

Diary of Ebenezer Parkman, 1778

1778 January 1 (Thursday). I Spent this *New-Years Day* chiefly in religious Retirement, admiring the Goodness and Long-Suffering of God to me in so advanced Life! Returning Him hearty Thanks for Preserving me through the various scenes of the last Year; praying earnestly that the wise, holy, Sovereign Designs of the most High therein may be answered, begging and imploring Forgiveness of all my many Transgressions; through the Blood of the Great Atonement resolving and engaging to watch against every Temptation and to pursue the Paths of true Holiness and Peace. I read part of *Scudders* daily Walk in Christ. And renewed my Covenant with God -- which may He graciously accept! Graciously afford me His all-sufficient Help to keep; and may all be done in the strength of Christ on whom alone is my Hope, my Faith and my Expectations grounded, His Merits, Righteousness and Intercession with God. I went over also the Principal Articles in my Meditations on *Jan. 1* drawn up first in the Year 1738/9, reviewing also Several parts of my Journal to promote self-Review. But have great Reason to mourn that all I have done has been so broken and imperfect. May God most gracious, of His infinite Mercy forgive me!

At Eve came my Son *Forbes* from *Brookfield* and lodged here. N.B. Officers of the Regiment Met this Day at Capt. *Maynards* and were Sworn. *Breck* was, as *Adjutant* to the Regiment.

1778 January 2 (Friday). Mr. *Forbes* agrees to committ to me 9 of his Sheep, to be kept here till after the next Shearing time. He leaves us to return home. Mr. *Eleazer Fairbank* of *Shrewsbury* dines here. He tells me that Mr. *Morse* is in bad Circumstances having forfeited his Bonds of Appearance at Court, and refused to go with the Officer which the Court sent for him.

1778 January 3 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1778 January 4 (Sunday). I preached what I had prepared for the forenoon Exercise (except a little was omitted) on *Jam. V, 8*, but p.m. preached on *Isa. 48*, especially v. 17. Mrs. *Maynard* and Miss *Mindwell Brigham* dined here. At Eve, with *Breck* and *Suse*, came *Drury Fairbank*, to our Family Exercises.

1778 January 5 (Monday). Neighbour (now I hear Lieutenant) *Joseph Bond* was here with a large spare Rib. My Kinsman Mr. [*Ebenezer?*] *Lovering* came from his House Hither this Day.

1778 January 6 (Tuesday). *Elias* goes to *Brookfield* to drive down Cattle and Sheep. Mr. *Lovering* setts out with him, on his Journey to Westfield. *Alexander* came from *Leicester* and dined here. P.M. I preached at Lt. *Jonathan Grouts* on *Phil. 4.7.* to p. 22. *Alexander* tarrys and lodges here.

1778 January 7 (Wednesday). I breakfast with *Alexander* at *Brecks*. After dinner, *Alexander* has my Oxen to *Godfrys* that they may be shod, and that he may take them with him to *Leicester*, in order to his having them in his Journey to No. 5, or *Marlborough* in *New Hampshire*. At Eve

came Mr. *Bradshaw* from *Boston* and lodges. Young Master *Fish* was with us this Eve and sups with us, but returned to his Lodging.

1778 January 8 (Thursday). A rainy Morning -- but Mr. *Bradshaw* goes on his Journey to N. *Braintry*. The Weather grew fairer by Noon. *Elias* returned from *Brookfield* but today only from Capt. *Curtis's* at *Worcester*. He drove home my steer, and with him four of my Son *Baldwins* young Cattle: and Nine of my son *Forbes's* sheep, Eight from Mr. *Jonas Brewers*, and one from Mr. *Daniel Forbes*. Mr. *Joseph Farrar*, who was lately pastor of *Dublin*, but now preaching at *Marlborough*, came to see Me and dined with us. He came from *Southborough*, and brought a Note from Mr. *Stone*, by which I learn he is (through God's Goodness) recovering. D.G.

1778 January 9 (Friday). [No entry.]

1778 January 10 (Saturday). Capt. *Morse* came with Wood and a large Cheese.

1778 January 11 (Sunday). Preached a.m. another Sermon on *Jam. 5.8*, but had not time to compose the rest. May God graciously help me to get and keep ready for the Coming of the Lord in [*illegible draweth nigh?*]! P.M. Repeat further and the whole, on *Isa. 48.17*. Master *Fish* and *Anna Brigham* dined here. At Eve *Breck, Suse* and *Drury*.

1778 January 12 (Monday). This Day Mr. *Lemuel Badcock* opens a Singing School at Deacon *Woods* and lodges at Capt. [H?] *Fishers*. *Breck* and his Wife, also *Sophy* attend there, p.m. and Eve. He asks two Dollars a Month of Each Person.

1778 January 13 (Tuesday). I rode in my Sleigh to visit Mr. *Whitney* -- and dined there. He presents me one of his Books, newly come out, on the *Independency of America defended*, [from?] 1 K. 12.16.<sup>1</sup> I came home by Mr. *Jonathan Bruce's* where I visit and prayed with old Mrs. *Beeman*: went into Col. *Brighams* and Supped there. Mr. *Zachariah Hicks* and his son going to *Boston* with a Team sup here. The singing school increases greatly.

1778 January 14 (Wednesday). Mr. *Smith* of *Marlborough* came to see me, chiefly on the Affair of his Asking a Dismission from the Pastoral Relation. He dined here etc., but, though it was very cold, he left us before sun-setting to return to *Marlborough* where he boards at Ensign *Jabez Rice's*, having let out his own House to Col. *Palfrey*. Miss *Mindwelll Brigham*, attending the Singing school, dines at *Brecks* but lodges here; as does *Abijah Warrin* (Son of Ensign *Aaron Warrin*) of *Upton* who is learning to write. *Breck* has also *Drury Fairbank* and *Elijah Warrin* boarding with him. N.B. *Elias* goes to the singing school. 38 at School at Evening.

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<sup>1</sup>Peter Whitney (1744-1816), *American independence vindicated. A sermon delivered September 12, 1776. At a lecture appointed for publishing the Declaration of Independence passed July 4, 1776. By the representatives of the United States of America in general congress assembled. And now printed at the desire of the hearers to whom it is inscribed* (Boston: E. Draper, 1777; Evans 15,710).

1778 January 15 (Thursday). The Singing School is so attended, that it causes *Drury Fairbank* to range about for Singing Books. At Eve my Kinsman *Lovering* came from *Westfield*, in his returning to *Ipswich*: and lodges here. Mr. *Badcock* came at Eve and drank Coffee here. Mr. *Ebenezer Chamberlain* came in to see me and Spent some time here in friendly and religious Conversation.

1778 January 16 (Friday). Mr. *Lovering* left us. N.B. by him I wrote to my Cousen *Briant* at *Stoneham* concerning one of his sons living with me, as had been by them motioned to me heretofore. At Eve came my Sons *William* and *Samuel* with their Wives, and *Williams* little *Sally*, in a sleigh, having been to *Ashburnham* to visit their Brother and sister *Cushing*. Am informed of a Rupture and Tumult among the *Burgoin* Soldiers and the Guards, at *Charlestown*.

1778 January 17 (Saturday). My Sons and their Wives, though it is a Snow storm, return to *Concord*. Neither *Elias* not *Sophy* go to Singing school to Day. Dr. *Hawes* sent a Load of Wood. Capt. *Jonas Brigham* Ditto large.

1778 January 18 (Sunday). It was so wet and Icy Travelling, that Deacon *Wood* sent his sleigh for me and my Women a. and p.m. Preached again on *Jam*. 5.8. P.M. on Jer. 46.27.28, to p. 10. Public Contribution by [Notes?] or Tickets, of what we would give of Clothing etc. to the Soldiers now at a Distance, in the Army. N.B. A Letter from Mr. *Quincy*; dated December 26 ult.

1778 January 19 (Monday). Went to Mr. Daniel *Adams* junior, his Wife having lain in and is very ill of a Fever. Prayed with her. Dined there. I hear that Dr. *Samuel Locke*, late President of *Harvard College*, dyed Suddenly last Thursday about 10 a.m. Lord help me duely to improve this awful Providence! P.M. I visited Capt. *Jonathan Fay*, very ill of an *Asthma*. Discoursed and prayed with him. N.B. *Elijah Warrin* went with me to drive in the Sleigh.

1778 January 20 (Tuesday). I rode over to *Northborough* to See poor *Asa Hill*. In my way I visited Mrs. *Beeton*, and her Daughter in Law (*Johns* Wife) being about to go to See her Brother. I took her into my sleigh. *Asa* was at his Brother *Simeon's*, where I dined. The poor young man lay in a Miserable Condition by means of having taken Mercury to excess, when Sick in the Army, and is now at Deaths Door. In returning called at Mr. *Bruce's*, etc. etc. *Elijah Brigham* came -- lodges here.

1778 January 21 (Wednesday). Very difficult stirring, yet the Singing School [attend?].

1778 January 22 (Thursday). Town Meeting to consider the Articles of the *Confederation* of the United States. A Committee meet here for my Advice. They were Messrs. *Abijah Gale*, Chairman, *Samuel Forbush*, *Phinehas Gleason*, *Hannaniah Parker*, Dr. *Hawes*, Lieut. *Thomas Bond*, Capt. *Fisher*, Messrs. *Eli Whitney*, *Joseph Harrington*, and *Breck Parkman*. At Eve came *Parkman Bradshaw* from *Stoughtonham*, who informs that this Morn deceased at *Walpole*, the Rev. and Pious Mr. *Philips Payson* of a *Fistula in Ano*. May God grant I may be duely affected with these repeated Instances of Mortality, of such Persons especially! Mr. *Daniel Nurse* here at Evening and acquaints me with the sad Condition of his sister *Rebecca* and wants I should go

to her as soon as I can conveniently, though she is frequently out of her Head. I told him that it was difficult Weather he must not expect me; but it would not hinder my Praying for her (which he desired). And we thus left the Matter.

1778 January 23 (Friday). It was exceeding Cold. My Family were utterly against my Attempting to go to Mr. *Nurses*. *Bradshaw* undertakes the *Whipple* School, and returns back to his Fathers, that he may come back to it, instead of proceeding to *New Braintry*, as designed.

1778 January 24 (Saturday). It proved such a cold, rugged snowstorm that I kept House.

1778 January 25 (Sunday). A rough, cold, Stormy Day. Preached a.m. on *Jam. 5.8*. P.M. on *Jer. 46.27.28*. Which may God bless! *Sophy* propounded. *Elijah Brigham* and *Drury Fairbank* here, with *Breck* and *Suse* at Evening. *Brigham* lodges here.

1778 January 26 (Monday). Very Cold. Mr. *Elijah Bellows* here to desire me to go down to the Funeral of the late Capt. *Aaron Fay* of *Southborough*, who dyed suddenly on the Road in *Waltham* last Saturday. That I might, cold as it was, p.m. with *Elias* to drive the sleigh, I rode up to visit the afflicted in my own Parish. First: To Mr. *Jonathan Childs* Sick Babe, where I prayed; and then to Mr. *William Nurse's* to see Miss *Rebecca* who was under very great Disorders, and not the free Use of her Reason. Prayed with the distressed Family. *Parkman Bradshaw* came from his Fathers hither and lodges. Tells me Rev. Mr. *Payson* of *Walpole* was to be buried to day, and Mr. *Haven* of *Dedham* to preach a Funeral sermon. A Letter from *Henry Marble* in the Continental Army Nigh *Philadelphia* of Jan. 10.

1778 January 27 (Tuesday). Took *Elias* with me again in the sleigh and rode to Mr. *Stones* at *Southborough*; and having dined there, we proceeded to the House of Mourning -- that of the late Capt. *Aaron Fay*, whose Funeral was attended by a great multitude. I prayed and discoursed with the widow, and mournful Relatives. May the Impression on all of us be deep and lasting! Called at Mr. *Stone's* who was yet confined by Illness, and several of his Family. Returned home at Eve. Col. *Baldwin* from *Brookfield*. And Mr. *Badcock*, the Singing Master -- both lodge here. N.B. Mr. *Bradshaw* goes to keep the *Whipple* School.

1778 January 28 (Wednesday). My son *Baldwin* proceeds to *Boston*. Mr. *Badcock* boards with us. I wrote to Mr. *Forbes* of *Gloucester*, and to serjeant *Marble* at *Pennsylvania*. Mr. [Z?] *Simon How* of *Marlborough* here and discourses of Mr. *Smiths* asking a Dissolution of the Relation etc. which is proposed to be forwarded in Church Meeting tomorrow.

1778 January 29 (Thursday). Mr. *Badcock* was detained from us last night -- is also to day. This Day I remember the Wormwood and the Gall and my Soul is humbled within me! On Jan. 29 in the Year 1736 I was bereaved. I would adore the Long-suffering of God towards me and would mourn and repent of my Ingratitude and unprofitableness -- humbly beg Forgiveness through Jesus Christ! *Vide alibi*.

1778 January 30 (Friday). A Letter from Mr. *Forbes*. Another from Mr. *Moore*. Mr. *Badcock* dined here. He gave me a List of his singing Scholars. They are 46. 34 Males -- the rest Women and Girls. Mr. *Badcock* sups and lodges here.

1778 January 31 (Saturday). It being a very rainy Season. *Sophy* dined at Deacon *Wood's*, and Mr. *Badcock* came not either to dine or to lodge here. Mr. *Levi Wilder* dined with us. He acquaints me with the sudden Death of one Mr. *Willson* who went from his House at Lancaster with a Load of salt, lately, but dyed the Same Evening as he sat at supper, at *Winchenden* in his way home. May God sanctifie Such an awfull Stroke as This also!

1778 February 1 (Sunday). A.M. I delivered another Exercise on *Jam. 5.8* and closed the subject. May a gracious God place to make the word effectual! Masters *Fish* and *Bradshaw* dined here. P.M. I repeated a sermon on *Ps. 77*, forepart, especially v. 1.2.3, and then v. 13.14. N.B. I knew not that I had repeated it before, namely on June 1st 1766, but I could not finish it. After Meeting Mr. *Badcock* and *Bradshaw* came and lodged here. N.B. Our Evening was spent very much in Singing.

1778 February 2 (Monday). *Elias* rides to *Holden* to one Mr. *Samuel Grant's* who has advertized an Heiffer, which he had strayed. *Elias* thinks it is Mine, but Mr. *Grant* says he took in this, as long ago as last June, therefore E. returns without her. N.B. Mr. *Badcock* dines at Capt. *Morse's*, and at night he goes to Mr. *Tainters*. I read *Palladium of Conscience*, or the Foundation of Religious Liberty displayed, asserted and established, containing *Furneaux's* Letters to *Blackstone*, *Priestly's* Remarks on *Blackstones* Commentaries etc.: And *Blackstone's* Case of the *Middlesex* Elections.<sup>2</sup>

1778 February 3 (Tuesday). My perplexitys are unusually great on various Accounts. *Elias* ought to go to *Cambridge* to day, as the Vacation will be up tomorrow, and he ought to be there to secure the Waiters-ship; but he is unhappily distempered and cannot go. My Wood is near out and the Roads so muddy nobody is inclined to go to cut or cart any. I was seized with Lameness by undertaking to lift up and remove what was heavy; which much incommoded me for riding -- yet hearing that Capt. *Jonathan Fay* was very ill, I undertook to go to him. Discours'd and prayed with him. In returning home Mr. *Jonathan Forbes* met me and asked me whether it was not the Day for the private Meeting at sergeant *Forbes's*? It was So: but by reason that no body had come to me to remind and request me as usual upon it, it unhappily (being much embarrassed and perplexed, as abovesaid) Slipped my Mind, to my great Grief. May God forgive my Omission, and may all who were disappointed hereby be compassionate towards me under this Infirmary! At Eve Col. *Baldwin* from *Boston*, and Cousen *Thomas Needham* from the Camp at *Albany*. And they lodged here.

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<sup>2</sup>*The Palladium of conscience; or, The foundation of religious liberty displayed, asserted, and established, agreeable to its true and genuine principles, above the reach of all petty tyrants, who attempt to lord it over the human mind. Containing Furneaux's Letters to Blackstone. Priestley's Remarks on Blackstone. Blackstone's Reply to Priestley. and Blackstone's Case of the Middlesex-elections; with some other tracts, worthy of high rank in every gentleman's literary repository, being a necessary companion for every lover of religious liberty. And an interesting appendix to Blackstone's Commentaries on the laws of England* ([Philadelphia]: Robert Bell, 1773; Evans 13154).

1778 February 4 (Wednesday). Col. *Baldwin* and Cousen *Needham* left us -- one for *Brookfield*, the other for *Salem*. *Drury Fairbank* and *Elijah Warrin* killed and dressed a Pig for me. *Samuel Brigham* dined here. P.M. He, *Elias* and *Sophy* attend the Singing School at Deacon *Woods*, as usual. Mr. *Badcock* at night and he lodged here. We are certified the Vacation is protracted to March.

1778 February 5 (Thursday). Mr. *Badcock* here at Breakfast and Dinner but tarried at Deacon *Woods* at Night. In the forenoon a Number of Singers were here, with Mr. *Badcock* and desire me to meet with them tomorrow in the Meeting House, to pray and preach to them. They Sing here till noon. Mr. *Badcock* and Mr. *Batherick* dine here. I Consent to go to the Meeting House tomorrow. Their Motive is to try their Skill in singing [thirc?] and with *Reading the Line*, which they hadn't been used to. Mr. *Badcock* came not at night.

1778 February 6 (Friday). Mr. *Badcock* and *Samuel Brigham* breakfast and dine here. P.M. The singers meet at the Meeting House. We began with Singing -- Sang Dr. *Watts's* Hymn *Te Deum*, in *St. Martyn's*. Then I prayed. Sang *Ps. 113*. Preached on *Ps. 47.6*, a Collection out of Various setts of Sermons on the subject. The last Singing before the Blessing was the 95th Hymn, and *Gloria Patri*. After my Exercise was over, they Sung some Number of tunes, and I tarried a While to hear. Mr. *Badcock* returns to my House. He, with *Bradshaw* and *Brigham* here at Tea. Talk with *Simon Forbes* concerning the private Meeting. At his Motion I agree to appoint it to be (D.V.) *next Tuesday*. *Jonathan Fay* here at Evening. His Father is better. The Violent snow storm prevents Mr. *Badcocks* coming to lodge to night.

1778 February 7 (Saturday). Miss *Mindwell Brigham* was able to come to lodge here last night (as She has done for Some time) but is forced by the Storm in the morning to continue with us Somewhat longer: but p.m. She and the rest went in the Sleigh to singing School. N.B. Capt. *Fisher* came at the Desire of the Singers, and in their Name thanked me for my Sermon to them yesterday. Capt. *Morse* was also appointed to come with him, but he did not.

1778 February 8 (Sunday). Mr. *Badcock* and his Singers Sat in the Front, on the Womens Side and rose up to Sing -- Sung a.m. [blank] p.m. [blank]. I preached a.m. again on *Ps. 77.13.14*. P.M. on *Col. 3.16* from page 17, omitting p. 23 to 26, thence to p. 28. Mr. *Badcock* dined here, returned after meeting and tarried over night. Cousen *Bradshaw* with him.

1778 February 9 (Monday). Mr. *Badcock* here through the Day and lodged here at night. I went up to his school. P.M. visit at [*Kenny?*], Mrs. *Malletts*, Squire *Bakers* and Mr. *Newtons*. N.B. Mr. *Po* [pe?] from Boston lodges at Mr. *Newtons*. At Eve I returned to the Singing School and tarried 'till 9 when *Elias* came home with me in the sleigh. Mr. *Badcock* and Cousen *Bradshaw* came and lodged here. N.B. To day was the first time of my going to hear the singing. They performed to good Acceptance. May it be to the Glory and Honor of God!

1778 February 10 (Tuesday). Several Ganders are missing since the last snow. Mr. *Badcock* and *Bradshaw* breakfast at Brecks. P.M. I rode to Mr. *Daniel Forbes's*. Preached there on *Phil. 4.7*

and finished on that Text. N.B. I had before Meeting gone up to Mr. Isaac Miller, and admonished him for his long absence from Meeting. Squire *Baker* brought me home in his sleigh.

1778 February 11 (Wednesday). Mr. Benjamin *Bradshaw* came from *Worcester* and dined here. Mr. Tainter came seasonably with a Load of Wood, as did *Jonathan* and *Calvin Maynard*, with another -- it being a very Rainy afternoon, and we had but little wood, till these supplies arrived. N.B. Mr. *Bradshaw* left us to go to his Brother at his school House, and did not return.

This Evening Mr. *Badcocks* singing School finishes.

1778 February 12 (Thursday). Mr. *David Maynard* junior from *Ashburnham* brings me a Letter from Mr. *Cushing*, concerning their Troubles by one Mr. *Fletcher*, a Preacher there, who causes great Divisions among them. Sent an Answer by the same Bearer. Mr. *Maynard* also carries our Side *saddle* to Mr. *Cushings*.

1778 February 13 (Friday). Squire *Baker* Sent Three Teams, viz. 12 Oxen in two of them and four Horses in the third: bringing 3 Loads of Wood from his own Lot: drove by Mr. James Bellows, Eleazer Wheelock and Isaac Forbush. All of them dined here. The Four Singers meet a Number at Deacon *Woods* to Sing and Settle all Accounts. Master *Samuel Crosby* here.

1778 February 14 (Saturday). Isaac Forbush brings from Squire *Baker* the Quarters of a Cow he has killed for me. They weighed 390. Mr. William *Watkins* of *Patridgefield*, and his Brother Samuel Sell me 96 wt. of Flax and are to be paid by 48 pound of Soal Leather, or in money in that Proportion. Mr. *Ezra Ripley* from *Framingham* and going to *Barre*, accompanied by Mr. *Packard*, a Candidate going to *Pelham*, call here, but would not stay to dine. Mr. *Luke Wilder* of *Lancaster*, dined and afterwards, with Messrs. *Jonathan Batherick* and *Winslow Brigham*, Sang several Tunes with us. Mr. Daniel *Stockwell* present to hear the Singing. Mrs. P. \_\_\_\_\_ gone to Neighbour *Lambson's* Wife. A son born. Mrs. P. returns between 3 and 4 this morning.

1778 February 15 (Sunday). I had prepared in suitable Measure to preach on another Subject, but on Consideration of our Circumstances I preached on *Col. 3.16*, first part. Master *Fish* dined here. P.M. On Occasion of my Daughter *Sophia's* Admission into the Church I preached on *Prov. 23.26*, "My son give me thine Heart."

1778 February 16 (Monday). *Drury Fairbank*, who has boarded at Brecks, has gone away, and does not return. There are doubtfull Apprehensions concerning him. Mr. Belknap was here. I reckoned with him for Four Heart-*Barrells*, for which I paid him 2 Dollars apiece; and one sap Barrell, for which he takes one Dollar: He gives me two old Barrells, which were borrowed. I gave him a note to the Constable *Parker* for nine Dollars. N.B. The last Barrells I bought of him were (I think) no more than half a Dollar apiece, or it may 25/ old Tenor. So greatly altered are the Times now! His son's Child he would have me visit, but I could not go.

1778 February 17 (Tuesday). I was obliged to go to Squire *Bakers* to borrow two Sides of Soal Leather, and succeeded. I visited at Mr. *Pipers*, *O Donalds*, and at Mr. Lambsons. At Eve came *Reuben Lambson* who was in an unfit Frame. To prevent further Trouble with him, though he has not worked out his time; four Days being wanting Still; (and they were divers of them in the *Summer Months*) I took but 15/ old tenor per Day; and though I would have accepted winter Days for them, yet he would not work for me -- (Labor being now a Dollar per Day). I payed him the remainder, and dismissed him. N.B. Divers times *Reuben* sadly disappointed me by his Absence from my Bus'ness; and my work has sadly fallen short; yet I gave him the highest wages, notwithstanding he was a Stranger, and I did all I could to encourage and oblige him.

1778 February 18 (Wednesday). *Breck* went to *Boston* in the sleigh, which he has got new Runners to. Masters *Elijah Brigham* and *Abraham Holland* came with double Sleigh and take *Sophy* with them to go by *Northborough* to *Concord*. Capt. *Elijah Bellows* of *Southborough* and his Wife going to *Oxford* called here. At Eve Masters Fish and Bradshaw here an sup with us.

1778 February 19 (Thursday). Was called early to go to Mr. *Abraham Bonds* young Child, which is extremely low, if not dying. Went and prayed. Mrs. *Crosby* (Doctors Wife) made us a Visit -- dined and toward Eve at Coffee, and the Doctor also came. At Eve they leave us.

1778 February 20 (Friday). Miss *Patty Fish* came to See us and to tarry a few Days with us. *Breck* returned from *Boston* by *Concord*, *Sophy* and her Company also are come from thence also -- but disappointed in design of visiting their Brothers -- both were gone with their Wives -- one to *Medfield*, the other to *Newbury*. Receive an Answer by Letter from Cousen *Bryant* about his *Timothy*; and from Cousen *Corsser*; who lives still at Mr. Jos. *Bradfords*.

1778 February 21 (Saturday). Miss *Patty* with us. Hear that Mr. *Abraham Bonds* Child dyed last night. I Send Verbally to Mr. *Forbes* by one *Humphry Bray* of *Cape Ann* Harbour.

1778 February 22 (Sunday). Delivered another sermon from *Col. 3.16*, former part. Masters *Fish* and *Bradshaw* dine here (as well as Miss *Patty*). P.M. Preached on *Ps. 7.11*, former part. Which Exercises, may a gracious God succeed!

1778 February 23 (Monday). Write to My son *William* to supply *Elias* with a Load of Wood. Was at Squire *Bakers* about my lost Heiffer. Mr. *Ezra Riply* dines with us in his way to *Framingham*. Attend the Funeral of Mr. *Abraham Bonds* young Child. Miss *Patty* rode with me in the Sleigh. I prayed there: then I proceeded to Mr. *Belknaps* to visit and pray with their sick Child. Miss *Patty* to her Cousen *Fishers*. Mr. *Paul Lambson* here, and I acquaint him with *Reuben's* late Conduct. *Singers* have their Meetings still at *Deacon Woods*.

1778 February 24 (Tuesday). Mr. [blank] *Laws* of *Enfield* at *Brecks* about *Tobacco* which *Breck* has bought. Lend *Breck* 77 Dollars. Mr. *John Belknap* of N. *Braintree* calls to see how we do that he may acquaint my son *Ebenezer* etc. Messrs. *William* and *Samuel Watkins* here at Dinner and I pay them for 88 lb. of Flax -- for which I give them 44 lb. of Soal Leather (which I borrow at Squire *Bakers*) -- and for 8 pounds (which the Flax exceeds the weight of the Leather, for we

have 96 bl. of Flax) I pay them six Dollars. The several School-Masters were here, viz. Master [Eli?] *Brigham*, *Moses Brigham*, *Elisha Fish*, and *P. Bradshaw*. The two last Supped and lodged here.

1778 February 25 (Wednesday). Am reading *Willins Calcotts* Disquisition on *Free-Masons*. Masters *Fish* and *Bradshaw* go to their Schools. I went up to Mr. *Piper* to give him an Account of the Reasons of my Sending for a third Side of Leather. I also called at Col. *Wheelocks*; who had received a Letter from Mr. *Henry Marble* Since his and the other *Westborough* Soldiers in the Army received the Benefactions from this Town. I went in also to See Mr. *Barker*, where I found *Fox's Acts* and *Monuments*; and several other valuable Books. Cousen *Maynard* made us a Visit and dined here. Miss *Patty* is yet with us, but in the Evening came her Brother and carried her away from us to their Kinsmans, Mr. *Noah Hardy's*.

1778 February 26 (Thursday). Though this was the Day which Squire *Baker* appointed for *Elias* to go with him to *Holden* after my stray Heiffer, but the Squire was not come home; Roads exceeding bad; therefore that Design is given up for the Present.

1778 February 27 (Friday). My Sons are both of them much engaged in making Singing Books and pricking out Tunes. *Elias* borrows of Mr. *Barker* The Bishop of *Meaux Universal History* Vol. 1, which I take some View of.

1778 February 28 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1778 March 1 (Sunday). A.M. on Ps. 7.11. P.M. Repeated on *Jer.* 6.16. At Eve Breck and *Suse*, attend our Exercise.

1778 March 2 (Monday). *March Meeting*. Messrs. *Tainter* and *Joseph Harrington* came from the Town to desire me to go to pray with them. Went and prayed accordingly. After which I stayed so long as to speak briefly to the Assembly. At Eve Mr. *Isaac Davis* here, and reckoned with him. Give him a Note to the Constable *Parker* of £3.18.4. N.B. I am to pay Squire *Baker* for 3 sides of Soal Leather which I have given for 88 lb. of Flax, which I had of Messrs. *Watkins* -- see on *Feb.* 24.

1778 March 3 (Tuesday). Preached at Squire *Bakers* on *Mat.* 22.37, which may God prosper. N.B. Mr. *David Martyn*, of *Philadelphia*, there.

1778 March 4 (Wednesday). This was the Day for *Elias* to return to *Cambridge*, the Vacancy being up: but the Weather prevented. It was a violent Storm of snow and cold wind. *Fay (Jonathan)* was here p.m. when the storm was over. He relates a fresh Story of a *horrible Murder*. One Mr. *Spooner* was murdered by two soldiers lately, at *Brookfield*. He was knocked down and thrown into a Well. Tis said they were hired by his Wife, who is a Daughter of Brigadier *Ruggles*.

1778 March 5 (Thursday). *Elias* accompanied by *Jonathan* and *David Fay*, returned to *Cambridge*. Mr. *Samuel Forbush* brings wood.

1778 March 6 (Friday). Read *Calcott* on *Free-Masons*. Wood brought by Do. Master *Joseph Hall*. More Wood.

1778 March 7 (Saturday). *Alexander* Came at Midnight from *Marlborough* in *New Hampshire*, where his Family now is, and has also driven home my Oxen. After dining with us, he returns by way of *Leicester*. I write by him, to Mr. [*Haswell?*] Printer at *Worcester* that I cease taking his News Paper, having sent my Pay for it by Capt. [*Fisher?*].

1778 March 8 (Sunday). Go on in preaching on Ps. 7.11. N.B. Disorder in singing. The Choristers did not sit with the Singers. P.M. [repeat?] again sermon on *Jer.* 6.16. May God add His Blessing to both Exercises! The Singing was more regular, for Mr. Whitney was with the Singers; but Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlain sat elsewhere and did not stand as the rest. I fear he is disgusted. At Eve *Elijah Brigham* here and lodges.

1778 March 9 (Monday). *Brigham* goes to his school, at hither part of *Northborough*. *Breck* and I rode to Mr. *Grosvenors*, where we dined. Mr. *Willard* of *Mendon* there also. We proceeded to *Sutton*, to the Paper-Mill. He returned and we drank Coffee there. Mr. *Thayer* of *Paxton* there before we came away. In returning at Even we called to see Capt. *Jonathan Fay*, who though he is yet ill, yet is better than he was. N.B. wrote to *Elias* at *Cambridge*, and having heard nothing from my Kinsman *Bryant*, I wrote to him again.

1778 March 10 (Tuesday). *Breck* makes a Business of Book-binding; but especially by Singing Books. The singing school is still kept at Mr. [*Samuel?*] *Warrins*, under the Instructions of Mr. *Jonathan Batherick*.

1778 March 11 (Wednesday). Col. *Baldwin* comes here to Breakfast in his way from Boston to Brookfield.

1778 March 12 (Thursday). Mr. *Nathan Maynard* junior goes to Mr. *Haswell*, the Printer for the News Papers, and in my Name, with my Money pays him and settles with him to this Day; *I now ceasing to receive the Massachusetts Spy*.

1778 March 13 (Friday). An uncommon Week of dull and fowl Weather.

1778 March 14 (Saturday). *Stephen Maynard* chops Wood for me at the Door through the Day, and I agree to pay him by pricking Tunes for him.

1778 March 15 (Sunday). A.M. on Ps. 7.11. Which may it please God to bless! P.M. on *Jer.* 6.16, very exciting, and urgent. May it prove a favour of Life, and not of Death! Sung twice.

N.B. Mr. *George Smith* dined here. After Meeting read Mr. President *Willard's Barren Figg-Tree's Doom*.

1778 March 16 (Monday). Continue to read that useful Piece the *Palladium of Conscience*. Wrote to my Son *Moore*.

1778 March 17 (Tuesday). Send my Letter to *Mr. Moore* by Mr. *Elisha Parker* -- going to *Boston*. Send also by him to *Elias* at *Cambridge*.

1778 March 18 (Wednesday). Rode to *Northborough* Lecture -- dined at Mr. *Whitney's*; where were Messrs. *Smith, Sumner* and *Newell*. I preached on *Mat. 17.4* to page 17, beginning. Returned at Eve, though Cold and very bad Roads. N.B. Deacon *Livermore* [appeared?] to be in much Tribulation with his Wife.

1778 March 19 (Thursday). I went to Mr. *Parker*, Soap-Boiler for Squire Baker and borrow of him *Fox's Acts and Monuments* of the Church. Mr. *Whitney* came, dined and preached for me, the Lecture on *1 Cor. 11.28*. Mr. *Badcock* and a considerable Number stayed at the Meeting House to sing. Several Young Women, viz. Miss *Hepzibah Parker* and Miss *Lydia Batherick*, came after Lecture and begin their Boarding and Lodging here, that they may go to School to Mr. *Badcock*. N.B. Capt. Fisher here at Eve to talk with me of the Difficultys which his Brother Mr. *John Forbes*, and his Family, who were driven off from their Dwelling at *Otter Creek*, are reduced to, and need a Contribution.

1778 March 20 (Friday). I was forc'd to go up to Squire *Baker* and get him to go to *Holden* after my Stray Heiffer. N.B. I carryed Bishop *Babbingtons* Works to Mr. *Barker* instead of his *Fox's* Acts etc.

1778 March 21 (Saturday). A Singularly rough and rugged Season. Field Officers, Col. *Wheelock* and Maj. [*Bee?*] at *Brecks*, having received Orders to raise men for *Boston*, and [*Dorchester?*]. Our Quota is Nine out of both Companys. Lt. *Townsend* here.

1778 March 22 (Sunday). A.M. on *Mat. 17.4*, but used for the Text to day, *Ps. 73.28*. Administered the Ordinance of the Lords Supper. N.B. Lt. *Townsend*, now of *Fitz William* with us and dined here; Cousen *Maynard*, her son *Samuel* and Daughter *Betty Brigham*, Master *Samuel Crosby* and two sisters, and *Molly Pratt*, dined here also. P.M. preached again the rest of my Sermon on *Jer. 6.16*. At Eve Mr. *Badcock* (who [boards?] at my Sons). Breck and his wife were at our Evening Exercise. May God be pleased to accept us, and add His Blessing!

1778 March 23 (Monday). Miss *Sally Wiman* came to board here, and Miss *Hepzibah Parker* and Miss *Lydia Batherick* return again to board as before. Town Met to read and consider of, the Plan of Government. Mr. *Daniel Forbes* and Capt. *John. Wood* here.

1778 March 24 (Tuesday). I rode to Mr. Daniel Adams's, to visit his sons Wife who is in a very low Condition, can't so much as Whisper intelligibly. Prayed with her. P.M. Mr. James Millers Wife here to be examined, and accepted. Mr. Stone came to See me, tarried and lodged.

1778 March 25 (Wednesday). Mr. Stone returned. Mr. Badcock, Breck and Six Women Sing a.m. *Training* -- The Militia-Business is to draw out *nine* Men to march to *Boston*. I visited Mr. Eli Whitney who is confined by Rheumatism and Fever. Was at Mr. Tainters -- saw there a young Woman with a *Baby* but they are strangers, even to the people of the House. At my coming home found Mr. Daniel Foster, who preaches at *Marlborough*; Mr. Wilkins and with them, Masters Moses and Eli Brigham. Mr. Pope of *Spencer* with his Wife came and lodged here.

1778 March 26 (Thursday). Mr. Pope and Lady prosecute their Journey home. Henry Harback comes and offers to let himself but asks me sixty pounds Lawful Money for six Months -- an hundred pounds if he should live a Year. Terms too high for me, so that he leaves me. Dr. Hawes has some Talk of taking my place to halves.

1778 March 27 (Friday). A very winterish Prospect. The Earth covered with snow, but through the Goodness of God I have shelter, Cloathing, Food, Fewel. Young Oliver How of *Brookfield* came in Col. Baldwins Chaise, to wait on sister Lydia Champney, and he returned, carrying a Letter from me to Mr. Baldwin. N.B. Received a Letter from Elias per Mr. Cal. Harrington and he therein informs me that he has been to *Stoneham* and that Timothy Bryant is to come after a Short space -- That he himself has [missed?] of waiter-ship -- yet is not in Commons -- That his Brother William has carryed him a Load of Wood etc. He has also sent me Two Letters from Mr. Forbes, one of Feb. 17, the other of March 9, which informs that on the 6th his Daughter Coffin had a Third Daughter, which is named Lucy. Mr. Badcock and Samuel Brigham ask for a Singing Lecture and that Mr. Daniel Foster may preach it.

1778 March 28 (Saturday). Col. Levi Brigham here, and kindly brought me a Bushel of Ground Malt: and Old Mr. Maynard brought Do., being instead of Rye which he borrowed. The Girls who have boarded with us went home towards night. At the Close of the Day we were Surprized with a Message to hasten to Mr. Daniel Adams's, the Young Mans Wife having Cut her Throat with a Razor. The Doctor was gone hastily to her. I hastened to see her. A deplorable Sight! The whole House mourning. They were scenes of Distress and Sorrow! The poor woman partly delirious, now exclaiming against her self, and despairing of Mercy. She now Spoke loud, though on the 23d when I was there, and ever Since, till this Woful Occurrence, she only Whispered. I endeavored to instruct and compose her; and fervently prayed for her. The Doctor told me the wound was about an inch and half long: it had bled a great deal on the Floor, The Breath did in Some Measure come out of her Wind-pipe; but he not proceed to sew up, but he put on a sticking Plaister: for he judged her so weak, that She would not be able to bear it. We returned in the dark together.

1778 March 29 (Sunday). By reason of the forementioned sorrowful Occurrence and the Interruption it occasioned, I preached a. and p.m. on *Heb. 12.15*, former part. Mrs. Thurston

(the widow) dined here. P.M. I mentioned to the Congregation the Requests of the *Singers* to have a Sermon next Tuesday. After the Exercises being desired to go to Mrs. *Adams*, I went, though it was very tedious, as it was a very Cold, Stormy Wind at N.E. Found her more calm and composed and exercising Sorrow, Faith, Hope: but now again could only Whisper. Prayed with her, and returned before dark. N.B. her Sore has not been Sewed up, though Dr. *Darling* has been there as well as Dr. *Hawes*. This Eve *Breck* and *Suse* and their *Billy Spring*, and with them, came Mr. *Badcock*, *Luke Wilder*, *Elisha Parker*, and *Samuel Fisher*, to attend out Family Exercise, and to Sing, in which they Spent the Evening.

1778 March 30 (Monday). A *great Snow Storm*. All Creatures are close, and happy They that by kind Providence are favoured with shelter, Fuel, Food, Cloathing etc. I bless God I am thus indulged, do pray for Grace to improve the distinguishing Kindness of God and pity those who are exposed.

1778 March 31 (Tuesday). The Snow is So deep, that though a Lecture is appointed, I am in doubt whether the Preacher can get to us. Therefore I prepare my Self. After Dinner the storm much abated, Mr. *Foster* and Capt. *Joseph How* from *Marlborough* came. The former preached the *Singing Lecture* from 1 Cor. 14.15. N.B. We sung at E[ntrance?] two staves of Hymn 80 4 v. without *Reading* -- after Prayer Sing Ps. 57 from v. 53st -- and the Deacon (*Bond*) read, as usual, line by line. The last Singing was Ps. 148 6 *stanza's*, to the End of the [12 v.?]. After the Blessing, The Singers (who were increased and strengthened by Some Number from *Marlborough* (Dr. *Curtis* etc.) and from *Northborough* (Capt. *Samuel Wood*, his *Brother* and sister etc.) went on in Singing some Number of Tunes. When returned to my House, a Number of Gentlemen resorted hither; Capt. *William Brigham* etc. etc. but I was obliged to take leave, by reason of a Message by Mr. *Thomas Twitchell*, that Mrs. *Adams* drew near her End. I went hastily. She was much altered into the Visage of Death -- uncertain whether her Reason is steady. Discourse to and prayed with her. N.B. Old Mr. *Hardy* fell into an unhappy Frame about the Singers -- Said their Behavior was abominable! Etc. When I came home found that the Singers and Gentlemen (except Mr. *Foster* and Capt. *Howe*, who went home to *Marlborough*) went up to Deacon *Woods* and Capt. *Fishers*. N.B. our young Women, viz. *Hephzibah Parker* and *Lydia Batherick* returned before noon to Board and lodge, as before.

1778 April 1 (Wednesday). *Breck* goes to Court at *Worcester*, as Jury man. The singing Scholars (though the roads are bad) Meet at Deacon *Woods*, as they have been wont, this Second Turn, for a fortnight, which finishes this Evening; for another Dollar apiece to Mr. *Badcock*. A Letter from Mr. *Moore*.

1778 April 2 (Thursday). With Difficulty I obtain an Horse (my son gone with his to *Worcester*) and on Mr. *Levi* [Warrins?] Horse, go to *Southborough* (bad Riding) to preach his both sacramental and Singing Lecture. N.B. Capt. *Thomas Whipple* of New *Braintry*, going to Head Quarters, accompanied me. I dined at Mr. *Stones*: Preached (though few to hear) on Ps. 36.12. Returned at Evening. Hear that Mrs. *Adams* is yet living. Mr. *Badcock* returns to *Wrentham*.

1778 April 3 (Friday). Letter from Mr. *Moore* of *March 21* to Me, and to *Sophy*. He writes that he, himself and *Jonathan* have been inoculated for the Small Pox at *Dartmouth*, and, through Great Goodness, are recovered.

1778 April 4 (Saturday). Mrs. *Adams* being (as I hear) yet alive, I went, a.m. to see her. She seemed [*illegible*] favoured with her Reason; but is very weak and whispers only [a?] few words. Prayed with her. Numbers of the Neighbourhood there.

1778 April 5 (Sunday). The Morning the Earth was covered with a deep Snow. Few at meeting: especially in the forenoon. I had prepared on Ps. 7.11 but I went on in my preaching a. and p.m. from *Heb.* 12.15 and finished. N.B. Somewhat peculiarly fervent. May God pardon -- and give success!

1778 April 6 (Monday). Rode to Capt. *Jonas Brigham*s to visit Miss *Hepzibah Ward*, who is sick there. Discoursed and prayed with her. I dined at Mr. Hannaniah Parkers. Visit old Mrs. *Kelley*. N.B. received of Thomas *Beeton* a M.S. of 8 pages, on [*blank*]. Went to See the Widow *Mercy Williams* an Occasion of the Death of her Eldest Daughter Mrs. *Abigail Kenney* at the *Union*. N.B. The Town Met concerning Supplies for the Continental Soldiers.

1778 April 7 (Tuesday). [*illegible*] *abal Miller*<sup>3</sup> came to live here. I rode to Mr. *B. Balls* solemnizing the Burying of his New born, but Dead Child; and prayed there. In returning dined at Lieut. *Bowmans*. Mrs. *Bowman* has lately had her Eleventh Child, her 7th son. I also visited Mr. *Eli Whitney*, who is still confined, with Rheumatism, Fever, etc. Called at Squire Bakers, and he not being at home smoked a pipe with Mr. H[*illegible*], who is still there as an Accom[ptant?]. Private Meeting was [put by? *illegible*]. Wrote to Messrs. *Fish* and *Fitch* to assist at a Fast at Mr. *Adams*. Private Meeting was put by [*illegible*].

1778 April 8 (Wednesday). Mr. *Thomas Adams* of *Medfield* came. Wants to exchange Sundry Books with me. He lodges here.

1778 April 9 (Thursday). Mr. *Adams* carries away *Voetius* 3 very thick 4to Vols. and leaves Monsieur *Claudus* Defence of the Reform. 4to. President *Chauncys* Doctrine of Justification 4to. Mr. *Reb. Nasmiths* Entail of the Covenant of Grace: and Human Prudence.

I also Wrote though briefly to Mr. *Quincy* who is now at *Medfield*. N.B. Went to the Fast at Mr. *Adams's*. Mr. *Fish* performed the Exercises of the forenoon. His Text was Mat. 15.22. Mr. *Fitch* the afternoon. His Text was Mat. 20.31.34. They were, I hope, profitable. May God grant Success! The Woman was continually uneasy -- greatly distressed -- much under the power of Delirium. There was a large Assembly -- but neither [of her parents?] there. After Meeting I called in to visit old Mr. *Jonah Warrin* who was unable to go to the Assembly; though he tried to go [*illegible*] soon turned back.

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<sup>3</sup>Possibly Izebel, daughter of Isaac and Abigail Miller, b. June 27, 1764. Westborough VR 74.

1778 April 10 (Friday). Was obliged to go to the Doctor [*illegible*] him about taking Some part of the place to the Halves. Very much [taken?] up my forenoon [*illegible*]. P.M. Mr. James Miller junior here desirous to join with the Church.

1778 April 11 (Saturday). Mrs. *Lambson* is in a sick and drooping State: I was there to See her.

1778 April 12 (Sunday). Preached a. and p.m. on Ps. 7.11 and finished the Subject. Mr. *Isaac Millers* Wife dined with us. At Eve visited Mr. *John Forbes's* Wife who is come from *Suffield*, and lies sick of a Fever at Capt. *Fishers*. Discoursed and prayed with her.

1778 April 13 (Monday). A Training for Reviewing Arms etc. Deacon *Wood* made me a Visit. A Letter from *Elias* by [*blank*] *Brigham*.

1778 April 14 (Tuesday). Agreed with Dr. *Hawes* to take Several Parts of my place to the Halves. As, all that lies down below the [*illegible*] at the Cook Island, and on the Brook, Maynard and Newton Meadow the Corn and Flax Land there, also the Pasture Land there, and the New Swamp. Likewise the Indian Field by Mr. Nurse's Road: The mowing Ground which is west of the Meeting House.

1778 April 15 (Wednesday). Went to Squire Bakers again, but in Vain. He was not at home, but his Wife is confined by illness. I visited Mr. John Forbes's Wife again, who grows worse. Prayed there. Mr. Hezekiah Maynard from Marlborough brings a Letter from the Church there, desirous of a Council, respecting the Dismission of Mr. *Smith*.

1778 April 16 (Thursday). *Catechized* at the Meeting House. A.M. 18 Boys -- p.m. 21 Girls. Mrs. *Hawes* here, and was Examined. Sister *Champney* in much Pain in her Hand[s?]. Wrote to *Elias* by *Elisha Forbes*. *Sophy* goes to watch with Mrs. *Adams*; and *Stephen Maynard* accompanys her.

1778 April 17 (Friday). My Cow lately calved is much disordered and Mr. *David Maynard* (by Request) came, and helped her. This was a singularly kind and Neighbourly, as circumstances were. [I visited?] a Number of sick -- viz. Mr. John Forbes's [*torn, illegible*] with her; to the Widow *Jemima Hardy* [*torn, illegible*] of *Delirium*. Dined at Mr. *Eli Whitneys* [*torn, illegible*] in my Way to Mr. *Adams's* -- [*torn, illegible*] to visit her -- but I found her [*torn, illegible*] Reason, but talkative [*torn, illegible*] with her: which I endeavoured. [*torn, illegible*] home: He desires to be propounded, [*torn, illegible*] it might be in peace.

1778 April 18 (Saturday). Mr. *Simon How* of *Marlborough* here with a Letter from Mr. *Smith* and the Church there respecting his Dismission. Mr. *John Forbes* here with a Petition for a Contribution. N.B. his Wife lies in a very low Condition. By Reason of the many Avocations this Week I could compose but part of my Preparations for the Sabbath.

1778 April 19 (Sunday). Considering the shameful Delinquency of many persons in attending upon the public worship I preached on Ps. 27.[4?], which may God graciously accept and bless!

Miss *Mindwell Brigham* dined here. I propounded Dr. *Hawes* and his Wife. Read Mr. *John Forbes's* Petition for a Contribution -- stayed the Church [and?] read Mr. *Smith's* Letter from the Church in *Marlborough* concerning his Dismission from the Ministry. After Meeting I hasted up to Capt. *Fishers* to see Mrs. Forbes who is extreme Low.

1778 April 20 (Monday). [*illegible*] *Goddard* preaching at *Marlborough*, came here to desire me to change with him on the ensuing Fast. But I was obliged to deny him, by reason of Mr. *John Forbes's* Case. Mr. *Joseph Grout* and his Wife called here, being about to Visit their unhappy Sister, to enquire into the Cause of her Troubles and Sufferings. Mrs. *Forbes*, though she was thought to be in a dying state, yet continues breathing.

1778 April 21 (Tuesday). Mrs. *Forbes* has lived through the Night, but about 8 this Morning expires. A.M. I was obliged to ride over to Mr. *Fessendens* about keeping my sheep. I went to the Ministerial Lot: for *Breck* is getting Timber there, for a Back Room to his store. Lt. *Joseph Bond* and Mr. *Nathan Maynard* with Teams; and they brought it to the place; at 3 times apiece.

1778 April 22 (Wednesday). The *General Continental Fast*. Preached a.m. on *Ezek. 18.30*. P.M. on *Hos. 2.8.9*. This referred to the season of the year. May God grant a Blessing! *Contribution* for Mr. John Forbes amounted to £22.18.0.

After the public Exercises at the Meeting House I attended the Funeral of Mr. John *Forb* [es Wife?]. She dyed at Capt. *Fishers*; and was [*torn, illegible*] thence. His Children were [*torn, illegible*] many people were t[*torn, illegible*]theizing.

1778 April 23 (Thursday). I rode up to *Worcester* [*torn*] to [*torn*] the Tryal of the Murderers of the late Mr. [*torn*]hua [*torn*]pooner. Was very kindly received by Mr. *Richard Pratt* and his Wife. The criminals (Viz. *William Brooks, James Buchannan, Ezra Ross* and *Bathsheba Spooner* but *Dux Femina Facti*) were arraigned in the Afternoon; and then remanded to Jayl.

N.B. I visited a.m. Mr. *Maccartys* Mother, Mrs. *Bridge*, at her son's Mr. *Samuel Bridge's*. I dined at Mr. *Salisbury's*, where was his Mother, Mrs. *Salsbury*; [and?] Mrs. *Leonard*, widow of the late Dr. *Leonard*, with her Brother, Mr. *Nat. Green* of *Woodstock*. At Court saw my Son *Ebenezer* who tells me he has Sold his place at *New-Braintry*. At Eve I returned to Mr. *Pratts*, who was So very good as to take care of me and my Horse.

1778 April 24 (Friday). Attended the Tryal. It was at the Meeting House between 8 and 9 a.m. A great Throng! A most sad Sight! Many Evidences were Sworn. Three were brought from Jayl, who were made use of as Witnesses. Namely, the widow *Stretton* and her son, and *Alexander Cummings*, a Scottish Youth, who deserting from *Burgoyne's* Army, lived in Mr. *Spooner's* House. The Court continued till past Midnight, during all which time I continued at my Seat in the Meeting House. The Court was adjourned to 8 o'Clock next morning.

1778 April 25 (Saturday). I was kindly found and spoke to, in the Dark, at the Meeting-House Door, by the friendly Mr. *Richard Pratt*; and when altogether at a Loss what Course to take, or

what to do with myself; this benevolent, hospitable man invited me to his House to lodge there the rest of the Night; and [illegible] me there. Mr. *Maccarty* [torn] me, but I was left forlorn. [torn]ly went to P[torn]atts and Slept there. In the Morning repaired again to the Court (which sat at the Meeting House). The Criminals were brought. The Jury brought in their Verdict, *Guilty!* Upon which the awful and Shocking *Sentence of Death* was pronounced -- and they were remanded to Jayl.

I returned to Mr. *Pratts* (where my Horse was kept also) and rode to *Grafton*, to Mr. *David Stows*, with whom I agreed to Pasture my Sheep. 12d old tenor per Head per Week. Dined at Old Capt. *Drurys*, and hastened home. At Eve came *Elias*, on foot, from College. Mr. *James Miller* junior and Dr. *Hawes*, with their *Relations*, to be read tomorrow. *Elias* came home from Cambridge.

1778 April 26 (Sunday). I preached again a. and p.m. my Sermon on *Luk. 19.10* to p. [blank]. Admitted Mr. *Miller* and his Wife, and Dr. *Hawes* and his. Baptized Mr. *Millers* Child, *Josiah*. N.B. I was So far Spent that I was nigh fainting away: but a gracious God Supported me. To His Name be Praise!

1778 April 27 (Monday). Having received a Letter from Lt. *Bryant* about his son, I wrote an Answer and committed it to Deacon *Dolliver*. *Noah Hardy* pays me 81 Dollars on *Billys* Note and gave it [up?]. The Town Met upon the Request of the Singers to have Liberty to sit together -- not granted.

1778 April 28 (Tuesday). Rode to *Bolton*, Mr. *Whitney* with me, to Ministers Meeting at Mr. *Goss's*. Was their Moderator. Sundry others were at this Meeting; viz. Mr. *Morse*, Mr. *Harrington* and Mr. *Mellen*. Mr. *Mellen* asked our Advice on Consideration of a Council of 4 Churches having been called by his Opposing Brethren had lately Sat in that parish to judge of Mr. *Mellens* Dismission but he did not bring their Result, and therefore we declined [saying?] much upon it. Next Meeting at Mr. *Whitneys* [illegible] to be at his House, next Month [illegible] *Marlborough* -- to Mr. *Simon Howe* [torn and illegible].

1778 April 29 (Wednesday). A Council of Four Churches Sat [at?] *Marlborough* on [illegible] of Mr. *Smiths* Dismission [illegible] where we [illegible] was *Joseph Hawes*. My Delegate did not come. Mr. *Stone* was not well enough to come, but his two Delegates came. Mr. *Whitney* came with two, Mr. *Biglow* came with One. They chose me Moderator, and I prayed. Mr. *Whitney* was Scribe. The Churches Committee were with us first and afterwards the whole Church were sent for and came. Mr. *Smith* read his Request of Dismission both from pastoral Relation, and as a Brother of that Church. The Church were unanimous in granting both. Having manifested this, we repaired to the Meeting House, and there the said Request was again read, and was Voted by the Church (I conceive unanimously, or near so) and I counted 41, of the Church present. After the Vote, Mr. *Whitney* prayed and I gave the Blessing (or rather begged it of God) and so departed. After the Assembly, and this solemn Work was over, I visited Capt. *William Brigham's* Wife, who has been sick -- was at Lt. *Uriah's* -- thence rode to, and lodged at, Mr. *Stones*. Found him but feeble and weak, but walking about.

1778 April 30 (Thursday). Riding home, called at Mr. *Isaac Johnsons* -- asks me a Dollar and half (which I am obliged to give) for half a Bushel of [*Samp?*]. Arrived safe. To God be Glory and Praise! *Breck* raised a Leanto, [addition?] to his House. The Dimentions 27 by 12 1/2.

1778 May 1 (Friday). A peculiarly Difficult time with me, it being very Stormy and my Sheep so unruly, breaking into [not only?] my own Clover, but into Mr. [*Newtons?*] [forced to Shut?] them up in the Barn, and keep them on Hay and Stalks, though it makes them waste, and dirty.

1778 May 2 (Saturday). [*Illegible*] arising continued. And *Elias* though [*illegible*] of little [Service?] to me. I strive in my Preparations but accomplish little. Mr. Forbes, the Representative here and acquaints me with what the Court has done.

1778 May 3 (Sunday). I preached once more on *Mat.* 17.4. Administered the Lords Supper. A Number of *Hopkinton* Members were with us at Sacrament. May God graciously accept us! Mr. *Barrett* and his Daughter *Nancy* dined with us. P.M. preached on *Ps.* 27.4, but used that passage for my text in *Ps.* 73.2[6?] to p. 20. *Breck* went to Southborough after meeting, on some military Business.

1778 May 4 (Monday). Busied about our gardening. Visit and pray with Mr. *Adams*; and the widow *Bigolow* who is Sick. Old Mrs. *Mary Woods* dyes about 5 o'clock p.m. She was born Oct. 31. 1678. Mr. Joseph Harrington here at Eve to acquaint me with it. Old Mr. David Maynard being about to remove into Northborough comes to take leave, and is very affectionate on this Occasion.

1778 May 5 (Tuesday). Preached at Mr. *Levi Warrens* on 1 *Cor.* 15.57 previous to the burying of old Mrs. *Woods*, whose Funeral I attended, and prayed -- that is, at Mr. Daniel Forbes's: and gave an Account of her Death, for publication, to Col. *Wheelock*.<sup>4</sup> N.B. Mr. Levi Warrin opens to me the Beginning of the Difference at *Adams's*.

1778 May 6 (Wednesday). Mr. *Lamson* at work for *Breck*, on his new Additional Building. I rode over to Mr. *Whitneys*, dined there and preached the Lecture, finishing the Discourse I began March 18 last from *Mat.* 17.4, which may God graciously accept and bless. N.B. Mr. *Sumner* was there, who preached at *Worcester* to the Criminals last Lords Day a.m. on *Luk.* 15.13, p.m. on v. 18.19. Returned home at Eve.

1778 May 7 (Thursday). Hear that Several of those who were inoculated and are at the Hospital, are very bad -- particularly [*Abner?*] (Son of *Jonathan Bruce*). P.M. I walked up to Squire *Bakers* with a View to put off my Oxen; but did not succeed. Walked over to the [*illegible*] the sawyers Mr. *Rider's* [*illegible*] the Pastures, Hills, Meadows, etc.

1778 May 8 (Friday). Much Interruption by [very troublesome Creatures?].

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<sup>4</sup>*Massachusetts Spy*, June 18, 1778, p. 3.

1778 May 9 (Saturday). *Breck* and Mr. *Lamson* [illegible].

1778 May 10 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on [illegible] 30. P.M. finished my Repetition of Sermon on Ps. 17.4 but with [various?] alterations. May God grant His Blessing.

1778 May 11 (Monday). *Mrs. Adams* Wife of Daniel junior came here in the morning -- and dined here likewise. *Suse Divine* waited on her. Her sore at her Throat is healed up -- but she wears a plaister and Muffler for Defence. Her mind is not strong. She is somewhat loquacious. It is of Gods great Mercy She is so well as she is. She seems sensible of it. Mr. *Lamson* and Mr. Jonathan *Batherick* are at Work with *Breck*, in boarding the Sides of his additional Building.

*Squire Whipple*, about to move to *New Braintry*, came to take his Leave of us. Parting is not Pleasant. He desires for himself and Wife Dismission from this Church to *New Braintry*.

Sent *Elias* to Mr. *Whitney* with a Letter inclosing Mr. *Smiths* Request to the Church of *Marlborough* for Dismission from his Pastoral Relation to them, and from his Relation to them as a Brother of that Church, with Recommendation of him to the East-Church in *Sudbury*. Both which I have certified were complied with in Presence of the Ecclesiastical Council then Sitting there, by full Vote of the Church of *Marlborough*. At Eve our Singers have, as usual, their Meeting.

1778 May 12 (Tuesday). *James Hicks* drives four young Creatures of my Son *Baldwins*, and four of my own, to go to Pasture, At *Brookfield*. *Elias* was obliged to go with him to *Farrars* in *Shrewsbury*, to help him along with them. My Son *Alexanders* Cow is so weak, yet heavy that She daily to be lifted up: and often times by other Help than our own.

1778 May 13 (Wednesday). I visited Mr. *Isaac Parker*, who is Sick. Went to Mr. *Greens* -- borrowed *Firmins* real *Christian* there. Visit Mr. *Potter* and Family who are lately come to live at *Squire Whipple's*, and Mr. *Charles Newton* and [Family who are come?] to live in the same House. With this latter Family I dined. When I returned home found sister *Cushing* at our House. She dined here. She brought a Letter [from?] Mr. *Stone* of [*Southborough?*] desiring half of Mr. *Lorings* Diary as *his own* whereas it ought not to be [illegible].

1778 May 14 (Thursday). *Elias* goes to *Cambridge*, the Vacation being up. His Brother *Breck* goes with him, and they have Mr. *Barnabas Newtons* Chaise. I was much in the Garden. Received a large Letter from Mr. *Quincy*. This Evening Mr. *Hannaniah Parker*, Constable Paid me 60£ and 6d L.M., it being the first that he has paid me this Year.

1778 May 15 (Friday). I was taken up the most of the Day with variety of Petit Affairs, of the Garden, and of the Cattle. Our daily Trouble for Some time has been, *Alexanders* Cow: but to day Mr. *C. Harrington* delivered her and us: for he drew from her a fine Calf. N.B. Mrs. *Winchester* and her Daughter *Maynard* were here to See us.

1778 May 16 (Saturday). Wrote to Mr. *Stone* about Mr. *Lorings* Diary [*illegible*] that our propriety in it is a *joint* propriety: and that it can't be divided. Mr. *David Stow* of *Grafton* here and dines. I give him Salt for the sheep, and Rum against the washing of them. To my great Regret I was continually taken up with the Small Affairs of the Garden, the Cattle, etc. etc. Breck returned from *Boston* and *Cambridge* late at night.

1778 May 17 (Sunday). I rode to *Northborough* and preached there on *Jer.* 8.21.22 to the End of page 22. Which may God graciously bless! Mr. *Whitney* preached here a. and p.m. on *Isa.* 33.6.

1778 May 18 (Monday). [P.?]M. Mr. *Thaddeus Warrin* is (through great Difficulty) obtained. Plows my East Yard; and helps me in planting a few Potatoes.

1778 May 19 (Tuesday). Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ rode with me as far as Capt. *Maynards* to See her Kinswoman who has been ill of late. I proceeded to *Northborough*, it being the time of Ministers Meeting at Mr. *Whitney's*. It is noticeable that Mr. *Stone*, though weak, was there. So was Mr. *Smith* though he has given up the Pastoral Office. In my returning I brought Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ to see old Mrs. *Kelley*. [Came?] home at Eve. Found that *Breck* had worked for me [plowing?] and planting at the East End of the House, and plowed at the East End of the Barn. I have Several little Pieces of Ground to Plant, but can't get even them done.

1778 May 20 (Wednesday). No body to work for me but [*illegible*] who is [*illegible*] to do what he can. My Wife, [*illegible*] down to [*illegible*] to Capt. [*illegible*] Mr. B. Bradshaw here Yesterday while [*blot*] was absent.

1778 May 21 (Thursday). Capt. *John Wood* here desiring that I would marry him to Miss [*blank*] *Pomoroy* of *Hadley*, upon only [*illegible*] being published in *Westborough* only, and not in *Hadley*.

1778 May 22 (Friday). A *Town Meeting* (among a Number of other Things) to receive the Report of Committee respecting a Constitution of Government and to Choose a Representative. *Dr. Hawes* is chose. N.B. Deacon *Wood* was here, and I freely spoke to him of his son *Johns* Request. N.B. Mrs. *Dolly Rice* here -- mournfull on the sorrowful Affair of her Daughter *Adams*. Sorrowful News of the Sudden Death of Mr. [*blank*] *Knowlton* of *Shrewsbury* by a Barrell of [*blank*] rolling upon him.<sup>5</sup> N.B. I paid Mr. Caleb Harrington 28 Dollars for *Elias's* Breeches.

1778 May 23 (Saturday). *Sophy* is so ill as to lye by. And sister *Champney* has much Pain in her Arms and Hands from Day to Day.

1778 May 24 (Sunday). A.M. on *Ezek.* 18.30. Those words chiefly, "[Repent and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; So Iniquity Shall not be your Ruine?]." Which may we be made truely to understand and deeply comply with! P.M. repeated sermon on *Act.* 4.12 to the end of

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<sup>5</sup>Not in *Shrewsbury Vital Records*.

p. 8, which was followed with an Address Specially with reference to Conduct on the ensuing *Election-Day*. N.B. Read a Petition of Deacon *Fay* of *Southborough* requesting a *Contribution*, he having lately Suffered by the Burning of his House and much of his substance. N.B. This Petition came first to our Select Men.

1778 May 25 (Monday). *Sophy* is better, and goes about again. May God be praised! Mrs. *Scott* (of *Charlestown*) works here for Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_. At Eve received a Letter from *Elias* who informs me that he has missed of the Waitership.

1778 May 26 (Tuesday). *James Hicks* leaves us, and goes to *Cambridge*. I wrote by him to his Mother. We are Alarmed with the Report that [the?] small Pox has broke out at Capt. *Jonas Brigham*s. They are [illegible] and Miss *Polly Martyn*, that [illegible] Hospital from thence.

1778 May 27 (Wednesday). Unusual for me [illegible] I am at home on this important Day. I hear that Mr. [Payne?] of *Chelsea* is to preach to the General Assembly. It is a Day [of?] Joy on Consideration of the Privileges we enjoy -- but it is a Day of Darkness [illegible] on Account of the [War?], which continues and distresses us. For, There have arrived Some bad News of the kings Troops Surrounding and taking a Regiment of our Soldiers at Warren-Point.

1778 May 28 (Thursday). Mr. *Joseph Farrar*, of *Lincoln*, preaching at *Grafton*, from sabbath to Sabbath, upon a gratuitous Contrabution; calls here in his Way up, and brings a Letter from my Son Samuel who informs that he is better of his Lameness, and is purposing to return to live at *Boston*.

1778 May 29 (Friday). *Elias* came home from *Cambridge*, and rode his Classmate *Hastings's* Horse. He came now by reason of his being distempered. His Chum is gone home on the Same Account. Master *Samuel Crosby* was here, and received his *Guthrys* Geography. Ensign *Aaron Warren* came in to see me, and being lately come into this Town to live here, asks me to his House. Capt. *Fisher* borrows *Brainerds* Life.

1778 May 30 (Saturday). Mr. *Maccarty*, on his Journey from *Boston*, came, and has *Reprieve* for the Criminals, to July 2. He desires me to preach at *Worcester* tomorrow: But it was inconvenient. I could not be prepared, nor would my Circumstances allow of it. *Elias Bryant* and his Brother *Timothy* arrived and lodged here.

1778 May 31 (Sunday). My Cares and Avocations through the Week prevented my making due preparations so that I preached again on Act. 4.12 a. and p.m. to p. 20. Mrs. *Maynard*, *Winslow Brigham*, and the *Bryants* dined here. I read a long Address of Congress to the people, and we have Contribution for Deacon *Fay* of *Southborough*. A Letter from Mr. *Moore* of May 25. He has a son *William* born Apr. 27.

1778 June 1 (Monday). *Elias Bryant* returns home, and leaves his Brother *Timothy* to live with me a Year, or at least till next March. The Contribution of yesterday, with some Addition to day, amounts to 45 Dollars and a few pence. Deacon *Meriam* with a Letter from Mr. *Grosvenor*

for Assistance at a Fast on the 3d. Miss *Ruth Waters* of *Sutton*, dined with [illegible] came over from *Hopkinton* to see us. [illegible] Who went up to *Sutton*. [Torn] Brother *Daniel Forbes* here p.m. for [illegible] enquiring about a number of matters [illegible] at Eve. [illegible] informs that the General Assembly [is returned to?] *Watertown*.

1778 June 2 (Tuesday). It was rainy; but I rode to Deacon *Bonds*, where was [illegible] private meeting; and I preached on 1 *Cor.* 15.57 from p. 9 to [Quest?], p. 16. Mrs. *Cotton* with us Still.

1778 June 3 (Wednesday). I rode on an Horse of Mr. *Tainters* to the Fast at *Grafton*. It was occasioned by Rev. *Grosvenor's* Hoarseness, so that he has not preached these two Years. Dr. *Hall*, Mr. *Fish* and Mr. *Sumner* came. Dr. *Hall* began the Solemnity with Prayer. Mr. *Fish* preached a.m. on *Isa.* 31.9. An excellent good and pertinent Sermon. May God forgive my ill Frame and bless it to me and to all Concerned! P.M. Mr. *Sumner* prayed and I preached on 2 *Cor.* 4.1 and read Several more verses. Which may God bless to us to our highest Benefit! Mr. *Farrar* who preaches on the Sabbath here, was among us. I returned home at Eve. Mrs. *Cotton* left us about 4 p.m. and went to *Hopkinton*.

1778 June 4 (Thursday). Deacon *John Fay* came and received the Money which was lately Contributed in our Assembly for him. Forty five Dollars, for which he gives me a Receipt, and returned his hearty Thanks to our Congregation.

1778 June 5 (Friday). Dr. *Hawes* raises a new part to his Barn. My sons assist at it.

1778 June 6 (Saturday). I rode to Mr. *Nathan Goddards* (in compliance with Mr. *Maccartys* Request) to let him know I was going to *Worcester*. Dined at Mr. *Sumners*. Proceeded to Visit the Prisoners. *James Buchanan*, *William Brooks*, *Ezra Ross*, and *Bathsheba Spooner*. I conversed with the Men in their Apartment and the Woman in hers. The former were very Penitent, and think they have each of them experienced the Special Grace of God. But the Woman, though she appeared to be Sober and was employed in reading the Scriptures, yet I could not find that She had a due sense of her Condition. She did not think that her Condemnation was just. She acquainted me with her having [illegible] Letter from Rev. and aged Mr. *Carpenter*. [illegible] with me into the Mens Room [illegible] they all desired me to pray with and for [illegible] I would remember their [illegible] [Parents?] [illegible] Speaking of his Hope towards God etc., [illegible] that nigh a fortnight agoe, on the [Saturday?] Night, and Sabbath morning he had wonderful Manifestations of the Grace of God. It was the Day of his Baptism. I repaired to Mr. *Maccartys*, and lodged there.

1778 June 7 (Sunday). Preached at *Worcester*, the Prisoners present (and desiring Prayers) on *Heb.* 10.31, "It is a fearful Thing to fall etc.," a. and p.m. Which may God grant success to! Mr. *Maccarty* was with us. At Eve he rode out to solemnize a Marriage and returned with a seven Dollar Fee.

1778 June 8 (Monday). I had desired, and my Thoughts had been much upon visiting the prisoners again (they having themselves requested it) but the weather proved rainy -- and I was

obliged to get home as soon as I well could, because of the Communion next sabbath and the preceeding Lecture. Also I was obliged to go home through *Grafton* -- for which Reasons I omitted visiting abovesaid and I could not help resisting the importunity of Mr. *Stearns* (attorney) to dine with him to day. When I had took leave there, I rode to friendly Mr. *Pratts*, and being refreshed, went on my Journey -- to Mr. *Tanners*, where I dined. He lends me Mr. *Hopkins* of Newport on Sin's being the means of Good. Called at Mr. *John Maynards* -- at Squire *Brighams* -- at Mr. *David Stow's*, to See why my Sheep had not been Sheared. Met Mr. *Farrar*, and though he was the Beginner of the Affair, and had repeated his Engagements to me, to preach my *Lecture* on Wednesday next, yet has he made an Appointment with Mr. *Grosvenor*, to go up to *Brookfield*. At Night the Singers had a Meeting at *Brecks*, but for better Convenience they adjourned to the Meeting-House.

1778 June 9 (Tuesday). Read part of *Hopkins* Book on Sin the *Means of Good*. P.M. Mr. *Moses Bellows* of *Southborough* made me a Visit. At Eve Deacon *Wood* conducted Capt. [torn] to see me.

1778 June 10 (Wednesday). *Elias* goes up to *Grafton*, being [torn] Shearing the Sheep: and at night [torn] home [torn] Mr. *Farrar* came not. I prea[torn] my Self [illegible] from Luke 19.10 from p. 14 to [torn]. Very thin Lecture [torn] not but observe it to them that were there, how many empty [Pews?] and how empty the Gallerys were. After Lecture Mr. Nat. [Rugg?] here about hiring or *taking*, one or more of my Cows, but they were both gone to Mr. *Tainters*, and [dined?] Mrs. *Bent* who weaves for Mrs. *Parkman*, brought home a Piece of Linnen Cloth, for the weaving of which I paid her five Dollars and a quarter.

1778 June 11 (Thursday). Mr. *Rug* was here again in Quest of Grain to Support his Family. I was not able to do much for him, Yet could not but Pity him and his unhappy Wife and Children. May the Lord be gracious to Each of them.

1778 June 12 (Friday). *Elias* is Sadly disappointed about an Horse, and Setts out for Cambridge on foot: goes away late in the p.m. choosing to travel chiefly in the night.

1778 June 13 (Saturday). Mr. *Moses Nurse* having brought up a Load of Earthen Ware from *Danvers*, I took an Opportunity as he was going from *Brecks* Store, to give him a most Solemn Admonition and Charge concerning his absence from the House of God. *Reuben Lambson*, come from *Sandwich*, Says that Col. *Roland Cotton* then lay dead there.

1778 June 14 (Sunday). Preached both a. and p.m. on the important Subject from Luk. 19.10, repeating the remainder of my Sermons on that Text except [illegible] use of Exhortation and the Directions. Yet I had prepared enough for a sermon on *Job* 31.24, but I chose to defer delivering it.

Administered the Lords Supper. Mrs. *Maynard*, Mrs. *Miller* (deaf), Miss *Anna Brigham* (*Suse's* Sister) dined here.

Received from Mr. *Nathan Fiske* his Sermon at the Interment of the late Mr. *Joshua Spooner* of *Brookfield*.

1778 June 15 (Monday). Simon Forbes brought me a pair of New Shoes: for *making* only paid three Dollars.

1778 June 16 (Tuesday). I sat out for East Sudbury -- went by Mr. *Stones*, and took him with me, to the *Ministers Meeting*. Mr. *Smith* was not there. He had gone a Journey. Mr. *Bridge* prayed, preached on 2 *Cor.* 12.15 (The Text the Rev. Prentice preached on when I was ordained). One of the Cases Proposed to the Association was Mr. *Whitneys*, viz. what had best be done about Deacon *Livermores* Wife [*illegible*] continues to offer herself to the Communion. Answer Let the Church [pick a?] Committee to determine it.

[After the Meeting?] I rode to Weston, to Visit Mr. *William Blair Townsend* -- [but he Expired?] about 10 o'Clock Aet. 55. At Mrs. [Townsend's and the?] only Sons Request I lodged there. I [*illegible*] as he was my generous Friend, but especially as he was [virtuous?] charitable and public-spirited Man. "Help Lord" etc!

1778 June 17 (Wednesday). Rode to *Lincoln*; called to see Mr. *Lawrence*, who and two of his [*illegible*] have been confined very much, with illness for some time. I proceeded to Mr. *Timothy Brooks*, where Mr. *Procter* and his Wife board -- and dined there. P.M. returned to Mr. *Lawrences*; to old Capt. *Daniel Adams*, and to my Son *Williams* in *Concord*, where I lodged. N.B. My Son has lately bought a Chaise: also a large Number of Pictures. These last at the late Judge *Russells*. N.B. My son *Samuel* has returned to *Boston* last week.

1778 June 18 (Thursday). Left *Billeys* and returned home. I called at Col. *Weeks'*. They were going to Lecture which I attended. Mr. *Daniel Foster* preached on *Mat.* 17.46. Conversed after Meeting with him, he having been lately with the Prisoners. I went to Cousen *Uriah Brigham's*. Mrs. P \_\_\_\_\_ had been there, on the 16th and received two pair of womens Shoes [*illegible*] Mr. B[*illegible*] who works there. When I came home I found my Daughter *Cushing* and her son *George*. Her Husband came with her but has returned home.

1778 June 19 (Friday). [A fresh?] demand for Men who are to go to *Rhode-Island* 14 or 15 for our part for 22 days. My Son *Alexander* came, and has brought my Gun, which I had lent him Some years agoe: and I gave him the Gun which I bought of Mr. *Thomas Kendal*.

1778 June 20 (Saturday). *Alexander* returns to *Leicester*. He drives away his Cow, and *Heiffer*, also his Cow's Calf: to mate which I have given him one of my Calves. And further I have given my Daughter *Cushing* an Heiffer, which *Alexander* is to take the Care of, and drive to Mr. *Browns* of *Winchendon*. N.B. his (*Alexander's*) son *Breck* is at *Leicester* to assist him. The new-raised Soldiers march this morning Eight o'clock. I was troubled with a Pain in my Stomach and much indisposed to Study. Was obliged to lye down.

1778 June 21 (Sunday). I preached on *Job* 31.24. P.M. I preached on Prov. 4.18, partly on Occasion of the Death of *William Blair Townsend*. As I conceive he was a *just man*, and *his path [bright?] imitable*. May God be pleased to raise up [*illegible*].

1778 June 22 (Monday). *Breck* met with Disaster by his stairs [*illegible*] Shocked; the supporting Timbers [*illegible*] wrote (in part) to Mr. *Quincy*. Finished Reading Mr. Samuel *Hopkins* 3 Sermons on "Sin by divine interposition an Advantage to the Univ."

1778 June 23 (Tuesday). *Catechizing* a.m. 35 Boys, p.m. 30 Girls. [*illegible*] the divine Blessing accompany my Instructions! And may this be a Generation which may be to the divine Praise!

1778 June 24 (Wednesday). I rode to over to *Northborough* Lecture, which Mr. *Newell* preached from *Phil.* 2.12. N.B. Mr. *Sumner* was there, and disliked the sermon: discovered his Disgust to me. He did not (as he conceived) sufficiently assert the Necessity of the Special Operation of the Holy Spirit in Conversion. Mr. *Whitney* Stopped the Church for the Enquiry into Deacon *Livermores* Wife's Case. They pray her not to partake and appoint a Committee to look more distinctly into the Cause. I rode with Mr. *Sumner* to *Shrewsbury*. We called to see Madam *Trowbridge*, at General *Wards*. I lodged at Mr. *Sumners*. *Breck, Sarah* and *Sophy* Set out for *Boston* -- have Neighbour *Newtons* Chaise.

1778 June 25 (Thursday). I was Stung by a Bee yesterday Morning on my right Eye Brow: it proved so troublesome last night, and Swelled this morning So as to Shut out the Light wholly from that Eye. Yet I pursued my Journey to *Worcester*. Stopped and Eat at Capt. *Curtiss's*. In *Worcester* Mr. *Cunningham* shewed me Mr. Carpenters Letter to Mrs. *Spooner*. I went in to See the 3 Men: in the *Jayl Ross's* Brother *Timothy*, and *Lucy McDonald* (who was with Child by *Ezra*) were there. The Criminals are very penitent and behave well. I questioned them concerning the first Beginnings of the [work?] proceedings? They Said Mrs. *Spooner* began them. Each of them affirmed it. But on visiting Mrs. *Spooner*, I found her of no different mind from time past, unless it was in more evident denial of the Legality of her Condemnation. She was free and friendly in Conversation -- offered me Wine, which I drank. She Answered me as heretofore, that She took it kindly that I came to see her etc. but when I asked her who was foremost in the horrid and bloody Acts, She laid this on *Ross*; which being contrary to what I had met with from the Prisoners below, I enquired whether She would say this before *them* if they were together? She said She would be willing to with *Ross*, but did not want to have the other two present. We went down to prayer. (N.B. [She at?] mention of [*illegible*] answered that Mrs. *Curtis* was very [kind and?] obliging to her [*illegible*] did not love to impose upon her. [*illegible*] I answered that Mrs. *Curtis*, I could be sure, would be far from taking [*illegible*] the least hard, if she desired to go down on that Occasion. "Will you ask for me?" says She. "Yes, readily." I did: and she had leave. I went to the men a little while before She came: for the Guard waited on her. A paper was delivered me, which *Buchanan* had drawn up from *Ross's* Mouth, and *Ross* had Signed it, while I was in the Chamber. When we were together *Ross* by my Desire read the Paper containing the *First of her promoting her Husbands Death*. The Paper was thus,

"I *Ezra Ross* do desire that Mrs. *Spooner* will take particular Notice. The following is the first of her promoting her husbands Death.

As She was going to *Hardwick* She asked me the Reason of my being so low Spirited? I made answer It was my long absence from home. She replied that her Opinion was, I wanted some one to lodge with -- I told her it would be agreeable. She asked me if Such an One as her self would do? I made answer If She was agreeable I was. [*Marginal notation*: The Dialect was so.] Upon which She said "After She came off her Journey she would See."

N.B. After her Return She Gave me an Invitation to Defile her Marriage Bed; which I *Expected*. And after that she proposed constantly every *sheam* for her Husbands Death. [*Marginal notation*: The spelling is so.]

Ezra Ross."

This *Ross* Said he declared was the very Truth, as a dying Man, and soon to be in Eternity -- but it was but a sketch -- there was much more of the like sort. [Mr. *Maccarty* at his House shewed me another Testimony of *Ross's* (as a dying Man) concerning Mrs. *Spooners* [urging?] him very much to [poison her husband that?] he would give the Poison to Mr. [Crosby?] also (a Neighbour of theirs at *Brookfield*). But he [*illegible*]ly refused.] At their repeated [Request?] I prayed with them and giving them Serious Charge, I took Solemn Leave of them all. Their *Ages*, respectively I took from their Mouths.

Mrs. *Spooner*; She was 32 Feb. 15 last.

James *Buchannan*; He was 36 Jan. 25 last.

*William Brooks* of *Walsal* in *Staffordshire*, old England, in his 27th year, which would be compleat if he could live till July 30th next.

*Ezra Ross*, would be 18, could he live to July 20th next.

I dined at Mr. *Stearns's*, the Lawyer's, Mr. *Maccarty* and Mr. *Isaiah Thomas* also. P.M. I was at Mr. *Salisbury's* with his Mother chiefly. In returning home called (besides the usual places) at Mr. *Israel Allen's*, to See his Wife who, tis thought, has a Cancer. Arrived safe. To God the Glory!

1778 June 26 (Friday). Very tedious, hot Weather to those who are obliged to be abroad. Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ informs me that Brother *Smith* came on 24 to see me. Deacon Batchelour of Grafton came from Boston and brought thence 1/2 lb. of Tea for my Daughter *Sophy*, which he had given 4 Dollars and half for. I paid him the money but laid the Tea up; not willing to please my Palate at such Cost.

1778 June 27 (Saturday). I perceive that *Breck* returned from *Boston* sometime in the last night. I understand by him that Mrs. *Hicks* of *Cambridge* is not well pleased with what was done for *James*. Before we rose from Table, my Daughters *Sarah* and *Sophy* came from *Concord*.

1778 June 28 (Sunday). Was obliged to go on in repeating (but with Alterations and Additions) my Sermon on *Prov. 4.18*. Mrs. *Maynard* dined here. N.B. The Singers not only Sang at noon, but now begin to Sing after the Exercises at Evening.

1778 June 29 (Monday). Col. *Buckminster* comes this way in going to *Rutland*. I read Some part of *Rob[inson]s* excellent History of the Church of Scotland. At Eve came Mr. *Cushing* from *Ashburnham*. His Horse is put to Mr. *Daniel Forbes's*.

1778 June 30 (Tuesday). Though Mr. [*Larkin?*] came early in the morn to mowe my Square piece between [*illegible*] [*meeting House?*] he broke off at mid forenoon: he [*illegible*] and raking the Hay. *Breck* helps also. But about 3 or 4 p.m. a Thunderstorm arose [*torn*] much wet it. Mr. *Cushings* Horse [*is gone?*] from Mr. *Forbes* [*torn*]ure -- he fears he is gone to *Lancaster*. Mr. *Ripley* from [*Concord?*] came -- lodged here. N.B. *Sarah* and *Sophy* rode to Mr. *Whitneys* at *Northborough*.

1778 July 1 (Wednesday). Mr. *Cushing* goes early to *Lancaster* after his Horse. Mr. *Edwards* of *Boston*, Cabinet Maker, came in and was at Breakfast, then goes on his way to *Worcester*. News confirmed, of a Battle in the *Jersies*. Mr. *Ripley* goes with my Daughters *Cushing* and *Sophy* to *Shrewsbury*. P.M. came Mr. *Aaron Crosby* (now preacher at *Blandford*) from *Boston* and *Cape Ann*. No Mr. *Forbes* Come, though much expected. It is probable that he is detained by means of the Separating Preacher *Murray's* being there. Mr. *Crosby* (after Tea) went to *Grafton*.

1778 July 2 (Thursday). *The Day of the Execution*. Mr. *Jos. Farrar* calls, as he is going to *Lincoln* to see his Mother. N.B. No word from either about the Lecture. The Sun very burning. The Wind abated the Heat. After [4 p.m.?] arose a *Storm of Thunder, Lightning and Rain*.

My Thoughts have been much employed upon the Case and Condition of the Criminals, whom I have fervently recommended to the infinite Mercy of God and hope the penitent [are improved to Paradise?] Concerning the poor Woman, it is with me, [*illegible*] certain whether she is hanged or not, or what has become of her. Dr. [*illegible*] *Stimson*, old Mrs. *Maynard* and *Persis Fay* here in the time of the Storm. Mrs. *Maynard* says her Brother in Law Deacon *Jonathan Keyes* of *North Shrewsbury*, who deceased last Thursday, dyed *very suddenly*.

The Storm renews; the Rain continues: the Doctor lodges here.

1778 July 3 (Friday). Hear that *all Four Criminals* were hanged yesterday. Received a Letter from Mr. *Moore*, of *June 28*.

1778 July 4 (Saturday). The Conversation is wholly upon the Case of the Criminals, especially respecting Mrs. Spooner and her Behavior. P.M. Mr. *Langton* of York returning from *Farmington*, calls here, and I conceive he would be ready to keep Sabbath with and preach for me; but I considered the Condition of good Brother Stone in his Feebleness, and therefore Sent him there. Mr. *Fitch* also, from Hopkinton going to [illegible] at North Sutton calls here [torn] of late born him another child; [torn] very comfortable [blot] though it is about a Fortnight [torn].

1778 July 5 (Sunday). A.M. Preached on *Prov.* 6.26, those words, "the Adulteress hunts for the precious Life." P.M. on *Eccl.* 7.17, what was for the main of it delivered on Occasion of *Arthurs* Death, but with Additions of the late Criminals dying Declaration and Warning.

1778 July 6 (Monday). I visited Mr. *Scott*, after his return from Jayl at New York: and other Familys at Deacon Woods, particularly Mrs. *Keen*. Examined her. P.M. At Mrs. Williams's, Mr. Warrins and Mr. Nurse's. Capt. *Elderkin* (who is the Commissary stationed here) came with his wife to make us a Visit; also Mrs. *Wood* with them -- and drank Tea here with us. N.B. wrote by Col. *Wheelock* to Mr. *Maccarty* concerning Mrs. *Spooner*.

1778 July 7 (Tuesday). I sent by Mr. *Thomas Whitney* to Mrs. *Townsend* at Weston: and a Letter by Master *Jonathan Fay*, with a bundle, to Elias at College. Miss *Mindwell* and *Anna* Brigham dined here. I preached at the Private Meeting, [illegible] at Neighbour *Newton's* on 1 *Cor.* 15.57 and finished the subject. Which may God Succeed! After Meeting I came home, and Soon went to Raking of Hay. At Eve came *Billy* from *Concord*, and lodged here.

1778 July 8 (Wednesday). Billy takes leave of us to return home. N.B. [illegible] have the Irons of my old Chair-Wheels [illegible] [viz. the Tire?] Hoops, the Boxes; also 4 Bolts. And I [torn] [to him five?] pounds Lawful Money which remained with me of the money which Mr. *Noah Hardy* Paid me upon his [Rate?], given me for my sons Horse. Mr. *Farrar* came here -- Stayed and dined.

1778 July 9 (Thursday). Finish the Reading of *Robinsons* History of Scotland Vol. 1. At Eve came Mr. *Ripley* and lodges here.

1778 July 10 (Friday). Mr. *Ripley* consults me on the important Affair of his Settling at *Concord*. I lent him the Pastoral Care by Bishop *Burnet*; Result of 3 Synods, Ratio Discipl., the 30 Questions and Testimony of Two Aged Ministers to the Order of the Gospel. He left us, to go to *Framingham* and *Concord*. P.M. came Mr. *William May* -- lodges here.

1778 July 11 (Saturday). A.M. came Mr. (Lawyer) *Stearns* and Mr. *B. Bradshaw*. Mr. *Stearns* informed me of the method taken by the late Jury of Matrons, etc. in the Examinations of the Pregnancy of the late Mrs. *Spooner*; and by his Account it was very indecent and cruel. [illegible] dines. P.M. he goes to Marlborough to preach there -- has engaged for a month.

1778 July 12 (Sunday). I preached a.m. on *Job*. 31.24. Mr. *David Goodall* overtook me in returning home from Meeting -- dined here. Preached for me p.m. on *Isa*. 28.16.17. N.B. Extraordinarily Short. He came from Capt. Maynards and returned there.

1778 July 13 (Monday). For *Timothys* Work for the Doctor in hoeing *Stephen Maynard* came and mowed part of my Clover in the West Field, much diminished indeed by Mr. Harringtons sheep getting frequently into it, feeding and trailing and tangling it. *Timothy* very faithful in tending, raking etc. I could not but go out and rake part of the p.m.

1778 July 14 (Tuesday). *Stephen* again a.m. I raked again and *Breck* principally helpfull, especially in Carting in the Clover.

1778 July 15 (Wednesday). They get in the rest of the Clover. P.M. a Number of Visitants [*illegible*] *Joseph Farrar*, Mr. *Fitch* of *Hopkinton*, Capt. *Elderkin* [*illegible*].

1778 July 16 (Thursday). In some [Consternation?] at the *Loss of Rye* out of one of the Hogsheads in the Corn Barn.

1778 July 17 (Friday). This morning early came *Elias* from *Cambridge* in his Brother *Williams* Chaise and brings a Letter from Mr. *Thomas Barrett* to sister *Champney*, which is to her great Disappointment as she hoped and expected to have gone to live at his House; but he now signifies to her that he can't admitt her there. P.M. Visited Mrs. *Martha Fish* who is sick of a Fever. I conversed and prayed with her.

We are informed that Mr. *Peter Bent* of Northborough was taken ill last Evening, and dyed before Morning. May God grant His almighty Grace to quicken me to a due Preparation for the All-important Hour!

1778 July 18 (Saturday). *Elias* went early to *Concord* in his Brothers Chaise, and led Dr. Hawes' Horse to ride back on. He returned p.m. between two and three o'Clock. Dr. *Joslin* and a Young Man named Benjamin Brown (his Tyro, I suppose) with him called and dined here. Towards Eve I rode to *Hopkinton*. In the way met Mr. *Fitch* coming hither. I called at Mr. *Barretts* -- his *John* (I'm [informed?]) [dyed on the Sabbath?].

1778 July 19 (Sunday). Preached at *Hopkinton* a. and p.m. on 2 *Pet*. 1.10. [*Illegible*] Success depends on the Blessing of God! I most ardently beg the divine Influence [to Increase?] these weak Essays! N.B. At the Beginning of the Afternoon Exercise rose a Thunder storm and shower of Rain. After Exercise Dr. *Stimpson* and Mrs. *Cotton* went with me to Mr. *Fitch's*. In returning home, met Mr. *Fitch's*. In returning home, met Mr. *Fitch*, who had preached here a. and p.m. on *Rom*. 8.18, "For I reckon," etc. N.B. News by an Hand-Bill, that a *French* Fleet of 16 Men of War, with 12,000 Men, are come to the Capes of *Delaware*; Monsieur *Gerard* o'board, as *Plenipotentiary* from the King of *France* to the Congress -- and that War between G.B. and F. is proclaimed. Capt. *Elderkin*, who dined here, had Copy of an Hand-Bill etc. which contained Information thereof.

1778 July 20 (Monday). Went up to Squire *Bakers* to reckon with him about the Oxen he had of me last Fall, and Beef I had of him in the winter [following?] He was at home -- but we were not able to [finish the whole?]. Called at Capt. *Fishers* to see Miss *Patty Fish* again; but *she* was [absent?]. He[r] Mother was there and informs me that She is much better.

1778 July 21 (Tuesday). I rode to *Brecks* Mare to Ministers Meeting at [*West Sudbury?*]. But no one came besides Mr. *Smith*. N.B. Mr. *Bridge* and his Wife [*illegible*] lately had the Small Pox. He by Inoculation but she, after repeated Inoculation had it in the Natural Way. Mr. *Biglow* prayed: and we agreed to have the next Meeting at Mr. *Newells* though he was not present: to be not till 3d Tuesday in September. And if Mr. *Newell* objects, they (by divine will) to be at my House. I returned home in safety at Eve. D.G. N.B. Col. *Ezekiel How* informed me that a Post was gone down from Head Quarters with bad News of great Destruction by the Enemy lately, at *Susquehannah*.

1778 July 22 (Wednesday). Mr. *May* came from *Woodstock*, going to *Marlborough* again. He dines here. P.M. goes to *Marlborough*.

1778 July 23 (Thursday). Mrs. *Fish* and Mrs. *Fisher* made us a Visit, drank Tea etc. My grand Son *Isaac Baldwin* came from *Brookfield*. We are informed that Capt. *Samuel Baldwin* of *Weston* lately dyed there. O that I also might be ready!

1778 July 24 (Friday). *Isaac* left us to return to *Byfield*, to the *Dummer-school*. P.M. to my great Hindrance and Regret was interrupted with Company: when I wanted to be in my Study. Capt. *Elderkin* was very agreeable in himself and his account of *Wyoming* or *Susquehannah* having been frequently there, and the great Hand he had in settling and defending a number of Townships -- his Interest there *now*, etc., were entertaining; but better if at another Time. N.B. Captain brought a Letter to *Timothy Bryant* from his Father and Mother dated June 26. So that it was almost a Month in Coming. Four Young Women came about 4 p.m. to break Wool for Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_. Miss *Patty Fish* is worse again.

1778 July 25 (Saturday). Mr. *Joseph Keenes* -- also his Wife were here, about her Owing the Covenant tomorrow. N.B. I wrote and sent to the [*illegible*] Dismission of Squire *Whipple* and his Wife. Mr. *Elisha Fish* came -- [Grieves?] to See his Sister *Patty* continuing sick. My Kinsman, Mr. *William Parkman*, Son of my late Nephew [*illegible*] having been taken at Sea, about eleven months [past?] and carried [to?] the City of *New-York*, afterwards to *Philadelphia*, and back to *New York*, was now upon his way home by Land, and came to see us. He lodged here.

1778 July 26 (Sunday). My Kinsman So uneasy to get to *Boston*, to his Wife, Mother, etc. that he rode away from us this Morning. Mr. *Joseph Farrar*, riding to *Lincoln*, to his Mothers Funeral called here and tarried Some time. I met with so much interruption in my preparations that, together with my weakness and Dullness, I could not compleat my Design; and therefore preached those Sermons which I delivered some Years agoe, on *Isa.* 25.6 a. and p.m. and administered the Lords Supper. May God gracious pardon and accept! Mrs. *Maynard* and Mrs.

*Rice* (Mr. *Adonijahs* Wife) dined. Mrs. *Keen* owned the Covenant. I was much Spent with the service. N.B. *Breck* was so ill in Meeting time that he went out. I went down to see him after the Exercises.

1778 July 27 (Monday). *Breck* goes to *Boston*. *Elias* pulls down the old, rotten Encumbrances of Stables which used to stand on my Ground behind the meeting House. P.M. came Capt. *Elderkin*, and brought with him two Gentlemen from *Windham*, one his brother *Bela*, the other Mr. *C [ary?]*. The last a great Traveller through the Indian [*illegible*] -- *Niagara*, *Detroit* *Michellemacinack* etc. Mr. *Joseph Farrar*, returning from burying his Mother stops here -- and lodges. I am not well.

1778 July 28 (Tuesday). Mr. *Farrar* tarrys and dines -- toward night leaves us. After dinner came to see us, my Daughters *Lydia* (with her little *Sally*) and *Sally*, from *Concord*, and tarry with us. I am still exercised with pain in my Breast, and sometimes Bowels.

N.B. Last night a Number of the Subscribers from *Worcester Spy*, meet at the Meeting House, and enter into a New Agreement.

1778 July 29 (Wednesday). My Daughters tarried to dine -- at nigh 4 p.m. they left us. Mr. [*Reuben?*] *Warrin* -- Mr. *Daniel Goddard* -- one *John Barber* of *Bridport* in *Dorsetshire*, *old England*, either insane, enthusiastical, or in Liquor, were here. Visit Miss *Fish*, who is still confined.

1778 July 30 (Thursday). *Breck* returns. *Ruth Buck* desires to be propounded in Order to her *Humiliation* and *joining with the Church*, is Examined. I am under Indispositions. Sometimes pained in my Stomach etc.

1778 July 31 (Friday). Fresh Orders (brought by Mr. *Daniel Goddard* of *Shrewsbury* on the 29th) for more men -- now to go to *Rhode-Island*, against the *British* Forces there; but there being Difficultys raising them to Day the Company was called together to try other Methods. But very little Success. There is not only a great Backwardness to Going, apprehending that there will be a very hot struggle, and probably much Bloodshed, but the young Men who are fit to go, ask so large additional Bounty, that the Committee of the Town who are entrusted with the Matter, cannot comply with their Demands.

N.B. on the 30th Mr. *Hezekiah Maynard* was here and dined with us. He desires to borrow again Mr. *Baxter* [2d?] Vol. and I lent it him. He says he will safely return it in a month.

1778 August 1 (Saturday). The Committee for raising Men to go to *Rhode Island* are not a little perplexed.

1778 August 2 (Sunday). A.M. on *Gen. 2.18*. P.M. on *Amos 3.2*. I was Somewhat faint after the Exercises -- but God graciously sustained me. I perceive that Extremity obliges the Committee for enlisting Soldiers to be engaged in that Business to Day. And I hear also a Number of Teams

are gone from hence to *Rhode Island* with Provision for the Army, this Day. *Ruth Buck* was propounded.

1778 August 3 (Monday). *Drury Fairbank* in a Languishment and going over to Dr. [*Scammel?*], calls at the Shop. Mrs. [*Jemima Hardy?*] was here with Objections against *Ruth Buck*. I [advised?] Mrs. Hardy to go to her, and discourse with her. [*illegible*] She said she had Seen and spoke with her. [But to?] little [effect?]. Master *Eli Brigham* came with Mr. *William [May?]*. The latter tarrys here. *Sophy* is gone to *Southborough* for weaving. A Number of the young Men who are going to the War, viz. *Jacob Broadus*, *Gott Maynard* and *D [an?] Read* are here at Evening and I gave them my Advice.

1778 August 4 (Tuesday). [*Torn*] after Breakfast Setts out for *Woodstock*. *Sophy* to *Upton* to weavers -- and returns at Eve. Mrs. *Martha Fish* is so far recovered as to ride here; and Miss *Nabby Martyn* recovering from the [*Lamness?*] of her Ankle, accompanys her.

1778 August 5 (Wednesday). The Young soldiers, though a great price is given them and only for six weeks, though they Should have been at *Mendon* last Friday noon, Sat out, not till this Morning, from hence. Mr. Phinehas Gleasons Wife was here and brought a Ball of Worstead weighing 10 Ounces, which She gives me towards making me a Gown.

1778 August 6 (Thursday). Fast at *Marlborough* in order to Settling a Minister. We were entertained at Mr. *Joseph Howe's*. Mr. *Newell* Opened the Solemnity with Prayer. Mr. *Stone* preached on *Rev. 2.5*. A very Pertinent Sermon. May God grant Success! Mr. *Sumner* prayed after it, and began in the Afternoon. I preached p.m. on *Jer. 3.15*. O that God would forgive my Defects and the Iniquities of my holy Things, and grant Audience. O that I might be my Self Such a Pastor as I have described! And that *Marlborough* might have One truly so! A Committee waited upon us after the public Exercises, with the Thanks of the Church, and to see what further Advice we could give them in their present particular State and Circumstances. Our united Counsel was, that in so weighty an Affair, they had best be *deliberate* -- for then those who were not fully Satisfyed with the Gentleman which the Generality Seemed to have their Eye upon (that is Mr. *Daniel Foster*) might by further [*Conversation?*] with him, be reconciled. I called at *Col. [Winchesters?]* on my Returning home.

1778 August 7 (Friday). *Breck* had a Letter from Mr. *Henry [Marble?]* dated the 5th from *Providence*. For they had marched [from?] their former Encampment which was at [*Valley Forge?*]. Thing are now [*illegible*] The Lord [*illegible*] us for what He shall be pleased to [*illegible*]

1778 August 8 (Saturday). I rode to *Shrewsbury* -- called at the Door of Mr. *Ebenezer Garfield* to see Mr. *Broad* and prayed with him. Mr. *Broad* was under a terrible *Haemorrhage*: had bled at the Nose from yesterday forenoon without ceasing; and was still dropping. And had some Conversation with *the young Scholar Daniel* who belongs to *Providence Collige*. I lodged at Mr. *Sumners*.

1778 August 9 (Sunday). I preached a. and p.m. on *Joel* 3.13 with the Additions to p. 12. Which may God graciously pleased to bless. It was hot in the forenoon -- but a storm arose p.m. and rained hard -- thundered etc. After Exercises came in to Mr. Sumners two Maiden Gentlewomen who were of *Boston*, viz. Miss *Molly* and Miss *Suse Procter*. At Eve, after praying with the Family at Mr. *Sumners*, I went, by Invitation to Col. *Cushing's* and was refreshed there - - but lodged, agreeable to her Request, at his Mothers. [*Marginal notation*: am informed that Mr. *Sumner* preached yesterday on Prov. 22.8 and 2 Cor. 2.16.]

1778 August 10 (Monday). As I came home I made a Visit to Mrs. *Katharine Allen* (wife of Mr. *Israel Allen*) who is confined by a *Cancer*. Mr. *Allen* also is under much Weakness -- conversed and prayed with them. Lit also at Mr. *Jos. Knowltons* whose Wife is much better -- was at Mr. *Gershom Brighams* -- but especially I hastened to Mr. *Broad*, who though alive, yet is very low. The Bleeding has Stopped; but is now dropping. I pityed, instructed, prayed with him -- hastened Mr. *Rider* (who lives there) for Dr. Ball. When I got home, Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ inclined to go to him. Am informed that Mr. *Sumner* preached yesterday on Prov. 22.8 and 2 Cor. 2.16.

1778 August 11 (Tuesday). Having borrowed of Sister *Cushing Willards Blessed Man* I begin to read it. Dr. *Stimson* here and dines with us. *Elias* goes to *Upton* and brings home from the weavers the Cloth for a Linnen Gown. And he goes to Miss *Molly Garfield (Shrewsbury)* to fetch from her Loom, Linnen for Breeches for him. Capt. *Morse* here in Defence of *Ruth Buck* against Mrs. *Hardy*; and insists on her (the latter) being distracted. News from *Rhode Island* that our Forces are much increased there, and have entered upon it.

1778 August 12 (Wednesday). Previous to his going to *Cambridge* I gave *Elias* Some Serious Instruction etc. I asked him, whether he did really Choose this way of living, or No? He answered me, that he chose Learning and Said he would give himself to this kind of Life. I have been, and am, deeply affected with his Conduct. I desire to committ him to God who can change the Hearts of Men. He leaves us to return to *Cambridge*. I delivered him Fifty Dollars for his Support. And may God grant him his Special Blessing! Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ much indisposed. P.M. I rode over to see Mr. *Broad*, who (Thanks to God!) is more comfor[table?] does not bleed as heretofore. Discoursed and [prayed with him?] left him with my [*illegible*] to improve [*illegible*] Life to the divine Glory. [I then went?], and Mr. *Elijah Hardy* with me, to Mr. *Isaac Parker's* where dwells the widow *Jemima Hardy*, that I might direct her with respect to *Ruth Buck*. But I found her much out of her Head, and incapable of any regular Conversation. Dr. *Stimson* has been here, is soon going to settle at Great Barrington.

1778 August 13 (Thursday). [I send?] a second time to Mr. *Duncan* for Dr. *Robinsons* History *Scotland* vol. 2 but in Vain. Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ continues under much indisposition.

1778 August 14 (Friday). We have strong Expectations from the *Army* at *Rhode Island*, and the *French Fleet*, Count de *Estaing*, Commander, on those Coasts. Breck has taken to *Book-binding*, and has bound for me Vol. 7 and 8 of the *Political State of Great Britain* -- which are for the Year 1714; and all bound very handsomely.

Old Mrs. *Dolly Rice* here. Capt. *Elderkin* from *Windham*. They drank Tea here. Other Company also. Though the latter were not, the former were unavoidably an Interruption to my preparations.

1778 August 15 (Saturday). Miss *Ruth Buck* came with her Confession and Relation; and it proved a yet greater Interruption, as I was obliged to new methodize and wholly transcribe her writings for the public Reading of them. But there is no material Objection against her.

1778 August 16 (Sunday). On 1 Pet. 3.7 a.m. but it was about an hour long, and too much for my Small strength. At noon Miss *Ruth Buck* was here, and I read and She signed the Address she is about to make to the Church, Miss *Patty Fish* and her sister *Eunice* dined with us. P.M. I preached one of my Sermons on 1 *Cor.* 15.50 and wish it may be to our Saving Profit and Advantage!

1778 August 17 (Monday). I made a Visit to Capt. *Morse's*, to Mr. *Jonah Warrin* -- and to Deacon *Bonds*. Whilst I was there arose a Storm of Thunder, Lightning and Rain: I tarried sometime, but I was obliged to come home in it, and was very Wet.

1778 August 18 (Tuesday). A.M. came Mr. *Whitney* as to a Ministers Meeting, but there was none here. My Son *Cushing* came with him, having been Stopped by the Rain last Evening. He lodged there. They dined here. Mr. *Whitney* returns home, his Wife having lately brought him another Son *Aaron*. Mr. *Cushing* lodges here. My Wife is very much [unwell?].

1778 August 19 (Wednesday). The Storm of last night was very Violent -- The Rain exceeding great and the Effects uncommon. This morning it holds up and *Sophy* goes with Mr. *Cushing* to A[shburn]ham[?] Billet of the News, from Capt. *Elderkin*.

1778 August 20 (Thursday). Mr. *Thomas Kendal* [torn] [Wellington?] by the way of Grafton) came to See me, and dines with us -- tarrys over night. He manifests an inclination rather to preach to a Number of the New and remote Towns, who esteem his Labors, then to be settled in any particular place. He asks me to go to Grafton for next Sabbath, but the Circumstances of my Family, at present (my Wife Sick and I have not one of my Children at home etc. etc.) I can't gratifie him.

1778 August 21 (Friday). Mr. *Kendal* dines with us -- return him his *Masons* Sermons and he returns me my *Edwards's* Veritas redax. He leaves here Dr. *Wheelocks* Narrative of the original Design etc. of the *Indian Charity School*. P.M. He returns back to *Grafton*, but leaves Cloths, Linnen etc. under Mrs. P. \_\_\_\_\_s Care. Mr. *Temple* of *Upton* brings home the Striped Linnen Cloth.

1778 August 22 (Saturday). Sorrowful News of the Death of *Samuel Andrews* at *Valley Forge*, *Pensylv.* in the Continental service, of a putrid Fever. May God Sanctifye it to the Father, Surviving Brothers and sisters!

1778 August 23 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on 1 *Pet.* 3.7. Mrs. *Twitchell* dines here. P.M. on 1 *Cor.* 15.50 and finished that subject. My wife was So indisposed She went not to Meeting.

1778 August 24 (Monday). Visit and pray with Mr. *Broad*, who bleeds at times and is very weak and feeble. I went to Squire Bakers -- reckoned with him: and received the Ballance between the Oxen which he had of me, and the Cow which I had of him -- viz. 999 lb. @ 9d per pound. It amounted to 37£ 9.3 and he paid me 37.10.0. I dined there. Borrowed Mr. *James Janaways best Friend* etc.<sup>6</sup> Called to see Mrs. *Keen*. Went in to Deacon *Woods*. Capt. *Elderkin* not there. At home found *Ebenezer Briant* -- but he has come to tell *Timothy* of their Fathers Sickness and Danger, and that his F \_\_\_\_\_ must See him.

1778 August 25 (Tuesday). This Morn at Break of Day, they sat out for *Stoneham*. *Breck* informs me that Mr. *David Stow*, son of *Grafton* was at his shop and told him *Elias's* weather had sickened and dyed, that it was wholly lost, Skin and wool, for it was Some time before they found it, and it Stank.

1778 August 26 (Wednesday). At Mr. *Whitney's* Request I rode over to *Northborough* Lecture. I preached on 1 *Cor.* 15.30. N.B. Deacon *Livermores* Wife tarries at the Church-meeting after Lecture. The Church passes a Vote that they do not consent to her Coming to the Communion with them. I returned at Eve, notwithstanding there was Some Rain.

1778 August 27 (Thursday). A.M. Visit Mr. *Andrews* and his Family on Occasion of his son *Samuels* Death. After which I proceeded to *Grafton*. Met Mr. *Kendall*, going to my House. I dined at Mr. *Joseph Grouts* -- went to Mr. *David Stows* to See my Sheep, there having been sore Mortality among them. About 6 have dyed, of those he has the Care of. N.B. Singular Regard and Kindness was Shewn me by Old Capt. *Drury* and his Daughter in Law. At my Return home found that my wife has had an ill Day. Faint -- Sick etc.

1778 August 28 (Friday). Mrs. P \_\_\_\_\_ under much indisposition -- but her Lameness is less. Much taken off, and backward in my preparations!

1778 August 29 (Saturday). Mr. *Willard* of *Mendon* came to request me to Change with him. He dined here. P.M. he went to his Brothers in *Grafton* and I rode to *Mendon*. Many Cannon are here from Rhode-Island. 'Tis conceived some Great Action commences. Lodged at Mr. *Willards*.

1778 August 30 (Sunday). Preached on *Mat.* 16.26 a. p.m. (at *Mendon*) which may God graciously Succeed! We have been very much alarmed with bad news from *Rhode Island*; but at Evening a more favorable Account. At noon I was kindly entertained by Mrs. *Wilder* (Mr. *Caleb's* Wife). Her Husband is at the Eastward. After Meeting went (by Invitation) to Judge

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<sup>6</sup>James Janeway (1636?-1674), *Heaven upon earth; or, The best friend in the worst times. Being an earnest exhortation to get acquainted with God, as the only way to real good and blessedness* (Boston: Z. Fowle and S. Draper, 1760). From the 3rd ed. Evans 8625

*Dorr's* -- where the very aged Squire *Tyler* came to make me a Visit. He was 91 last February and is Still alert. He accompanied me to Mr. *Willards*, where I lodged.

1778 August 31 (Monday). Young *Moses Haven*, who has entered College this Year; *John Honeywood*, Son of the late Dr. *Honeywood* of *Leicester*, and [blank] *Goddard* of *Sutton*, reside there. The 2 last as Scholars. *Honeywood* shews his Genius in *Drawing* -- drew Hon. General *Hancock* -- and Hon. *Samuel Adams* -- while I was present; and presented them to me.

A poor Sick Soldier came in there, and gave us the State of the Armies as late as yesterday Morning and that he was informed there was that day, a Smart Action. I dined with Mrs. *Willard*, the Young Scholars, and Miss *Peggy Steel*, *Honeywoods* Aunt. I returned by Deacon *Batchelors* and Mr. *Grosvenors*, *Grafton* -- called at Mr. *Joseph Grout's*, in my Way home -- arrived Safely about 9 o'Clock, and Mrs. P \_\_\_\_\_ no worse. Mr. *Willards* Text were *Mat.* 8.5 to 10, p.m. *Jer.* [115?] - 8. To God be Glory!

1778 September 1 (Tuesday). Mr. *Rider* came in the Morning to acquaint me that last night Mr. *William Broad* expired. A sad Loss, being a man much esteemed. May God be gracious to his very mournful Widow, near her time! P.M. preached at the Private Meeting, which was at Deacon *Wood's*, on *Isa.* 22.5. This being a Juncture of peculiar Tryal with our Army at or near *Rhode Island*. Success, both here and there, depends only on the Great God!

1778 September 2 (Wednesday). At 9 a.m. attend, and pray at, the Funeral of Mr. *Broad*. Aets. 25. N.B. His Mournful Widow falls into Travel. The women are with her, and Dr. *Ball* is come.

1778 September 3 (Thursday). Mrs. *Broad*, I understand, has been delivered of a son, but it was dead -- and to day it is buried; I attended and prayed. I hear that there was general Stir at *Boston* and Towns round about, yesterday, fearing the *British* Fleet was coming in -- but it came to Nothing. Mrs. *Crosby*, Mrs. *Baker* etc. made a Visit here to See Mrs. P \_\_\_\_\_ who is (through divine Goodness) grown better.

1778 September 4 (Friday). Col. *Brigham* has rid to the Army near *Rhode Island*, to see his Son *Winslow*, and now returns with Accounts of their present State; and with a Letter from *Henry Marble* to *Breck*, which intimates the unhappy State of the Army, not only by the Disappointment in the Attempt against *Newport*, and withdrawing to the *Main*, but Disquietment among the Soldiers.

A Letter received from *Elias* by Mr. *Isaac Parker*. He informs of Mr. *Tucker's* preaching the *Dudleian Lecture* etc.

1778 September 5 (Saturday). I have writ to Mr. *Quincy* at *Medfield*, by Mr. *Theodore [Harding?]* of *Medway*. P.M. Mr. *Fish* and his Delegate, Deacon [*Bradish?*] call at the Door, in their Return from *Westford*, where the Elders and Messengers of Eight Churches met, but could not form into a Council, by reason of their being so divided among them Selves. The Case aimed to be considered was the Dismission of the Aged Mr. *Willard Hall*.

1778 September 6 (Sunday). My Wife is better, but not well enough to go to Meeting and therefore though I had prepared for another Exercise on 1 *Pet.* 3.7, I laid it aside: for I was not willing to preach all those Sermon on *mutual Conjugal Duties*, and my own Wife absent. I preach'd a. and p.m. on *Ps.* 31.5 and the rather on consideration of the Deaths of the last Week. Mr. *Francis Whipple* and his Wife were dismissed to *New Braintree Church*. I appointed the Communion and Lecture.

1778 September 7 (Monday). Mr. *David Stow* and his Wife here. Bad News that the *British Soldiers* have burnt *Bedford* in *Dartmouth*. Dr. *Hawes* at Eve.

1778 September 8 (Tuesday). Sister *Champney* left us to return to *Cambridge*. *Suse* rode with her in the Chaise (Mr. *Newton's*) and *Breck* rode on a Horse which I procured for Mr. *Eleazer Rider*. By *Breck* I write to *Elias*, inclosing his Quarter Bills which he had inadvertently left: and to Mr. *Forbes* of *Gloucester*, concerning his Sheep. N.B. I send *Elias* also the New Edition of *Caesars Commentaries* -- handsomely bound. P.M. Read in *Fox's Acts and Monuments*.

1778 September 9 (Wednesday). Mr. *Whitney* dined here, and preached my Lecture -- a second Sermon on 1 *Cor.* 11.28. Let a man examine etc. A very useful Discourse. May divine Blessing accompany his Labors from Time to Time. May the Holy Spirit of Grace work in me the necessary Qualifications. Assist me in my Self Search, and may the Merits and Righteousness of Christ procure me acceptance before God after all my utmost strivings!

1778 September 10 (Thursday). Mr. *Thomas Twitchel* came to acquaint me with the Death of an Infant of Mr. *John Underwood*, newly come into the Town; and to desire to attend the Burial of it. I accordingly went and prayed there. I had Deacon Woods Horse. Called to see the Widow *Fay*, whom I found in great Trouble for her son *Solomon Stow* in the Army; he being put under Provost-Guard.

1778 September 11 (Friday). *Jej. and Prec.* -- Interrupted by the Coming in of two Strangers, viz. Mr. *John Smith*, Professor of Language in *Dartmouth College* and *William Patten* of the same College. They breakfast here. *Breck* and *Suse* return from *Boston*, and *Timothy Bryant* from *Stoneham*.

1778 September 12 (Saturday). Have been informed that Dr. *Andrew Eliot* is near his End.

1778 September 13 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on *Luk.* 22.15. Administered the Lords Supper. Mrs. *Maynard*, Miss *Mindwell* and *Anna Brigham* dined here. P.M. preached on *Ps.* 31.5, repeating the rest of Sermon on that Text. N.B. Mrs. *Parkman* went to meeting, having been detained at home by illness for many Weeks. D.G.

1778 September 14 (Monday). Walked to Mr. *Greaves's* to See Deacon *Dolliver* -- who went with me to Squire Bakers -- who was so generous as to take my whole Flock of Sheep to his pasture, and gratis. Thanks to God for this His Goodness! Wrote to Mr. *Forbes* again, by D.

Dolliver. Mr. Daniel Nurse here, and renews his sisters Request for a Fast at their House. I Consent. We agree upon next Thursday come fortnight. More Men are sent for -- Lt. *Jonathan Grout* is to go.

1778 September 15 (Tuesday). I rode to Ministers Meeting at *Stow* and dined there. Messrs. Stone, Smith, Whitney and Biglow there. Mr. Newell prayed. Mr. Stone read a part of his late Sermon on Murder -- and added one particular kind of Murder, that of murdering Ministers. The next Meeting to be at my House the 3d Tuesday of next month. N.B. The Old Lady very infirm. I rode to my Son Williams at Concord, and lodged there -- Had many serious Reflections as on my finishing my 75th Year. May I have deep and thorough Sense of it! And my devout Aspirations be accepted by a gracious God through Jesus Christ my only Advocate!

1778 September 16 (Wednesday). *Another Birth Day* arrives, through the Long-suffering of God. I rendered, as I was able, Thanksgiving and Praise to my Almighty Author, Preserver and Benefactor. My Son rode with me to Dr. *Swifts* at *Acton*. Spent Some time in the Library. Dined with the old Lady, her son and his Wife. Bought *Buxtorfs* Lexicon and they gave me *Nortoni Responsio ad Apollonium*. Visit Mr. *Adams* (the Minister) who is under scrophulous Disorders. On the Road in returning home, had Opportunity for Serious Discourse with my Son, especially on the solemn Article of my own Departure from temporal Enjoyments and settling what may be left. Called at Col. *Weeks's* (as I did in going down). Arrived in Safety. D.G. Found here Mr. *Forbes* and his son, also *John Honeywood*, with a Letter from Mr. *Jos. Willard*. He is to tarry here with us a While. He was brought here by Mr. *Simon Willard* of *Grafton*, who led back his Horse. They all lodged here. Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ sorrowfully indisposed yet.

1778 September 17 (Thursday). Mr. *Forbes* and son are confined here by Rain. They dine here, and at Eve they go to his Brothers. N.B. The Worthy and excellent Dr. *Eliot* of *Boston*, I hear, dyed on last Lords day morning and was buried yesterday! An heavy Loss! May the Lord sanctify it! And pity His bereaved Flock and Family! O may I be ready also!

1778 September 18 (Friday). When Mr. *Forbes* hears me relate what Mr. *David Stow* demands for keeping his Sheep, viz. 1 sh. per Head per Week -- he is not willing to pay it, but thinks I ought to have informed him, that he might have taken them away, according to the first Method proposed, that is, after *shearing*. We are therefore thrust on to the *Second Method* which is to keep them till the year be up. Which we consent to. He and his son leave us to go to *Brookfield*. A sorrowful Occurrence happened yesterday -- *John Bond*, son of Mr. *Abraham Bond*, of 15 years, was pursuing a Squirrel, climed [*sic*] up a tall Tree to beat him down; the Limb which he depended on was dry and broke; he fell down to the Ground, and was taken up senseless -- but after a while revived; but much bruised -- one Arm broke, the other hurt and swelled -- a Snag of the Tree wounded him on the upper part of his Hip. A wonder he was not killed, for he fell, as it was conceived, nigh 30 feet: much Blood issued. What a loud Warning!

1778 September 19 (Saturday). I have no Message from Mr. *Bonds*, but hear that *John* is like to Recover. *Isaac Forbush* comes to buy my Oxen -- says they are worth 80£ (lawful money) -- but

Mr. *Isaac* Parker having them and bespoke them I can't sell them. Am closely engaged in my Preparations. May God graciously assist! *John Honeywood* with us -- reading, drawing, etc.

1778 September 20 (Sunday). My Wife was so indisposed that She could not go to Meeting. But I have prepared some time Since, and now added to it, another (and a large) Exercise on 2 *Pet.* 3.18, which though I designed to deliver it to day, yet for the Same Reasons before mentioned (See on the 6th day), I thought it best still to defer the delivering it: and considering it was the first Sabbath of my New Year, and that it might be very Seasonable on other Accounts, I preached a. and p.m. on *Gen.* 17.7. "And I will establish my Covenant between Me and thou" etc.

1778 September 21 (Monday). I made a Visit to poor *John Bond*, in his wounded Condition. He is not able to speak plainly, his mouth is so broken and cutt by his Fall, and his Bones are sett and healing -- and has his Reason. I prayed with him and the Family under their Affliction. Then I visited Ensign *Jeduthun Fay*, who is sick, and several of his Daughters. Went to Capt. *Jonathan Fays*, his Wife being very ill. Prayed with her: and I dined there. Went to *Grafton*, and settled with Mr. *David Stow*. Paid him in full for keeping the sheep -- viz. 11£ 8/ Lawful Money, and returned at Eve. Mr. *Levi Wilder* has been here, and dined with Mrs. P \_\_\_\_\_

1778 September 22 (Tuesday). Young *Honeywood* here yet, busy in drawings. Tarrys till late afterno[o]n, and then left us to go to *Grafton*. A letter from *Sophy* at *Ashburnham* per Lt. *John Forbes* of *Otter Creek*. Mr. *Stows* sons, *Samuel* and *Ithamar* drive down hither the Four Sheep which he had kept back, and they are driven to squire Bakers.

1778 September 23 (Wednesday). I write by Mr. *Levi Brigham* to my Son *Alexander* at New *Marlborough*. Breck setts out for Boston. At Eve came Mr. *Forbes* and his Son from *Brookfield*. N.B. He preached there last Sabbath, and by the Special Desire of the Committee of that Parish. They lodge here.

1778 September 24 (Thursday). Mr. *Forbes* and his son leave us to go home by way of *Cambridge* and *Boston*. He proposes to Send, if he can, for his Sheep this Fall, but to leave me the Lambs; but he must have a pound of Wool per Head -- that is 9 pound as if they were kept till January when at furthest he will send for them. Visit *John Bond* again, and pray with and instruct him. P.M. I rode up to Mr. *Daniel Nurse's*. A very Sick House -- the Man, the woman, and 4 or 5 Children sick, chiefly with Fever. Their infant very bad, with Canker. Rode to Mr. *Jonathan Childs* also.

1778 September 25 (Friday). Was Sent for to visit old Mr. *Jonah Warrin*, who was thought to be near his End, but he revived. I prayed with him. N.B. His Son *Levi* is gone to Fish-Kill. N.B. Although a third of the Militia is sent for to march to Boston, yet little is done to obtain them.

1778 September 26 (Saturday). Attended the burying of Mr. *Daniel Nurse's* young Child. This Family remain Sick: One only of them able to go to the Grave. *Breck* returned from *Boston* seasonably to dine with us. He had a Fall by the Stumbling of his Mare, So that he is lame. He

relates that there was a grand Reception of the Count de *Estaing* at *Boston* when the Militia and general Court waited on him and his Suit: and a Sumptuous Dining in *Fanuil-Hall*; the House of Representatives, as well as the Council, etc., were there likewise.

1778 September 27 (Sunday). *Moses Warrin* came to desire me to go over this morning to Old Mr. *Warrin*, who is very low. But I could not before the Exercises. Preached a.m. on 1 Pet. 3.7. Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ was at Meeting a.m. Mr. *Barrett* of *Hopkinton*, Mrs. *Maynard* and Mrs. *Bowker* (honorable *Joseph's* Lady) from *Vermont*, dined here. Deacon *Wood* brought a Letter to him from his Son *John*, dated *Camp West Point* Sept. 9, in which he and a Number more soldiers send their Desires of Prayers of our Congregation for them. P.M. I preached on 1 Pet. 2.9 to page 6 throughout, and added a 3d Use. By Special Desire went after the Exercises to See old Mr. *Warren* again and prayed with him. Received a Letter from Mr. *Moore* containing an Account of the Enemys Invasion of *Dartmouth*, destroying *Bedford*, and doing mischief at *Fair-Haven*: begun Sept. 5. Mr. *Bradshaw* came at Eve. He is valetudinary -- going to *Boston* -- lodges here. May God Pity and relieve him!

1778 September 28 (Monday). Mr. *Bradshaw* leaves us. Sent *Elias Fay Grave* [illegible], Vol. 1. Sir *Brigham* (*Elijah*) borrows the *Master Key to Popery*. Mr. *Daniel Forbes* is at work at the Cellar Window. He dines with us. I received Mr. *Payson* of *Chelsy's* last Election sermon Yesterday, by the Hand of Dr. *Hawes*, our Representative, and read it to day.<sup>7</sup> A very Spiritual Piece, and contains a Number of very useful Observations. *Brecks Mare* Missing.

1778 September 29 (Tuesday). Read the Lives of Several of the most eminent Reformers. Sir *Brigham* (*Moses*) Sends me *Gravefards* Philosophy Vol. 1 the Great sort.

1778 September 30 (Wednesday). Sir *Brigham* (*Elijah*) returns from his Excursion in Quest of the Mare without finding or hearing any Thing. *Elias*, to my great Surprize, comes in a Chaise, with Sister *Champney*, who can't find how, or where to live in *Cambridge*.

1778 October 1 (Thursday). Capt. *Fisher*, being upon a Bee-Hunting desires me to fasten up my Bees till 8 o'Clock, which I gratify him in. He would fain distinguish between what are my property, and those that are wild, that he may take the latter. Various setts of People are digging Iron Oar. Mr. [Andr. Hewt?] in my Meadow; Mr. *Hemingway* of *Holliston* in the Bent Meadow. P.M. Mrs. *Maynard* with one Mrs. *Elizabeth Elwell*, came to visit us.

1778 October 2 (Friday). Sister *Champney* not well.

1778 October 3 (Saturday). Mr. *Ripley* came from *Barre*, from burying his Father, He is returning to *Concord*, but very thoughtful about what he shall say to the Committee who will meet with him soon to confer about the Preparation for his Ordination. At which Time he is

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<sup>7</sup>Phillips Payson, *A sermon preached before the Honorable Council, and the Honorable House of Representatives, of the state of Massachusetts-Bay, in New-England, at Boston, May 27, 1778. Being the anniversary for the election of the Honorable Council* (Boston: John Gill, 1778; Evans 15956).

Apprehensive they will demand of him his Sentiments about Pastoral Power and Authority in the Government of the Church, which seems now out of season to Enquire into; they should have done this before they gave him any Call. I sent by him to Mr. *Stone*, his Sermon at Marlborough Fast on Rev. [blank]. Dr. Crosby, who belongs to the Army now at *Danbury*, made me a visit and dined here. P.M. Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ rode out with *Elias* in the Chaise, to Capt. Maynards. I have not a few, or Small Avocations and Impediments to Study.

1778 October 4 (Sunday). On 1 *Pet.* 2.9. No body to set the Psalm. I was obliged to set it, after a poor manner, my Self. P.M. I preached a sermon my mind was much engaged in as the present sorrowful Times are: on Ps. 92.7, "when the wicked spring as the Grass etc." N.B. I delivered something like this, "If there be any person that you know of, who is addicted to profaneness, I pray you to mark him (there should be some *Stigma* set upon him), that being marked out, he may be avoided." Sir *Fay* p.m. sat the Psalm. At Eve I was obliged to ride up to [Mr. John?] *Fays* to visit and pray with a little Daughter of Mrs. *Levi* [illegible] who is very ill. I went also to [illegible] was still under a grievous Fever. [illegible] Nurse's Mother *Ball* there.

1778 October 5 (Monday). *Elias*, before Day, in the Chaise in which he brought up sister *Champney* went away for *Cambridge*. Sister being left here (unavoidably) to stay with us. She is now ill, and grows no better. We cant do any other than Pity and relieve her, as we are able. We seem very much weakened, broken and destitute by being unhorsed: but we are obliged to conform our minds to our Circumstances. At Eve came Mrs. *Bowker* of *Rutland*, upon *Otter Creek*, to make us a Visit. She relates the wonderful Preservations which she, her Children and Neighbours experienced when the British Forces drove them off from their settlements -- and many of the steps taken in erecting their New State of *Vermont*. Mr. *Nathan Maynard* here, with a Letter to him from his Brother, *Benjamin Whipple* of the foresaid *Rutland* (now Esquire), praying me to write a Letter for him in Answer to it: which I did.

1778 October 6 (Tuesday). *Elias* returns from *Cambridge* and has been also to *Boston*. But what we are somewhat Surprized with is, he rides home *Brecks* Mare, which was found in a Pasture at [blank] by *Gershom Hill* the Molatto from Squire *Bakers*, who going down below, *Breck* furnished with an Advertisement. We are now whole footed again: but the Charges by the Loss and Recovery amount to 40 Dollars.<sup>8</sup> P.M. I preached at the Widow, Mrs. *Mehitabel Brigham*s on Rev. 2.10, latter part. Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ rode there with me. Mrs. *Bowker* also attended: so did a Number of Young Gentlemen. Besides Sir *Brigham* There were Sir *Stone*, *Crosby*, *Fay*, and Master *Abr. Holland*, with us. Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ and I called to see the Widow *Fay* who is much out of Health.

1778 October 7 (Wednesday). *Stephen Maynard* (for the Doctor) brings in a Load of Indian Corn. N.B. Dogs wound and worry the Doctors and Mr. *Ebenezer Forbush's* Sheep. The Doctors

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<sup>8</sup>In an advertisement dated Sept. 28, 1778, *Breck Parkman* announced that "whoever will take up said MARE and retutrn her to the subscriber, shall be handsomely rewarded and all necessary charged paid." *Massachusetts Spy*, Oct. 1, 1778. The mare was described a brown, "with a star in her forehead, one hind foot white, a long trail, trots and paces, about ten years old."

great Dog killed. I visit Mr. *Ebenezer Millers* Wife, who was taken ill suddenly and is Still confined. Prayed with her, and she by her Discourse manifests a good Frame. Her Husband is full of Resentment of the wrong Measures taken in Town. In returning I called at Mr. *Tainters*, especially to see a strange young Woman who has resided there a great while and has a Child there -- but she was not at home. Brother Solomon *Batherick* and the Widow *Thankful Warrin* were married.

1778 October 8 (Thursday). Mrs. *Butler* (*Peters* Wife) and Mr. *Abraham Knowltons* Widow, here. N.B. *Elias* went to *Coi's* Hill in *Brookfield* for my Cattle.

1778 October 9 (Friday). *Elias* returned with the Four Cattle which he went for, viz. a Cow for Beef, a large Steer and two younger ones. N.B. He lodged last night at Walkers (a Tavern) in *Brookfield*.

1778 October 10 (Saturday). Sister *Champney* is very infirm -- in pain etc. from Day to Day.

1778 October 11 (Sunday). It was so rainy, and thereby so difficult to get to meeting, that the Assembly was very thin. I preached a second sermon on Ps. 92.7. No Chorister: I was obliged to Set the Psalm my Self. P.M. Repeated with Additions on 1 *Pet.* 2.9.

1778 October 12 (Monday). My Grandson *Ebenezer* of *Brookfield* having been to *Boston*, and kept Sabbath at *Southborough* comes to See me a.m. Tarries to dinner. Has sold his place at *Brookfield* and is looking out for another. He goes to See my Neighbour *Caleb Harrington*: who asks so much, he does not care to give the Price. He lodges here. Breck and *Elias* go, at Evening to Singing Meeting at Capt. *Fishers*.

1778 October 13 (Tuesday). Rev. *Stephen Johnson* of *Lyme* with his Wife (who heretofore was Miss *Leverett*) came in to see me, on their Journey from *Boston*, home.

1778 October 14 (Wednesday). The Vacation at College begins. At Eve came a Young woman that has lived for some time at my Daughter *Baldwins*: Her name is *Judith Robertson*. She lodges here.

1778 October 15 (Thursday). Mr. *Wellman* of *Cornish* calls to see me and dined here. P.M. Mrs. *Harrington* and her son and Daughter Wait, of [Alsted, here?]. Read Dr. *Goodwins* and Mr. *Nye's* preface to Mr. Cotton of the Keys: the second time; and part of the Book it self. *Elias* went to Mr. *Benjamin Thurstons* for Cheese; got 30 lbs. at 4 sh. L.M. per pound.

1778 October 16 (Friday). Sister *Champney* is a great deal exercised with a weakening Distemper and is much to be pityed. P.M. came a Young Man, one *Benjamin Brown* of *Lyn*, now from *Stoneham*, and expecting to see two of *Timothy's* Sisters, who came at Evening, viz. Miss *Rebecca Cowell*, and Mrs. *Mary Brown*, who also brought her little son *Ezra*, of about 5, who rode in the Chaise with they [*sic*]. They all lodge here.

1778 October 17 (Saturday). Young *Brown* goes up to Sutton.

1778 October 18 (Sunday). Preached again on Ps. 92.7, and May God give a Blessing! P.M. Repeat with Corrections and Additions Sermon on Prov. 10.20.21, which I hope may be seasonable and by Gods Grace successful.

1778 October 19 (Monday). Rode the *Stoneham* Horse to Mr. *Gleasons*, his Wife being Sick (a Dysentery). On the way called to see Mrs. *Hannah Baker* (out published to Mr. *Andrews*) -- also Mrs. *Broad*. Stopped at Mr. *Potters*, his wife having lost her Father in Law, Aged Deacon *Hale* of [blank]. I found Mrs. *Gleason* under much affliction and pain -- prayed with her. Mr. *Conklin* and his Wife on a Journey to Boston, came in to see us, and tarried the night with us, though we were already pritty full with my Kinswomen etc. Singing Meeting at Mr. Ebenezer Forbes.

1778 October 20 (Tuesday). Mr. Conklin and his Lady pursue their Journey. *The Association met here*, viz. Messrs. *Stone* (and his wife), *Smith*, *Whitney*, *Newell*, and a youn[g] preacher, Mr. [blank] *Stearns* of Leominster. They having chose Me Moderator -- and I prayed -- read them on Consideration of Some very contr. pleadings at the late superior Court, some Collections from *Cotton* of the Keys. Shewing the Power of the presbytery and priv. of the Brethren etc.

Mr. *Whitney* asks Advice respecting the New erected *Bolton* Parish, and whether this Mr. *Stearns* mayn't with our Approbation Preach to them. They advised him to. Mr. *Newell* layd before us the Conduct of a Member of the Church of *Stow*, scil. Charles *Whitney* at a late Church Meeting -- with regard to Coll. *Wood*. He was directed what Method to take. Next Association to be at Mr. *Stone's*, next Month. N.B. Brecks Bounty in Rum and Wine etc. on this Occasion. And my Kinswoman Miss Beckky Cowell presented an handsome Pair of Mittens.

1778 October 21 (Wednesday). Young *Benjamin Brown* came from *Sutton* this Morn, and after Breakfast my Kinswomen and their little Boy (*Ezra Brown*) set out for *Stoneham*. Mr. *Seth Brigham* here and asks both Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ and me to be at his Fathers tomorrow p.m. when he desires to be marryed. Mr. *Sumner* came, dined here and preached my Lecture from Ps. 122.8.9. Which may God succeed! At Eve came *Sophy* from *Ashburnham* with Sir *Brigham*.

1778 October 22 (Thursday). About 3 in the morning we were alarmed by *Breck*; *Suse* being in Travel. About Sunrise a little Daughter was born; and both Mother and Child in an hopeful State. All Glory to God the Deliverer! May His Goodness be perfected! The Company of Women, with *Dr. Ball* broke fast here -- with Mr. B. Bradshaw, who with Cousen [*illegible*] *Brigham* dined here also. P.M. rode to Mr. *Gershom Brigham*s and Solemnized the Marriage of his son *Seth* to *Ruth Palmer*. As I went, I called to see a Child of Mr. *Joseph Green* junior and Prayed there. In returning Mr. [blank] *Hancock* wait'd upon me to lead back the Horse I rode upon.

1778 October 23 (Friday). Mr. *Mellen* of *Chauxit* here and dined with us, as did our sister *Brigham*, and my Son *Alexander* from *New-Marlborough*. The People had a Town Meeting in

which they are to reconsider a Vote of Apr. 27th last concerning the singers sitting in the Meeting House: Now it is recommended to [them?] to sit, the Males up Front Gallery on the Mens Side, and the Females in the Front Gallery on the Women's. I am sadly prevented studying by Company. This Evening again by Messrs. *Samuel Forbush* and *Hannaniah Parker*. *Alexander* lodges here.

1778 October 24 (Saturday). *Alexander* leaves us to go as far as *Ashburnham*.

1778 October 25 (Sunday). Preached another Sermon on *Luk. 22.15*. Administered the Lords supper. Mrs. Maynard dined here; as did Sir *Fay*. P.M. on Consideration of the Baptism of *Brecks* Child, I preached on *Gal. 3.14*. The Child was called *Hannah-Breck*. At Eve went down to *Brecks*, and have our Evening Exercise there. May God graciously accept us in these various Solemnitys! And May the Blessing of Abraham descend on us through Christ! N.B. The singers chiefly are in the Front to day, and Sing again.

1778 October 26 (Monday). I walked to Dr. *Hawes* and borrow his Horse for *Elias* to go to Deacon *Browns* at *Framingham* for Cloth to make him an homespun Suit. He goes; and N.B. he pays £4.10 L.M. for Dressing. Mr. *Eleazer Bradshaw* the Hatter, dines here. Mr. *Kendall* Visits us but returns to Grafton. Sir *Brigham* -- *Elijah* and *Eli* and my Kinsman *Loyd* at Tea. Sir *Fay* Singing here this Evening. Also Mr. *Abraham Batchelors* Wife came with her Mother *Wood* to See us. Sir *Fay* and *Brigham* Stay into Evening and Sing. The latter lodges here.

1778 October 27 (Tuesday). Mr. *Lemuel Badcock* dines here. P.M. Aged Squire *Tyler* calls to see me in his way to his Brother *James Maynards*.

1778 October 28 (Wednesday). *Elias* takes great Pains to get an Horse to go to *Worster* [*sic*], in Vain. I read and made Collections from Dr. *Chauncys* seasonable Sermon on *Josh. 7.13*. *Suse* has an ill turn.

1778 October 29 (Thursday). Catechized a.m. 35 Boys, p.m. 30 Girls. May a gracious God accept and succeed these Endeavours! *Elias* obtains Mr. *Ebenezer Maynards* Horse to go to *Wor'ster* to buy Trimming for his Cloths. For 2 yds. of Shalloon he gives *Eight Dollars*. Dear *Suse* grows worse -- have *Fever* etc.

1778 October 30 (Friday). She is better. Thanks to God! Sister *Champney* much indisposed: especially in the Nights. She tells me she gets up 7-10 times in a Night: but is more comfortable in the Mornings.

1778 October 31 (Saturday). *Stephen Maynard* has been up to *New Braintree*, to the Ordination of Mr. *Daniel Foster*, which was on *Thursday*: not on *Wednesday*, by reason of Difficulty concerning his Opinions. There were 12 Churches; but two of them would not *Act*.

Mr. *Jonas Bradish* came with earnest Desire to have me let him speak to the Church tomorrow that the Way may be made clear for him to have his Children baptized at *Winchendon* where he

has been dwelling these seven years, yet has lived in Neglect of his Duty, till he has now no less than Six Children that are not baptized. I told him he must needs be humble and sorry for his so sinful Delay. He said he would draw up Something to be laid before the Church tomorrow, and which he would give me seasonably before Meeting.

I bespoke also his coming here on Monday that he might go and Shew me the Bounds of the Land which he some Years ago, laid out for me; and he promised me that he would. I went over these Things again, that they might not be misunderstood, nor forgot, nor any ways fail: and to them he repeated his engagements to do as had been said; and that I might depend upon it. With these Assurances he left me: and I retired to my Study, and to my Sabbath Preparations.

Thus Ends the Month of *October*. The Lord forgive whatever Guilt has been contracted in it -- and [all?] my other Offences, for *Jesus* Sake! Amen.

1778 November 1 (Sunday). I bless God for the Light and Privileges of another of the blessed Days of the Son of Man. May I be in the Spirit of the Lord's Day! I preached a.m. with some Fervency once more on Ps. 92.7 and beseech God to grant Success!

Mrs. Ruth Godfry with her little Son dined here. P.M. I went on in Repeating Sermon on Gal. 3.14, which it is with God alone to render effectual! May He graciously vouchsafe it!

N.B. The Singers more generally sat today in the Front, and some no. stood up. Mr. Lemuel Badcock was among them. We were not so happy as to have any singing in my Family today -- not in the Evening. Mr. Jonas Bradish did not come to me in any part of the Day, notwithstanding all that he said yesterday. I am sorry he gives no more reason of that conduct.

1778 November 2 (Monday). No Mr. Bradish here today neither, although he assured me he would come today, on the Account of showing me some Bounds. Perhaps the weather might hinder that Business, but I think to have come and conferred with me on the Several affairs depending. Dr. Hawes acquaints me with his Mother's Death and that he is going to her Funeral. Improving this opportunity I write to Mr. Moore and send it to Man's at Wrentham for Conveyance.

1778 November 3 (Tuesday). Mr. Bradish came, but gives me no reason to think he is at all sensible of any Guilt or Blame on account of the Neglect of his Duty. And as to Bounds of the Land which he laid out for me, he says he has been there and the Land being now cleared, the monuments are all gone, and it is impossible to find them. Mr. Ezra Houghton of Chauxit came with a message from Mr. Mellen to request me to go up there, inasmuch as the Arbitrators on their Affairs were to meet, and he has sent to Mr. Stone likewise. But I was obliged to deny. I must be otherwise employed, it is too cold, I have no horse, and know I can't get one etc. etc. Mr. Houghton dined here -- left me to go to Southborough. Elias tries to get a horse to go to Cambridge, but in vain. P.M. I preached at Mr. Tainter's on Rev. 2.10. Borrow Mr. Tainter's Horse for Elias. Deacon Wood rides home with me. Mr. Potter has made Elias a coat.

1778 November 4 (Wednesday). Elias, on Mr. Tainter's Horse returned to Cambridge. I gave him 14 dollars, my newest Shoes, a variety of cloathing, half a large cheese etc. etc. May God incline his Heart to Religion and Learning!

1778 November 5 (Thursday). Mr. Winslow Packard of Pelham brings Mr. Rob. Abercrombie's Salutation and the gift of Mr. Ebenezer Erskines Sermon on Ps. 118.22 and on Isa. 9.6 with the true state of the Process against him: To which is added a number of Sermons of the same eminent man, from various Texts. The book is very acceptable to me and I am very thankful for it.

1778 November 6 (Friday). Mr. Amariah Frost junior was here and dined with us. I perceive that he has lately married Miss Esther Messenger of Wrentham, his first cousin. Mr. Caldwell of Sutton brought the Horse which Elias rode and gratis. Toward night (being earnestly sent for) I went to see Mrs. Sarah (wife of Mr. Ebenezer Maynard) who was very ill of Dysentery etc. Prayed with her and the Family. N.B. A letter from Elias by Caldwell.

1778 November 7 (Saturday). A letter from my friend Quincy at Medfield, dated Sept. 17 and Oct. 1 ult. We hear that Nanny Beeton is in such Insanity as to go from her Brother John's in the Night, and wandered up to Sutton. Word is left here from those at whose House she is to her Father, who is accordingly going after her to bring her home.

1778 November 8 (Sunday). So kind and gracious is God that we are permitted to see the light and enjoy the privileges of this day, which begins the 55th year since the founding this church and my Ordination. While I bless God for His long Suffering, I would humble myself for my unfaithfulness and unprofitableness, imploring pardoning Mercy through the great Redeemer, and Grace to help me, and that may be sufficient for me for the Future. Preached on II Pet. 1.12.13. P.M. on v. 14 with proper alterations of the last, which had been delivered before. N.B. Several gentlemen were at meeting, p.m. which I suppose came from the Arbitration at Chauxit.

1778 November 9 (Monday). Mr. Timothy Whitney was here to trade with me about my Oxen. Mr. Isaac Parker, where they have been kept, having refused to give what one after another judged they were worth, viz. Eighty Pounds L.M. P.M. Visit Mr. Ebenezer Maynard's wife and prayed with her. Visit old Mrs. Kelly and prayed there. N.B. Nanny Beeton seems composed. Mr. Robert Wilson and his wife (who was Patty Dunlap, grown hugely fat) were there. I rode to Mr. Hannaniah Parker's to enquire after wood, for we are reduced. At eve Mr. Andrews here to desire me to marry him tomorrow.

1778 November 10 (Tuesday). Mr. Timothy Whitney has got my oxen and pays me 40£ L.M., and gives me his Horse for 40£ more in three months with interest. N.B. Old Mr. Thomas Whitney is present and promises his son shall fulfill the Engagement, and Breck was witness. Sophy to Concord. Mr. Thomas Kendal having left Grafton, comes and takes what things he left here, dines with us, and goes for Framingham.

P.M. Went to Widow Baker's, according to Mr. Andrews' Request. I married them, supped and we sing Watts' Ps. 128. 6 Dol.

1778 November 11 (Wednesday). This day as I suppose is the Time appointed for the Ordination of Mr. Ripley of Concord, but it's Rainy and by Noon a very Severe Storm of Wind and Rain. Through Divine Favour we had wood brought yesterday by two of Capt. Maynard's sons. He had sent none (that I know of) till now. But now we feel the Good of it; and are thankful.

1778 November 12 (Thursday). Was at Deacon's [*sic*] Woods and with Squire Baker, providing a team to plough my Orchard. I dined at Breck's, and p.m. at Mr. Nathan Maynard's, Bond's and Warren's. Master Elijah Brigham returns with Sophy from Concord, and informs that yesterday, Mr. Ripley was ordained. Rev. Josiah Bridge of Sudbury began with prayer. Mr. Haven of Dedham preached on [*blank*]. Mr. Ebenezer Bridge of Chelmsford prayed before the charge and delivered it. Mr. Dana of Barre prayed after the charge, Mr. Clark of Lexington gave the Right Hand of Fellowship. May God graciously accept their Work and their Offerings, and may the Ordained be Strong in the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Mr. Johnathan Child kindly brings me a Barrell of Cyder. The Cyder is gratis. I gave him a Dollar for bringing it.

Mr. Ben How mends the Oven.

1778 November 13 (Friday). Old Mr. Nathan Maynard came with a yoke of oxen. Ben Wood with a yoke and my Tim. fetches a yoke of Squire's and his plough, and they plough the Orchard, and a while at the Island. Several loads of Wood were brought me: which is a great Comfort to me. I desire to thank God therefor. At eve, Mr. Jonas Bond of Sutton and his daughter here. They are returning home. They ask Sister Lydia to go up and stay awhile among them.

1778 November 14 (Saturday). Mr. Joseph Farrar here going again to preach at Grafton. The weather is now grown so cold and the feed gone, we give the cattle dry meat and house the Cows and Calves.

1778 November 15 (Sunday). On consideration of the New Year with this Church (which commenced last Sabbath) I went on a.m. with 2 Pet. 1.14 and p.m. I put them in mind of what had been, and what still is, the subject of our preaching: viz: The Gospel of Christ from 1 Cor. XV.1.

Sr. Brigham (Elijah) dined here. He delivers me a letter from Dr. Crosby who is in the Army, at Woodbury.

1778 November 16 (Monday). On this day was the Town Meeting, to Consider my Support, and by reason of the extraordinariness of the Depression of the Medium of Commerce, and being

persuaded that many persons were unknowing to my Circumstances and Some were desirous I would say something to inform them, probably Also if I did not send my mind to them, nor go to the Meeting, would make an Handle of that, and resist, say they did not know that I desired anything, what should they impose it for? Therefore I sent them a paper (which see) drawn with as much wisdom and Care as I could. But it had not the Success that might reasonably be expected, except with regard to the Wood, which they provided for handsomely. But as to sallery, they voted only £300 where every one asks in Lawful Money what they used to in old Tenor. Batherick was here at evening, and seemed very sorry the Town had done no more. Parkman Bradshaw came from Brookfield, and informs that his brother Benjamin grows worse. He lodged here.

1778 November 17 (Tuesday). Bradshaw leaves us to go to Cambridge, Boston etc. Wrote by him to my Daughter-in-law Sally. I attended the Association at Southborough. Messrs. Smith, Goss, Bridge and Whitney there. A committee from Mr. Goss's Church to ask advice about the gathering of a Church in the south part of Bolton. I returned home at eve. Henry Marble has been here in my Absence.

1778 November 18 (Wednesday). It was so fowl weather was disappointed as to killing a fat cow as designed.

1778 November 19 (Thursday). I preached at Mr. Gale's to his aged Parents on 2 Cor. 4.16.<sup>9</sup> May God be pleased to grant Success! In returning called to see Mrs. Mallet etc.

1778 November 20 (Friday). Messrs. Newton and Thad Warrin came and killed a fat cow for me. Mr. Levi Frisby of Ipswich called and dined here. Bradshaw returned and lodged here.

1778 November 21 (Saturday). He left us for Brookfield. Mr. Joseph Harrington came to see me and talked about the late Grant of the Town and about the Singing. He brought an extraordinary Present of Butter! P.M. Mr. Caleb Harrington came kindly and cut out and Salted my Beef. I desire to praise God for all His Favour!

1778 November 22 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on 1 Cor. 15.2. P.M. repeated sermon on James 1.22 which may God graciously accept and Bless! Not a large Assembly by reason of the rough, cold weather.

1778 November 23 (Monday). I visited Mr. Ebenezer Maynard's wife who is still sick and prayed. P.M. Mr. Henry Marble makes me a Visit.

1778 November 24 (Tuesday). I am closely engaged in my Studys, though it is not without difficulty by reason of the Cold and ruggedness of the Season.

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<sup>9</sup>["For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."]

1778 November 25 (Wednesday). Mr. Joshua Johnson came for the Paper of advice of the Association, which I have transcribed for the Bolton committee. He dined here. Elias came up on foot from Cambridge, arrived seasonably and well. Suse came up with her child and lodged here.

1778 November 26 (Thursday). *Thanksgiving*. I had prepared in part, but could not finish it. I improved part of sermon on Ps. 147.1.7 to page 7 and wrote additions on loose papers. Breck and all his were here at the Entertainment, also Sr. Brigham (Elijah). May the Lord accept our congratulations, and bless the Holy Word dispensed! Had excellent singing. I wrote by Bradshaw to my son Ebenezer at New Braintry.

1778 November 27 (Friday). Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ poorly. Town meeting by adjournment. I hear that the Town Committee is getting my Wood to Mr. Newton.

I wrote in part, the Conference between Q\_\_\_\_\_ and W\_\_\_\_\_ concerning the Support of Ministers.

1778 November 28 (Saturday). Elias was to have returned to Cambridge, but his Linnen etc. was not ready. P.M. I rode to Southborough, and Mr. Stone came here. His Son, Mr. Thomas Stone and his wife, were both confined by illness.

1778 November 29 (Sunday). I preached at Southborough on Rev. 22.17 a. and p.m. May a Divine Power accompany and render the Word effectual, and especially to my own Soul! At eve I returned home, as did Mr. Stone; who preached for me a. and p.m. on Phil. 2.4.5 which I pray God to bless and prosper! I brought from Mr. Stone's Pike and Hayward's Cases of Conscience.<sup>10</sup> Sr. Fay, Mrs. Maynard and her Niece, Miss [blank] Witt dined here. I had a letter from Rev. Ezra Ripley of Concord, concerning his Ordination etc.

1778 November 30 (Monday). It is too great a storm for Elias to leave home. I read part of Pike and Hayward's Cases. The Town meet by Adjournment and having dispatched their Business dissolved the meeting. Sister Champney remains under much trouble by an almost constant Diarrhoea. Mr. Levi Warren here on account of the private Meeting tomorrow. Numerara dies nostras sic doce nos, Domine etc.

1778 December 1 (Tuesday). Breck sets up an Iron Stove in his shop. I preached at Lieut. Levi Warren's, a third Exercise on Rev. 2.10. May God be graciously pleased to add His own efficacious Blessing! N.B. Mr. Daniel Hardy was at Mr. Warren's before the Exercise began and manifested his Disgust at my sermon on the late Thanksgiving. He found fault with my saying so much about Singing the praises of God. I replied that it was the very Business of the Day -- the present Truth -- that if he was dissatisfied with it, he had need ask himself whether it was

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<sup>10</sup>S. Pike and S. Hayward, *Some important cases of conscience answered, at the casuistical exercise, on Wednesday evenings, in Little St. Helen's, Bishopsgate-Street, London* (Boston; Green & Russell, 1757; Evans 8009). Other Boston editions appeared in 1759 and 1760.

not because he *himself was out of Tune*. After the Exercises, Mr. Badcock and his Scholars sang a number of good Tunes, in Parts. We had also a plentiful Table Spread and agreeable Entertainment.

1778 December 2 (Wednesday). Elias sat out early to return to Cambridge and Timothy with him to bring back the mare which he was to ride upon as far as Framingham. Timothy returns about 2 o'clock, and brings Patty Forbush, one of Mr. Ebenezer Forbush's Daughters to spin here. Mr. Daniel Forbes came kindly to inform Mrs. P \_\_\_\_\_ of a Medicine, which he would send her some of, to cure her Indispositions.

1778 December 3 (Thursday). Sophy carries yarn to Miss Molly Harrington, to be wove for a great coat for Elias. P.M. Mrs. Green and her Sister, the Widow Whipple made us a kind Visit. The latter being about to leave us and live at Prince-town.

1778 December 4 (Friday). At eve came Mr. Elisha Forbes and his Wife to Visit us, and brought an extraordinary present. 31 pounds of Meat, Beef and Pork and a Cheese of 12 lbs., and supped with us. Mr. Forbes also offered that if I would take one of the Boston newspaper, he would pay for a year. May God reward his Benevolence and Generosity!

1778 December 5 (Saturday). Mr. Nathaniel Sherman in his journey home, to Mt. Carmel in New Haven called and broke fast here. I wrote by him to the Widow Pierpoint for my Notes on Job. 19.25 etc. Rev. Buckminster of Rutland hindered by weather from proceeding on his journey home. Stopt and tarrys here with us. Send his horse to Deacon Wood's. Mr. Charles Newton begins to bring wood from Ministerial Lot, viz. 5 feet.

1778 December 6 (Sunday). I administer the Lord's Supper: but Mr. Buckminster preached a.m. on Job 5.4. P.M. on Mat. 16.26. Mrs. Mainard and Miss Patty Fisk dined here.

May it please God to accept our Offerings and bless His Word and Ordinances to us! Deac. Wood came after meeting.

1778 December 7 (Monday). Mr. Buckminster went up to the Deacon's to Breakfast, before he left us. I rejoice in God's great Gifts to him. May it be continued!

1778 December 8 (Tuesday). I wrote Sundry Letters, particularly to my Grandson Isaac Baldwin at Dummer School in Byfield, and to Rev. Mr. Levi Frisbie minister at Ipswich.

1778 December 9 (Wednesday). Though exceeding cold and windy, Breck sat out for Boston. Mr. Chas. Newton brought wood, 5 feet and dined here. P.M. he brought 6 feet. Master Fisk and his sister Patty, Mrs. Fisher, Miss Nabby Martyn visit here. Fisk is going to keep school in the South part of the Town. I finished *Drexelius*.

1778 December 10 (Thursday). Newton brings a load a.m. 6 feet (he says). P.M. his man another load 6 ft. Yet it proves very stormy.

I would bless God for my many Comforts. Concerned for Breck who is I suppose at Boston, and has sent a load of corn.

1778 December 11 (Friday). The earth covered with snow. Windy and cold. But we have supplies. D.G. Sad news from Otter Creek and Cherry Valley.

1778 December 12 (Saturday). Breck returns from Boston, to our Joy safe, though through much Hardship. Says a Murder was committed the night before last at Charlestown Neck, of a countryman found next morning, two clubbs lying by him. N.B. No Murder but a man perished in the storm. [This evidently written later.]

1778 December 13 (Sunday). Breck is out of Wood. Suse herself and the child, her sister Mindwell and Billy Spring came up here to be with us over the Sabbath. I preached a.m. what I had prepared further on 1 Cor. 15, now on the 2 middle clause, "if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you." It was a storm of Rain and difficult getting to Meeting.

Breck, his Family and Brother Josiah dined here. P.M. delivered with variations and large additions my Sermon on Ps. 147.19-20. May a merciful God forgive my Defects and bless what was agreeable to his Will! N.B. Squire Baker was very kind in coming with his Sleigh, and carrying me and Sophy to meeting, bring us back, both a. and p.m.

1778 December 14 (Monday). Breck had wood brought him. Suse etc. returned home. I finished Mr. Locke on Toleration. At eve Mr. Elisha Forbes here.

1778 December 15 (Tuesday). Timothy goes to Mrs. Temple at Upton for Cloth, but in vain.

I am entertained with Dr. Fuller's England's Worthys.

1778 December 16 (Wednesday). It being moderate air, I rode in the Sleigh -- to see old Mrs. Baker, who has been sick. I dined there and thence I proceeded to visit Mr. Joseph Grout and family, being out of health; but Mrs. Grout herself is sick of a Fever. Their son Joseph this day returned home from Warfare, but Mr. Grout is greatly concerned about his son William at Fishskill [*sic*], and Benjamin is gone a great while after him, and hear nothing. I prayed with them. Called at Lieut. Jonathan Grout's, who is come home, from the Service. Newton's man, Thos. Harrington, 2 Load. 6 feet each.

1778 December 17 (Thursday). Sent 9 yards of cloth to Deacon Brown's to be dressed for a great coat for Elias. At eve there were two marriages, viz: Mr. David Goodell to Miss Eliz. Brigham (Cousin Maynard's Daughter), 8 Dollars, and Mr. William Acock to Mrs. Mary Lewis, 3 Dollars.

1778 December 18 (Friday). [No entry.]

1778 December 19 (Saturday). Breck has a fine fat Turkey roasted here.

1778 December 20 (Sunday). Preach a.m. on 1 Cor. 15.2, last clause, which may God succeed!

Mr. David Goodell the Bridegroom and his Bride together with her mother Maynard dined here, as did Master Elijah Brigham. P.M. The Bridegroom preached on 1 Cor. 6.19-20, and I hope to the Glory of God. He went from the Meeting House, with his new Spouse, to Capt. Maynard's.

1778 December 21 (Monday). Messrs. Nathan Maynard Junior and Caleb Harrington killed a large sow for me. I lent Maynard sixty-six dollars. Mrs. P. kills 5 Geese, and 6 dunghill Fowls for market with the Pork. For it appears necessary to make some money of what we raise that we may be able to purchase what is wanting in other respects.

1778 December 22 (Tuesday). Exceeding tedious time for Cold Snow blowing etc. Patty Forbush came here to Spin. My days are a Shadow.

1778 December 23 (Wednesday). Mr. Joseph Harrington goes with his Team for Marblehead, and takes my Pork, Geese and Fowls, to the care of Mr. Elisha Forbes for Marketing. Am engaged in Sermonizing somewhat, but oh! my leanness. Breck trades with two swine drovers, and buys two shoats for me, at between 17 and 18 pence the pound.

Hear the sorrowful news of aged, pious Master Minot's death. The Righteous are taken away from the Evil to come,<sup>11</sup> but we that remain lose much in losing their Prayers. The Lord sanctifie this Death to the surviving widow and Son; and to me under the Loss of such a worthy Friend!

1778 December 24 (Thursday). Breck and his dine here on a roast Turkey of his providing. Elias came home on foot from Cambridge. He came from there yesterday, and with him Young Nathan Fisk, a Freshman. They dined here. It is so very cold, Fisk lodges with Elias at Breck's.

1778 December 25 (Friday). It remains exceeding cold. They breakfast here. I write by Fisk to Mr. Benjamin Bradshaw, who I hear is worse. Fisk sets out for Brookfield. Mr. Nathan Maynard brings a piece of Camblet, 14 yards from Mr. Benjamin Howell of Worcester, for which Mr. Maynard delivered to him from me 20 dollars. Mr. Hannaniah Parker, late Constable, is here and pays me what Money was behind in the Wood rate, which was about £6.12. For which I gave him a receipt in full; only it is to be remembered that Messrs. Joseph Grout, Jos. Green and Benjamin Brigham have not brought theirs. At night Patty Forbush goes home.

1778 December 26 (Saturday). An extraordinary tedious Time. Cold, blowing, snowing. How invaluable the Mercies I enjoy. I am through great goodness, in health, Habitation, Cloths,

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<sup>11</sup>Isaiah 57.1: "The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth *it* to heart: and merciful men *are* taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil *to come*."

Food, Fewel: my son and Timothy etc. tend the Fires, the Cattle, get Wood and Water etc. But how many are at this time exposed to terrible *Hardships*, both by land and Sea! May God extend pity to the miserable poor -- to Sailors, to Soldiers, to Teamers abroad and their destitute Families at home!

1778 December 27 (Sunday). Cloudy and cold, but sun broke out, but still very cold. Very few came to Meeting. On consideration of severe storms and intense cold, I repeated with some additions Sermon on Ps. 148.7-8. P.M. preached what I had prepared on Mark 9.24. Read the proclamation for Continental Thanksgiving, which I received but this day at noon.

1778 December 28 (Monday). Mr. Elisha Forbes pays me for my Pork and 6 Geese £38.18.

1778 December 29 (Tuesday). [No entry.]

1778 December 30 (Wednesday). CONTINENTAL THANKSGIVING. Preach on Isa. 1.11. Breck etc. dined.

1778 December 31 (Thursday). Elias rides to Cambridge. Mr. John Fay dines here and kills two Hogs for me. Mr. Harr. helping. Cousen Maynard made us a Visit. Master Fisk also. Drank tea and the last tarrys in the evening. My dear daughter Cushing came in a Sleigh with Mr. Nehemiah Maynard.