and his Sister *Marshall*, who are going with them. They lodge here. We are informed that probably this Day his late Excellency *Thomas Hutchinson* Esquire with his second son, *Elisha*, and youngest Daughter, *Peggy*, Set Sail for *London*.

1774 June 1 (Wednesday). Now begins a New and peculiar *AEra*: for this Day the Act of Parliament called the *Boston Port Bill*, whereby the Harbour of *Boston* is shut up, takes Effect. May God be pleased to Sanctifie this His holy Dispensation of Providence to this whole People! Rev. Mr. *Putnam* of *Pomfret*, returning home, calls here. He acquaints me that whereas he had Occasion to take up £750 old Tenor of Col. *Brattle* of *Cambridge*, Some time agoe, he was now enabled to go and pay it, by his generous people's furnishing him gratis, with the money to do it. P.M. Miss *Molly Taylor*, who keeps School among us, and has had our little *Sukey* to tutor (the Widow *Brigham* offering to board the Child) made us a Visit. As did Mr. *Aaron Hutchinson* junior.

1774 June 2 (Thursday). My Neighbour *Nathan Kenny* under gloomy hypocondriac Disorders, I made a Visit to, and prayed with him. P.M. Mrs. *Rachel Hide* (lately *Rachel Fay*) was with me to be examined in order to her making a profession of Religion and receiving Baptism. I take some special Notice of the sorrowful Frowns of Heaven upon the Land, and upon the metropolis of this province in particular, in solemn Devotions etc.etc.

1774 June 3 (Friday). Closely engaged in my preparations. Read Dr. *Thomas Newton* on the Prophecys, particularly on Rev. 13.

1774 June 4 (Saturday). Sad news from *Boston* of the Troubles of the people there by means of the apprehension, they have of the Forces expected to block them up.

1774 June 5 (Sunday). Read *Mic. 3*. Preached on *Rom. 1.18*. P.M. read *Isa. 44.5*, occasioned by my being about to propound Mrs. *Rachel Hide* (lately *Rachel Fay*) to make a profession and to be baptized. May God be pleased to bless my poor feeble Endeavors!

1774 June 6 (Monday). Read [part of?] a Strange publication called "*Infernal Conference*," of *Dialogues of Devils*, in 2 volumes, 12 mo by the Listener. Much Good to be got out of it.

1774 June 7 (Tuesday). Finish Vol.1. Visit Mr. *David Andrews* of *Ipswich*, Sick at his Bother *George's*. The private meeting is deferred.

1774 June 8 (Wednesday). Mr. *Stone* dined here and preached my Lecture on 1 *Joh.3.5*, a serious, profitable Discourse! The Lord bless it to us for our highest Benefit! Mr. *Henry Quincy*

of *Boston* here. By the newspapers find that Boston Harbour is now blocked up by the Kings Ships.

1774 June 9 (Thursday). Visit and pray with old Lt. *Bruce* and his wife. Mr. *Thomas* and Sister *Joanna* came -- they lodge here. N.B. I attended the Raising Mr. *Benajah* *Brighams* Barn.

1774 June 10 (Friday). The Company returned home. Cornet *Brigham* here in trouble about his Brother *Jonas* -- but I would not meddle with it.

1774 June 11 (Saturday). Mr. *Simon* *Tainter* calls to See me, with his wife, having visited his F. *Bruce*.

1774 June 12 (Sunday). Read Mic. 4. Preached from Exod. XIV.13. Administered the Lords Supper etc. Mrs. *Kelly* and Mrs. *Maynard*, Miss *Molly Taylor* and Miss *Susan Brigham* dined here. P.M. Read Ps. 44. Preached, with many additions, the rest of Sermon on Isa. 44.5. Mrs. *Rachel Hide*, heretofore *Rachel Fay*, now wife of Mr. *Noah Hide* of *Newton*, made a profession, owning the Covenant and was in solemn manner baptized. May the Lord accept of her, and of us herein! And may Others beholding these Solemnitys, be excited to their Duty likewise, that God may be glorify'd thereby!

1774 June 13 (Monday). Town Meeting to consider a Letter from the Town Clerk of *Boston* and there is come also a printed Covenant for them to Sign, in which they are to join with Others, and Solemnly bind themselves to renounce all Trade with Great Britain till the Bill for blocking up the Harbour of Boston Shall be repealed. N.B. Little is said about supplicating the Throne of Grace on this Great Occasion. But they Chose a Committee to consider what is best to be done, and report to the Town. Squire *Whipple* here but hardly goes to the meeting. Mr. *Gleason* here at Eve.

1774 June 14 (Tuesday). Had Conversation with Dr. *Hawes* and Lt. *Baker*, two of the said Committee, on the present sorrowful State. N.B. The latter also offers to sell me his Land joining to mine South of the Road before the Meeting House. I have gone through both the Volumes of *Infernal Conference*, by the *Listener*. At Eve John came from *Oxford*.

1774 June 15 (Wednesday). Rode to *Southborough*, dined at Mr. *Stones*. Preached his Lecture on 1 *Chron.* 15.13, latter part. And read as a parallell Text 1 *Cor.* 11.29, which was largely explained and the Explanation confirmed. There were but very few at meeting by Reason of heavy Rain, with Thunder and Lightning at the very time of Assembling. The Lord bless the word to those few of us who could attend! The Rain continuing, I tarryed all night. Mr. *Stone* gave me (from Mr. *Gordon* of *Roxbury*) Mr. *Joseph Allaines* Serious Treatise on Conversion. A New Edition under a new Title, viz. "An Admonition to unconverted *Sinners*."

1774 June 16 (Thursday). Returned home. Read Mr. *Josiah Quincy* juniors Observations on the Act of Parliament commonly called "the Boston-Port Bill." Writ with Sp[ecia?] Learning and Elegance. *Sophy* to Mr. *Edmund Brighams* to dine etc.

1774 June 17 (Friday). My Son *John* Setts out very early for *Boston*. N.B. *John* gave me last Eve Mr. *Ezra Bowmans* Note for Fourteen pounds L.M. for my Horse. P.M. *The Committee of Correspondence* was here; viz. Deacon *Bond*, Dr. *Hawes*, Messrs. *Daniel Forbes*, *Hannaniah Parker*, *Thomas Bond* and *Joseph Harrington*. Lt. Baker who was one, was gone to *Boston*. They came to hear my Sentiments of the *Covenant* which they had received from *Boston* and another from *Worcester*, which I, in part gave them. It was Said from among the Committee that they Should be glad I would be at the Town meeting, when they were to report. Mr. Edmund Quincy junior called here in his way to *Symsbury*. Old Mrs. *Brigs* of *Rochester* came to see us and lodged.

1774 June 18 (Saturday). Mrs. *Brigs* goes to *Northborough* to see her son *Zephaniahs* Wife. Breck goes to *Brookfield* and *New Braintree*. P.M. Coll. *Buckminster* and his wife came this way from *Rutland*. Capt. *King*, Representative of *Sutton*, calls and tells me that the Assembly is dissolved. This was done by his Excellency when he perceived the House was upon the Article of a Congress. *Elias* came from *Shrewsbury*.

1774 June 19 (Sunday). Read *Mic.* 5. Preached on *Isa.* [10?].3 a. and p.m. because of these times.² Old Mrs. *Kelly* at Dinner and stays with us.

1774 June 20 (Monday). Mrs. *Kelly* lives here again. *John* returns from *Boston* but only from Col. *Buckminsters* this morning. I visit and pray with Mr. *Samuel Fay*, who is sick of a Fever. P.M. *The Town Meet on the Affair of Signing a Covenant of Non-importation* etc. A Committee came to me to confer about a *Fast*. They were Capt. *Maynard*, Capt. *Ben Fay* and Capt. *Jonathan [blank]*. Agreed that the *Fast* Should be next Thursday come sennight. *Breck* returns with *Hannah* from *Brookfield*. Young Mr. *Hutchinson* here and lodges to night.

1774 June 21 (Tuesday). I was by various Incidents Sadly hindered in going to Ministers Meeting at *Southborough*, but got there before noon. My not coming was the hindrance of Observing the Day as a Time of Fasting -- but it was improved as a season of more repeated and enlarged Supplication on consideration of the public Distresses. Mr. *Stones* Sermon was on *Prov.* 16.7. A very suitable and quickening Discourse. May God bless it to all of us! To me especially! And may it please the Lord to be reconciled to us and hear our prayers! At Eve when I was got home came Mr. *Charles Lawrence* of *Ashby* to buy my Land there. I wrote by him to Mr. *Cushing* concerning it, and what offers he makes etc. Mr. *Hancock*, the Taylor lodges here.

1774 June 22 (Wednesday). I send Mr. *Barretts Mather's Magnalia* by Mr. *Beriah Ware*. A Clock Set up in my West Room. Mrs. *Keen* visits us.

²Isaiah 10.3: "And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory?"

1774 June 23 (Thursday). *Isaac Lamb* and Hannah Williams married. Mr. *Joseph Hancock* works here one Day after another on divers Garments, making a Jacket for *Elias*, Breeches for *John* and *Ware*.

1774 June 24 (Friday). Hear that divers people conjecture that I have Signed the Address to Governor *Hutchinson* at his embarking, whereas I am very remote from it. *Riply* came from *Cambridge* and lodges.

1774 June 25 (Saturday). *Riply* to *Brookfield*. *John* goes to Settle at *Lancaster*. P.M. Breck goes to *Lancaster* with Mr. *Levi Wilder*. Mr. *Hancock*, nigh night goes home.

1774 June 26 (Sunday). Read Mic. 6 and made my Exposition of it very much by Assistance from Sermon on *Mic.* 6.2, though with many Omissions and Alterations. P.M. Read Ps. 105. Preach on *Isa.* 63.9 and delivered the whole of my Preparations which I have Spent much Time upon; for it could not be divided. I suppose I was Somewhat more than an Hour. After Sermon I gave the Church, as Such, an Account of what the Town had agreed to concerning a *Fast* next Thursday, on the Account of the public Distresses; and proposing it virtually though not directly to them, there was no Objection: therefore it was complied with as I conceive.

1774 June 27 (Monday). Deacon *Bond* came and delivered me 4 Papers of the public affairs relative to Signing a Covenant etc. I copied the Covenant with alterations. *Breck* returned from *Lancaster*.

1774 June 28 (Tuesday). Visit aged Mrs. *Woods* at Mr. *Daniel Forbes's*. Went to Mr. *Ebenezer Millers* and Spoke to the women, since the men were not there, of my utterly disliking Mr. *Millers* or his son *Harringtons* attempting to buy the woody Hill north of my House since I had so bespoke it and depended upon having it. N.B. [Met?] Mr. *Jacob Whitman* of *Providence*, and 3 women with him, going to *Stow*. P.M. read *vox populi, vox Dei*. *Thomas Bond* here about the *Boston* papers, Covenant etc. Read him my Draughts: he Seems to fall in with them. He carries back those I borrowed.

1774 June 29 (Wednesday). I rode to *Southborough*, it being *Fast-Day* there on account of the public Distresses. Mr. *Smith* Prayed at the Beginning. I preached on *Isa.* 4.5. P.M. Mr. *Stone* prayed and Mr. *Matthew Bridge* preached on *Eccl.* 7.13, principally the first Words "Consider the Work of God." May it please God graciously to hear our fervent Supplications, Pardon our Sins, and teach us due Obedience to His Word, Especially Such a Day as this! Returned at Eve.

1774 June 30 (Thursday). This Day was Set apart for the purposes of *Religion*, a Day of *Humiliation* and *Fasting*, with Supplication on the great Occasion of the Public Troubles and Distresses. Mr. *Stone* and his wife came. I began the Solemnity with Prayer. Mr. *Stone* preached a.m. on *Deut.* 29.24.25. N.B. At the End of the Sermon he delivered his Mind concerning the Covenant that is going about the Country to be Signed in all places by all persons, on highest Penalty. May God add His Blessing! The same prayed before Sermon. P.M. which I delivered from 2 *Chron.* 14.11, not attending to the immediate *Occasion* of the Words

of the Text, as to the Text itself and the Dutys now incumbent. No other minister came to my Assistance but Mr. *Stone*, but there was a considerable Number of Friends here at Noon, who came from *Marlborough*. Also one Mr. *Knight* (who learns [Latin?] at Mr. *Goddards*) came with *Elias* from *Shrewsbury* and was refreshed with us. And O that what we have offered might not be a *corrupt Thing*!

1774 July 1 (Friday). Mr. *Fitch* of *Hopkinton* returning from *Connecticut* (whither he had been to wait on his mother) and with him his Sister *Wights* son *John* (about 13 years old). They dine here and I agree that on July 14th I will (God willing) assist him in a Fast at *Hopkinton*. N.B. Mr. *Daniel Forbes* one of the Committee of Correspondence here. Shewed him my Remarks on the Covenant etc. He desires me to let Dr. *Hawes* (who is another) See some of my papers concerning those Matters. At Eve *Breck* goes to a Military Meeting at Lt. *Bakers*, who I hear, is chose one of the Captains, to settle their Affairs. N.B. All those Expressions in the public News Papers which are further irritating to Authority are my continual Grief, but I would willingly, heartily, promote what ever is lawful, constitutional and consistent with Wisdom and prudence under our unhappy Circumstances, and that is our Duty under our Christian Obligations to undertake for our Relief, and for the Restoration of our privileges and Liberties, that we may again enjoy under God our wonted Peace and Harmony with Great Britain.

1774 July 2 (Saturday). Received a kind, respectful Letter from my dear Kinswoman Mrs. *Elizabeth Bradford* dated June 25. Capt. *Bradford* being then at *Havre Grace* Newfoundland. I rode to *Southborough* and Mr. *Stone* came hither. I went to Coll. *Brighams* to see Mr. *John Prentice Smith* who is consuming. Prayed with him. N.B. Governor *Gage* has issued out a Proclamation against *Combinations* -- Assemblys for signing a solemn League and Covenant etc. I lodged at Mr. *Stones*.

1774 July 3 (Sunday). Preached at *Southborough* a. and p.m. on *Hos.* 9.12, last Clause, "Yea Wo," etc. Returned at Eve. As did Mr. *Stone*, who preached both parts of the Day on *Heb.* 13.1. N.B. Young *Holland* a Scholar is here with *Elias*, and lodges here.

1774 July 4 (Monday). *Holland* goes to *Shrewsbury*. *Elias* goes, but returns that he may go to work, and doth go p.m. tending Hay. Mr. *Whitman* of *Providence* and Daughter, also Dr. *Throops* and her sister *Nightingale* with them, called here. Town Meet on the Affair of signing some Draught, for the public Relief. Old Mr. *Whitney* and Capt. *Jonas Brigham* are sent to me to desire me to go and assist 'em, by prayer and advice. Went and prayed. After prayer the Moderator (Mr. *Daniel Forbes*) requested me to communicate to them my Thoughts, if I had prepared something etc. I told him I had made no formal Draught: but read the Introduction and some other parts of my Remarks on the Covenant from *Boston*. Also what I wrote at Bottom of the Letter signed *William Cooper*. Sundry persons urged my tarrying and advising them with respect to what their own Committee had drawn up, but I answered that *I did not care to meddle with it*; for I conceived it was not *safe* for me to do it, Safe either *for me* or for *them*, especially by reason of the *Governors Proclamation*. I craved the Liberty to retire; not but that I was heartily ready and willing to improve my small Abilitys to my utmost in their service. It was asked me whether I would read their paper if it were Sent Me. I did not refuse

to do that in [onelay?] for them and I said I had no desire or Intention to offend any one of them all, not the least; but intreated, and challenged the Liberty of Briton and a New Englandman: and I prayed they would not be hasty in signing every thing; I could not advise to signing any Thing Seeing there was no immediate Necessity; Boston itself had not and their meeting was adjourned to the 19th. I conceived they would know better how to conduct if they waited a while, and had better perhaps till after the proposed *Congress*. I observed that there was not such an *Alternative* as was mentioned in the Covenant, viz. of Suffering Bloodshed or slavery, unless we would withdraw Commerce with Great *Britain*; for by the News from *Newport* it appeared that their Messengers to the *Congress* would propose a *general Address and Supplication* to the King from all the Colonys jointly. Before I retired I openly declared, for the Ease and satisfaction of all their minds, that I had signed no paper of Address or Recommendation of the late Governor and that I could not but take it ill that numbers of persons had been ready to take up a Reproach against their Neighbour. When I retired, they, as I understood went on to ripen for signing, and that many did sign. Capt. B. Fay here to speak about the Private Meeting expected to be at his House tomorrow; but considering the busy season it was put by till next month. Mr. *David Spofford* from *Townshend* here, and paid Interest 15£ old Tenor and 4 Coppers for a Months Delay: and 16£ of like money principal. Mr. *Caleb Harrington* here. I let him know that I design to have the Pine Hill back of my House; and pray him not to interrupt me in purchase of it.

1774 July 5 (Tuesday). Read some Political pieces against passive Obediance and non-resistance. N.B. Delivered *Breck* 4£ Lawful Money to be sent to *Samuel* as part of what *John* borrowed of him. And I wrote to *Samuel* but it was not sent.

1774 July 6 (Wednesday). Deacon *Stone's* and Deacon *Browns* Wife, from *Framingham* for *Leicester*, here and dine. Continual Reports from *Boston*, and all Conversations are upon the Governors Proclamation prohibiting Combinations and Covenants against Great Britain. Read various Pieces bound with *Vox Populi* etc.

1774 July 7 (Thursday). Mr. *Whitney* of *Northborough* here and sollicit my Changing with him next sabbath. He brought me the last London Magazines for *January, February* and *March*. Messrs. *Daniel Hardy, Edwards Whipple* etc. here. The former is disturbed that I would not so much as read, at the late Town-Meeting, what their Committee had prepared to be signed. I gave him some Reason for my refusing: namely that I was aware that if I heard it, I must either approve or condemn it -- but do which I will, I must of necessity be blamed. If I *approved* of their Draught, I must have exposed my Self to the resentments of Authority which I must teach all Men to avoid: for I must teach and *injoin* that "every soul be subject to the higher powers" -- "to obey Magistrates" -- as *Rom. 13.1* and *Tit. 3.1*. If I Should dislike it, I was aware that they would not be easily turned aside notwithstanding from what they had done. I was not o' mind to render my Self Obnoxious either way.

1774 July 8 (Friday). Wrote to my Kinswoman, Mrs. Elizabeth *Bradford* at *Boston*. *Sophy* to Dr. *Crosby's*. Many Reports of the Forces arrived at Boston.

1774 July 9 (Saturday). Young Mr. *Hutchinson* going to Concord. I wrote to my son *William* to inform him of Mr. Charles Lawrence's desire to buy my Land that yet remains in *Ashby*. Read a Letter from my Son Samuel in response to mine by Mr. Daniel Nurse -- that at *Boston* and other Towns, they did not conform to the Governors late proclamation etc. that it was expected there *would be* a Congress, that they Should sit still till that was over, and then *should* pursue the Measures that would be agreed upon by that Body.

1774 July 10 (Sunday). I rode to *Northborough* and preached there a.m. on *Mat.* 25.10 from p. 61 to the End of p. 68. P.M. preached, by reason of the Troubles, on *Isa.* 10.3. Baptized *Persis*, of *John* and [blank] *Wyman*.³ Appointed a Fast there to be by divine leave, on the next Thursday. I returned at Eve. Mr. *Whitney* preached for me a. and p.m. on 1 *Joh.* 2.15.16.17.

1774 July 11 (Monday). *Asa*, though laid by on the 9th p.m., yet is at his business again today. He is mowing the rest of the Clover between the Garden and the Road. I assisted in opening the Cocks which had stood over the Sabbath. Then rode to visit the aged Mrs. *Grout*, who is very low. Dined there, and prayed with them. Visited also Mr. *Joseph Grouts* Family, who are called to Sing of Mercy of Judgment for Mrs. *Grout* has newly lain in, and is comfortable, but their Son *Joseph* is very weak again, and wasting. *Breck* has a large Company (Mr. Caleb Wilder and Wife, Col. Ingersol and two Daughters, Dr. Jenisons son and Daughter) who stop at the Store etc. Mr. *Hutchinson* brings a Letter from my son *William* in which he lets me know he has no further Dependence on my Land at *Ashby*; and he informs that all the Aggrieved Brethren in *Concord* Church come together to Meeting again. Blessed be God for this agreeable Reconcilement! Mrs. *Keenes*, Wife of *Joseph Keenes*, here to desire She might be put into a way of preparation for having her Child baptized. She acknowledged her low Education -- but that she was *baptized*, for that She remembered well her being confirmed by the Bishop of *Winchester*.

1774 July 12 (Tuesday). [No entry.]

1774 July 13 (Wednesday). Was much employed in my Preparations for tomorrow.

1774 July 14 (Thursday). Rode over to the *Fast at Hopkinton*, Solemnized On Account of the present public Distresses. I began with prayer. Mr. *Fitch* preached a.m. on *Ps.* 85.9. A very suitable sermon. P.M. Mr. *Fitch* prayed, and I preached on *Isa.* 63.9.10. May God be graciously pleased to hear our Supplications and grant a gracious Answer to the fervent Requests of His people! May the Word delivered prove profitable in the highest respects! Great Numbers of other Congregations (I hear) observe this Day in the like solemn Manner. O that the Sins of our holy Things may be forgiven; and may it be such a Fast as God has chosen! The people of *Hopkinton* had a Meeting after the Exercises and Signed an Agreement which Capt. *Thomas Mellen* shewed me at Evening at Mr. *Fitch's*. I returned home.

³Persis, daughter of John and Hazadiah Wyman, was born on July 5, 1774; Northborough VR, 70.

1774 July 15 (Friday). Mrs. *Cushing* and Mrs. *Sumner* from *Shrewsbury*, made us a Visit and dined here. As did Mr. *Caleb Wilder* of *Mendon*, and his Wife. In mid-afternoon came My Son *Samuel* and his Wife, with their Child, from *Boston*.

1774 July 16 (Saturday). Received from Mr. *Fitch* of *Hopkinton* a Copy of their Agreement Signed the 14th. Company very frequently interrupting I can have but too little time for my preparations. Yet attend as I can thereto.

1774 July 17 (Sunday). Both my son and Daughter with us. I Read *Mic. 7*. By what I wrote for Expounding which, and with assistance from *Sermon on Mic. 7.9*, I formed the a.m. Exercise. *Elias* brought in one *Forsdick*, a Scholar from Mr. *Goddards*, to dine with us. Miss *Suse Brigham* dines also. P.M. Read *Ps. 77*. and preached on *Isa. 63.9.10*. The Exercises were long, both a. and p.m., So that I became faint and weary. May God accept and add His Blessing!

1774 July 18 (Monday). My Son and his Wife and Child leave us, to return to *Boston*. I Send by him Dr. *Newton* on the prophecys, to Mr. *West* of *Needham*; my watch to Mr. *Cranch*, and some Relief to Cousen *Bradford*. Benjamin *Clark* troubled with pain in his stomach and lies by from Day to Day. The Town Met again on the Article of Signing the Engagement to break off the Commercial Dealings with Great Britain. They Send their Committee to Me to let me see what they have drawn up; and if I pleased in Order to my Signing it. I sent my Regards to the Town, with my Request, that it might be suffered in my Hands a little while for my Review, and I will make them Some Return before or at their next Meeting. *Breck* paints the Sign of *blue Anchor* for Deacon *Wood*.

1774 July 19 (Tuesday). Mr. *John Prentice Smith* dyed this morning at *Southborough*. I read Dr. [illegible] *tons Julian*. Mrs. *Whitmore* came to *Springs*.

1774 July 20 (Wednesday). Attend to my preparations. Nigh Sun Setting went (according to Request) to Mr. *Springs*, to Visit their Mother, Mrs. *Whitmore*. N.B. I understand that Mr. *Brimmer* of *Boston* is at Deacon *Woods*, with prizers of Mr. *John Woods* part of that Farm, setting it off to said *Brimmer*. I perceive by the public papers that Mr. *Samuel Hunt* formerly our Neighbour at *Boston*, Aged 85; and that Sir *William Johnson*, of *Johnson-Hall*, above *Albany*, and Superintendant of Indian Affairs; are dead. May it please God effectually to admonish me of my own Dissolution! We have begun the *Rye Harvest*; and are much favoured with good Weather. God be praised for it. May God grant to me to remember the Great Harvest at the End of the world! That I may prepare for it!

1774 July 21 (Thursday). Am engaged in my Study -- O for the gracious Assistance of the divine Spirit for who is Sufficient for these Things? P.M. a Number of young women from Mr. *Edmund Brighams* and Mr. *Gales* visit etc. here.

1774 July 22 (Friday). *Breck* goes to *Lancaster* to carry *John Saddle Trees* etc. I send a Letter by him to Mr. *Spofford* of *Townshend* to bring my Money which he yet owes.

1774 July 23 (Saturday). Breck returns, and brings a Letter from my Daughter Cushing. Breck relates what John met with from a Thief who, lodging in the Same Chamber at Mr. Locks Tavern in Lancaster, picked his Baskets and carried away two Pocket Books -- but he has recovered them and the Thief is put into Worcester Jayl.

1774 July 24 (Sunday). Read *Nahum* 1. Preached on *Exod.* 14.13. Administered the Lords Supper. P.M. read Ps. 80. Preached on *Mic.* 7.9. Will the Lord graciously accept us and bless us! Mrs. Maynard dined here, as did [*Perkins?*] *Bridge*, and young *Forsdick*. At Eve came in Mr. *Grosvenor*, who had changed with Mr. *Fitch* the Day past. He Supposes Mr. *Fitch* has read to *Grafton* Church and Congregation his acceptance of their Call.

1774 July 25 (Monday). Was at Deacon *Woods*. I find he is under many Troubles and Difficultys by reason of his son *John*. Mr. *Fitch* returns to *Hopkinton* by us, and calls here. He Yesterday read Mr. *Grosvenors* answer at Supra. Mrs. *Whitmore* and her Daughter make us a Visit p.m. Mr. *Whitney* and Mr. *Bass* were here.

1774 July 26 (Tuesday). Visit Old Mrs. *Grout* and pray with her. Visit Joseph Grout junior and pray with him. Dine at Mr. Elijah Hardys. Visit Mr. *Twitche*l (Constable). He delivers me 40£ 14.4 old Tenor. At Benajah Brighams and at old Mr. Phineas Hardys. Old Mrs. Kelly goes with her Daughter *Beeton* to their House.

1774 July 27 (Wednesday). Was So indisposed I could not freely go on with my studys. Hear that Lt. *Bruce's* Cancer has eat through his Cheek, and that magots are taken out from it. The purulent Matter runs down into his Dish, and hardly to be Separated from his Food. A deplorable Case! God be praised I am preserved from such Evil! May God Support him and prepare him for His holy Will! Dr. Hawes and his Wife p.m. -- drink Chocolat (instead of Tea). The Doctor brought the Towns Agreement and left it.

1774 July 28 (Thursday). Transcribed the Towns Agreement for my own use. I cannot, *as it is*, like it: It is ill draughted. I made an Extract from my Account of the captivating the 4 *Rices*, to be inserted in Governor Hutchinsons History. P.M. visit Lt. *Bruce* and his wife: discoursed and prayed with them. His Cancer has so prevailed that it is a sad spectacle!

1774 July 29 (Friday). Sent by Mrs. *Whitmore* (who goes to *Milton* to day) to Mr. Thomas *Hutchinson* for the Memoirs of *Phil. de Comines* translated: and sent him my Account of the Captivating of the 4 *Rices*. *Sim. Harry*, a Free Negro, came (according to Agreement), and mowes with Asa and John McCulloch, at the Interval, for me. Mrs. Kelly returned from Beetons.

1774 July 30 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1774 July 31 (Sunday). Read *Nahum* 2. Preached on Micah 7.9 from p. 16 to the End. P.M. Read Zeph. 3. Preached on *Isa.* 3.9, part 2d. Would Committ my feeble Endeavors to a gracious and Merciful God, on whom all Success depends.

1774 August 1 (Monday). The *Town Met again* on the Affair of Subscribing the Agreement. I am informed that my Son *Breck* found it necessary to subscribe. The people also contribute to the bearing of the Charge of the *Congress*. I sent my Quota thereto. I went to the Meeting House with a paper fit to be subscribed and read it to a Number of persons; but the Town were busy and did not call for it. See the [12th?] Day. *Martin Piper*, a Lad in his 12th Year, was thrown by a Colt, and his Head came down on a Rock, nigh Mr. Newtons. He was carryed in there. It was feared to be a mortal Blow. Mr. Newton came in haste for me. I went. He was delirious. Dr. Hawes soon blooded him. He bled well. Vomited Several Times -- inclined to sleep; when any thing was given him, he cried out bitterly, but could not speak. I prayed with him. What a Warning! Especially to Youth! But how great the Mercy he was not killed! His parents much distressed.

1774 August 2 (Tuesday). Preached at Capt. *Benjamin Fays* -- on Act.17.30. "The Times of Ignorance God winked at -- now Commands etc. to repent." Few attend -- only 2 or 3 men. Call at Lt. Bakers to see young Piper. He is no better. Prayed with him. *Brecks Mare* unfortunately wounded in the near Eye by James Bellows.

1774 August 3 (Wednesday). Was at Dr. *Hawes*. Walked into *Chauncy Meadows*. An exceeding dry time. May the Lord pity us, and Send Rain! A Letter from Mr. Moore, dated July 6.

1774 August 4 (Thursday). Went to old Mr. *William Nurse's*, and son *Daniels* (who had brought up Sugar from *Boston* for me) and at Mr. *Eleazar Pratts*. Called also to See *Calvin* who is but little better. He has not Spoke yet. N.B. Instead of the Agreement which the people have signed, I have drawn up what I think may be more Safe for me, if I shall be obliged to Sign any thing. At Eve my Kinsman B. *Bradshaw* of New *Braintree*, came from *Boston* and lodges here. I am much exercised with sore Eyes.

1774 August 5 (Friday). Mr. *Bradshaw* leaves us for New Braintree.

1774 August 6 (Saturday). Went to Lt. Bakers in the morning. Dr. *Charles Russell*, Dr. *Flynt*, Dr. *Hawes*, and a Number of Doctors besides being there on the Case of the poor Boy, *Calvin Piper* - (who last Evening began to recover his senses and to Speak -- and is this morning composed and utters himself pertinently). It was feared the Trepan must be used: but it was first determined to take off part of his scalp and examine his Head. We began with prayer. Dr. *Russet* performed the Operation, and finding the grumous Blood, and that there was no Fracture, desisted from any thing further.

1774 August 7 (Sunday). Read *Nah. 3*. Preached on *Gen. 3.15 a.* and p.m. Read p.m. *Gen. 3*. N.B. I had endeavored to prepare on *Rev. 13* but could not finish it. My Son *John*, who came from *Lancaster* last Eve, is with us.

1774 August 8 (Monday). Elias returns to his Books at Mr. Goddards. I visited *Calvin Piper*, Old Mrs. Grout and prayed with her, and her Grandson Joseph and prayed with him. N.B. dined at

Mr. Jonathan Grouts. P.M. The Town met again upon some of their Liberty Affairs. My son *Forbes* and Sister *Champney* came and lodge. Dr. Crosby here at Evening.

1774 August 9 (Tuesday). Mrs. P. and I having the Doctors Chaise and Deacons Horse rode to Concord. Called at Col. *Weeks's* and refreshed. Dined at my Son Williams. All well there. D.G. Lodged there. He had not done haying, but was nigh it.

1774 August 10 (Wednesday). We rode into the Town. My Daughter Lydia went also. Visit Master Minot. Old Mr. Hartshorn there. Dined at the Doctors. Mrs. Martyn was there also. P.M. Visit Mr. *Emmerson*. His Mother *Bliss* in a low State. Visit Thomas *Whitney* Esquire who is under a Dropsie. Prayed with him. Returned to my Sons and lodged there.

1774 August 11 (Thursday). Came home in Safety. Thanks to God. In returning called at Col. *Weeks*. Dined at Cousen Uriah Brighams. Visit Mr. Smith in Affliction. His negro woman, *Happy*, under a Dropsie. Called at Col. Williams'.

1774 August 12 (Friday). Mr. Putnam of Pomfret and his Sister *Bethiah* dined here. N.B. He gave me a further account of Mr. *Darius Parkhurst* of *Pomfret* (whom I saw at Mr. *Adams's* at *Roxbury* last *May*) and his accomplishments though deprived of Sight and hearing about 11 A.Ets. Is now about 34. You must write in his hand, with your or his finger, to convey your meaning. Blessed be God for my sight and hearing! May I have grace to improve them! Have received the News Paper, *Edes and Gill*, which informs that May 20th last, the *King gave his Consent to the Acts of Parliament which take away our principal civil privileges*, viz. an act for better regulating the Government of the Province of Massachusetts Bay and New England. And an Act for impartial Administration of Justice therein. May God Sanctifie to us this heavy stroke! and help us rightly to improve such privilege and Libertys as remain!

1774 August 13 (Saturday). A most Melancholly time! By Drought as well as parliamentary Frowns. At Eve Elias came home.

1774 August 14 (Sunday). Read *Hubas*. 1. Preached on Ps. 110.3, latter part. P.M. Read Ps. 49 and Sung latter part of it. Preached on Mat. 25.10, last words, to the bottom of page 77. May God forgive my Defects and bless what has been delivered, for the awakening of all of us! Miss *Suse Brigham* dines here.

1774 August 15 (Monday). Elias returned to Mr. *Goddards*. Mr. Thomas Arnold here. Settled Accounts with him. A very awfull pinching Drought! May the Lord extend Compassion, and grant Rain. I visited Lt. *Bruce* and prayed with him. Hear that 1000 regulars are on their march to Worcester. And that Squire *Whipple* met with Difficulty at *Drurys* Mill at *Grafton*.

1774 August 16 (Tuesday). Attended the Ministers Meeting at *Bolton*. In going, though strictly I *broke fast* at home, yet joined with Mr. *Whitney* and his Wife in their Breakfast, they going over to Mr. *Goss's* also. Besides Mr. Stone, Mr. Smith and Mr. Whitney, came Messrs. *Harrington*, *Morse* and *Johnson* of *Harvard*, so that we were Eight. Mr. Goss Concr. on 1 Cor. 11.2.

Conversation (unavoidably) turned and engrossed us, on the Distresses of the present Times, and our Apprehensions of increasing Difficultys. N.B. Mr. Harringtons Account of Brigadier Ruggles (from *Brigadier* himself) of his Journey from *Hardwich* to [*Lancaster?*] being required to wait on the Governor at *Salem*, in Order to take the Oath as a Counsellor. Returned home seasonally, calling at Mr. Whitney's.

1774 August 17 (Wednesday). My son *Breck* has caused *Joseph Cullock* to come to my work of laying Wall leading Northerly from the Store. Mr. William Williams's Wife and Child, with Miss Anne Williams of Sandwich, made us a Visit, dined, p.m. drank (I hope undutyed) Tea. P.M. a great Fire broke out in Capt. Maynards Stubble of his Rye Field, Some of his men burning Brush there. The Wind was high, which caused the Fire to rage and prevail. I rode to the plain and alarmed them from the words Capt. Maynard Spoke to me. Many gathered, but through divine Favour the Fire was stopped. There arose also a Thunder storm and an heavy Rain; and which continued into Night. Our company lodged here. Moses Brigham came in the Eve for me to go up to his Grandmother *Grout*, who was thought to be dying. I went in the Rain. She was revived and conversed. Desired prayer. We prayed. I returned home in safety. D.G.

1774 August 18 (Thursday). Mrs. *Williams* and her Neece went to Capt. *Maynards* and took *Sophy* with them. Mr. *Forbes* and Son *Eli* came from *Cape Ann -- Boston* and from *Southborough* this Morning. *Cullocks* are digging, sledding Great Stones for the wall. Mr. *Webb* here. Mr. *Joseph Roberts* came and lodged here. *Alexander* came from *Leicester*.

1774 August 19 (Friday). *Alexander* discovers his Trouble. He wants 60£ Lawfull to pay Mr. *John Southgate*. Mr. *Roberts* to *Leicester*. *Cullocks* at the Wall. Mr. *Jonathan Grout* came and informed me that his Mother dyed yesterday about 5 p.m. A gracious woman, as I hope, and gone to Glory. The Lord grant me Grace to prepare likewise. Wrote to Mr. *John Southgate* at *Leicester* to forbear Severity. *Alexander* goes to *Framingham*.

1774 August 20 (Saturday). *Alexander* returns from *Framingham* without Success: His Father *Brown* gone a journey. Mr. *Ezra Bowman* who bought my Horse, came and paid for him. His note is given up, on his paying £14.14.8 Lawful money to *Breck* in my behalf. N.B. *Breck* delivers 14£ 14/ Lawful to *Alexander*, by my Order. This I lend *Alexander* and have his promisory Note for it. The Letter to Mr. *Southgate* I write over again and add my *Engagement* that my son Shall pay him and as soon as we can raise his money. *Alex* goes home. P.M. I attended the Funeral of old Mrs. *Mary Grout*. She was 82 years old last January. I prayed at the House of Mr. *Jonathan Grout*, where the assembly was not small.

1774 August 21 (Sunday). Read *Habak. 2*. Preached again upon *Mat. 25.10* because I was forced to break off the last Exercise abruptly. Proceeded from p. 77 to 83 with proper Omissions and Additions. An awakening subject, May God Sanctifie the Truths delivered, both to me and to His people! Mrs. *Maynard* dined here. P.M. read *Heb. 13* and preached on Occasion of Mrs. *Grouts* Death, from the 14th v. with omissions and Supplements. Earnestly pray the word may be Sanctified to me, to others who are advanced in Life, and to the whole Auditory!

1774 August 22 (Monday). Catechized at the Meeting House. A.M. About 62 Boys. P.M. Catechized Girls. 26 and a little Boy. In all about 89 today. Young Mr. Hutchinson who preaches at *Carlisle* here. In the Eve Mr. *Joseph Harrington* here and tells of his being disquieted. I gave him what I conceived to be suitable Answers especially with regard to my answer to the Towns Message to me by their Committee.

1774 August 23 (Tuesday). Read Dr. *Increase Mathers Angelographia*. Mr. Caleb Wilder dined here: tarrys over night.

1774 August 24 (Wednesday). Mr. *Wilder* goes to *Lancaster*. I wrote by him to Mr. *Whitney* to preach my next Lecture. The Rain to Day prevented my wifes going to Brookfield which she tells me Mrs. Maynard and she designed to day. I was very much engaged, partly reading Bishop *Burnets* sermon on Oct. 31, 1714, from Ps. 2.10.11, before King George I by his Majestys Special Command.

1774 August 25 (Thursday). Read Mr. *John Withers Whigs Vindicated*; and I made Extracts. This with the Sermons above mentioned are in a Collection of Political Pamphlets bound together of which the first is, *Vox Populi Vox Dei*.

1774 August 26 (Friday). Mrs. P_____ to *Brookfield* with Mrs. *Maynard*, the latter sending a Chaise here by her son *Gott* for her Aunt. I went to Lt. *Baker* to see if he could pay Mr. *Asa Hills* note. Mr. Spring makes a Box for my South Cellar Window. Two artillery Companys meet. One near the Meeting House; the Other at Mr. *Morse's*. The Rev. Mr. *Aaron Crosby* and his New-married spouse visit us and lodge here.

1774 August 27 (Saturday). Mr. *Crosby* and Lady go to *Shrewsbury*. P.M. am informed that a great multitude, above 1500, assembled at Worcester and oblige Honorable *Timothy Paine* to renounce his Commission as a Counselor etc. And this afternoon they go from Worcester to Rutland, to oblige Col. *Murray* to do the like: but he is gone to Boston. Elias brings *Forsdick*.

1774 August 28 (Sunday). Read *Heb. 3*. Went on in my preaching on the final Exclusion by Christ, but from *Luk. 13.26-29*, page 83 to 91. P.M. read Ps. 95 and 96. Preached on Ps. 110.3. *Forsdick* and Miss *Suse Brigham* here. Mrs. *Kelly* not well for several Days. Letter from Mr. *Moore*.

1774 August 29 (Monday). Mr. *Morse* came here in the Morning, full of Earnestness, and lays before me the great Disquietment in Town by Reason of my not Signing something or other, if it were a Draught of my own etc. Rather than have such a Hubbub and uproar, I Conceived it to be my duty to Sign what I carryed to the meeting House on the 1st instant. Covering and directing it to Deacon *Bond* Town Clerk. P.M. Mr. *Morse's* Training. Prayed with the Company. Returned home. Capt. *Jonas Brigham* here, and very fierce about our Rulers. N.B. Messrs. *Caleb* and *Levi Wilder* dined here. Miss *Suse* still with us. Mr. *Webb*, Mrs. *Spring* etc. drink

Coffee with us. N.B. Accounts from different parts, esp. from *Salem, Medford, Roxbury* -- that the people are resolved to have Town Meetings according to the old Method.

1774 August 30 (Tuesday). Lt. *Nathan Brigham* came with a Letter from Mr. *Stone* request [sic] my Assistance in a Fast next Thursday. Mr. *Hezekiah Taylor* dined here. The world is filled with amazing Distractions. We daily hear of Tumults. A Meeting at *Worcester*, of the Committees of Correspondence for this County. Mrs. *Parkman* returned from *Brookfield*. She relates the Great Trouble my Son *Forbes* was in last Saturday Night -- by reason of the Disquietments of the people, and the [ministers?] Premonitions given [illegible]. N.B. My Son *Ebenezer* and his son *Bradshaw* (who has married his Daughter *Mary*) are among the high Liberty men.

1774 August 31 (Wednesday). The *Cullocks, Joseph* and *John* have finished my Wall nigh the Meeting House. Joseph has been 10 Days and John 8 Days besides this Morning till passed ten o'Clock a.m. and ask 20/ old Tenor per Day. *Asa Ware* has also assisted many Days with my Team. Mr. *Whitney* and his Wife, also the Widow *Snow*, dined here. He preached my Lecture on Mat. 5.16, "Let their Light Shine" etc. He presents me his Discourses on the late Fast, July 14. Mr. *Webb*, and Mr. *Gleason* with his Wife here after Lecture. Mr. *Gleason* was at *Worcester* last Saturday and saw what was done to Squire *Paine*: he relates many Occurrences of late at *Boston, Roxbury* etc. Write to Mr. *Moore*: and to my son *Alexander*. *Breck* goes to *Lancaster*, to an Entertainment at Col. *Levi Willards*. *Elias* came home from Mr. *Goddards*, though he went but yesterday. His master is gone to *Uxbridge*.

1774 September 1 (Thursday). This is the important Day of the *Congress* at *Philadelphia*. On this Occasion the people of *Southborough* keep a Fast. I went to assist them. Mr. *Stone* began with prayer. Mr. *Fitch* preach[ed?] on Ps. 85.4,5,6,7. P.M. Mr. *Fitch* prayed and I preached on *Ezek. 5.5-9*. May God graciously accept our Supplications and grant His Special Presence with His Servants, the Delegates from the several Governments, and Vouchsafe 'em Direction and Instruction according to the weight and importance of the Arduous Affairs depending! Proportionable Wisdom and understanding are from Him alone. N.B. Met Capt. *Ward* returning from the Meeting of the County's Committees, who met at *Wor'ster* on the 30th ult. who have drawn up Resolves that are to be printed. Mr. *Edmund Chamberlin* has Some discussion with me about a story, which Mr. *Clois* told his Father concerning Mr. *Bridge's* defending his not signing from my advising him to stand out etc. -- but which was very groundless. Mrs. *Beeton* carries her Mother, who grows feeble and weak, home to their House.

1774 September 2 (Friday). This morning was ushered in with *Alarms from every Quarter*, to get ready and run down to *Boston* or *Cambridge*. The Contents Magazine of Powder at *Winter Hill* had been carried off -- namely [550?] Barrells; by Treachery; etc. This is told as the Chief Affair. 72 of our Neighbours marched from *Gales* (tis said) by break of Day; and others are continually going. My young man goes armed, with them. About 5 p.m. *Grafton Company*, nigh 80, under Capt. *Golding*, march by us. N.B. Squire *Whipple* here. Says he is ready to sign etc. It is a Day of peculiar Anxiety and Distress! Such as we have not had -- Will the Lord graciously look upon us; and grant us Deliverance -- for we would hope and trust in His Name! We send for Mrs. *Spring* and her two Children to be here with us, while her husband is gone with the

People. *Breck* returned from *Lancaster*. At Eve we have most sorrowful News that Hostilities have commenced at *Cambridge*, and that Six of our people are killed; that probably Some at least may be of *Westborough*. *Joshua Chamberlin* stood next (as it is related) to one that was slain. We have many Vague accounts and indeed are left in uncertaintys about Every Thing that has occurred. *Sutton* soldiers -- about 250, pass along by us -- but after midnight are returning by reason of a Contrary Report. Mr. *Zech. Hicks* stops here. *Breck* is employed in the night to cast Bullets. A Watch at the Meeting House to guard the Town stock etc. Some Towns, we hear, have lost much of theirs, as *Dedham*, *Wrentham* etc.

1774 September 3 (Saturday). Capt. *Benjamin Fay* came here between 2 and 3 o'Clock in the morn in much Concern and knew not what to do. After Light and through most of the forenoon, vague uncertain Reports. *Sutton* men that had gone to Deacon Wood, came back to go down the Road again. My son *Breck* with provisions, Bread, Meat, etc., Coats, Blanket etc., for it was rainy, rides down towards *Cambridge* to relieve *Asa Ware*, Mr. *Spring*, and others who were unprovided. About noon the *Sutton* Companys come back again and go home, Rev. Chaplin among them. So do the *Grafton* men. Mr. *Abraham Temple* relates to me, that he, having been as far as to *Cambridge* and himself Seen many of the Transactions, that there were no Regulars there, no Artillery, no body Slain -- but that Lt. Gov. *Oliver*, Messrs. *Danforth*, *Joseph Lee*, Col. *Phips* (the high Sheriff) had resigned and promised that they would not act as Counsellors -- that Mr. *Samuel Winthrop* computed there were about 7000 of the Country people had gathered into *Cambridge* on this Occasion -- that it was probable, as he (Mr. Temple) conceived, that the Troubles would subside. N.B. When the Sun run low, Our Company returned (consisting of Horse and Foot about 150). With them were my Son and my young man -- all without any Evil Occurrence. To God be Praise and Glory! I Suppose Capt. *Maynard* and those who were with him are returned also.

1774 September 4 (Sunday). Expected Mr. *Taylor* to preach for me for he said he would or Send his Brother if he did not go his Journey with his Brother *Crosby*, on Wednesday, but heard they were not going on Thursday. But he did not come, nor any body else to help me; whereas Such had been the many Engagements and interruptions of the last week that I was but in part prepared, though it was Communion Day. Read Isa. 53. Repeated a. and p.m. with Alterations Sermon on *Eph. 1.7*. Administered the Lords Supper. Mr. *Zebulun Rice* and Mrs. *Maynard* dined with us. P.M. I read *Eph. 1*.

1774 September 5 (Monday). Another *Town Meeting*, upon our public Difficultys -- they agree to go to *Worcester tomorrow*, as it is expected that all other Towns of this County will, to prevent the session of the *Court* under the new unconstitutional Establishment -- and talk of Superseding the necessity of Courts by resolving upon having as few Cases as may be, and by Choosing men from among our Selves that may judge and determine Causes. Squire *Whipple* and several others sign the Agreement. Mr. *Webb* dines with us.

1774 September 6 (Tuesday). A great Company march with staves and Fife, under Capt. *Maynard*, to *Worcester*. Mr. *Cornelius Waters* from *Dartmouth* College dines with us. Read *Considerations on the present measures with the Colonies*.

1774 September 7 (Wednesday). *Breck* gives me account that yesterday there assembled at *Worcester* 4722 Persons who were in arrangements under their particular Heads, leading each Town, but without Arms: Those Heads treated with the Judges and other Officers of the Court. The Court House was filled with Committees of Correspondence from each Town; and the Door fastened and guarded. The court walked from *Haywoods* Tavern to the Court House between the Ranks, with their Hatts off; and then back; a Paper being Read, Signifying that they would *Endeavor* etc. -- but this not Satisfying, another was drawn, and Read Promising *that they would not Sit* etc. in *that* or any other Court -- under the new Regulation by the late Acts of Parliament. I dont understand that there was any Disorder. The List stands thus,

Worcester [240?]

Princetown 60

Palmer -- 38

Uxbridge -- 156

Harvard -- 103

Sutton -- 500

Westborough 200

Hubbardston 55

Westminster 120

Rutland -- 150

Lunenburg 40

Oxford Troop -- 40

Athol -- 51

Western -- 100

N. Shrewsbury 100

Royalston 39

Winchendon -- 45

S. Shrewsbury 135

New Braintry 140

Southborough 35

Northborough 85

Brookfield 216

Chauxitt -- 200

Oxford -- 80

Douglass -- 130

Leicester 180

Oakham -- 50

Grafton -- 210

Spencer 164

Petersham -- 70

Holden -- 100

Sturbridge 150

Paxton -- 80

Hardwick 220
 Bolton 100
 Upton -- 100
 Templeton 120
 4722

N.B. This, except Worcester and *Spencer*, is the order in which the Companys Stood from the Court House and Southward, viz. Uxbridge first, Westborough Second etc. A few companys had Arms. *Breck* tells me also that those Gentlemen and others in the Town of *Worcester* who Signed an Address to Gov. *Hutchinson* before his going away, Signed a *Recantation*, which was read to the multitudes. Tis Said the people behaved with Silence, Decency and in good Order. Read Considerations of the late Measures of Parliament.

1774 September 8 (Thursday). Visit at Mr. Joseph Grouts. His son very low, but his mind in proper Exercise. Prayed there. Rode to Mr. D. *Nurse's* and Mr. *Childs* to bespeak Cyder, which is very Scarce. P.M. rode to See old Lt. Bruce under his Cancer. Prayed there. N.B. While I was there Mrs. Beeton with her son and Team, removed her mothers Goods to their House.

1774 September 9 (Friday). Letter from Mr. *Cushing* concerning *Ashby* Land. *Mr. Thomas Temple* brought another from his wife.

1774 September 10 (Saturday). Yesterday a Deserter from the Army was Shott; as Samuel writes. Elias home.

1774 September 11 (Sunday). Read *Zeph.* Ch. 1, and delivered an Exercise for the forenoon upon it. Mr. *Webb* dined here. Read p.m. Col. 1. P.M. went with Sermon on *Eph.* 1.7 from page 16 to 28. And may God graciously accompany the Word delivered with His efficacious Blessing! A Letter from *Samuel*.

1774 September 12 (Monday). *Elias* goes up to Mr. *Goddards* to fetch his Books. Miss *Hannah Fish* here and dines with us. Mr. *Webb* leaves the Town. Visit Miss *Hephz. Ward* at Mr. *Hannaniah Parkers*, She being in Trouble of mind respecting her salvation. Visit old Mrs. *Kelly* at her son *Beetons*. Another *Town Meeting* about the publick Affairs, and state of the Province.

1774 September 13 (Tuesday). *Elias* goes to School to Mr. *Cornelius Waters* who keeps at the *Bond* School House, but lodges at Mr. *Levi Warrins*, where *Elias* is allowed to study. I attend to my preparations.

1774 September 14 (Wednesday). Mrs. P_____ visits old Mrs. *Kelly* and at Capt. *Maynards*. I in my preparations. N.B. *Asa* in going to chop wood at the Ministerial Lot, sees Mr. *Beeton* who denys him Leave to cart through his place. My Son *Breck* sees Mr. *Fessenden*, who yields that we may pass through his.

1774 September 15 (Thursday). Breck sets out before Day for *Salem*. I am closely applied in my preparations and this Evening desire seriously to Observe the great Goodness, Mercy and Longsuffering of God towards me a most unworthy Creature, in supporting me to the Close of another Year of my (alas!) too unprofitable Life. I would render to Him my most hearty Thanks for the preservations and [salvations?] and for the Favours and Bountys vouchsafed me through the Year: and I desire to be deeply humbled before God on the Account of the many Sins I have been guilty of imploring Forgiveness through Jesus Christ and Grace to prepare for the morrow.

1774 September 16 (Friday). This Day begins (through the Lords Longsuffering) my 72d Year. Spent it in Retirement. Jejun. and Prec. Vid. Natal.

1774 September 17 (Saturday). Closely applied to my preparations. P.M. Came my Kinsman *Bradshaw* and with him my Granddaughter *Molly* (daughter of my Son *Ebenezer*) whom he has married. They have been to Providence to dispose of Potash and buy Goods -- and to *Stoughtonham* to visit his Parents etc. Breck returns, having been to *Boston* as well as to *Salem* -- tells me of the *works* which the regulars are carrying on at Boston Neck etc.

1774 September 18 (Sunday). Read Zeph. 2. Preached again on Eph. 1.7. P.M. read Eph. 2. Preached on Ps. 110.3 to page 22. A young schollar from Mr. Goddards, [blank] *Wilkins*, dined here.

1774 September 19 (Monday). Elias not well a.m., goes to School p.m. Mr. Bradshaw and his Wife left us in the Morning to return to N. Braintree. Rev. Joseph Willard of Mendon visits me. Dines here. Desires me to Change with him *Oct. 2*. I consent (D.V.). A Letter from my son Cushing, giving account of a gathering of people to the Tavern in Ashburnham and causing great Trouble to several worthy persons, viz. Squire Wilder and Deacon Willard; also to another Willard; Mr. C_____ himself but narrowly escaping. Young Mr. Hutchinson, come from *Bedford*, informs that last Eve and this Morning there was gathering of people from Several Towns to Watertown, here they expected a Body of Regulars would come to carry off the Great Guns which had been moved there from Charlestown -- but the Regulars which were in motion did not go to Waterton but to Dorchester neck, to entrench that important place.

1774 September 20 (Tuesday). The Committees of Correspondence meet by adjournment at *Worcester*. P.M. Messrs. *Aaron Hutchinson* and *Pope of [illegible]*, made me a Visit. The former went to *Mendon*, the latter tarried here.

1774 September 21 (Wednesday). Early, and to Breakfast, came my son and Daughter *Baldwin*; and with them one Mrs. *Livermore*. My Daughter tarrys with us; the others proceed on their Journey towards *Boston*. Mr. *Pope* took leave. At Eve came Rev. Mr. *Samuel Langton* of *York* on his Journey to Farmingtown in Connecticut and lodged here.

1774 September 22 (Thursday). Mr. *Langton* proceeds on his Journey. My son *Alexander* and his Brother *Gleason* here and dine. *Alex* has been to *Boston* and is returning home.

1774 September 23 (Friday). My Daughter Baldwin with us, and not well.

1774 September 24 (Saturday). Capt. *Baldwin* and his Daughter Betsy came from Weston and dined late, here. His Wife so well as to go with her Husband and Daughter, I hope they may get as far as Alexanders.

1774 September 25 (Sunday). Read *Zeph.* 3. Preached a.m. on *Judg.* 2.10. Miss *Suse Brigham* dined here. P.M. Read *Titus* 1. Preached on *Eph.* 1.7, the last Clause. The Lord accept of my (as I hope) Sincere Fervency! Pardon my Pride and vain Glory, and all the sins of my holy Things; and grant Success!

1774 September 26 (Monday). In the morning went to Mr. Moses Nurse's, and had Discourse with Mr. Nathan Kenny, who is in Grooms Still, and much to be pityed! I dined by Desire, at Mr. *Seth Morse's* (to day Captain) and Master Waters, and others with me. P.M. The Company under Capt. *Morse*, and the Company under Capt. *Edmund Brigham*, met at the Meeting House and trained. By formal Request I marched to them and prayed with them. N.B. Master Waters walked with me. N.B. A Number of Boys under their Capt. *Moses Warrin*, trained also and behaved agreeably. After Viewing them Mr. Waters and Master [blank] *May*, the other school-master, were here, and, with others drank Coffee. Mr. Thomas Twitchell paid me £30 old Tenor.

1774 September 27 (Tuesday). A.M. Visit Miss *Sally Gale*, who wastes. Praid with her and the rather at the request of her Grandmother, who has been for some years confined from Public Exercises. In returning had the Company of *John Walker*, son of the late Mr. *John Walker* of *Boston*, but who was never marryed. P.M. Miss *Sally Wilder*, returning from *Mendon* to *Lancaster*, is brought in here. *Breck* accompanys her home. At Eve came in young Mr. *Hutchinson* from *Boston*. Afterwards Mr. *Hall* of *Sutton* and Mr. *Grosvenor*, of *Grafton*, returning from Ministers Meeting at *Hopkinton*, call in to See me. Mr. *Hall* informs that the Council at *Chauxcitt* last Week, broke up and were dissolved, without doing any thing to purpose, on their difficult Affairs. For which I heartily grieve. May the Lord pity their miserable state!

1774 September 28 (Wednesday). The two Mrs. *Martyns* made us a Visit -- and returned. At Eve came my Daughter in law, *Kezia*. She came from *Framingham*, acquaints me with their distressed Circumstances by reason of John *Southgate's* Demands upon them. She lodges here.

1774 September 29 (Thursday). *Town Meeting* to put them Selves into Order, in their *Military*. *Kezia* returned home. N.B. I heard there was a Letter come to them from *Boston*, concerning a Resolve and vote, denying the Regulars Supplys of stuff etc. to build Barracks in that Town -- with which there were also alarming Reports -- upon which I went to the Meeting to inform my Self, and manifest my Concern for the publick Safety, and was respectfully received. When I came out had discourse with Capt. *Maynard* about *Beetons* refusing my Team to go through his land etc. He promises he will take Care etc.

1774 September 30 (Friday). Visit Young *Joseph Grout*, and pray with him. P.M. Write to Mr. *David Spafford* -- to Dr. *Dunsmore* etc. Thus ends another month. "So teach me, Lord, to Number etc."

1774 October 1 (Saturday). Lieutenant *Baker* informs me that the Governor has by Proclamation forbid the meeting of the (appointed) *General Assembly*. Mr. *Moses Nurse* has informed me of what he himself saw done at Mr. *Joseph Scotts* on the Twin Dock, *Boston*, that is, the breaking the Lock of *Scotts* Cellar Door, by men from the ships, and carrying off Cohorns and Iron Balls, or shott -- which tis said *Scott* has Secretly Sold to the Officers, for which the People are highly enrag'd. P.M. I rode to *Mendon*. On my Way, called at Rev. Mr. *Fish's*. My Disgust with him was not sufficient to prevent this. Met Mr. *Willard* going to preach for me at *Westborough*. I lodged at Mr. *Willards*.

1774 October 2 (Sunday). Preached a. and p.m. at *Mendon* on *Judg.* 10.6.7.9.10.16. Which may it please God to succeed! Dined at Mr. *Caleb Wilders* room at [blank]'s Tavern. At Eve was at Squire *Dorrs* and found that his Mother was alive and well. I lodged there.

1774 October 3 (Monday). Sat out early for *Boston*. Journeyed to Dr. *Corbetts* at *Bellingham*. Took Some Refreshment there -- and thence to Mr. *Bucknams* at *Medway*. Proceed to Squire *Elisha Adams*, where was Squire *Lyscombe* of *Taunton*. Dined with them. At *Medfield*, Mr. *Enoch Adams's*. At *Dedham*, put up at Rev. *Jason Haven's*: who went with me to Honorable Mr. *Samuel Dexters*. Lodged at Mr. *Havens*.

1774 October 4 (Tuesday). Mr. *Haven* has three Candidates that board with him. From *Dedham* to Mr. *Gordons* at *Roxbury*. He presented me with above forty Books -- a Number of them bound, and a Number in boards, printed by the Society for promoting *Religious* Knowledge. Mr. *Gordon* is one of them. He goes to an Overseers meeting at *Cambridge* to receive Dr. *Langdons* Answer to their Invitation to be President. In my going into *Boston* I behold the formidable Trenches, the Banks raised up, the Encampment of the Soldiers, both on the Neck and in the Common. N.B. I called at Mr. *Thomas Baileys*, who buryed his Wife (my dear Kinswoman) last Evening. She dyed last Thursday at 4 p.m. May the Lord sanctifie this Breach to us! My Dear Brother is utterly incapable of due Impressions, or Sensibility of the Death of his dear Child. I dined at my Son *Samuels*. I made a Number of Visits to hire Money for the Relief of my Son *Alexander*. Mrs. *Surcomb* etc.

1774 October 5 (Wednesday). Having lodged at my Sons *Samuels* I went to Mr. *Ezekiel Godthwaits*, William B. *Townshend*, Col. *Marshall* and others. Dined at my Brothers. He was able to sit with us at Table. Where were also Cousen *Bradshaw*, and Cousen *Nat's* Widow. Visit *Oliver*, *Coverley*, Sister *Rebecca*, Cousen *Tyler*, *Bradford*, *Loyd*, *Coarser* -- also Dr. *Pemberton*, *Chauncy*, *Cooper*, *Eliot*, Mr. *Quincy* -- *Whitwell*, Mrs. *Shaw*. *Samuel* accompanied me to *Fort Hill* to see the Camp of the *Welch Fusileers*. Lodged at *Samuels*.

1774 October 6 (Thursday). My son hired 100 Dollars of Mr. *McKey*, for which I gave him my Note. Undertook my Journey home. Cornet *Eaton* of *Framingham* in Company. Called at

Brother *Browns* (he is overwhelmed with Bargains and Labours and cannot help *Alexander*). When I arrived at home (through God's Goodness) found Mr. Forbes and his wife here, who are designing to go to Cape Ann, after the next sabbath.

1774 October 7 (Friday). *Asa Ware* in getting over a Fence, wounds his Ankle by putting several Bones out and becomes lame. After Dinner I rode to *Leicester* and lodged at *Alexanders*.

1774 October 8 (Saturday). *Alexander* rode with me to Mr. *Conklins*, that I might See what Security my Son had given Mr. Southgate. We went also to Capt. *Henshaws*, who Shewed me the Remonstrance of the Congress of the County of *Worcester* to Governor *Gage* against the hostile Preparations on Boston Neck. I dined with Mr. *Pope of Spencer* at Dr. Frinks. Rode to Brookfield. Called to see Capt. *Wit*. Went to my Son *Baldwins*, where was a young school-master, Mr. *Fisher Ames*. Lodged at Mr. *Forbes's*.

1774 October 9 (Sunday). Preached at *Brookfield* on *Judg.* 10.6.7.9.10.16 a. and p.m. on the present deplorable Times. And may God forgive what has been amiss, but succeed what has been delivered agreeable to His Will! N.B. *Joshua Winter* desired prayers that the late Death of his Mother. I returned to Mr. *Baldwins* at Eve and lodged. N.B. Mr. *Forbes* preached at *Westborough* on *Mat.* 23.37, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem."

1774 October 10 (Monday). My Son *Baldwin* rode to Concord to join with the other Members of the *Provincial Congress*. I rode to *New Braintry* -- Mr. John Lambson my Company. Called to see my Cousen *Sadler*, who lives at his Daughter *Matthis's*. N.B. a Child of one *Gilchrist* of two years old, their only Son, was Scald yesterday Morning and dyed at Evening. Prayed with them. Went to my Son *Ebenezers*. Dined and p.m. Visit Mr. *Ruggles*. Rev. *Benjamin Ruggles* was ordained at *Middleborough*, Oct. 17, 1725, old Style. At Eve Mr. *Ephraim Woods*, late of *Southborough*, kindly came to see me. Mr. *Bradshaw* and his Wife live with my Son. They keep shop in *Comp*. I lodged there.

1774 October 11 (Tuesday). After Mr. *Ruggles* had broke fast with us at my Sons, I returned to Brookfield. Rode to Mr. *Daniel Gilberts* and dined there. Viewed his Mulberry Trees and Silk worms, Coons etc. Visited Several Friends -- particularly Mr. *Joseph Bruce*. Find that Mr. *Joseph Chadwick* is chosen Captain of their Troop. Saw a foot Company under the Command of Capt. *Joseph Gilbert*. At Eve the friendly Capt. *Hale* came to See me. Lodged at Capt. *Baldwins*.

1774 October 12 (Wednesday). Took leave. At the earnest request of old Mr. *Thomas Bartlett*, I turned aside to visit him. Dined at Col. *Henshaws*. Comforted *Alexander* with informing him that I had hired and received money for him. Called at Mr. *Maccartys*, at Mrs. *Stearns's*, at Mr. *Sumners*. Arrived in safety. *Deo Grates plurimas ago*. The Family that are here, are in some Comfort, but my Son *Breck* has waited on his Mother in her designed Journey to *Ashburnham* and is returned home. *Asa* is lame, but husks in the Barn.

1774 October 13 (Thursday). I visited Mr. *Seth Woods*, Sick of a Fever. Prayed with him. Visit old Lt. *Bruce* and prayed with him also.

1774 October 14 (Friday). *Asa Ware's* Time being out, talked with him of helping me further if he gets well of his Lameness; which he consents to.

1774 October 15 (Saturday). I was forced to go up into the Street in the Morning, on a variety of necessary Affairs: Saw *Capt. King* and *Mr. Edward Putnam* of *Sutton* who were come from the *Provincial Congress* which Sat at *Concord* last Wednesday. *Capt. Maynard* and *Dr. Hawes* went for this Town. I am informed that they have Sent a Committee of 21 of their members with a message to *General Gage*. P.M. *Mr. Hutchinson* (late of *Grafton*) dined here, in his way to *Carlisle*.

1774 October 16 (Sunday). Read *Haggai* first, and preached from *Exod. 16.21* but pursued my plan of Discourse on *Ps. 110.3*. Was fervent. May God forgive what was amiss; and bless what was agreeable to His Will! *Mrs. Maynard* dined with us. P.M. read *Tit. 2*. Preached again another sermon of a formerly delivered Sett from *Isa. 55.1*, for the Encouragement of all Such as are under religious Concern. The Lord Succeed it to that End!

1774 October 17 (Monday). The widow *Mehitabel Brigham* here to talk with me, She having been told I had heard that She did not allow her Children to be corrected at School. And I told her That I had certainly heard so, and for some years it has been said so. But she answered that That was neither her mind nor practice. At Eve the School-Masters *Waters* and *May* here. Wrote to *Mr. Moore*, and Send it to the Care of *Capt. Ebenezer White* of *Rochester*.

1774 October 18 (Tuesday). Went to Ministers Meeting at *Marlborough*. *Mr. Smith* prayed. Conversation on the publick, increasing Distresses prevented the Concio: but Sang the praises of God: Hymn 66. I returned at Evening in Safety. D.G. N.B. On the road at Eve, Saw *Mr. Walker* at *Southborough*, who gave me Account of what he met with at the Fortification at *Boston* -- his Complaint -- the Court martial, at which was the Trial of the Offenders; and the satisfaction given him.

1774 October 19 (Wednesday). *Mr. Daniel Grosvenor* was Ordained at *Grafton*: but as our Church was not Sent to, I did not go, conceiving that by this their Conduct, they did not desire to see me there. I spent the Day in Retirement. Not only on my own and their Account but that of the Publick; the *Province*, and particularly *Boston's*. *Breck* and *Elias* went. At Evening came *Mr. Nehemiah Porter*, heretofore Minister at *Chebacco*; and *Mr. Avery* of *Dedham*, Candidate; and they lodged here.

1774 October 20 (Thursday). The Company left us. Young master *John Barrat* of *Hopkinton* here. I pity this Youth who has Such a thirst for Learning, So good Abilitys for it, but is So obstructed in his Endeavours after it.

1774 October 21 (Friday). A large Letter from *Mr. Moore*, of the 12th, relating divers Stirrs and Tumults, at *Plymouth*, *Barnstable*, and *Dartmouth*. *Mr. Howard* of *Canada* in *Windham*, who

has been a kind Friend to the unhappy *Mercy Maynard*, called here to see me. Read Mr. *Timothy Hilliards* Fast Sermons.

1774 October 22 (Saturday). In the Morning we found the west Window of the lower West room set up, wide open: *Brecks* Desk open -- the little front door open, with Signs of violence breaking it open; the little Lock is broke off: 3 front Drawers, drawn open, but nothing that We know of as yet, is missing; though the Cup-board where Stood my Silver Cup, and in it a Number of table spoons, Silver; also in another Cup a number of Tea Spoons, Silver; was wide open. It was doubtless a Thief, who wanted money, who entered the House: for no one of my Family knows any thing of the Matter, and the window was, no doubt fastened as usual; but a middle Square of Glass in the lower Sash was taken out, and laid away carefully; from the hole with ones Arm the Stick which fastens down the Window could be reached, and was taken away. God be praised no further Dammage was done: and May God grant Repentance to the Burglar! My Son *John* came last night from *Oxford*, but intends to go to Lancaster again.

1774 October 23 (Sunday). Read Hag. 2. Preached on *Isa.* 55.1, latter part. Administered the Holy Sacrament of the Supper. Master *Waters*, Deacon *Bond*, Mrs. *Maynard*, Mrs. *Ruth Godfry* dined with me. P.M. did not read. Preached on *Judg.* 2.10.11.12. At Eve in my Study read Dr. *Pemberton* on Eph. 2.8

1774 October 24 (Monday). Training of both Companys, and of the Boys. I dined at Capt. *Morse's*; as did Master *Waters*, and a Number of New Officers from Marlborough and Southborough. At Night Capt. Edmund Brigham here. They Supped here: were detained here till late.

1774 October 25 (Tuesday). Mr. *David Maynard* rode with me to Mr. *Gershom Fays* in *Northborough*. As we went, called at Mrs. *Martyns*, Mr. *Whitneys*, who requested my going to preach, and had publickly appointed the Assembly, and himself went; I called also to see old Mr. *Townsend*. We dined at Mr. *Fays*; Mr. *Whitney* and his sister, Miss *Lucy*, with us. I conversed with Old Mrs. *Fay*, for whose sake I went; She is thought to be upwards of 90, and has her Reason and understanding -- but is deprived of bodily Sight. I preached on Ps. 31.5 and directed more particularly to her. May God be pleased to accompany the Word with His Blessing to her, to each of us, to all that heard it. Returned at Eve. N.B. Received a Packit from Mr. *Quincy*, inclosing a large letter on our political State, and Distresses; and a Pamphlet entitled "an Address to protestant Dissenters of all Denominations on the Approching Election of Members of Parliament," Supposed to be writ by Dr. *Priestley*.

1774 October 26 (Wednesday). I am in some Concern that *Alexander* does not come for the Money which lies by me for him. Mr. *Thomas Fleet*, Flax-dresser, dined here.

1774 October 27 (Thursday). Visit at Mr. *Abraham Bonds*: where was Miss *Hephzibah Ward* (Daughter of Lt. *Hezekiah Ward*) who is not well in Body, but especially is very gloomy in Mind -- discoursed and prayed with her. Visit also at Mr. *Richard Barns's*. N.B. was at Mr. *Timothy*

Warrins -- but neither he nor Wife, nor son Timothy at home, but *Timothy's* wife and Brother and sister. At Mr. Samuel Forbush's -- talked with his Mother who has a Cancer in her left side.

1774 October 28 (Friday). Send *Elias* to *Leicester* with a Letter to *Alexander*. Meets *Alexander* at *Worcester* going to *Framingham* -- therefore returns. N.B. Mr. *Asa Walker* of *Ashby* here to ask Counsel about a preacher.

1774 October 29 (Saturday). Mr. Avery called and dined here. P.M. came *Alexander* from *Framingham* whither he had been for Money: but received only from his Brother *Gleason*. I delivered to him

One hundred Dollars which I hired for him at *Boston* 225.0.0

almost 24 Dollars received last night from Lt. *Baker*, viz. 53.0.0

and 3 Dollars received from Mr. *William Watson* -- and he had received 30 old Tenor 36.15.0

This with the money I received for my Horse, delivered already 110. .

in the whole 424.15.0

Alexander returned home at Eve. Letter from Mrs. P_____ at *Ashburnham*.

1774 October 30 (Sunday). Read *Zech. 1*. Preached on *Judg. 2.10.11.12*. *Suse Brigham* dined here. N.B. A Number of Gentlemen from the provincial-Congress, viz. Capt. *King*, Mr. *Edward Putnam* etc. at meeting with us a.m., not p.m. and therefore did not Stay to dine with me. P.M. I read *Rev. XIII* to 10th v. and my Sermon was the Opening and application of it. At Eve came my Son *Baldwin*, who was returning from the Congress; and lodged here. N.B. Letter from Mr. *Cushing*. My Daughter is yet about.

1774 October 31 (Monday). Son *Baldwin* returns home. Mr. *Walley*, afterwards Mr. *Fish* (they had changed yesterday), called here, and met together about noon; but neither of them stayed to dine here. P.M. Training of *Alarm men* at Lt. *Bakers*, their present Captain. At Eve 3 young Schollars sup here with *Elias*, viz. *Crosby*, *Jonathan Fay* and *Moses Brigham*.

1774 November 1 (Tuesday). Preached at Mr. *Jonathan Grouts* on *Eph. VI.13-18*. Which many the divine Blessing accompany, and enable us to take to us that whole Armour of God! There were but few that attended: especially but very few men. Only four: and but 3 of them that were Members and Supporters of these Meetings, besides the man of the House -- viz. Capt. B. Fay, and Messrs. Nathaniel Whitney and B. Tainter. A great Discouragement! N.B. I had visited Joseph Grout junior in his Languishment -- with [whom] I conversed and prayed: and there I dined.

1774 November 2 (Wednesday). Neighbour Joseph Green junior as a Mason, takes out my kitchen Mantle-tree, and puts in an Iron Bar instead of it.

1774 November 3 (Thursday). Mr. Green D[itt]o and goes away at night. Asks 40/ old tenor. Elias is greatly afflicted for his *Cossitt Sheep*, which is missing. He rides after Some Drovers of sheep, fearing they have taken in his sheep. Proceeds as far as Natick -- and returns uncertain. At Eve came Messrs. Thomas Bond and Levi Warrin to acquaint me with their suspicions that *Moses Sever*, who moved with his Family this Morning to Westminster, had stole and killed and carried off the *Cossitt*. Mr. B. Tainter came also to enquire and confirm. Sent for Lt. Baker -- who came -- and agreed to pursue *Sever*.

1774 November 4 (Friday). Early in the Morning Lt. *Baker* and my Son *Breck* Sat out. I catechized at the Meeting House -- about 50 Boys. P.M. catechized at my House -- had nigh 30 Girls. May it be to good Effect! P.M. *Breck* etc. returned, and gave me Account of their overtaking the man Suspected of taking away *Elias's* sheep. He confessed it, and to make Satisfaction he has Sent me a Note of Hand which Lt. Baker had given him of £ lawful Money, that So much might be taken out of it as be proper Amends for the Sheep and the Charges. Mr. Forbes and sister Lydia Champney came at Eve. One from Cape Ann, the other from Cambridge, and lodge here. Wrote to Mrs. P _____ by Richard Barns junior. Town meet about their Military Affairs.

1774 November 5 (Saturday). Mr. Forbes and sister Champney to Brookfield. P.M. Dr. *Barton* and his wife (Mr. *Moore's* sister)⁴ call here as they go to *Vassalborough*. At Eve I agree with *Asa Ware* to live with me Still. He thinks he made up the time of the first Agreement, the 17th of October. So that he now begins again on Oct. 18 and is to continue to serve me -- Six Months: for which I am to give him fifty pounds old tenor So that for the whole year (if we live to finish it) he is to have £130 old tenor. *Asa* goes to Wrentham, designing to return in the forepart of next Week.

1774 November 6 (Sunday). Read Zech. 2 and for the Exercises a. and p.m. delivered two Sermons on v. 5 with varied Expositions and Applications. Read p.m. Rev. 13, v. 11 to the end. The *last sabbath* of the 50th year.

1774 November 7 (Monday). *An Important Day! The Day that concludes the 50th Year* Since the gathering the Church and Since my ordination. I desire to be duely affected with it. May the God of infinite Mercy pardon my many Offences, and blot out all my Transgressions! The Town met and, for what Reasons, they have not signified to me, they have not only not granted me my *Wood*, but *they would grant me no support* (as they are wont to call it). They have reduced me to the naked sallery of 55£ Lawful Money. At Eve Messrs. *Daniel Forbes*, *Joseph Harrington* and *Eli Whitney* were here and, afterwards Capt. *B. Fay*; and (the three former also) much on Several Things which they think the Church ought to take Cognizance of, which I was,

⁴ Dorothy, daughter of Elijah and Dorothy Moore, born Apr. 12, 1747; mar. Stephen Barton, May 28, 1765; *Oxford Vital Records*, 81, 209.

my self, desirous they Should consider; namely the Case of Mrs. *Eunice Rice*, and Mr. *Samuel Fays* long Absence from public worship, and from Special Ordinances. But they added that there was a young woman from *Bolton*, now married and come among us, and it would be needful to see whether she might have communion among us. I was sorry to have these Things to interrupt my Mind this Evening -- but I, nevertheless, consented that if they prepared for it, there might be a Meeting of the Church for these purposes: and I told them I was willing to gratifie them in any thing wherein I reasonably might. Capt. *Fay* informed me that the People desired we might assemble on Lords Days at 10 of the Clock in the fore noon for public worship.

1774 November 8 (Tuesday). Young Mr. *Aaron Hutchinson* here and dined with us. At Eve Mr. *Moore* came and lodged here. *Asa Ware* returned from *Wrentham* at Evening also.

1774 November 9 (Wednesday). *John* at Eve came from *Lancaster*. *Alex Oliver* from *Brookfield*. Mr. *Charles Lawrence* from *Ashbuy*, came to buy my Lot of Land adjoining to his. I sold it to him for 145£ old Tenor. He paid me 10 Dollars -- and we signed an agreement about the rest, and that I would give a Deed when the rest should be paid. He tarried with *Breck*, over night. Mr. *Cushing* and Mrs. *Parkman* came this Evening from *Ashburnham*. My Daughter *Cushing* was delivered last Friday, and through the Great Goodness of God has a *third son*. They have called him *Henry*. To God most High be all Glory and Honour!

1774 November 10 (Thursday). I have the Comfort of a Number of my Children and others with me, this Morning. But Mr. *Moore* and Cousen *Oliver* went to *Boston*. *John* and *Sophy* to *Lancaster*. Mr. *Lawrence* early to *Ashby*. Mr. *Cushing* after Dinner to *Shrewsbury*. Mr. *Fisher* and his Journeyman, mend the floor before the Kitchin Hearth and putt up Mantel shelf etc. I am continually hindred and prevented in my Studys -- to my Great Grief.

1774 November 11 (Friday). Mr. *Mellen* of *Chauxit* here -- informs me that a major part of the Brethren of his Church had voted his Dismission: and that he and the Brethren that abide with him have Sent out for a Council, of 11 Churches, to meet at his House next Tuesday, viz. the Church under the pastoral Care of Rev. *Rogers* of *Littleton*, *Stone* of *Southborough*, *Webster* of *Salisbury*, *Tucker* of *Newbury*, *Whitney* of *Northborough*, *Bridge* of *Sudbury*, *Cummins* of *Billerica*, *Howard* of *Boston*, *Stone* of *Reading*, *Johnson* of *Harvard*, *Payson* of *Fitchbourg*. He told me they did not Send for our Church because there was So much Connexion between many of our Church and the people of *Bolton*. P.M. Mr. *Belknap* came to See me. Sorrowful Avocations increase! Two Companys train at the Meeting House: which though I did not go out, yet occasion interruptions.

1774 November 12 (Saturday). Am under heavyest Troubles that I have (I think) at any Time been in, by reason of the unfitnes of my Frame and unpreparedness for this Season's arriving. I have so much desired to keep the *Jubilee* with *Jubilation*. But I am under the holy Frown of Heaven by the Disquietness of my People with me. This presses me sore, and deprives me of sleep. With the Various Interruptions of the Week, and the perplexities of my mind, I am but too brokenly and imperfectly prepared for the Services of the Sabbath. May God graciously appear for me and help me!

1774 November 13 (Sunday). God is gracious and compassionate, and allows me to see *another sabbath*. It begins the Sabbath of a *New Year* with us and a New Jubilee. The Lord be magnified! I am Somewhat Supported, and assisted, or I could do nothing. I went to Meeting Early -- there was but one man (Mr. *Thomas Frost*) and 2 Boys there, yet it was past 10. *I break off the public Reading*; for I understand that one thing mentioned at the late Town Meeting as disquieting to some is my public Reading the Scriptures; though I have generally offered Something by way of Exposition -- [or?] to open what was difficult therein. Preached a. and p.m. on *the Acceptable year of the Lord, Isa. 61.2*, with Such applications as were proper to the present Occasion. Master *Jenison* and *Holland* at dinner with us. P.M. preached on *Ps. 23.6*. May God help me to repair to Him, for this Grace that may qualify me for these invaluable Favours, and that I may have the Comfort of this Faith and Confidence in God! May I also resolve in the Strength of God that I will continue in His Service as long as I exist, and never desert His Sanctuary! Received a letter from Mr. *Sumner* requesting my help at a Fast.

1774 November 14 (Monday). Read Dr. *Pembertons* usefull and elegant sermons on "Salvation by Grace through Faith." May they be blessed to my highest Good! Master *Waters* not well, and breaks off from keeping School.

1774 November 15 (Tuesday). A.M. visit Lt. *Bruce* and pray with him. Mr. *Waters* dines here. P.M. visit Mrs. *Keenes*, and Mrs. *Piper* -- also Mrs. *Baker* after her lying in. Finish Dr. *Pembertons* Sermons. I thank God for them!

1774 November 16 (Wednesday). Though it was rainy yet *Breck* (who had been to *Lancaster* to wait on his sister *Sophy* there to work for *John*) returned from thence; and tells me that the Council which Mr. *Mellen* had called, could not get together yesterday, and embody, so soon, but that the Congregation of *Chauxitt* were together at their Meeting before them and Voted Mr. *Mellen's Dismission*.

1774 November 17 (Thursday). I attended the Fast at *Shrewsbury*, South parish, on account of the Public Calamities. Mr. *Sumner* prayed, and Mr. *Maccarty* preached a.m. on *Hos. 11.8.9*. P.M. Mr. *Maccarty* prayed before my Sermon and I after. My Discourse was on *Isaiah 63.9.10*. May the Lord be graciously pleased to own and bless us! Hear the Prayers, accept the Humilliations, prosper the word delivered, and Smell a sweet Savour of Rest -- that our Distresses may be removed! Returned home at Eve, and called at Mr. *Ben Hows*, and other Neighbours as I could.

1774 November 18 (Friday). Old Mr. *Nathaniel Whitney* dined with me. Our Conversation soon turned upon *Bolton*, and my (as he called it) withdrawing Communion with them. Mr. *Elisha Goddard* of *Sutton*, come from Boston, says that yesterday a Vessel from *England* brought News that there was a *new Parliament*. At Eve Deacon *Wood* here, and informs me that Mr. *Whitney* had been with him, asking him whether he would not go to Capt. *Benjamin Fays* this Eve, for there was to be a meeting there this Evening (though the Captain is Sick) to draw up and Sign Articles for a Church meeting; But Deacon chose to come to me. N.B. Mr. *Whitney* gave me no

account of this meeting. I was much obliged to the Deacon for this Kindness and Friendliness. At Eve also came my Kinsman Mr. *Alexander Oliver* from Boston, who acquaints me that my Grand Daughter *Coffin* of *Gloucester* is Safely delivered; and Mother and Child in an hopeful way. To God most high be Glory and Praise. This is *the first Great Grand Child* I have been blessed with. May it be a great Blessing to its Age!

1774 November 19 (Saturday). My Kinsman *Oliver* returned to *Brookfield*. *Sophy* came home from *Lancaster*. Mr. *Joseph White* came with her and dined here. The News from thence is, that Mr. *Harrington* is in great Perplexity from the apprehensions that Some of the Members of *Chauxit* will offer them Selves to partake with them tomorrow at the Communion, when if they be not admitted a number will be offended, and if they are, Some will be like to withdraw. May the Lord Himself interpose! A 2d Letter from [Samuel?] *Swift* Esq.

1774 November 20 (Sunday). People did not come at ten. I went to meeting as Soon as there were any to begin with. Preached on Ps. 23.6. P.M. on Isa. 6.1,2. The said Mr. *Joseph White* and his Brother *Josiah* dined here. Read the *Congress Proclamation* and the *Salem* Petition for Contribution on behalf of the sufferers there by the late Fire.

1774 November 21 (Monday). *Alex* came early from home, to bring money he borrowed of *Breck*. Informs me that he has settled his agreement and Engagements to *Southgate*. Mr. *Benjamin How* came and plastered above my Mantle Iron etc. P.M. I rode to See a number of Afflicted Families, viz. Capt. *B. Fay*, confined by sickness; Ensign *Fay* and his wife who have lately been bereaved of their Brother Mr. *Josiah Shattuck* -- *Joseph Grout* in his Languishment and prayed there. Returning home, called at Capt. *Jonathan Fays* to see Master *Jenison*. At Eve my son *Baldwin* came and lodged here.

1774 November 22 (Tuesday). Mr. *Baldwin* left us to go to the provincial Congress at *Cambridge*. At Eve Mr. *Forbes* came, and lodged here. He has met with peculiar Difficultys at *Brookfield* Since he left us last, but through divine Goodness, has escaped Extremitys that were threatned.

1774 November 23 (Wednesday). Mr. *F.* Setts out for *Cape Ann*. *Breck* to *Boston*. I rode over on Mr. *Newtons* Horse, to *Northborough* Lecture. Preached on Ps. 23.6. Few at Meeting. Visit Rev. Mr. *Patten* at Mrs. *Martyns*, riding for his Health -- but is far gone in a Consumption. Visit old Mrs. *Kelly* at *Beetons*.

1774 November 24 (Thursday). Deacon *Wood* and Neighbour *Newton* Killed a Cow which I bought of my son *Baldwin*. They dined here: as did Mr. *Caleb Rice* of *Marlborough*. Read Extracts from general Congress.

1774 November 25 (Friday). A tedious Day -- not only abroad, but the storm beats into the House. Yet through the Goodness of God we have many Comforts. May God grant His Grace to improve them!

1774 November 26 (Saturday). Lt. *Baker* was here with an Account from Mr. *Asa Hill*. He takes Opportunity to talk of the people's Conduct towards me, and he professes his Sorrow for it, etc. We discourse also of Church Government, of the Conventions Observations etc. At Eve *Breck* returns from Boston. He brings me a Volume of Ordination sermons bound by Mr. *A. Barclay*, at 15/ old tenor.

1774 November 27 (Sunday). Went to meeting Somewhat after 10. Very few were there, only one man (I think) Mr. Phinehas Hardy, in the Seats below, and a Small Number besides. Preached on Ps. 110.3. P.M. From Jer. 46.10, former part, but went on with sermon on *Isa.* 61.2, page 37, 38, 39, and p. 91, 92 of sermon on Luk. 13.25 and onward. On God alone the Success depends. May my own soul be profited and all the Audience! *Suse Brigham* at Dinner and tarrys over Night.

1774 November 28 (Monday). She works here for the Girls. Read in Mr. Philips of *Andover's* excellent Discourses on *Joh.* 5.40 and on *Joh.* 6.44. N.B. Mr. *Daniel Warrin* and Mr. Ben How here to set to rights a Misunderstanding of words, said by Mr. Warrin to have been spoke by me about the year 1753 or 4. And I hope we got it over. P.M. Training of the Company of Minute Men, and Capt. *Morse's* Company.

1774 November 29 (Tuesday). *Ezra Bellows* came to request me to marry him to *Ruth Harrington*. I made a Visit to Miss *Sarah Gale* who languishes under an Astmatick Cough and other Disorders. Instructed and prayed with her. Dined at Mr. *Gales*. Dr. *Ball* also there. Heard that Lieut. *Bruce* was near his End. Turned my Course from going either to Marlborough or Southborough as I designed and went to Lt. *Bruce's*. He was low, but calm -- said but little, but answered as if he was in Hope concerning his state. Prayed with him, and took final Leave. At home, Capt. *Ezra Wood* of [Upton?] here.

1774 November 30 (Wednesday). Engaged in my preparations. Also wrote to my Rev. Brother *Grindal Rawson* of *East-Haddam*. Another Month finishes. May a gracious God impress my Soul with the swift flight of time, and the necessity of improving it to the best Purpose!

1774 December 1 (Thursday). Miss *Suse Brigham* here still. Mr. *Daniel Forbes* here and brings a Paper signed by Eleven Church Members to request a Church-Meeting to bear Testimony against the "Considerations of the Convention last Year, and against private Combinations and Signing Papers against a neighbouring Church etc." (meaning I suppose what Our Association did with respect to *Bolton* Brethren when they had run to Exremitys in their Contentions). But Mr. *Forbes* said they had no Design to raise up any Contention, nor prevent the appointment of the Communion. At Eve *Ezra Bellows* and *Ruth Harrington* were married. Master *Waters* and Master *May* were present. These latter lodge here.

1774 December 2 (Friday). Mr. *Nathaniel Whitney* here. He judges it best to defer the Petition (to which he was the first signer) till after Thanksgiving. *Suse Brigham* goes home. Master *May* Sups and lodges here. Lieut. *Bruce* dies about 2 o'Clock p.m. He was nigh 81. Was born Nov. 27 O.S. 1693.

1774 December 3 (Saturday). Mr. *Artemas Bruce* here, to acquaint me with his Aged Fathers Death, and Desire that I would attend the Funeral next Monday at 12 o'Clock. Mr. *Hutchinson* going to preach at Carlisle, calls and dines. Mr. *Isaac Adams* also dines here.

1774 December 4 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Joh. V.40. Which may God succeed! Master *Jenison*, and *Maynard* (of Framingham, an undergraduate), School-Master at Warrin-school House, dined here. P.M. on Occasion of Lt. *Bruce's* Death, I delivered an Exercise collected from divers parts of Sermon on *James* 5.9, but read therewith v. 8, as being Similar to it. May I be duely affected with it, and prepare for the Coming of the Lord!

1774 December 5 (Monday). Attended the Funeral of *Lieut. Bruce*. His Widow is bowed down with Infirmity, being 7 years older than her late Husband.

1774 December 6 (Tuesday). The Soldiers have a Meeting at Capt. *Edmund Brighams*. *John Parkman* from *Lancaster* at Evening.

1774 December 7 (Wednesday). Mr. *Sumner* preached my Lecture on *Act* 4.12, those words, "Neither is there Salvation in any Other." May God grant Success! Consult Mr. *Sumner* with regard to the Petition which I lately received. He thinks that as soon as they are informed in true State of Things they will not insist. N.B. *John* returned to *Lancaster* a.m.

1774 December 8 (Thursday). Sermonizing. At Eve, by request, went to Deacon *Bonds* and married his Daughter *Lucy* to *Timothy Parker*. I supped there. N.B. I called to see old Mr. *Warrin* and his Wife, who are under very great Infirmities, but as to the woman, not greater, 'tis thought, than She has been Exercised by for some Years.

1774 December 9 (Friday). Sermon -- and my mind and Heart much impressed with the most important Things. May the Lord graciously Support me and direct me!

1774 December 10 (Saturday). Neighbour *Keenes* in Difficulty by Reason of the Illness of his Wife. Mrs. *Lucy Sever*, wife of *Moses Sever*, is here in Tears; and protests her Innocence as to her Husbands Stealing, whether the Cosset, or any thing else.

1774 December 11 (Sunday). I have spent my time so much on my forenoon preparations it provided Sufficient for two Exercises, but I could not divide it; and therefore delivered the whole in one. It was on *Mat.* 26.35. Administered the Lords Supper. May God graciously accept us, manifest Himself to us, and raise up in us a grateful Sense of His Goodness! May He also guard us against self-Confidence, arm us with Vigilance, and keep us in the Hour of Temptation! Mrs. *Maynard*, Mrs. *Sever*, and Miss *Suse Brigham* dined here. P.M. Delivered my sermon on *Prov.* 23.5. May it Serve to wean my Heart from this transitory world!

1774 December 12 (Monday). My Son Baldwin from the Congress (which was dissolved on the 10th) and lodges here.

1774 December 13 (Tuesday). Settle with him as to his fat Cow at 17d, Hide, Beef and Tallow. Pay him 4 Dollars and 9£ 10/ on Watsons Note, which I delivered to him to carry to *Alexander* and he leaves us for *Brookfield*. Joshua *Hemingway* from Mr. Cushings, came, dined and p.m. left us. Am engaged from Day to Day in My preparations. Dr. Hawes delivered to [me] a paper from the Congress to be read Publicly. The first part contains their Recommendation of Contribution for the poor of Boston and Charlestown; The second part was a Letter to me to recommend to my people Compliance with the Resolves of the general Congress.

1774 December 14 (Wednesday). Closely engaged in my preparations for the Solemnity approaching.

1774 December 15 (Thursday). *Thanksgiving*. Preached on Isa. 64.5, in the Close of which I gave some vindication of my self as to my Conduct about the public State, with which the people have seemed to be offended. Read what I had received from the Congress, and added my Enforcements as is Requested of me therein. At Eve Mr. *Spring* and his Wife here. I rode over to Mr. *Seth Morse's* and married him and Miss *Lydia Belknap*. Supped there. He gave me an *half Guinea* for my Service therein.

1774 December 16 (Friday). Visited old Mrs. *Sarah Forbush* who has a bad Cancer in her side, and a terrible sore in her Foot. P.M. by Request of Lt. *Thomas Bond* rode over to dine at his House. The Company of Minute Men trained and were entertained there.

1774 December 17 (Saturday). Read Cotton on the Keyes etc.

1774 December 18 (Sunday). Having Sent a Letter to Mr. Whitney to change, I rode to Northborough. Mr. *Whitney* did not receive it, but was gone to *Worcester*, that Mr. *Maccarty* might go to Brookfield for Mr. Forbes (who is still at Gloucester). Mr. Edward *Brooks* of *Medford* was to preach at *Northborough*, but he supplied my Pulpit. I preached at *Northborough* on Judg. 10,6,7,9,10,16 a. and p.m. Lodged at Mr. *Whitneys* with Mr. Brooks. His Text here was Ps. 112.4, former part. N.B. Mr. [*Potter?*] and his Wife are gone to his Fathers at Roxbury, by the help of Some of his Relations.

1774 December 19 (Monday). Went to Mr. *Samuel Allens*. Dined at Capt. *Maynards* and called to see Mrs. Kelly at Beetons. Return home in safety -- Thanks to God.

1774 December 20 (Tuesday). So Cold I could not visit old Mrs. *Woods* as I desired. My good Brother *Stone* made me a very Seasonable, Supporting Visit. Dined here etc. He brought the Chauxit Result. Read part of what he delivered on Thanksgiving. Mr. *Thomas Twitchel* pays me 45£ old Tenor. Miss *Abigail Woods*, a Tayloress (Daughter of Solomon deceased), works for *Breck*; making Cloths for him, but diets and lodges here.

1774 December 21 (Wednesday). A very cold time. I am obliged to keep House. Read *Cotton of the Keyes*. *Breck* goes to *Lancaster*.

1774 December 22 (Thursday). Am much engaged in my preparations. Am concerned about *Breck* who does not come home till night, it being difficult Weather, and the night dark -- till at length he came with his Mare in his Hand, Strangely and Suddenly distempered. Has been obliged to Send *Nehemiah Maynard* to Mr. *Job Carly's* -- but he did not come.

1774 December 23 (Friday). *Elias* goes to hasten Mr. *Carly*. He came, dined. We killed a large Sow, and Mr. *Carly* uses it as a Medicine against the Mares Disorders. He designs also to give her Oyl of Turpentine. These being good Remedys against the Botts. He leads the Mare to his House beyond *Northborough*.

1774 December 24 (Saturday). My mind much exercised about appointing a Church Meeting -- but several Things obstruct my doing it, viz. Mrs. *Rice*, a principal party, Should be sent to; or spoke with that she might be apprized of it. The Town are also to have their Meeting; and yet our Church meeting should not be deferred much further.

1774 December 25 (Sunday). A.M. on Ps. 89.47. P.M. on Joh. 5.40. Cousen *Davis*, and Miss Molly Badcock dined here. N.B. at noon I spoke with Mr. *Daniel Forbes* about the Church Meeting -- and the difficulty attending my conferring with the Church to day, by reason of the weather (it being rainy etc.). He answered me that there was no hurry. I replied, that then the Signers could not blame me for still deferring it. He answered again, "O, no." I asked him to come to see me. He said he *would*. Mrs. *Sarah Forbush* grows worse.

1774 December 26 (Monday). Could not visit old Mrs. *Forb.* by reason of the storm. I was closely engaged in my studys and Devotions, as the times are very dark and difficult in Church as well as state. The Lord pity us!

1774 December 27 (Tuesday). Mr. *Smith* kindly visited me, under my Anxietys. He dined here, as did Mr. Benjamin Willard, Clock-Maker. P.M. Mr. Edwards Whipple and Master *Waters*, who tells me he lives at Mr. Fish's. Sophy and Hannah went over to visit Mrs. *Davis*, Fessenden etc.

1774 December 28 (Wednesday). Jejun. and Prec. May god graciously pardon and accept, through Jesus Christ!

1774 December 29 (Thursday). The Snow is so very deep that one *Hezekiah Haden* with two strong Teams going to *Boston* was stopt at Deacon *Woods*, and cant get along with his Loads. A Number of Neighbours come with their Teams to his help and break the way with great Difficulty. *Elias* goes with my Oxen as far as *Andrews's*. Deacon *Wood* was in here, acquaints me with Capt. *Brighams* uneasiness with me that I don't appoint a Church Meeting -- whereas we cannot be ready as yet for one.

1774 December 30 (Friday). *Town-Meeting* to See whether the Town will accept of the *Association* of the *Continental Congress*; and how far they would comply with the Resolves, Address etc. of the Provincial -- and choose one or more persons to represent them at the

Congress proposed to meet at Cambridge next February. I took this Opportunity to Send a Paper to the Town (Since I could not bear the Cold so well as to attend there my Self, as I wanted to), Signifying my Concurrence etc. and endeavouring thereby to remove misunderstandings concerning Me, who am heartily Set against Despotism and Oppression etc. N.B. Mr. *Daniel Forbes* is here, and is smooth; is Satisfyed with what I do about the Church Meeting. But at Evening Messrs. *Eli Whitney* and *Jos[ep?]h Harrington* were here contesting and disputing with me, though Such an Evening as I could not Spare, and I told them I was not willing to maintain any Controversie with them about Church Government. They insisted to know whether I held that the Pastor had a *Negative* upon the Brethren. Upon which I told them I never had exercised, for I never had Occasion in all these Years to exercise that Power. They Said they Should be offended with me if I held that a minister had it. Upon which I Shewed them Dr. *Cotton Mathers* Magnalia -- the 30 Cases by 17 Ministers at College Library, Venerable *Higginson* and *Hubbards* Testimony; Mr. *Wise's* Book on Church Government etc. besides these, the Platform. They acknowleged the old Books -- for I handed down Mr. *Cotton* of the *Keyes*, old Dr. *Mathers First Principles* -- *Order of the Gospel* etc. etc. etc. But say these Brethren, "mayn't they Err?" Why, yes (I answered): but they might see what Strength we had for our Defence etc. etc. May the Lord sanctifie these altercations, and prepare me for His holy will!

1774 December 31 (Saturday). So deep and drifted is the Snow that Hezekiah Haden, with 10 Cattle in his two Teams, and though helped by neighbours as he trys to pass the Roads, that he gets no further towards *Boston* than Dr. *Parkers* in Southborough, he returns back. Through the Long-suffering of God I am brought to the Close of another Year. The Occurrences of it have been very remarkable: Especially by the Changes in the Civil Government -- Governor *Hutchinson* gone to *England*, Governor *Gage* in his Room. The General Court is moved to *Salem*, which is made the chief Seat of Government. The Counsellors made by *Mandamus*. General Court soon dissolved. The Company of Cadets resign and are disbanded: Boston port blocked up by men of War: the Common, the Neck, and Fort-Hill have 5 Regiments. The *Continental Congress*, and the *Provincial* meet, one at *Philadelphia* Sept. 5, the other *Concord* and *Cambridge*. The Towns in Confusion by Reason that the Superior and Inferior Courts cease. Mobs and Riots; *Whigs* and *Torys* -- as if our Happiness were *nigh to an End!* O God save us!