

Diary of Ebenezer Parkman, 1779

1779 January 1 (Friday). I bless God for the Light of another morning, which begins A NEW YEAR of the divine patience and Long suffering towards me, which (I confess) am most unworthy. With Thanksgiving for the Mercies received and penitently acknowledgement of my ingratitude and innumerable offences, I implore Remission, through the Merits and Mediation of my only and most dear Saviour, and humbly beseech the divine Favour to be extended to me and mine still; I desire devoutly to renew my Solemn engagements by Covenant to be the Lord's, and commit to Him, the Sovereign of my Life, all my Cares and Concernments, all the Changes and Events of this peculiarly difficult year, or what part of it, it shall please the great Supreme to vouchsafe me to continue in this frail uncertain State! But my daughter Cushing being here, and soon to return, and Col. Job Cushing dining with us, Breck also and his, I was much interrupted and prevented: very unavoidably. May the Lord extend compassion!

1779 January 2 (Saturday). My daughter leaves us to return with Mr. Neh. Maynard. I lent her Pool's Annotations, Vol. 1, Fuller's Pisgah Light, and the Life of Dr. Inc. Mather. Elias returns from Cambridge. He says that Dr. Appleton is ill.

1779 January 3 (Sunday). I have prepared one sermon on Ps. 90.2, and delivered it. A.M. Master Elisha Fisk, which keeps the South School, dined here. I thought it best to deliver p.m. part of my discourse on Matt. 22.37-38 to page 6, with additions according to the occasion.

1779 January 4 (Monday). Walked a.m. to Dr. Hawes. Wrote Letter to Mr. Forbes. Col. Cushing dined here. At eve came from Brookfield my kinsman Mr. Alexander Oliver, and lodged here.

1779 January 5 (Tuesday). Oliver goes on his journey to Boston. I preached at Deacon Wood's on 2 Tim. 1.13, omitting in many parts, and adding such passages as were necessary to accommodate it to the Present times. N.B. Breck agrees with a Post to bring Newspapers etc.

1779 January 6 (Wednesday). Capt. Jonas Brigham and his wife were so benevolent as to present me a Cheese. I take the more notice of this because he has been so long aloof, but I rejoice in his friendly Disposition. Elias is Cyphering.

1779 January 7 (Thursday). I rode in the Sleigh to see the Widow Rice (widow of the late Mr. Edmund Rice). As I went I called to see old Mr. James Maynard and his Wife. I visited and dined at Mr. J. Crooks. N.B. He lately lost his pocket book with 300 dollars and other papers. In returning home I called at Mr. Amasa Maynard's. At evening, Mr. Nathan Maynard, junior here, and returns me 50 Dollars (in one Bill) of the money he lately borrowed. Sixteen Dollars are yet behind.

1779 January 8 (Friday). I reckoned with Breck, and paid the full of his Account. The Ballance from Sept. 1777 to Dec. 31, 1778 (likewise Mr. Stockwell's account of 5 1/8 and some change borrowed 7/6) was £57.19.2 lawful money.

1779 January 9 (Saturday). Mr. Badcock (the singer) brought me from Mr. R. Cranch's of (Old) Braintree, Vol. 1 of the Universal and historical Biographical Dictionary in large 8vo. This volume goes no further than A. There are 11 vol. more. A small piece of Cloth for Elias, a great Coat received from Deacon Brown's.

1779 January 10 (Sunday). I preached what I had composed on Mark 9.24. P.M. I went on and finished Repeating on Matt. 22.37-38. May God graciously concur!

1779 January 11 (Monday). I diligently read Biography. Dr. Hawes in the Evening. He offers to pay me money for Timothy's work for him last year (15 days in the whole, Stephen Maynard worked 2 1/2 for me, Timmy's at 2 Dolls. and Stephen's at 3), but I told the Doctor it was in the way of exchanging work, and therefore I expected to have work again for it. N.B. I wrote by the Doctor to Dav. Sanger.

1779 January 12 (Tuesday). *Biography*. Have the Surprising News of the awful Death of Benj. Andrews of Boston Esq. who last [blank] shot himself through the Head by a Pistol, which he was handling, and not aware that it was loaded. Lord, what is Man!

1779 January 13 (Wednesday). Suse rode to Capt. Maynard's in the Sleigh and safely, but in returning the Mare took a start, and tore away with Speed from Suse, who had got out of the Sleigh, and came home o'foot: but the mare first, broke the Sleigh and threw out a Case of Gin - - however broke but one Bottle (which might at this time stand at [blank] Dollars, but no Mischief done to Life or Limb. The praise to God!

1779 January 14 (Thursday). Yesterday and today much engaged in Biography. Sent to Mr. Cushing, President Edwards on Free Will, and wrote to him, by the Widow of the late Major Brigham. Young Mr. Frost here and lodges.

1779 January 15 (Friday). Mr. Frost leaves me, but goes to Breck, and I perceive he is about to set up a Store at Mill River.

1779 January 16 (Saturday). Closely applied as I have been for some days before on my preparations. Yet all I can by my slow writing is one sermon.

1779 January 17 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Mark 14.24, and finish my present Design upon this Text. May God graciously succeed it! Mrs. Maynard dines with us, as well as Master Fisk. P.M. Repeated on Joh. 15.5.

1779 January 18 (Monday). Dr. Hall of Sutton in his Journey to Concord calls here. At eve came Mr. Daniel Forbes junior from Brookfield. Says Mr. Bradshaw grows very weak. Presently came his Brother Nathan from Walpole, going to see him. The latter lodges here. N.B. Mr. Badcock keeps a singing-school at Mr. Barn. Newton's. Elias and Timothy go to it to hear.

1779 January 19 (Tuesday). A.M. Mr. Badcock here. An uncommonly rigorous Season. By reason of Breck's agreeing with a post to ride this Road, I have the Benefit to read two of the Boston Newspapers; Saturdays and Mondays, which arrive here on Tuesday evening.

1779 January 20 (Wednesday). Mr. John Forbes of Rutland on Otter Creek which (through mistake) we heard was taken by the enemy, came to see us, being well and safe. In reading the Biographical Dictionary -- Life of Dr. Atterbury.

1779 January 21 (Thursday). Though very Cold yet Breck goes in the sleigh to Boston.

1779 January 22 (Friday). At eve came my Kinsman, Nathaniel Bradshaw from Brookfield -- tells me his Brother Benj. is so low that he himself gives up and thinks he shall soon depart. Nathaniel lodges here.

1779 January 23 (Saturday). Cousin Bradshaw leaves us to return to Stoughtonham. At eve Breck returns from Boston. Inform. that his sister Sally is become more sociable and chearful.

1779 January 24 (Sunday). Delivered a.m. to a small congregation, an exercise that is part of Expos. of Mat. 17.17 to 21, but it being a continuation of the Discourse on Mark 9.24, I read on in Mark 9 to 29. P.M. preached on Mat. 22.39-40, which I designed as a second part to the Discourse on Mat. 22.37-38. Master Moses Brigham who keeps school at the East Quarter of the Town dined here.

1779 January 25 (Monday). Being at the Shop, Capt. Fisher and Mr. Badcock were there and acquainted me with the Desire of the Singing School to have a Lecture preached to them, and though (as they say) they would be glad if Mr. P. would himself preach, yet because of the disquietment among the People, about singing, and for the sake of drawing in people, it was mentioned to ask one of the neighboring Ministers, particularly Mr. Sumner to preach it. I replied with Consent, provided they would acquaint the appointed Choristers with it, and endeavor to have them lead in the Affair.

1779 January 26 (Tuesday). Mr. Elisha Parker here a.m. on the Same Business, of the Singing Lecture -- to write to Mr. Sumner etc. but I answered him as I did Capt. Fisher yesterday. P.M. Deacon Wood. here -- brought a large Spare Rib, advised with him ab't Singing Lecture and he approved of the Steps proposed. Mr. Peter Whitney, his Wife and Child, also Mr. Hammock, came over in a Sleigh to visit us, and N.B. Mr. Daniel Forbes was here, tarrying after the Company and gave me great Disquietment about the Support of my Family, what number in it they were willing to maintain, and what not -- that 300 and my wood was an honorable sufficiency etc. But it was too apparent that he was put out of Humour by my consulting him about my advising the Singers to invite the Choristers to lead in the proposed plan of the Singing Lecture. For he said those men had been too much courted already, and had conducted but indecently towards the Singers; so that they did not deserve such respect to be shown them. On the other Hand, I conceived it would be most prudent in me, in time of so much Difficulty, to advise to a Method that must needs be most conciliating, and prevent further

Complaint. May God graciously impart the Wisdom that may be profitable to direct, under such trying Circumstances.

1779 January 27 (Wednesday). Mr. Newton, at eve, after his sledding wood today, thinks he has brought the Quantity agreed for: but it was not so in my Memorandum Book.

1779 January 28 (Thursday). Mr. Newton brings more wood, and brings his own Account which I copy and cast up, but we find that now he has brought enough to make up 35 cord. Mr. N. Maynard junior came with a load of six feet: half of which was for Mr. Joseph Green, and the other half for Mr. Newton. There is still more wood brought out from the Lot to Beeton's: the charge for cutting and sledding out so far, he throws in, and we part in peace. One Mr. Wm. Parkhurse of Coi's Hill, calls to inform that on Monday deceased and yesterday was buried Mr. Benjamin Bradshaw at Brookfield!!! May God graciously support all of us under this His holy Stroke! Especially may my Grand Daughter have grace to improve suitably this Sorrowful Bereavement! At eve Mr. Eli Whitney and Mr. Elisha Parker here, and desire me to appoint a Singing Lecture, and to write to Mr. Sumner to come and preach it: on Thursday next (the 4th of February) at 2 p.m. Breck, Suse with her Baby, Molly Pratt, go in a Double Sleigh, and Mr. Elijah Brigham and Sophy are with them to Mr. Daniel Grout's at Grafton. Elias and Timothy to the Singing School (as hearers) at Mr. Barn. Newton's. We have the sad news that Mr. Peter Adams, heretofore of this Town (son of the late Mr. Eliphalet Adams) was suddenly killed by the Falling of a Tree, at New Guildford N. H. May God sanctifie so awful a Dispensation to all Survivors, and in particular to the mournful Widow (who was Susanna Pratt of this place) and her Orphan Children!

1779 January 29 (Friday). This Day is memorable for the Sorrows I was plunged into in the year 36 (43 years since) when the first Partner of my Joys and Divider and Sharer of my Grievs was taken away: I remember still the Wormwood and the Gall -- my Soul is yet humbled within me. May God grant me true and thorow Humiliation! I was interrupted by two setts of Company: first Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Davis, which rode over here to making a Visit, but especially by Rev. Grosvenor and his Wife and child, accompanied by Rev. Mr. Farrar and Mr. Grosvenor's young Brother Nathan -- in a Sleigh. All of them dined here. I wrote to Mr. Sumner and sent it by Mr. Elisha Parker to come and preach to the Singers next Thursday.

1779 January 30 (Saturday). Mr. Jonathan Maynard brought a load of Wood to me for Breck, in Return for a load which he borrowed of me, and Mr. Maynard brought gratis a load of that wood which Mr. Ch. Newton left at Beeton's. N.B. Mr. Badcock has been with me to speak about the Singing (viz. how many times, and what times they desire to sing) on proposed Lecture Day. At eve Mr. Elisha Parker here, to let me know that Mr. Sumner will come (extras accepted) to preach the proposed Lecture, and asks me to his on Wednesday.

1779 January 31 (Sunday). I preached on Mat. 22.39. P.M. repeated Sermon 1 on 2 Cor. 3.15, but read from X. 12 because of the long Explication of the Context, proceeded to the forepart of the Amplification in p. 5 and added cotempore. I appointed a Singing Lecture to be next Thursday at 2 p.m. Dr. Hawes delivered me a Packet from Col. White, Rept. for Rochester. I

found it contained principally Rev. Mr. West's (of Dartmouth) anniversary Sermon at Plymouth, Dec. 22, 1777¹ with a folio letter of his to me, in six numbers, opening further the prophecy's in Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Micah, and the Revelation, which as he conjectures, point at the present Times in America, accompanied by a letter from my son Moore, and his Transcript of Mr. West's Letter of (16 pages octavo) lest I should not be able to read Mr. West's autography. Which were very acceptable. In the evening, read Mr. West's sermon above mentioned, as well as Mr. Moore's letter. Thus I finish this month, and may a gracious God forgive the Miscarriages and Deficientys [*sic*] I have been chargeable with! And the Day past in Special!

1779 February 1 (Monday). At eve came my Kinsman, Mr. William Bradshaw, who has been to Brookfield, but did not arrive there till after his brother Benjamin's Funeral. He lodges here as does Master Fisk.

1779 February 2 (Tuesday). I preached at Mr. Barnabas Newton's on Ps. 44.15 to p. 73d. N.B. We Sung twice, because the Singing School was there, and I tarried to hear them Sing after my Exercise.

1779 February 3 (Wednesday). Rode to Shrewsbury (at Mr. Sumner's Request). Dined there. Mr. Fairbank preached the Lecture on 1 Joh. 4.16, latter part. After sermon we had some Conversation about several passages delivered concerning God permitting Evil -- and on the Fallen Spirits and Pharaoh, that they ought to bless God for their Existence. I answered (among other things) our Lord's saying of the Traytor, "it were good for that man if he had never been born." I returned home at Evening.

1779 February 4 (Thursday). A SINGING LECTURE at the Request of the Singing School. Mr. Sumner preached. His text was Ps. 149.1. It was conducted thus. After Dinner (at which besides Mr. Sumner and Col. Job Cushing that came with him, was Mr. Stone of Southborough) when we first went into the Meeting House, An Anthem was sung. Then Mr. Stone made a short Prayer. After which I appointed and read Ps. 149, which was Sung without Reading the Lines by the Deacon. Then Mr. Sumner prayed, after which we sung Ps. 113, Deacon reading as usual, and the Sermon next followed. Mr. Sumner prayed again and we sung the 5th Hymn without reading, except my first reading over the whole. In Conclusion of the Exercise, I pronounced the Blessing. But then Mr. Badcock, the Master began an exercise of Singing -- of Anthems and Tunes -- which was very grateful, and may God graciously Condescend to accept the Sacrifice! At eve a number of other Gentlemen here, viz. Dr. Crosby, Master Benj. Stone of Shrewsbury, Masters Brigham (Elijah and Moses) and Fisk.

1779 February 5 (Friday). Sermonizing.

1779 February 6 (Saturday). D[itt]o.

¹Samuel West (1730-1807), *An anniversary sermon, preached at Plymouth, December 22d, 1777. In grateful memory of the first landing of our pious New-England ancesters [sic] in that place, A.D. 1620* (Boston: Draper and Folsom, [1778?]; Evans 43594).

1779 February 7 (Sunday). On Mat. 22.39 a.m. Master Fisk dined here. P.M. on 2 Cor. 3.14 former part. But all depends on Divine Blessing! In the eve read Pike and Hayward -- also Benj. Foster against Mr. Fisk on Baptism. "God dwelling in the Tents of Shem."

1779 February 8 (Monday). Bills of two Emissions, viz. of May 20, 1777 and of Apr. 11, 1778, are refused in common Trade. I acquainted Squire Baker with this Difficulty with respect to some part of my Money, and some Considerable which I received of him. He told me he would change such bills as I had of Those Emissions. This day I went up to him, and his clerk changed 142 Dollars for me. P.M. I wrote to Mrs. Moore.

1779 February 9 (Tuesday). Wrote again to Mr. Forbes about his Sheep.

1779 February 10 (Wednesday). Transcribed from biographical Dictionary. P.M. went up to the Singing School (by desire) to hear the Singing. This is Mr. Badcock's last Day. In the Evening, I was seized with shivering and went to Bed not well.

1779 February 11 (Thursday). Mr. Badcock leaves us. I sent by him Mr. Cranch his Vol. I of Biographical Dictionary, and a Letter to Mr. Forbes to the care of Col. Coffin, Rep. for Gloucester. At Eve Master Fisk, Sophy. Elias carries Suse to see her Father who is confined with Indispositions -- and Breck goes at evening and they tarry there.

1779 February 12 (Friday). Mr. Thos. Warrin and Stephen Maynard cutt up part of the woodpile today to pay Mrs. Parkman for knitting for the latter of them. They dined. They work till evening. Nathan Maynard junior gives me a note for 16 Dollars (lent him with much more) Dec. 21 last. At Even I rec'd a Letter dated January 25, from my son Forbes, acquainting with the Death of one of Mr. Forbes' Daughters, by a Fever, and the Distress Cape Ann is in by the Small Pox, that he, being desired by the Selectmen and the Doctors Plummer and Coffin to assist, has innoculated and administered physic to near 100: Col. Stevens and his Wife have got safely through. But alas for the poor people, who want Bread, and Cloths and Fuel! May God pity them and grant Supplies, especially of his Almighty Grace and Spirit: that they may duly improve providences, and the Seasons and means of Salvation! A sad disappointment in the over rotted flax, which appeared by the breaking and swingling a part of it. The young man (Phin Brigham) desists as working in vain, throws in his pains and leaves it. A.M. Breck goes to Brookfield to look after his Bradshaw affairs. Dr. Stimson was here from Marlborough and tells me old Mr. Thos. Biglo an old Friend (perhaps about 86) is dead,² And old Mr. Jonas Morse (about 84) is dead also, and to be buryed this day. May God grant Me to be ready, in all respects so for the Time is hastening upon me.

1779 February 13 (Saturday). [No entry.]

²Thomas, son of Thomas and Mary, was born Apr. 26, 1706 (Marlborough VR, 30); married Elizabeth Nurse in 1730 (p. 224), who died Jan. 1, 1770 in her 63rd year (p. 345). Lt. Thomas Biglo died Feb. 10, 1779, in his 74th year (p. 345).

1779 February 14 (Sunday). Rain a.m. A thin congregation. Preached again on Mat. 22.39. Master Fisk dined here. P.M. go on with repeating (with incidental variations) on 2 Cor. 3.14 former part. Used from Artic. 6th in continuation of page 8 to middle of page 11. After our evening Exercise Mrs. read good part of the Touchstone of Saving Faith. O that God would add His Blessing to these fervant and powerful means of Grace!

1779 February 15 (Monday). Elias is so much taken with a pair of Steers at Mr. Harrington's, that he prevails with me to go and trade with him for them. I went to his House and drank Coffee with his Mother and Wife.

1779 February 16 (Tuesday). Elias with Mr. Harrington about the Steers, and I completed a Bargain with him: His steers are coming 3. He asks 80£ for them. I give him my large Steer and 35£, and paid him the Bills in Hand. The steers are duly exchanged. Elias p.m. makes a Business of trimming the great Apple trees in the Garden etc. Mrs. Harrington, both, here. Breck returns from Brookfield and New Braintree. Gives me but a Sorrowful account of the Insolvency of the late Mr. Bradshaw, of the Afflicted state of my Daughter Baldwin, by reason of her Husband's absence so long from his Farm and Business etc. Also Ebenezer's Affairs difficult.

1779 February 17 (Wednesday). I was chiefly recluse. Recollect. Mr. Nasmith's (a Scotchman's) Directory and Exemplar for Self-Examination and Willard's Blessed Man from page 188 on X.5 treating of Confession etc.

1779 February 18 (Thursday). Cousin Maynard with her son-in law Goodell and his wife came to see us. They came on foot. P.M. drank Tea and returned as they came. Mr. Goodell has lately been at Henneker, and says Mr. Rice is so well as to preach steddily again. To God be Glory!

1779 February 19 (Friday). Capt. Morse came here and brought me an handsome Cheese which he says his Wife made on purpose for me. N.B. This was unexpected as I had apprehended he had been under Disgust from Thanksgiving Time. But I hope it is gone over. Breck here and asks for Liberty to build a Smith's shop at the Corner of my Land next the Burying Place. At eve came Master Fisk to see us. With Elias at Even to a Singing Meeting at Mr. Newton's but lodges here.

1779 February 20 (Saturday). A Letter from my Son Samuel to his Brother Breck, informs that Sally had a Daughter born on the 14th at 4 a.m. Was baptized p.m. and called Abigail. The praise and Glory to God and may the Child be a rich Blessing! Mr. Ebenezer Maynard junior from Conway to see me.

1779 February 21 (Sunday). I preached once more on Mat. 22.39.40. P.M. Repeated Sermon on 2 Cor. 3.14, last clause. N.B. Mrs. Maynard as well as Mr. Fisk dined. At evening Exercise, Breck brought his brother Josiah Brigham here.

1779 February 22 (Monday). I could not visit the Sick by reason of a Storm. I review and Set in order great numbers of Letters. I give way to Timothy's cyphering, though (besides his taking Care of the Cattle) there are many things to be done.

1779 February 23 (Tuesday). I go on reviewing and disposing Letters, Papers and Collections. Mr. Goodall, who preached at Southborough last Sabbath, came to me to ask Advice about his going to preach at Otter Creek. N.B. I sent by him to Mr. Johnathan Loring his Book of the life of the renowned Piereskins. Breck and Elias p.m. go over to Upton to singing meeting there.

1779 February 24 (Wednesday). I rode to Mr. Elijah Hardy's to see their little Elijah, who had been very ill, but was much better. To Mr. Joseph Grout's to see his William who languished, but is recovering. Proceeded to Mr. Grosvenor's, but he was gone to Pomfret. I dined there, with Mr. Farrar. He went with me to see Mr. Joseph Brown, who was gone to Providence. Viewed his Library, but not his Electrical Machine. To this Mrs. Brown invited me and to bring Mrs. P_____ when Mr. Brown may be at Home. In returning from Grafton, had Capt'n Woods and his Wife's Company from Dr. Jos. Woods, where we drank Tea. In the evening came Moses Warren to let himself to me for six months, and asks an hundred pounds lawful money for that term. I defer giving him an answer till next Monday. My son Ebenezer came from Brookfield; in his way to Watertown, tells me Col. Baldwin is come home, and Alexander Oliver is dismissed, but is suffered to stay, his Wife's Circumstances considered till April. Ebenezer lodges here.

1779 February 25 (Thursday). I walked to Mr. Thad. Warrin's to hire him to get out Fencing stuff, posts and Rails; thence to Mr. Isaac Parker's to see and talk with his brother Ephraim about living with me, and he seems disposed. At eve, my son relates somewhat of his sorrowful case, and how his son in law had beguiled him to give a Warrantee Deed of his Place, without a proper Security, an unhappy step!

1779 February 26 (Friday). Ebenezer leaves us to go to Watertown and Boston. I send by him to Mr. David Sawyer at Framingham: Breck sends quantity of money by him to his brother Samuel. Joseph Grout Junior is examined in order to his joining in full Communion with the Church, and I consent.

1779 February 27 (Saturday). Mrs. P. has made up my Camlet gown, lined with Green Baise.

1779 February 28 (Sunday). A.M. Repeat on 1 Cor. 3.17, for p.m. on Isa. 28.1-2, A long sermon which could not be divided. Application was occasioned by Town Meeting on the Morrow. Mrs. Maynard, Messrs. Elijah and Moses Brigham and Mr. Fisk dined here.

1779 March 1 (Monday). The Town met. They sent two to ask me to go and pray with them. I complied, and at their Request, I read the King of Britain's Speech to his Parliament, November last. Mr. Daniel Forbes was here to ask me to preach at his House tomorrow. My son Ebenezer returned from Watertown, Boston etc. He brings a letter from Mr. Forbes of Gloucester, concerning the Sickness of his son-in-law, Charles Saunders of about 8 etc. etc. The choristers

Chamberlain and Whitney, say they want to be dismissed and desire there may be a new choir. Ebenezer lodges here. N.B. Moses Warren was released from serving me this season.

1779 March 2 (Tuesday). I preached to the private Meeting at Mr. D. Forbes's on Ps. 44.18, recommending Stedfastness in Religion and rebuking Inconstancy, Declining and Apostacy -- and Isaac Millar, a Delinquent, was there. N.B. Mr. Forbes repeatedly desires I would revive the Public Reading of the Scriptures. N.B. My son Ebenezer went with me to the Meeting, tarrys and lodges here.

1779 March 3 (Wednesday). Ephraim Parker (brother of Elisha and Isaac) came to work by the Day for me. He goes to the Ministerial Lot to get Posts and Rails. I went to Squire Baker's, and acknowledged a power of Attorney, to be sent to Mr. David Hitchcock of Brookfield to recover a Debt from James Smith of Western; to be carried with a letter to Mr. Hitchcock by my son Ebenezer. N.B. Honorable Samuel Baker was there. The Town meets by adjournment. Messrs. Belknap and Forbes here, and acquaint me that the Chief of the Town have expressed their desire that I would revive the public Reading of the Scriptures, and say there were but two (Mr. Andrews and Mr. Hannaniah Parker), that said any Thing against it: also Messrs. Chamberlain and Whitney, the choristers, were here that they might see what I had drawn up, to lay before the Congregation, praying there may be a New Choice in their Stead. Ebenezer lodges here. So does Ephraim Parker.

1779 March 4 (Thursday). I don't send the power of Attorney to Mr. Hitchcock nor Breck's Letter to him, but have writ myself, and have agreed with my son Ebenezer (who now leaves us) to go to Mr. James Smith of Western, and apprise him of what I am about to do, that he may prevent the Evil by discharging the Bond. Mrs. P _____ disposes of Baize Lining to Ebenezer, and with the money, and some additions (that of 34s) purchases [*blank*] yards of Bear Skin to make him (Elias) a Straight-bodied coat. (Designed Lining of a New Red homespun Camblet gown for Elias.)

1779 March 5 (Friday). [No entry.]

1779 March 6 (Saturday). Ephraim left me by agreement and to return again.

1779 March 7 (Sunday). A Stormy, snowy Day -- but a small Assembly. I read a.m. the former part of the first Ch. of Zechariah and delivered expository observations for the forenoon exercise. Sr. Brigham (Elijah) and Master Fisk dined here. P.M. Read Rev. 14, first 7 or 8 v. and repeated what I had delivered upon it three years ago to page 7. May God graciously own and bless what has been done agreeable to His Will! Both before and after our evening Family exercise Mrs. P. read to me Pike and H., and I read part of *Charnock* on Gen. 6.5, The Sinfulness and Care of Thought, both which were very quickening to me. To God be the Glory!

1779 March 8 (Monday). Went to see Sam Dalrymple, whose Leggs were lately scalled with hot wort. Mr. Harrington sleds away with my four Steers, 4 logs of Maple to his door.

1779 March 9 (Tuesday). At Squire Baker's who takes my acknowledgment of another power of Attorney to Mr. David Hitchcock instead of that of the 3d which upon reviewing was not agreeable, and therefore was not sent. The Squire was exceeding Friendly and generous. He gave me 20 lbs. of tryed Tallow and to Mr. Stone 12 lb. being all he spoke for. Moreover he would have me, whenever I am in any Straight, to let him know of it. I called to see Mrs. Wheelock. She has a bad Breast: and Mrs. Keens.

1779 March 10 (Wednesday). Eph. Parker came again. Breck goes to Boston. I wrote to Mr. Ripley of Concord for my Books and for Sister Champney's Chest. Also to my Son William to hasten my Cart Wheels. P.M. came my son and Daughter Baldwin from Brookfield and with them Oliver How to wait on them, and by Tea Time came Dr. Stimson and young Mr. Sam. Woodward of Weston. The two latter returned to Marlborough. The others lodged here: the Horses were taken in to keeping by Capt. Morse. Ephraim Parker lodges here.

1779 March 11 (Thursday). Mr. Baldwin and my Daughter leave us to go towards Byfield, but she is in doubt of her reaching there. Their man returns back to Brookfield. At eve came my son Moore, who has been at Oxford and Charleton, and goes this way in his return home. He brings me another Letter from Mr. West, containing No. VII and VIII of Prophetic Computations and Remarks. He lodges here.

1779 March 12 (Friday). At noon came my son Alexander of Marlborough in New Hampshire. I am so short out for good Hay that I send one horse to Mr. Ebenezer Maynard, the other to Mr. Jonathan Forbes to be kept. For Mr. Moore will Tarry over the Sabbath.

1779 March 13 (Saturday). Alexander leaves us to go to some part of Connecticut to pay the woman he bought his place of.

1779 March 14 (Sunday). I read and briefly expound Zech. 1.7. Mr. Moore preached a.m. on Luke [?] 6.46. Mrs. Maynard dined here. I did not read p.m. Mr. Moore preached on 1 Joh. 5.3. Jos. Grout Junior was admitted into the Church. I appointed the Communion and Lecture and by Desire notified the Congregation to make a new choice of Choristers, after the next Lecture. At eve Mr. Moore repeated the Heads of the afternoon Sermon, viz. on 1 Joh. 5.3. I earnestly pray for Success may attend both the Exercises, and that we may all be inspired with that love of God which produces new Obedience.

1779 March 15 (Monday). Mr. Moore leaves us to return to Rochester. I wrote by him to Mr. West. I rode in the Sleigh to visit poor Mr. Daniel How, who has a mortification in one of his Feet. But I first dined at Mr. Davis's. At Mr. Fessenden's (where Mr. How lives), I talked with him (Mr. Fessenden) about his not coming to meeting -- but he gave me no Answer. Mr. Davis furnished me with his Horse to ride back -- for Elias proceeded in the Sleigh to Northborough. I made a visit to old Mrs. Kelley (who is about 85, was born March 6 old Style 1694) and prayed there.

1779 March 16 (Tuesday). Visit Deacon Wood. N.B. Yesterday a Thief stole out of his Bar about 100 Dollars. They pursued and found the Villian [sic], one Waters at Marlborough, recovered in part and a Note for the rest. The Deacon made up, but Col. Johnathan Ward sent him to Prison. I went in to see Capt. J. Wood's wife and prayed there.

1779 March 17 (Wednesday). Mr. Stone came, dined with me. He tells me his people have voted to sing Tate and Brady's Version, and began last Lord's Day. The High Sheriff of this County, William Greenleaf Esq. dined with us. He is going to Medfield to see his father Quincy, and called to take my Commands, but I had no letter writ. Mr. Stone preached my Lecture on Ps. 103.3, first clause. After Sermon and Blessing, the Church were by the Desire of the Deacons, stayed concerning Contributions. The Congregation staid also at the request of the Choristers, that they might resign and the People might make a new Choice. They chose Mr. Eli Whitney by 41 votes: Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlain jr. by 31, Mr. Johnathan Batherick by 29, Mr. Elisha Parker by 23. My son Alexander came from Connecticut and lodged here. I wrote to President Langdon to excuse Elias' tardiness. And delivered Elias 100 Dollars.

1779 March 18 (Thursday). Elias sat out on Breck's mare for Cambridge. Alexander, after dinner, undertook his Journey home. Rec'd a Letter from Mr. Ebenezer Sparhawk of Templeton, which related to some uneasiness's there. I wrote an Answer. At eve came two of Timothy's brothers Elias and John Bryant from Stoneham on Foot. They lodged here.

1779 March 19 (Friday). Mr. Timothy Parker of Templeton came in, to whom I committed my Letter to Mr. Sparhawk. The rigorous weather excites Pity to Elias at Coll.

1779 March 20 (Saturday). The Bryants left us a.m. to go to Littleton and thence home. When I had prepared nigh as much as I intended to deliver came a young gentleman with Mr. Elijah Brigham, viz. Mr. Caleb Alexander, who was from Northfield, and lodged here. He was graduated at Yale College, approbated by the Association at New London.

1779 March 21 (Sunday). Mr. Aaron Hutchinson junior came from Marlborough, to preach for me, today, but Mr. Alexander preached a.m. on Isa. 5.4. I read Isa. 53. Both the young Gentlemen attended with us at the Sacrament, which was administered. Mrs. Maynard dined here. P.M. Mr. Hutchinson on Mat. 25.46. I detained the Church and read a Letter from the South-west Parish in Bolton, requesting assistance in a Fast and gathering a Church. The Church voted compliance and Dr. Hawes and Deacon Wood Delegates. Mr. Hutchinson goes to Grafton. Mr. Alexander lodges here. His horse at Mr. Elijah Hardy's.

1779 March 22 (Monday). Mr. Alexander here for it is a great storm. He lodges here.

1779 March 23 (Tuesday). Mr. Hardy came to wait on Mr. Alexander to his house. I am in great Doubt about my going to the Fast etc. at Bolton. P.M. Deacon Wood here to see what I shall be like to do. I have endeavored to prepare my Self if I should. Both the Roads and the Weather very unpromising.

1779 March 24 (Wednesday). Instead of going to Mr. Whitney's in the way of Bolton (as I had planned) it proved so tempestuous, so violent a snow-storm, that I could scarcely go out of Doors at all. Ephraim's brother Elisha was here and dined with us. He speaks of the Straits and Difficulties to which many of the People of Bolton are reduced, for want of Bread and how scarce Meat is there. May the great Provider Pity them, especially at this Season, and all others that are exposed in this terrible Storm! In Special that are at Sea.

1779 March 25 (Thursday). *The Storm continues: and the Snow is very deep.* Going to Bolton Fast and Council, I suppose is utterly impracticable. I am employed by my self in my Study. But about 10 to 11 the Fierceness of the Storm abated and the Sun appeared. Yet p.m. the Heavens are clouded again.

1779 March 26 (Friday). Go on with my preparations for the Sabbath. P.M. came Mr. Alexander accompanied by his uncle Miller. Stays not long. Mr. Caleb Harrington invites and waits upon him to his House, and thence he intends to go to Master Moses Brigham's, who is to be found at his School, or at his Lodging, Mr. Andrews.

1779 March 27 (Saturday). Though the Snow was troublesome, yet Ephraim is employed in fetching two load of Posts and Rails (partly finished) from Beeton's.

1779 March 28 (Sunday). A.M. on Zech. 11 thro' out. P.M. on Rev. 14.7 to p. 14, with addition of four uses in a loose Paper. No stranger to dine. At eve Mr. Elijah Brigham came with Breck, and such of his Family as could come, to join in the Repetition, Singing etc.

1779 March 29 (Monday). John Baker undertakes his Journey to Andover, where he is going to School to learn Latin. He calls here to borrow an Accidence, which I let him have. May God be his Guardian and grant Success!

1779 March 30 (Tuesday). Engaged in Various Readings etc. a.m. P.M. came Parkman Bradshaw from Brookfield. I understand that the Circumstances of my Son Ebenezer are difficult. He has hired of Mr. Hitchcock the House which his son Bradshaw took a Lease of. Sent Mr. Joseph Bond Mr. Bradshaw's Horse to keep. He himself lodges here. Rec'd Letters from Mr. Whitney about a Contribution for Rhode Island people and concerning the Fast etc. at Bolton.

1779 March 31 (Wednesday). Mr. Bradshaw sett out for Cambridge. I rode to visit Mr. Stone, of Southborough. Dined there. He tells me his son-in-law Bangs of Hardwick is dead. P.M. I went with Mr. Stone to the Meeting House where Mr. Luke Wilder held a Singing. In returning, I borrowed and brought home Clark's Lives of eminent Persons Fol. Called at Mr. Gale's, his Father being poorly. At Mr. Andrews -- have not been there since their Marriage till now. The roads are exceeding Dirty, the snow melting apace. This Ride was followed by Bad Cramp in the Night. May the Lord pardon the Sins of this Month, and spare me etc.

1779 April 1 (Thursday). Mr. Baldwin and his wife came from Boston. This morning from Gale's, where they lodged last night, but here to Breakfast. He says the Vessel which Breck and Samuel had interest in, was presently upon Sailing out, was captured in Cape Cod Harbour by a privateer of only 6, 2 pounders whereas they had 8 4 pounders. But the Capt. had carried the Cash which was 1/2 the Worth ashore, quilted in his Jacket, and therefore saved it. Mr. Baldwin lodges here.

1779 April 2 (Friday). My son and Daughter Baldwin left us to go to Brookfield. A Marvellous Day for Warmth. Col. Baldwin says if I send my Cattle to his pasture they shall fare as well as his will. Mr. John Forbes here and dines with us. He brings me and I read the *Constitution of the State of Vermont*. Mr. Fish wrote a Letter to me to desire me to forward a Subscription for his Reply to Mr. Foster of Leicester, concerning Infant Baptism. I headed a paper, subscribed and set it agoing. Several Young Gentlemen being present, viz. Sr. Crosby, Elijah Brigham and Abraham Holland. The weather wonderful warm etc.

1779 April 3 (Saturday). Alter and enlarge the Garden. Eph. Parker setts out stumps, roots etc. I read the Constitution of Government in the State of Vermont.

1779 April 4 (Sunday). Read Zech. III and my exercise was upon the first 5 Verses. Mrs. Maynard dined with us. P.M. on Rev. 14.7, middle clauses, which may God be graciously pleased to bless to all of us!

1779 April 5 (Monday). Capt. Fisher here a.m. Borrows the London minister's Sermons on Prayer. I write to Mrs. Brown, widow at my son Samuel's at Boston, concerning Letters sent by a Female Society at Boston to Father Loring. P.M. I had Dr. Hawes' mare to go to Bolton. I first rode over to see Mr. Daniel How, whose case, with his mortifying Toe is deplorable! He was somewhat free to speak. I prayed with him. Proceeded to Mr. Whitney's and lodged there.

1779 April 6 (Tuesday). Mr. Whitney and I rode to Mr. Benj. Baily's in Bolton, where the Pastors and Churches of Westborough, the first in Shrewsbury, Northborough and Stow met. The East Church in Sudbury did not come. It was appointed a day of Prayer, Humiliation and Fasting. We assembled at Mr. Samuel Jones' House. Mr. Newel prayed. Mr. Sumner preached a seasonable sermon on Ps. 122.8. I prayed after the Sermon. We sung twice, but had only one Exercise. After refreshing, formed into a Council. I was Moderator and Mr. Whitney Scribe. The Candidates for Communion met us at Mr. Bailey's and expressed their desires to be formed into a church state. The members of divers Churches presented their Dismissions. We made the needful Enquirys into their agreement and mutual Satisfaction with one another. And though they had in times past been in unhappy Disquietments, yet condescended and were united, thro' the great Goodness of God and preparations were made for accomplishing the Solemn Work. I lodged there.

1779 April 7 (Wednesday). The Council met, and the Brethren assembled. After prayer, conferred. Something was prepared for the Brethren, by way of mutual Concession and acknowledgement of past offences, especially the Wally Brethren in setting up that church and

some of the members disturbing other churches and Mutual forgiveness. From such Material, drawn up, one of the Council compiled Result: At Mr. Benj. Baily's, to whose son I find Sally Crosby is married and lives there. P.M. The Result was finished and read, was voted by the Council, then Read to and it was voted by the Brethren to accept of and conform to it, except Col. Silas Bailey, who was unavoidably obliged to withdraw: and Mr. Eph. Fairbank, who wanted some Liberty about communicating with Mr. Walley's Church, if he was there *accidentally*, but nothing could be granted to him of that kind, upon which he chose to wave joining with them for the present. A *Covenant* was read to them in which they term themselves Congregational (not Independents) to which they consented and signed it. And if the other Brethren should within a few days incline to come and consent, and sign as they had done, it should be accepted as if it had been done today. This very solemn Transaction performed, they were by the Moderator openly announced and declared to be a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, by the Name of the South Church of Christ in Bolton, who were then presented to God in an address of Gratulation and Supplication by the Moderator. In the Council the Votes were unanimous, in the Church, next to; For which may all Glory be given to the most High! The Church chose Mr. Whitney to be their Moderator *pro temp*. I returned with Mr. Whitney so far as to his House and lodged there again.

1779 April 8 (Thursday). Returned home (calling a little while at Capt. Maynard's) and found through God's Goodness all in safety. P.M. Miss Patty Fish here. N.B. Polly Howard works here for Sophy, making Lace.

1779 April 9 (Friday). Capt. Maynard here, and wants to be about the Work of Straitning the Road, through my land back of the Meeting House toward Nurse's. My son Cushing and his son John came -- lodged here: but Mr. C's horse is sent to Mr. Bond's. N.B. My Daughter C. has been exceedingly ill for some time: and is reduced to a very weak State.

1779 April 10 (Saturday). Mr. Cushing and Dr. Stinsson dined here.

1779 April 11 (Sunday). Mr. Cushing preached. A.M. on Psal. 16.11. P.M. on Eccl. 8.11. N.B. He read the Ch. and Psalm. May God grant His Blessing on the Exercises of the Day!

1779 April 12 (Monday). Dr. Hall of Sutton going to Boston calls and dines here (with Mr. Cushing). P.M. though it rained, they both took leave. Mr. C. goes to Shrewsbury, but leaves his son John here to live with us a while.

1779 April 13 (Tuesday). My sheep grow very troublesome, to Mr. Newton. I rode over to Mr. John Kelley's to see his wife -- prayed with her. Reproved him for his absenting from public Worship. Visited at Mr. Stephen Cook's. Elias came home, rode upon Dr. Hawes' horse. N.B. He went from College this morning to Boston, and yet came home before night, the Sun considerable Heighth.

1779 April 14 (Wednesday). Fine weather. Gardening, plant Trees. Move the Bees. William Deadman a soldier from Stoneham going to the Camp near [blank] Manor, breaks fast here. He brings a Letter from Tim's Mother. She writes of the death of her Son-in-law, Lt. Daniel Bryant.

1779 April 15 (Thursday). Old Mr. William Nurse dies this morning, aged 8[blank] years. I walked over to see old Mr. Jonah Warrin and prayed there. Cousin Maynard sent over an Horse for her aunt, and Stephen to wait upon her, not immediately to return. Dr. Hall returning from Boston called here. N.B. I hear that Mr. Grosvenor has asked a dismissal from his Pastoral-Relation. I read Mr. Wigglesworth's and Mr. Tucker's Dudleian Lectures.

1779 April 16 (Friday). Attended and prayed at the Funeral of Old Mr. William Nurse. He was 83 sometime in last month. I had considerable discourse with Ensign Fay. Elias went p.m. to Concord with Cart, Boxes and Horse. Mr. Amos Parker, Ephraim's Father here. He is obliged with a No. of *Lelock Trees*. At eve Mrs. P. returns home. Hear that a girl has set Fire to Mr. Kendal's House at New Salem, the same that fired Mr. Fessenden's at Walpole. She is committed to Jayl.

1779 April 17 (Saturday). Elias returns from Concord: and relates a tragical story of one Whitney of Townsend, who is suspected to have poisoned his Wife.

1779 April 18 (Sunday). A.M. on Zech. 3.6-7. P.M. 1 Thes. 4.13.³ Occasioned by the Death of Mr. William Nurse. May Divine Blessing accompany!

1779 April 19 (Monday). Breck went to Boston. I sent by him 28 Letters, of the private female Society to the late venerable Father Loring, to the care of Mrs. Elizabeth Brown, widow, heretofore Leazenby: and a number more to and from Mrs. Mehitabel Hystop of Brookline, to the care of the Rev. Mr. Jackson.

1779 April 20 (Tuesday). A.M. Was at Deacon Wood's, at his Son's, and at Mr. Dix's (who lives at Capt. Wood's) but he was not at home. P.M. Visit Mrs. Mallet, who is sick of a Fever. Rode to Col. Brigham's, to Capt. Jonas Brigham's. Neither of the Men at home. Rec'd a letter from Elijah Brigham A.B. respecting Sophy.

1779 April 21 (Wednesday). Capt. Maynard Solicits me about moving my Walls on the north west, and straightening the Road from the Meeting House to the Northward. He promises it shall not be to my Damage. He will be at the Charge and will measure the Land, that I may have Equivalent. N.B. In some perplexity about getting up a pair of Cart Wheels from Monroe's, which Billy has made for me. Captain undertakes to get them up. Breck returns from Boston, and brought me a letter from Mrs. Eliz. Brown of the Female Society of Boston.

³1 Thess. 4.13: "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."

1779 April 22 (Thursday). Mr. Grosvenor, on his Journey to Dr. Kittredge, at Tewkesbury, for help in his utterance, calls here. May God grant success! Mr. Solomon Maynard for Capt. Maynard brings my Cart Wheels in a Waggon, and goes with them to Mr. Joseph Smith's to have the Tire put onto them. Isaac Baldwin from Dummer School, going to Brookfield, calls and refreshes here.

1779 April 23 (Friday). Capt. Maynard and his people, with two Wallers from Sutton, begin to move my Wall beyond the Orchard to make the Road from the Meeting House towards Nurse's straight. Hannah Whitney (sister of Mr. John Harrington's Wife) came to me, confessing the sin of Fornication and desires to make her Peace with God and his people.

1779 April 24 (Saturday). Mr. Grosvenor returns from Tewkesbury and dines here. P.M. my son Samuel and his Wife came from Boston two days ago, and today here. Sally is still but indisposed. By reason of variety of company, was necessarily obliged to desist from what I was preparing for the Public tomorrow.

1779 April 25 (Sunday). Very much on consideration of my Daughter-in-law I chose the Subject of the Day. Read Cantic. 8 and delivered the Sermons formerly preached on v. 5 a.m. to p. 8. P.M. to p. 15. Which may God graciously accept!

1779 April 26 (Monday). I was much taken up in trying (though fruitlessly) to get an Horse for Elias to go with the Cattle to Brookfield.

1779 April 27 (Tuesday). My son Samuel returned to Boston, leaving his Wife, with his Chaise here; who before dinner grew so uneasy, that with Tears, she prayed me to get some Neighbors to carry her in her chaise to Boston. Indeed her husband was but just out of sight, when she repented her staying behind, and would have had him called back. N.B. I sent by my Son to Mrs. Eliz. Brown, at her request for some of his papers, two manuscript sermons of Mr. Loring, one on 1 Joh. 4.9, the other on Gal. 2.20. We are every day perplexed by the unruliness of the Sheep.

1779 April 28 (Wednesday). The Sheep were so disorderly I was forced to go to my Friend, Squire Baker, to request him, again to take the Sheep to pasture, and to assist me in getting my young Cattle to Brookfield, both which he consents to.

1779 April 29 (Thursday). The Sheep are sent to Squire Baker's pasture to be kept there till after Shearing. P.M. came Mr. William May and with him, Mr. Solomon Walcott, a young preacher, from Mansfield. Mr. May went to the Squire's, Mr. Walcott lodged at the Shop.

1779 April 30 (Friday). Elias left us to go to Cambridge, and to Charleston, on Mr. Jonathan Fay's Horse. Mr. May went with Elias to Cambridge. Eli Forbes, from Cape Ann, by the way of Boston, came and lodged here. He brings me a Letter from his Father, which relates many sorrowful things, which have befallen them, particularly the death of Col. John Stevens, Mr. Solomon Parsons and his wife. Mr. Rogers has left his people for want of Support. Mr.

Cleaveland at Sandy Bay is on the wing, Mr. Parsons of Squam at present under disgrace etc. etc.

1779 May 1 (Saturday). My Daughter in Law, Salley, rides in her Chaise with Eli Forbes to Brookfield.

1779 May 2 (Sunday). Did not read publickly because I had not done with the former passages already read, viz. Zeph. 3.8, which I preached on a.m. and on Cant. 8.1 p.m. Mr. Adonijah Rice's wife dined here. May God bless the Word delivered. Mr. William May came at eve. Lodged here.

1779 May 3 (Monday). Mrs. Mallet remains ill. I visited her, and there was also old Mrs. Stone (one of the poor from Charlestown). I prayed with them. N.B. I was met by Mr. Stockwell Shoemaker, and could not avoid discoursing with him concerning the amazing alteration of the Price of Things, for I this day paid *Six Dollars* for only the making of a pair of Shooes for me, viz. by Mr. James Smith who works at Capt. Fisher's, which is 12 times as much as I gave for the last Pair but one, for which I gave half a Dollar, at Mr. Barn. Newton's. N.B. Mr. May has bought of Joseph Lee of Cambridge Esq. 1420 acres of Land in Montague, and has paid for it. It stood him between 4 and 5 Thousand pounds L.M. N.B. As I received a Letter yesterday noon from Ensign Aaron Warrin, desiring me to preach next Fast Day on 1 Chron. 4.10, today began to write upon it.

1779 May 4 (Tuesday). Mr. David Clark of Ashburnham came to see us. N.B. No word of Complaint about his son Ben: who is in the Continental service. Mr. Amos Parker of Shrewsbury here, his business with his son.

1779 May 5 (Wednesday). My Daughter-in-law returns with Eli Forbes from Brookfield. Benj. Bancroft of Sutton Stores his Load in my Barn.

1779 May 6 (Thursday). General Fast throughout the United States. The forenoon exercises were (not designedly) exceeding long. A.M. on the text requested by Ensign Warren, viz. 1 Chron. 4.10, but I read and made some remarks upon v. 9. P.M. Used part of sermon on Jer. 8.5, but with many enlargements. O that God would please to accept our sacrifices, and quicken us to conform to his holy Word! Col. Job. Cushing, Major Ezra Beeman were at meeting p.m., and refreshed themselves with us at eve. They were here upon the Business of Raising a number of Men to go to Rhode Island.

1779 May 7 (Friday). Eli Forbes Returns to Cambridge and Boston. Sally tarries with us. I send by Eli to Elias, Ferguson's Astronomy, with a Letter against his Selling Books, which he has had of me, and have writ to Eli's Father, particularly to send for his Sheep after Shearing. N.B. Breck has bought another horse, which his brother Samuel procured for him, of Major Stillman at Boston. P.M. I rode to Mr. Thomas Bellows to see him in his weak and low condition, and prayed with him and his son's Family -- thence I proceed to divers Other of the Families in that corner, viz. Mr. Chamberlain. N.B. his son Daniel gives me half a bushel of Indian Corn, and

lends me a bushel and half more. I called at Mr. Nat. Chamberlain's, went into widow Bellow's, and stayed some time at Ensign Snow's -- drank Tea there etc. At home found Capt. John Wood and his Lady, who make a visit here.

1779 May 8 (Saturday). Wrote to Mr. Whitney of Northborough for the Result of Bolton Council. Breck goes to Holden p.m. Mr. George Stimson was here and carried away from my barn four bushels (as he says) of Indian Corn, which is part of the load stored there by Benj. Bancroft on last Wednesday, for which he gave me his Receipt. He says the load is his, and that he Shall soon take away the Rest of it. Mr. Isaac Miller was here and signed an acknowledgement.

1779 May 9 (Sunday). With some amendments I went on a.m. and finished on Jer. 8.5 last clause. Administered the Lord's Supper. N.B. Brother Isaac Miller was restored. Mrs. Maynard dined here, as did one Daniel Holbrook, whom Mrs. Parkman saw to be a stranger and invited in. P.M. on Jer. 5.20-25 to page 9.

1779 May 10 (Monday). I visited Mrs. Mallet, and old Lieut. Thomas Forbush and his wife. Breck and his Family brought and eat their dinner with us, which was so much the more agreeable and sociable. P.M. Mr. Waters who has been preaching at Newtown here and informs me of the Death of Dr. Wheelock, president of the College at Dartmouth, and of Dr. Winthrop, professor of Matham. and Philosophy at Cambridge. The last was buried at Cambridge May 1. O that God would show compassion on the bereaved Semenerrys! Mr. Noah Hardy's wife here. Mr. Elijah Brigham brings his classmate Mr. [blank] Foot. They all drink coffee. At eve Mr. George Stimson here about the Load Stored in my Barn, but took none of it away. N.B. John Forbes came to spin.

1779 May 11 (Tuesday). Visit Mr. Daniel How, and prayed with him -- went to Mr. Benj. Howe's -- called to see Mrs. Kelly. Sophy goes to Mr. Amos Parkers at Shrewsbury. Col. Baldwin and his son Isaac came. Sarah Miller came to spin. Isaac Forbush takes away by order of Benj. Bancroft the remainder of the Load above said. Col. Baldwin and his son lodge at Breck's. Their horses are put into the burying-place, our Hay being gone.

1779 May 12 (Wednesday). Col. Baldwin puts one of his horses into Salley's Chaise, and waits upon her to Boston. Isaac to Boston in his way to Byfield. I read Logan's Cicero of Old Age.

1779 May 13 (Thursday). Breck undertakes to new modell the Frame for the Grape Vine in the Garden to run upon: and Parker and Timothy help him. I am still engaged in Logan's Cicero of old age, with very useful notes.

1779 May 14 (Friday). Breck, Parker and Tim. are still upon the Vine and garden.

1779 May 15 (Saturday). Mr. Parker (Ephraim's Father) here. Ephraim goes home, and carries John Cushing to Shrewsbury.

1779 May 16 (Sunday). Preached again on 1 Chron. 4.10. Mr. Elijah Brigham dined with us. P.M. repeated on Jer. 5.25 with many omissions and alterations.

1779 May 17 (Monday). Visit old Mr. Bellows, who is become weaker. Prayed and discoursed with him. Visit at Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlain junior. He presents me half a bushel of Indian meal -- tells me his Brother Daniel went to Marblehead with a load of Indian and Rye, and had 25 Dollars p. Bushel.

1779 May 18 (Tuesday). I rode Breck's mare to Bolton, it being Association. Messrs. Smith, Harrington, Bigelow, Newell present -- Messrs. Stone, Bridge and Whitney absent. Mr. Goss prayed and gave a Concio on Joh. 4.36, especially latter part, with a particular application to what was lately done at the Council in Bolton, accompanied with Sad Complaints -- which after the exercise was over, I made reply to. But we parted in peace. In returning I called at Capt. Edward Johnson's and drank Tea there. Stopped at Mr. Whitney's and lodged there.

1779 May 19 (Wednesday). In my way home I went to see Mrs. Dolly Rice. N.B. her Daughter Adams resides there. I called at Mr. [blank] Andrews, newly come to live in the house that was Mr. Tinney's. Visited Mr. Daniel How who still grows worse -- at Capt. Maynard's to see Stephen who has been languishing. Dined at home. P.M. Mr. Waters on his way to Newtown to preach for Mr. Merriam. Capt. Goddard of Sutton here. Informs me of his raising Madder and Malage Grapes.

1779 May 20 (Thursday). A.M. Mr. Belknap came in to see me and discoursed about my circumstances and the necessary supplies, the affairs coming on in the Town Meeting p.m. Mr. Daniel Nurse here to renew the Request of his two Sisters, that there may be a Fast kept at theirs. I am obliged to take some time to consider of it. N.B. The Town debated upon making me some further allowance, considering the vast increase of the Necessaries of Life. But it passed negatively.

1779 May 21 (Friday). The proceedings of the Town yesterday were to my Surprise.

1779 May 22 (Saturday). Mrs. Scott is improved to work here. Sophy droops.

1779 May 23 (Sunday). A.M. on Zech. III.9.10. Cousen Samuel Brigham, besides our Spinners, John Forbes and Sarah Miller, dined here. N.B. Mr. Batherick stops me in my going to meeting p.m. and acquaints me that Mr. Jonas Bradish was here, and desired the Church might be desired to stay after the Exercises. It was sudden, and at that juncture, an interruption. But I spoke to Mr. Bradish and several of the Brethren, who he had been talking with, viz. Capt. Jonas Brigham, and Mr. Samuel Forbush who joined in the (verbal) Request that the Church might be spoke to, and a meeting appointed. P.M. I read Eph. 5 and preached on v. 6. I detained the Church, and appointed a Meeting on Tuesday next at 2 p.m. Sophy not well and took physick this morning, but knew it not till it worked.

1779 May 24 (Monday). I went to Squire Baker's. Mr. Jonas Bradish there, who gives me reason to expect today some such Paper from him as he designs to lay before the Church, but (as usual) disappoints me. Squire Baker again relieves me as to pasturing my sheep, if I will obtain of Mr. Elisha Forbes to keep his uncle Eli's nine. Miss Eliza Beals came in to see me and consult me upon her Spiritual State -- mentions several Scriptures She would have me preach upon, but which I have already. As to her bodily State, she is grown exceeding dropsical. At eve came Mr. John Belknap Junior of New Braintree, and is full of exceptions against Mr. Foster -- has got also Mr. Isaac Foster's (the father's) ordination sermon preached at New Braintree. He leaves it for me to read.

1779 May 25 (Tuesday). I sent for Mr. Elisha Forbes, who came and told me he would take care of his uncle's nine sheep, that they may not trouble me any more. No Mr. Bradish though I staid at home to wait on him. At half after 10 I received his Letter to be laid before the Church. P.M. Church Meeting, but not till after three by reason of the member's Delinquency. Mr. Bradish came -- his paper read. I answered it. Many debates ensued. At length he confesses in such a manner as that the Church voted Acceptance, and for the Sake of peace, I conceived it best to forgive him, and thus we emerged from this Difficulty, for which I am heartily thankful! We began and ended with prayer.

1779 May 26 (Wednesday). Wrote (and copied) a Certificate concerning Jonas Bradish directed to Rev. Mr. Jos. Brown of Winchendon. This day of great Solemnity when the Heads of the Tribes assemble together for the grand purposes of Seeking the God of our Fathers, and hearing what God the Lord has to say to us as likewise to exercise that invaluable privilege of choosing the Counsellors for this State -- and this happy Season for the Convention of Ministers. I am obliged in prudence all things considered to stay at Home, where, however may my Heart join with all those who gratefully celebrate the praises of God giving thanks to His Name, and would earnestly implore pardoning Mercy for the whole Land! And the continuance of all public and personal Blessing, that the judgments of God may be removed, that we may be extricated out of our Difficulties, and be lead in the Paths of Rest and Peace!

1779 May 27 (Thursday). Visited poor John Bond, under grievous lameness, and prayed with him. Dined at Col. Brigham's, in my way to old Mrs. Beaman, who I visited and prayed with. Mr. John Belknap jun. here again, about Mr. Daniel Foster's Doctrines. I have read his F's sermon, with the notes. Mr. Ithamar Bellows dies about 5 p.m.

1779 May 28 (Friday). Mr. John Belknap calls once more, as he is returning home. Takes the Book he lent me -- is very free, against Mr. Foster and deeply concerned what will be the Event. P.M. Mr. William Brigham's wife, near neighbor to Col. Brigham here, drinks Coffee with us etc. My kinsman, Mr. Thos. Needham, returning from camp at Fish-kill to his family at Salem, comes in to see me. He is more out of Health than when he was here last year, and thinks not to go to the Army again.

1779 May 29 (Saturday). Attended Mr. Ithamar Bellows Funeral and prayed. May God please to sanctifie the Death of the aged Brother to us!

1779 May 30 (Sunday). A.M. Read Zech. IV and gave expository notes on the former part, but preached on Eph. 5.6. Preached p.m. on Rom. 8.11⁴ by reason of Mr. Bellows death. Mr. Sam. Barrett of Hopkinton and Mrs. Maynard dined here.

1779 May 31 (Monday). Mr. Broaders comes and informs me of the Death of Mr. Daniel How, which occurred yesterday towards night. Aged 54 last October. N.B. I appointed a Catechizing on next Thursday a. and p.m., and am (by divine assistance) to preach at the private Meeting tomorrow: so that the Funeral must be tomorrow morning, and he must be buried in Northborough in that south part where his Father and Mother were interred. Mr. Willard of Mendon and Mr. Edmund Foster, preacher at Marlborough having changed yesterday, met and baited here. Breck receives of me £300 which I commit to him as either lending it to him or partly to pay for a yoke of oxen bought of Mr. Crooks for £200, and the remaining 100 to trade with as may be most prudent to save the sinking. Old Mr. Wait of Ashburham here. Lt. Grout here to enquire into the meeting at his House.

1779 June 1 (Tuesday). I attended the Funeral of Mr. Daniel How, who dyed at Mr. Fessenden's. Mr. Woodward of Weston and his Ladie, on a journey to Hartford, Springfield etc. called and dined here. P.M. I preached at Lt. Grout's on Lam. 1.9 into page 8th.

1779 June 2 (Wednesday). Breck returns from Boston. Ephraim Parker is preparing to go with the Oxen and Horse to Waltham for earthen Ware. I wrote a letter for Sister Champney to Mr. Ripley of Concord, about her Chest. I covered it with a Letter to my Son William in reply to his of May 24, received by Breck.

1779 June 3 (Thursday). Ephraim went to Waltham, sat out about 3 a.m. N.B. Timothy Bryant's Time being out, he went with Parker, in order to return to his Mother at Stoneham. I gave him eight dollars, which was as much as I could spare. I wrote by him to his Mother. May God be the guardian of his Youth! Mr. Elisha Forbes directs that his uncle Eli's sheep be sent to his pasture, and his brother Simon, with Billy Spring, drives them there. I catechize at the Meeting House. 34 Boys. 44 Girls. After catechizing I married Phineas Hardy to Sarah Wiman. He gave me Eight Dollars. N.B. Mr. Joseph Harrington was here and manifested Disgust at the Proceedings of the late Council at Bolton. At eve, but before Sunsetting, I by Request of Mr. Sam'l Forbush, went to his House. He has been raising a new Barn, and moving part of an Old One. I was at their Supper, after which we Sang part of Ps. 112.

1779 June 4 (Friday). Ephraim Parker returned from Waltham with a load of earthen ware for Breck. Mrs. Ruth Godfrey came to see us, and tarrys over night with us.

1779 June 5 (Saturday). Mrs. Godfrey returns home. She is very much out of Health, and (I understand) reduced in worldly Circumstances.

⁴Rom. 8.11: "But if the spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Sprit that dwelleth in you."

1779 June 6 (Sunday). Preached on Zech. IV.6-10. Mrs. Maynard dined here. P.M. preached on Rom. 8.11. I did not read today.

1779 June 7 (Monday). Col. Cushing brought my Grandson John Cushing from Shrewsbury, to reside a while with us. Breck acquaints me with his great Losses by the Remarkable Depreciation of the medium. P.M. Messrs. Daniel Forbes and Joseph Harrington here to talk with me about Mr. Daniel Adams and his wife's indecent living apart: and what method must be taken with them: But most probably their design was (and Mr. Gale came in to join them) to find fault with the Result of the late Council at Bolton. And they request they may have it read to them again on the next Lecture Day.

1779 June 8 (Tuesday). I rode to Mr. Nat. Whitney's in Grafton to talk with Hannah Whitney about her Humiliation and joining with the Church. Then proceeded to Mr. Grosvenor's, but neither he nor she was at home. I went into Mr. Joseph Brown's, with hope to see his *Electrical Machine*, but he was again gone to Providence. His lady was generous in entertaining me. I dined there and she sent her son Obadiah to call Mr. Henstick, the baptist Minister, to show me the said Machine. Mr. Grosvenor had by this time returned from Sutton, and came to me, and kindly assisted Mr. Henstick in the Electrical Operations, which were wonderful. I was electrized a number of times, the rather as it was said to be a Remedy against the Cramp, which I am much subject to. The Experiments led me to utter, "how Manifold are thy Works, O Lord, in Wysdom hast thou Made them all." In returning home, I came by Mr. Isaiah Fairbanks and Mr. Nurse's. Miss Lydia and Miss Rebecca request a Fast may be kept at their House, and that Mr. Sumner and Mr. Fisk may be sought to perform on that occasion. The time, to be, God Willing, this day Fortnight. I came home safely through the Divine Goodness to me.

1779 June 9 (Wednesday). Sophy with Mr. Brigham, in Mr. Newton's Chaise, goes to Marlborough. Mr. Goodhall here and shows me the Certificate of his Ordination at large, or as a Missionary, to go to the State of Vermont. Mr. Elijah Hardy's wife makes us a visit.

1779 June 10 (Thursday). Sister Champney is putting up her things in order to leave us. Mr. Mellen and his wife call and drink Coffee. A Training Day with the South Company. Much imprudent Firing. Read Roman's Annals of the Netherlands, Vol. I.

1779 June 11 (Friday). Sister Champney left us to go to Mr. Jonas Bond's in Sutton. My son Breck went with her in Mr. Barn. Newton's Chaise, and left her at Mr. Bond's. We have bad news of a Fleet supposed to be British, on our Coast, and some other Evil Tidings.

1779 June 12 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1779 June 13 (Sunday). Delivered another exercise on Zech. IV, viz. from v. 11 to the End. The widow of the late Capt. Benj. Fay dined with us. P.M. Considering that this is the Time when Invasions and a new campaign are feared, I delivered again a sermon on Isa. 1.19 to the beginning of page 7, with divers alterations and additions.

1779 June 14 (Monday). Send by Dr. Hawes, a letter to Mr. Moore, also to Mr. Thos. Adams.

1779 June 15 (Tuesday). Rain the Forenoon. I could not go to Northborough Association, dined at home, but p.m. I went to Mr. Whitneys. Mr. Stone, Smith and Goss there. I returned at Eve. Breck and his Wife and Daughter, Mr. Brigham and Sophy are gone, in two Chaises, to Boston. Mr. Forbes and Miss Charlotte Saunders came at eve, and lodged here. Capt. Maynard's work men are moving the Walls.

1779 June 16 (Wednesday). Mr. Forbes and his Daughter left us to go to Brookfield. N.B. Before he went, his cousin Elisha came, and they agree about the nine Sheep of Mr. F. which I have heretofore kept. Mr. Aaron Smith came -- dined with us -- Lt. Bond, and with him a yoke of Oxen and Horse -- my Eph. Parker with my oxen and Breck's mare go on in plowing fallow ground at the Island.

1779 June 17 (Thursday). I looked for Mr. Whitney to preach my Lecture, but he did not come. I preached myself on Ps. 139.23 to the latter part of page 6 and concluded with a few warm Expositions extemp. Mr. Daniel Forbes, Mr. Gale and Mr. Joseph Harrington t'other Day requested the Church might be stopped and the late Result at Bolton might be read again to them. I therefore gratified them, but it was at the sad Cost of our Peace: for there were presently bitter Exceptions against the Result and against the Council that formed it. I endeavored to open and to explain every Difficulty, and ease every Complaint -- but it was in vain. They were not quiet when we parted. I desire to be humble before God on account of this sorrowful Token of his holy Displeasure, and pray for Divine Pity. At my House were Messrs. Johnathan Fay and Eli Brigham, who also eat with me: and we were chearful notwithstanding what I had met with. N.B. One Mr. Haden of Grafton tells me that they are in great Confusion, having had a meeting there to see whether they should build a new Meeting House: or whether they should repair the old one: and whether they would grant Mr. Grosvenor some Relief; but they contended and would do neither. For which I am sorely grieved.

1779 June 18 (Friday). I am in some Fear that the disquieted Brethren will desire to have the Communion deferred, but none came to me.

1779 June 19 (Saturday). We are in anxiety about Mr. Forbes and Daughter, which should have come last night, Commencement at Cambridge.

1779 June 20 (Sunday). Administered the Lord's Supper -- preached a.m. on Ps. 139.24 (having read the Ps. publicly), p.m. on Ps. 36.1-7. Squire Whipple and his wife and Mrs. Maynard dined here. N.B. Congress's Address to the States about the Currency, though long, it was read partly by me and partly by Deacon Bond and Mr. Elijah Brigham, in the Congregation. Mr. Daniel Nurse tells me that the designed Fast at his Sister's, is put off till after the busy Season.

1779 June 21 (Monday). Mr. Forbes and Daughter Charlotte came from Spencer, he having preached there yesterday: and sent Mr. Maccarty to Concord. They lodge here. Town Meeting and Training to raise nine men forthwith; but they do not succeed.

1779 June 22 (Tuesday). Mr. Forbes and daughter leave us to go to Concord, Camb. and Boston. Wrote to Elias by him. P.M. came Mr. Johnathan Hobby from Concord, and brought Mrs. Minot to see us. They lodge here.

1779 June 23 (Wednesday). Ephraim Parker begins to Mowe. Mr. Hobby, Mrs. Minot and Sophy walk up to Squire Baker's, but return to dine with us. P.M. our Company leave us to go to Northborough, and Mr. Brigham and Sophy accompany them. Mr. Fitch visits, to tell me he is engaged to Change with Mr. Sanford next Sabbath, but will change the 11 of July. Mr. Cushing and Mr. William May came and lodged here.

1779 June 24 (Thursday). I was a while at the Hay. Mr. Cushing after Dinner goes to Lancaster, and carries his son John with him, to go home.

1779 June 25 (Friday). Mr. Henry Quincy came to Break fast with Breck -- refreshed himself with me at 10. By him I wrote to his Father now at Newtown and to Mr. Thos. Adams of Medfield, who I hear is much out of Health.

1779 June 26 (Saturday). Received from Mr. Moore two Letters dated [*blank*]. He informs me that his Negro Man, Cato, is taken by the British force, and that he has lost 1500 wt. of Rice. I hear of Rejoicings lately at Boston and Cambridge, on account of Gen'l Lincoln's Victory over the English Army in South Carolina. For several days I have drooped, and have but low Appetite, especially at dining. I am become thinner, but Ps. 73.26.⁵

1779 June 27 (Sunday). Was but faint and my Exercises too long. Read Zech. V. From 1 to 4 v. was the Exercise a.m. On Isa. 1.19 to page 11 p.m. Admitted Hannah Whitney to Charity, and into Church Fellowship, and baptized a Child of Mr. Benj. Warrin's.

1779 June 28 (Monday). Read Bell's Travels -- thro' Siberia and Tartary to Pekin. I was somewhat lively, yet not as heretofore. I thank God for my Preservation and earnestly wish for Grace to improve my Time and Talents.

1779 June 29 (Tuesday). I opened and spread Hay a while a.m. Mrs. P. has rid unto the South of the Town to procure Worsted Combings. She went to the Outermost House and returned in Safety. P.M. the News Papers which contain Gen'l Lincoln's Victory over the British Forces in South Carolina. To God be glory! I wrote to Mr. Jonas Bond of the North of Sutton concerning Sister Champney.

⁵Psalm 73.26: "My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever."

1779 June 30 (Wednesday). Some part of the Day I was feeble and faint, heartless and do but little -- "Cur mundus, militat sub vana Gloria" etc. etc.⁶ Afterwards I had somewhat more of Vivacity. D.G. The Lord is Long-Suffering to astonishment!

1779 July 1 (Thursday). Read part of Dr. Cotton Mather's Agathangelus and Celestinus. Thus far it appears to be a very useful quickening Book. I have reason to bless God and would heartily do so, for the eminent Writings of that pious and learned man. Dr. Hawes, who has returned from Court, was here and communicated to me some of the Transactions of the Assembly, and what the Town of Boston have, by their Committee of Correspondence, sent to the Committee of Westborough relative to some fresh Efforts for the Appreciation of the public Currency. N.B. Thomas's Spy comes again to the Shop for a Numbers of the Neighbors.

1779 July 2 (Friday). [No entry.]

1779 July 3 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1779 July 4 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Zech. 3.4. P.M. went on with Repetition of Sermon on Isa. 1, v. 19-20 to p. 15.

1779 July 5 (Monday). Visited Mr. Belknap and dined there. He has a Widow Sister that lives there. Her name is Flagg. I called at Mrs. Seth Wood's, and obtained of her to weave for us. I also made a Business of visiting and prayed with old Mrs. Chamberlain. She was very ill and under hysteric Affections. I called at Mr. William Johnson's. Young Mrs. Belknap went with me to her Father's, Ensign Snow's, who put a Cheese into my Saddle Baggs. I called at Mr. Beeman's and at Mr. Thos. Andrew's. On my way home I went into the Workhouse to see a Stranger who was taken sick on the Road from Fishkill and going to his Family at Casco Bay.

1779 July 6 (Tuesday). I went to the Private Meeting at Mr. Joseph Grout's. I preached on Lam. 1.9 from page 8 to 13. I was handsomely entertained, but principally request the divine Blessing.

1779 July 7 (Wednesday). Read Smalley's discourse on Joh. 6.44. Visit the poor Sick Stranger at the Workhouse -- and prayed with him. His name is James Webber of Purpoodock and has a Wife and two Children: he is ill of bilious Fever and Camp-Distemper.

1779 July 8 (Thursday). I sent my Watch by Mr. Moses Nurse to Mr. Simon Willard of Grafton: the chain being loose, unhooked. N.B. Mr. Nurse has brought from Mrs. Lydia Garfield 31 and 1/2 yds. of tow cloth which she has wove, and for which I paid 21 Dollars and 5 Shillings.

1779 July 9 (Friday). I was in some perplexity about my Haying, because nothing is done about it all this Week (except One Load on Monday) and yet Parker is going to work at Harrington's.

⁶"Why does the world labor under vain glory?" The medieval poem continues: "Whose prosperity is transitory,/ its power disintegrates as quickly."

1779 July 10 (Saturday). I prepare for Hopkinton and p.m. I rode there. I called to see old Mr. Jonas Warrin. I carried to Mr. Barrett his first Volume of Henry's Exposition. I lodged at Mr. Fitch's. Mr. Fitch to Westborough.

1779 July 11 (Sunday). I preached at Hopkinton on Joel 3.13 a. and p.m. It rained at eve. It was so wet and uncomfortable that I tarried there: but yet Mr. Fitch himself got home.

1779 July 12 (Monday). Went to Mr. Barretts, where I was very affectionately received. He lent me the third volume of Mr. Henry, viz. on Job, Psalms etc.: he lent me also the third volume of the History of England in Folio and Howel's Familiar Letters. 4 vols. bound in one Oct. Book, but in his Generosity he gave me the Folio which contains Dr. Stillingfleet's Sermons, twelve, and his Discourse on the True Reason of the Sufferings of Jesus Christ. This Cargo of Books I brought Home. Having understood that Mr. James Webber was still sick at the Work house, I went there p.m. to see him and prayed with him. Mr. Thomas Adams of Medfield came at Evening with a number of Books and lodged here. We have a Sad Report that New Haven is taken by the Enemy.

1779 July 13 (Tuesday). Mr. Adams has brought home to me at length Sir William Temple. He has led me also into an Exchange of a number of Books, viz. For Voetius 3 vols. I have Dr. Stanhope's Thomas a Kempis, Dr. Calamy, of Vows: Horneck's crucified Jesus, and Dr. Goodman's Old Religion. For Monsr. Boileau's 2d vol. and Mat Prior's Works 2 vols. I have Dr. Hammond's Annotations in large Folio. For the Lay Monastery, I have Herman Prudence, and Three Select Pieces of Mr. Thos. Shepherd. For Comin's Real Christian, unbound, I gave him at his proposal a Pound of Sugar. He presented me a Pamphlet, Dr. Gibson on the Sinfulness of Neglecting and profaning the Lord's Day. N.B. I returned him his Drexilius on Eternity. He showed me a Manuscript of his Daughter's forming in 4to Alphabetical, and contains an account of all manner of Errors, Sects, etc. in every age of Christianity. He sold Breck a number of unbound Books, Firmin, Shaw, Shepherd, Doelittle etc. After dinner he left us to go to Sherburn.

1779 July 14 (Wednesday). Mr. Johanthan Hall of Hopkinton here. I visited and prayed with the sick Stranger, Mr. James Webber. He is grown worse. May God prepare him and us for His Sovereign Will! Mr. John Pigeon of Brookfield here and dined with us.

1779 July 15 (Thursday). Am variously employed among the Books which I lately had from Mr. Adams and Mr. Barrett. P.M. attended Mr. Webber's Funeral, and prayed. We have the Sad News of the British Forces invading New Haven, Fairfield, Stratford etc.

1779 July 16 (Friday). The news from New Haven is confirmed. Suse not well.

1779 July 17 (Saturday). Isaac Baldwin came up from Cambridge where he has been examined and approved, though not admitted into College. Lodges here. A Letter by Baldwin from Mr. I. Quincy. Ephraim on Breck's Horse, at the Close of the Day, to Shrewsbury.

1779 July 18 (Sunday). Read Ps. 103 and preached on v. 14. Sam. Brigham dines. P.M. on Isa. 1.20, and finish that Discourse. At eve I read in Stanhope's a Kempis on Death. May God grant His almighty Blessing to accompany my Weak Efforts!

1779 July 19 (Monday). Parker returned from Shrewsbury to his Work. Mr. Eleazar Fairbank of North Shrewsbury, trades with Breck, and visits, dines, and spends good part of the p.m. with me.

1779 July 20 (Tuesday). Read preface to Shaw's Immanuel. Newspaper from Boston, but am chiefly impressed and taken up with the weighty, important Things, which relate to my Dissolution and an eternal World. It is wonderful that I am no more affected with them.

1779 July 21 (Wednesday). Breck goes to Boston. Mr. Elisha Forbes with his Team goes down to load up for him. Miss Polly Howard here making Lace for my Daughter Cushing. Mr. John Pidgeon came in his way to Brookfield, and lodges here. He brings fresh news of our Success against the Enemy in recovering the Fort on Hudson's River, which they had lately taken from the States, and fortified more Strongly, which is called Stoney Point, near King's Ferry: May God grant to His people a suitable Frame of Mind upon Such Occasions! Elias came from Cambridge.

1779 July 22 (Thursday). Sr. Fish (as now I suppose he is honored) made us a Visit and dined here. Mrs. Lamson ill, her aunt Knowlton, who tends on her, lodges here.

1779 July 23 (Friday). Mr. Ebenezer Allen, a Stranger, born at the Vineyard, his parents live at Rochester, himself a Preacher, came here to see me, stayed and dined, is going to Needham to preach there. Breck returns from Boston, tells me Salley is very comfortable.

1779 July 24 (Saturday). I have very much left my Husbandry Business with Parker, and betake myself to my Studys.

1779 July 25 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Zech. v. 3.4. Mrs. Maynard dined here. P.M. for the sake of some Disconsolate persons, and a View to the Communion next Sabbath, I repeated with some Additions sermon on Ps. 69.32, which may God graciously succeed! At eve read a Kempis Book IV, Chap. 1, the Communion being appointed.

1779 July 26 (Monday). Applied myself to Studys and began my Preparations. Mr. Waters from Newtown, where he has been preaching calls here. The Rain upon our Hay, it much perplexes and disappoints in various Respects.

1779 July 27 (Tuesday). Mrs. P. is with my Neighbor Harrington's wife in her Travail.

1779 July 28 (Wednesday). They have a Daughter born. I read Bell's Travels to Pekin, and went to see Mrs. Harrington. Mrs. Dolly Rice here.

1779 July 29 (Thursday). Mrs. Lamson being still in a very unfit Situation to be alone, has Mrs. Drury, Daughter of her aunt Knowlton with her from Day to Day, but she lodges here -- ever since last Saturday night.

1779 July 30 (Friday). Drury Fairbank, who sometime ago was Sick and languishing, under a dangerous consumptive Cough, is strangely raised to Health, and is going into the Service. P.M. came from Worcester, my Daughter Baldwin, with her son Isaac waiting upon her. She has been of late much borne down with her Disorders, but is (just now) somewhat brighter. They lodge here, as does Mrs. Ellwell, who in coming to help Mrs. Lamson, had a Fall from her Horse, and is rendered incapable to help her.

1779 July 31 (Saturday). Isaac Baldwin returns to Brookfield, but leaves his Mother and her Chaise here. Mr. Waters returning to Newtown. How swiftly this month has fled! So teach us to number our Days that we may apply our Hearts to Wisdom!⁷

1779 August 1 (Sunday). A.M. on Ps. 36.7. Administered the Lord's Supper, which may God graciously accept. Mrs. Maynard dined here. P.M. preached on Ps. 4.7 to p. 9. O that this might be the Frame of my own Soul! N.B. Did not read publickly. At eve, read Mr. Dolittle's XIII Chapter on duty after receiving the Sacrament.

1779 August 2 (Monday). Breck has found [bound?] sundry books for me, viz. Dr. Scott's Sermon Vol. II. Which is on the Love of God: Firmin's Real Christian and Shepherd's Three Select Pieces, and mended several others. Mr. Joseph Harrington has brought a Loin of Veal, which I would take a grateful notice of. Rumours of a British Fleet. The Town meet on a number of important Articles relative to the affairs of the State; particularly to choose several Delegates for the Conventions. We are to meet for Preparing a plan of Government in this State, and another respecting the Depreciation of money, etc. Mr. Nathan Maynard junior goes to Boston for Breck and carries in his Team Mr. Eli Forbes' Trunk. Old Mr. David Maynard here and carries to Mr. Peter Whitney's, Henry on Psalms etc.

1779 August 3 (Tuesday). I preach at the private Meeting at Deacon Bond's on Lam. 1.9 and finished the Subject. Mr. P. Whitney communicates some Letters. Elias went to Mr. Simon Willard of Grafton, and brought from him my Watch mended and cleaned, and Transactions of Mr. Goss and the Brethren of the South Church in Bolton. He has lately preached at the Dedication of the new Meeting House there, on that Text 2 Chron. 6.41.

1779 August 4 (Wednesday). Moses Warren of Upton came from Mr. Fitch's of Hopkinton, and bought a Greek Grammar of my son Elias. I read the Art of Speaking, that is the first part which is the Essay on Rules etc. At eve, Mr. Isaac Parker, who is very friendly and generous.

1779 August 5 (Thursday). Elias goes to Worcester for Mr. Isaac Parker to bring the Newspapers. Capt. Fisher here. He listens to Geographical Description. Read the admirable

⁷Psalms 90.12: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Character of Dr. Sol. Williams by Mr. Cogswell. Mrs. Eliz. Pratt of Worcester came in to see me. Elias returning home, brings me word from Mrs. Parker of Shrewsbury (where he dined), that my Sister Cushing is sick.

1779 August 6 (Friday). I left my Study to visit Sister Cushing. Mr. Moses Nurse has bought my son Breck's fine mare so that (tho' it was more tedious to me) I rode his grey Horse, to Shrewsbury, dined at Mr. Sumner's. Visit old Madam Cushing, who is sick of a Fever, etc., but is somewhat better today. At her Request, I prayed with her. I rode to Mr. Amos Parker's. In returning I stopt at Mr. Isaac Davis about soal leather.

1779 August 7 (Saturday). By reason of Various Hindrances and Interruptions, I made but a little Preparation for the Sabbath. It is a more than ordinary rainy Season. Mrs. P_____n's lameness is much increased and fills her with Smart.

1779 August 8 (Sunday). It is still wet Weather. I preached a. and p.m. the rest of the Discourse on Ps. 4.7, which may we all be duely effected with! Mr. Samuel Barrett of Hopkinton and his Wife came over to our Meeting (Mr. Fitch and his lady being gone to Connecticut), dined etc. here. At eve, I read in the Family some Chap. of Thomas a Kempis. N.B. The Widow Sarah Smith is in Glooms again.

1779 August 9 (Monday). I visit old Mrs. Smith, but she is exceedingly changed: and is not willing to talk with me. Mr. Child also is very much exercised with Pains. I prayed with them and greatly pityed them. Went to Mr. Daniel Nurse's and his Sisters -- to Mr. Thos. Whitney's and dined there. He tells me he will have another talk with Mr. Benj. Fay in order to make up their Difference. Was informed by him also that Mr. Samuel Fay would have me to go to his House. I went in to Timothy Whitney's, visited at Mr. Joseph Hardy's, went to see Mr. Eli Whitney and his new Wife⁸ -- called at Mr. Phin. Hardy's -- went to Mr. Elisha Forbes, Mr. Tainter and his son Benj's Family. I made a Business of Seeing and discoursing with the Stranger Polly Brown -- drank Tea at Forbes's.

1779 August 10 (Tuesday). The Season for getting Hay has been singularly difficult, by reason of so much foul Weather. Yesterday indeed was fair, but today arose a Thunder Storm and poured down heavy Showers. At eve I wrote to Mr. Quincy.

1779 August 11 (Wednesday). Sent my Letter to Mr. Q_____ by Breck, who hurried me so that I was obliged to send him a mere Fragment, without accomplishing my Plan. The Hay Business is attended with great Difficulty, by reason of much Wet Weather. Divers People have many Loads under Water.

1779 August 12 (Thursday). Still Cloudy and rainy -- broken Time for Workmen. Sunshine p.m. They go to the Hay at the Swamp between 4 and 5. N.B. Mr. Nathan Kenney's little Lucy (about

⁸Widower Eli Whitney mar. Judith Hazeltine of Sutton, July 15, 1779, in S. Westborough Vital Records, 220.

4 years old) was scalded by squatting into a Tray of Hot Water. Dr. Hall of Sutton calls here in Return from Boston. Major Peter Harwood of Brookfield came to see my Daughter Baldwin. He leaves us to go to his Grandfather's, Capt. Hubbard of Worcester the Eve.

1779 August 13 (Friday). Parker went to my little Flock in Squire Baker's pasture, got a Lamb, killed it -- did not weigh it -- it was very small. Breck returned from Boston: but was much overcome by the Rain and Fatigue of his Journey -- young Henry Pigeon here and dined with us. P.M. Rev. Fitch, his wife and sucking son Elijah -- they dined here. Lent Mr. Fitch, Stillingfleet's Origines Sacrae. Mrs. Hawes and her Cousin, Miss Jerusha King, at Tea here.

1779 August 14 (Saturday). Elias to Northborough, and carries to Mr. Whitney, Mr. Charles Stearns' Book of the Art of Speaking.

1779 August 15 (Sunday). Read Levit. 19 to v. 18, and took v. 12 for my Text to introduce my Exercise on Zech. v. 4 from page 70 to 74. P.M. repeat Sermon on II Peter 1.10 to the end of page 8, with omissions of what related to the Lord's Supper. At evening repeated principal parts of it.

1779 August 16 (Monday). Elias shews me his Quarter Bills which are not paid, viz.:	
to Feb. 26. 1779 which is	£17. 3. 4
The 4th Quarter Bill from Feb. 26 to May 28, 1779 is	£48. 5. 0
	_____ which
deduct. 64. 8. 4 buttry	
Besides these Mr. Phillips Paylous Buttry	bill added
Sizing from Nov. 27. 1778 to July 14. 1779 £38.18.0 not paid.	is £103. 6. 4

N.B. This gave me some Difficulty that these several Bills were unpaid, seeing I gave Elias an Hundred Dollars on March 17, and with a View to his discharging that Bill which was due on Feb. 26 last. Besides which he had more of me at different Times in the Spring particularly on May 31, 14 Dollars, delivered by Breck; more by Breck again about the same time £22.4.0 (that is 74 Dollars, which with the 14 Dollars on May 31, as aforesaid, made 88 Dollars). N.B. The Town met p.m. to see whether they would concur with what the Convention of Worcester have resolved upon as to the Prices of Things, Labor, Goods etc., and consented thereto. Chose also a Committee of three to Set a Price on lesser Articles, which the Convention omitted. They were Dr. Hawes, Mr. Joseph Harrington and Capt. Fisher. N.B. Drury Fairbanks desires to be married, though he has not been 14 days on the Town Clerk's Book. Mr. Weare and Isaac Forbush came with him, but I refused.

1779 August 17 (Tuesday). I had an Horse of Deacon Wood to go to Minister's Meeting at East Sudbury. Breck being gone to Ashburnham. I delivered to Elias 100 Dollars for the Steward etc. In riding the Journey I overtook Mr. Stone, and we remarked the great Loss of Hay on Sudbury Meadows, by the late Rains. At Mr. Bridge's were Messrs. Stone, Goss, Whitney, Newell -- but Mr. Smith was gone a Journey and was not returned. The same as at last Meeting, was Moderator. Mr. Bridge prayed. After dinner our Subjects were, Mr. Goss' grievances, and the

Dissensions at Marlborough mentioned by Mr. Whitney. I would fain have recommended to have a Concio, or Collections, or some Questions answered that we may redeem our Time, and render our associating the more profitable. When we broke up, I rode to my Son William's and lodged there.

1779 August 18 (Wednesday). Rode from my Son's to Coll. Week's, where my Horse as well as myself was refreshed. The Colonel requested I would visit old Mr. Sam'l Wit, who was very old and weak: and he would go with me. We went -- found him in a good Frame. He spoke to the following purpose in a raised, Strong and Solemn Manner. "I had rather have the Glorious God for my Portion, and an interest in the Merits of Jesus Christ, than to be Lord of the Whole World." At his Desire I prayed with him. At taking leave, he expressed himself as much obliged to me, glad I would visit him and asked my Prayers still for him. I called a little at Mr. Simon How's, who lent me Mr. Hubbard of Ipswich's Narrative of the Indian Wars. Isaac Baldwin came from Brookfield to his Mother's great Comfort. Mr. Jacob Foster, late minister of Berwick, came and lodged.

1779 August 19 (Thursday). My Daughter Baldwin left us, waited on by her son Isaac. Mr. Foster went on his Journey to Canterbury.

1779 August 20 (Friday). [No entry.]

1779 August 21 (Saturday). Winslow Brigham having led an Horse to Ashburnham, for Pamela Coolidge to live with us: but returns without her, to Mrs. Parkman's great disappointment.

1779 August 22 (Sunday). On Zech. v. 4 to page 73, but used for my Text again Levit. 19.12. P.M. delivered the rest of Discourse on II Peter 1.10 with some additions. At eve read a part of Mr. Culverwells on that Text: entitled The White Stone, which may God bless!

1779 August 23 (Monday). Read part of Clark's Lives. Isaac Baldwin and Neddy Parkman came from Brookfield and lodged here.

1779 August 24 (Tuesday). Elias (to whom I delivered 30 Dollars more -- see on the 17th) left us to return to Cambridge and with him Isaac Baldwin. Neddy goes with them to bring back the Horses. Breck has Carpenters at work to raise the Back Roof of his Store. Mrs. P. is carried to Squire Baker's. At eve she returns with a present of Salt Beef and Six neets Tongues from the old Gentlewoman.

1779 August 25 (Wednesday). Mr. Hezekiah Maynard of Marlborough here on account of a Draught of a Covenant to be used in their Assembly previous to Baptism: he having brought one that was deficient. I altered and copyed it. Neddy Parkman returned from Cambridge -- he brought my Virgil and Tully and some other Books from Elias. Neddy lodges here. The sad news from Penobscot is confirmed.

1779 August 26 (Thursday). An exceeding rainy time. Neddy cant return to Brookfield. Stephen Maynard here and has brought a Relation. I read Mr. Fish's reply to Foster of Leicester on Infant Baptism.

1779 August 27 (Friday). Neddy goes on his Journey to Brookfield. My son William came with his Chaise for his Mother to go with him, to Concord (his Wife drawing near the Time of Travail). He, Capt. Goddard of Sutton, Dr. Stinson now of Marlborough and Mr. Caleb Harrington dined with us. P.M. Mrs. P. to Concord. The notorious Thomas Cook came in (he says) on purpose to see me. I gave him what Admonition, Instruction and caution I could. I beseech God to give it Force! He leaves me with fair Words -- thankful and promising.

1779 August 28 (Saturday). Lt. Townsend here to get a Dismission for himself and Wife.⁹ The Front Wall of the East yard next the Road, built out to the Fence that turns up to the House. A Barrel of Cyder made at Lieut. Jon. Grout's.

1779 August 29 (Sunday). I went on with the Exercises upon Zech. v. 4, but the Text was Lev. 19.12. Read Ex. XX a.m. Read p.m. Acts 17, took v. 30 for my Text. Delivered both the Sermons (with some omissions and a few Additions) which I preached almost Ten years ago. Mr. Sumner being gone, sundry Shrewsbury people were at Meeting here. Elmer Cushing and [blank] Crosby dined here.

1779 August 30 (Monday). Breck goes to Boston. I read the Life of eminently pious Mr. John Janeway, which may God be graciously pleased to bless to my Quickening and eternal Profit!

1779 August 31 (Tuesday). I took a Walk to Mr. Abraham Bonds' to visit him and his Wife, under their great Affliction by their son John's continued Lameness. I also went to see and talk with Mrs. Barns being under the Guilt of Fornication. I solemnly called her to Repentance, and I spent some time with Francis' Wife. Then went to the Men who were out at plough. When returned Home, I found here Rev. Mr. David Ripley of Abington in Connectic. who dined with me and went on his Way.

1779 September 1 (Wednesday). Breck returns from Boston, brings me a joyful Letter from William that his Wife was delivered last Saturday morning at 8 a.m. of a Son, baptized John. P.M. My Daughter-in-law Kezia of New Marlborough came from Framingham and lodged here.

1779 September 2 (Thursday). Kezia was going home to New Marlborough alone. The Difficulty in finding the Road to Lancaster, engaged me to go with her so far. I went. We dined at Mrs. Wilder's in Lancaster. Thence I went with my Daughter to t'other Side the Meeting House, and set her in the Road to her Brother's in Fitchbourg. I turned into Mr. Sheriff Greenleaf's, thence to Mr. Harrington's -- he not at home, and sat out for home but in

⁹Nathan and Sarah Townsend were dismissed to Fitzwilliam, "his wife having removd their Dwelling to *Fitz William*, and desird Dismission to the Church there, their Request was Voted, and that they be recommended to their Acceptance." Westborough Church Records, Aug. 29, 1779.

Northborough was compelled to go into Deacon Paul Newton's to raising Supper, and lodged there.

1779 September 3 (Friday). Broke fast at Mr. Whitney's -- borrowed Bp. Hall's Works, folio, and came home. Thanks to God. Col. Cushing and Major Brennan dined here. Four men to be raised from the Town to go to Providence, for two months. A Letter received from Sister Champney at Sutton.

1779 September 4 (Saturday). Breck to Sutton, but I knew it not in season to write an answer by him. A terrible Storm of Thunder and Lightning, a very violent Crack suddenly and close by us. Afraid we shall hear of Sad effects. The Lord be praised for our Preservation. O the Power and Goodness of God!

1779 September 5 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Zech. v. 5-8. P.M. on Prov. 15.16, which may God graciously please to bless! Appointed the Communion and Lecture, but put by the private Meeting which would otherwise have been at Mr. Tainter's. Mr. Dan'l Forbes has been with me and desires the next Meeting might be at his House (Tainter agreeing to it) by reason of old Mrs. Stone who lives there.

1779 September 6 (Monday). I wrote early to Rev. Mr. Stone of Southborough to preach my Lecture on the 8th and sent it by Mr. Adonijah Putnam of Sutton. I wrote to Sister Lydia Champney at Mr. Jonas Bond's in Sutton in reply to hers of Aug. 31. At eve came Nathan Flag from Grafton with a message from one Mrs. Mary Hasham, requesting me to attend the Funeral of her Husband tomorrow at 2 p.m.

1779 September 7 (Tuesday). I rode to Grafton -- dined at Mr. Grosvenor's (He was gone to Conway). I prayed at the Funeral of Mr. Hasham. At Mr. Aaron Willard's, paid him eleven Dollars for mending my Watch. Mr. Simon Willard went with me to Mr. Joseph Brown's and shewed me a Perambulator which he had made and fixed to Mr. Brown's Chaise. Alexander came and lodged here.

1779 September 8 (Wednesday). I received a note from Mr. Stone that he could not preach my Lecture. The Town of Southborough meet today to consider his Salary. I preached my Self. The Text was Romans 15.13. May God bless my Endeavors! Alexander went to Marlborough but returned and lodged here. Squire Whipple came in after Lecture, gives but an indifferent Account of the State of Things in New Braintree. They go on under Mr. Foster, as if all was right.

1779 September 9 (Thursday). This morning our neighbor Lamson who has been a long time very miserable was delivered of a fine large Boy, to our great Rejoicing. Blessed be God, the God of Salvation and may He perfect her Recovery!¹⁰ Alexander and Breck go to Worcester and

¹⁰The Westborough Vital Records list the birth of Samuel, son of Paul and Abigail, as December 9, 1779.

return. David Fay and Patience [Harvey?] were married.¹¹ My son Alexander is still here, and lodges here.

1779 September 10 (Friday). Alexander leaves us to go to Ashburnham and then home. I thought it my Duty to visit Mrs. Lamson to rejoice with her and stir her up to the Duty of Dedicating her child to God. P.M. came Mr. Charles Stearns of Leominster and lodged here. N.B. He informs that Mr. Whitney of Petersham dyed on Wednesday. At eve came Mr. John Belknap and Mr. Daniel Forbes. They want that Mr. Dan. Adams should be desired to forbear coming to the Sacrament. I dont consent without they write and sign it, which they do.

1779 September 11 (Saturday). Mr. Stearns goes to Mr. Stone's. Mrs. P. came home from Concord with my son William and his little Sophy is with her Father, and after Dinner, they return to Concord. A Letter from aged Mr. Ebenezer Hartshorn of Concord. I wrote and sent a note to Mr. D. Adams, concerning his forbearing to come to the Communion tomorrow.

1779 September 12 (Sunday). I read Ps. 116. Preached on Ps. 36.7. Administered the Lord's Supper. Mr. Knight of Boston was at the Communion. Mrs. Maynard dined here. P.M. delivered the Latter Sermon on Roms. 15.13. At eve, Mr. Stone came here, having preached at Northborough. He lodged here.

1779 September 13 (Monday). I visited Katy Biglow, ill of a Fever and hysteric Disorders. At her Desire, I prayed there. Had some conversation with Mr. Daniel Adams about his Wife living from him. He tells me he desires she would return and that he would do anything reasonable to obtain it. P.M. he came here, shewed me a Copy of a Letter which he had sent to her some time ago, desiring her to let him know what are her Difficultys, and what she would have him do. To which letter she returned him no Answer. N.B. Dr. Stimson and Miss Nancy Jones of Hopkinton here and dined.

1779 September 14 (Tuesday). Had some Debate with Dr. Hawes about Tim. Bryant's Work for him last year. N.B. Mr. John Thayer from New Haven Coll. came here in his way to Boston, dined here. Received a Letter from Mr. Zebulon Rice of Brookfield concerning Rev. Mr. Buckminster's preparing to answer Mr. Isaac Foster's ordination Sermon, and consulting an Association at Sturbridge thereon.

1779 September 15 (Wednesday). Sent Ephraim Wheelock with a load of Apples to Lieut. Grout's to be made into Cyder by him at his Mill. Broke Fast at Capt. Wood's. Had conversation with Deacon Wood and with Mr. Tho. Twitchell about Mr. Adam's Affair with his Wife. Visit and prayed with Katy Biglow.

1779 September 16 (Thursday). The Day was mainly spent in Retirement -- See Natal., but just at eve came to my Sorrow, Mr. Adams and with him Lieut. Levi Warrin, who ask (and with some Reluctance) I gave a Copy of Messrs. Belknap and Forbes' Request to me to send to Mr. A. to

¹¹Daniel Fay mar. Patience Harvey, Sept. 9, 1779; Westborough VR, 147.

forbear coming to the Communion last Lord's Day. Messrs. Reed of Middleborough and Turner of same Town, going to the Ordination of Mr. Reed's son at Warwick, came and lodged here. Mr. Jacob Broaders was married to young Katharine Fessenden.¹² N.B. The above named ministers prayed before and after the Covenant.

1779 September 17 (Friday). The ministers go on their Journey. A School is kept at the Grout School-house by Mr. [blank] Hazzletine.

1779 September 18 (Saturday). A no. of Theeves who have stole from Mr. Henry Prentice of Grafton, are taken and one of them whip'd at Deacon Wood's -- the Chief of the Money is recovered.

1779 September 19 (Sunday). On consideration of my beginning a New Year I preached a.m. on Isaiah 46.3.4 and by reason of the Death of my two classmates, Rev. Mr. William Rand and Mr. Shepherd Fisk, I made up a sermon on Isa. 57.1-2, with proper observations and additions, especially of the character of Mr. Rand, whom I was much more acquainted with. I informed the Congregation of the Fast, to be God willing, on the next Thursday, at Mr. Daniel Nurse's, on account of his two Sisters. We had a Contribution for the Relief of Mr. Artemas Bruce, of New Fane, whose House was lately burnt.

1779 September 20 (Monday). The Contribution yesterday was £48.7 and a Person who was not prepared at the Time desired 20/ be added for him, which he promised to repay, which was I suppose, done. Bruce was here. I gave him the Money: he gave me a Receipt and thanks to the People and to me. Mrs. Lambson very ill. Visited and prayed with her. N.B. The Town met to see what they would do in Compassion to the Town of Boston, who are suffering by reason of Market people refraining to go in with the Necessaries of Life.

1779 September 21 (Tuesday). Wrote to Cousin Briant. At eve call to see Mrs. Lambson. I rode to Mr. Joseph Grout's to see Mrs. Adams who lives there. I dined there, though Mr. Grout and his Wife were gone to Boston. Mrs. Adams seems to be utterly unwilling to go to live with her Husband again.

1779 September 22 (Wednesday). N.B. This morn I sent my Letter to Cousen Briant by Mr. Moses Potter, going to Ipswich: and with it a Bundle containing for Timothy, Seven yards of White tow cloth etc. etc. See Memorandum Book. The Widow Fay dined with us. Spent the Afternoon with Mrs. P_____ and drank Tea. I read in Clark's Lives, Mr. Hugh Broughton's, and several other Parts of that useful Book. Was much moved and stimulated by their excellent Examples. N.B. I have received a letter from Mr. John Forbes of Otter Creek, with the Constitution of the State of Vermont.

1779 September 23 (Thursday). Attended a Fast at Miss Lydia and Miss Rebecca Nurse's. Mrs. P. with me. I began with Prayer. Mr. Sumner preached a seasonable Sermon, from 3d Epistle

¹²Westborough Vital Records, 132.

of St. John v. 2, "Beloved I wish above all Things etc." P.M. Mr. Fairbank preached on Matt. VI.10, latter part, "Thy Will be done on Earth etc." I prayed after Sermon. May God be pleased to accept our Humiliation and Supplications, and give His Blessing to the Word so fitly delivered! N.B. The two Fays, Messrs. Samuel and Jeduthun, Mr. Knight, Mr. Hazzletine (school-master), Mr. Zebulon Rice etc. were there. Mr. Z. Rice here in the evening, with Mr. D. Forbes.

1779 September 24 (Friday). More closely applied to my preparations.

1779 September 25 (Saturday). [No entry.]

1779 September 26 (Sunday). Read Ps. 44. Took the first verse for my Text, though I go on with my subject on Isa. 46.3-4. P.M. on Isa. 47.1-2, had some Regard to the Death of Rev. Mr. Whitney of Petersham, which may God Sanctifie to us! After Exercises it rained plentifully. Cousen Saml. (who has lately been graduated at Dartmouth Col.) here at eve and lodges here. In the Evening Exercise of the Family, I read A Kempis.

1779 September 27 (Monday). Brigham returned to his F. Maynards. Breck goes to Cambridge and Boston. I am reading Mr. Cuthbert Sidenham on Hypocrisie, and wish it may be deeply impressed on my own Soul! It is printed very incorrectly, and under much Disadvantage, but contains many useful Things.

1779 September 28 (Tuesday). Catechized at the Meeting-House. A.M. 32 Boys, p.m. 23 Girls. May a Blessing accompany my instructions and Warnings to them of each Sex! At eve Mr. Brigham brought Master Hazzletine to see me. He borrows Mr. Edwards on Original Sin. Mr. Brigham has 2d vol. of Montesquieu.

1779 September 29 (Wednesday). Mr. Amos Parker and wife dined here. Capt. Edmund Brigham calls me to visit old Mr. Gale, who lies in a Dying State. I prayed by him. In returning visit old Lieut. Forbush and his Wife. Breck returns from Boston, and brings Sally and her son Sam. A letter from Mr. Moore, says his Negro man Cato is dead.

1779 September 30 (Thursday). Squire Benj. Whipple from Otter Creek here. Rode to Shrewsbury Lecture -- had Deacon Wood's Horse. I dined at Mr. Sumner's. Mr. Whitney there, also several young Students, Stone and Crosby. I preached on Luke 22.15, not much enlarging on the Answers to questions 1 and 2. Returned at eve. I married Mr. Edward Brigham to Miss Sally Miller, heretofore of [blank].¹³ The Fee given was 20 Dollars. Old Mr. Abraham Gale dyed.

1779 October 1 (Friday). I would thankfully acknowledge the Goodness of God in preserving me to another month, and pray I spend this to the divine Glory. I was closely engaged -- but Mr. Batherick is urgent to talk with me about the Affair of Mr. Adams and his Wife.

¹³Edward Brigham mar. Sarah Miller, Sept. 30, 1779; Westborough VR, 129.

1779 October 2 (Saturday). Surprizing Story concerning a negro Family of Natick, whom one Mr. Damon has sold, Surprized and sent off as slaves, they are recovered, and now on the Road returning to Natick. Mr. James Bellows of Rutland here, and receives from me a Certificate concerning his Wife Thomasin. Old Mr. Gale was buried. I attended and prayed at the Funeral. N.B. had a good deal of conversation with old Mr. John Crawford of North Shrewsbury, who was at the Funeral.

1779 October 3 (Sunday). I met with so much interruption this last week, that I was obliged both parts of the Day to improve former preparations -- on 2 Thes. 3.1 to page 17. May divine Energy accompany the Word and render it effectual! Mr. Abijah Gale and his sister Jones dined with us.

1779 October 4 (Monday). Mr. Langton and his son returning from Farmington home to York, call here. Capt. John Wood's wife sends for women p.m. and Mrs. P. goes and tarrys.

1779 October 5 (Tuesday). Mrs. P. at the Groaning still. Sally and Sophy, though it is a stormy Day, ride in her chaise to Capt. Maynard's -- at night Mrs. P. returned with Joy for the Deliverance -- a Daughter is born. To God be glory and praise!

1779 October 6 (Wednesday). Read Reynolds Gt. Revenge against Murder. Albemare and Clara etc. etc.

1779 October 7 (Thursday). Elias comes up from Cambridge for money to pay his Quarter Bills to May 28 last, which he says is £64.8.4, which gives me some Perplexity, seeing I have given him so much especially last August to pay those Bills. N.B. on August 17 an hundred Dollars and on the 24 thirty Dollars more. Mr. Jacob Foster has been with us and dined here. He is returning to New Castle. I visit old Neighbor Pratt and his wife, Warren etc.

1779 October 8 (Friday). Breck lends me the money I want for Elias, viz. 231 Dollars. We are unhappily low in the Meat Tub: which induced me to go to the Squires and Deacons, to enquire about Supplys. Drank Tea at the Groaning House (Capt. Woods) there being both old and young Mrs. Bakers.

1779 October 9 (Saturday). Elias is up before Day to set off for Cambridge; and I gave him the whole of the Money which I borrowed of Breck for him, viz. 231 Dollars, which was to enable him to pay his Quarter Bills.

1779 October 10 (Sunday). A.M. Read Deut. 32.[*blank*]. In preaching read v. 7 but carried on the same subject which was begun on Isa. 46.3-4. The Selectmen were together at noon, and after sermon on 2 Thes. 3.1 from p. 17 to 22 and administered Baptism. Mr. Gale came up to the Pulpit to desire me to read the Congress's Circular Letter, which after the Blessing, I read part of, and then left the Congregation to read among themselves, which I suppose they did. N.B. I read after sermon the votes of Convention concerning Boston, as Dr. Hawes requested.

(Dr. Hawes was with me with the vote of the Convention at Concord concerning the Distresses of many people in Boston, to be read publickly.)

1779 October 11 (Monday). This day we cutt up, carted home and husked out our Indian Corn. Ephraim Tucker went with my Team and Deacon Wood with his. About nine dined here. There were forty or more of Men and Boys at Eve, and several Neighbors were so generous as to contribute to the Entertainment. Squire Baker above 50 lbs. of Meat, Mr. Ebenezer Forbes, Beef and 3 cabbages, Lt. Bond, Pork, Mr. Barnabas Newton, a Cheese, Breck, sufficient Rum. Through the Goodness of God we had a good crop, Sound Corn and the Joy of Harvest. To Him be all Honor and Glory! We sang latter part of Ps. 65.

1779 October 12 (Tuesday). Breck waits upon Sally and her son Sam to Concord. P.M. I preached at Mr. Daniel Forbes's, especially to old Mrs. Stone, heretofore of Charlestown, a Maiden about 75 years old. Text was Eph. 1.14 which may God succeed and prosper! When I came home to my Surprise found Sister Lydia Champney was here, brought by Mr. Caldwell of Sutton and he was gone before I returned from Meeting.

1779 October 13 (Wednesday). Breck returns from Concord, and dines with us. P.M. He is with the Officers at Coll. Wheelock's preparing orders to send out Men immediately according to Requisition from Gen'l Washington. Mr. James Dix has been here. He desires me to ask Capt. John Wood, whether he did not write the word [November] in a certain Instrument presented before me? My Answer was, Mr. Dix, I am ready and willing to Serve you in any Matter or Affair which is fit and which is prepared according to Gospel Rule: *This* is not at present. I directed him to what is written in Proverbs 25.9,¹⁴ and Mat. 18.15.16¹⁵ etc. Luke Baldwin from Brookfield and lodges, a pretty, agreeable, hopeful Lad! May God make him a great Blessing!

1779 October 14 (Thursday). I was obliged to leave my Study and ride up to Lieut. Johnathan Grout's about some Cyder which Mr. Eli Whitney gives me. I dined at the Lieutenant's. Meet with Mr. Joseph Grout there, and he has much to say about the sad case of his Sister Adams. I advised to have it laid before a few Brethren, and not suffer it to come into the church. I called at Squire Bakers and found Reason to urge the Same Thing. Mr. Cushing from Ashburnham. He has led an Horse for Sophy to ride there. He lodges here. A Letter from Mr. Quincy dated Sept. 23. N.B. Luke Baldwin goes on his Way to Cambridge to wait on his Brother Isaac in going home.

1779 October 15 (Friday). Mr. Cushing and Sophy set out early for Ashburnham. At Night arrived the two Baldwins from Cambridge and lodge here.

1779 October 16 (Saturday). Baldwins to Brookfield.

¹⁴Proverbs 25.9: "Debate thy cause with thy neighbor himself; and discover not a secret to another."

¹⁵Mat. 18.15: "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." Mat. 18.16: "But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established."

1779 October 17 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Isa. 46.3 and 4, p.m. on 2 Thes. 3.1. Mrs. Maynard and Mr. Hazzeltine dined here. N.B. Capt. Fisher after the Blessing desires the Company tomorrow morning.

1779 October 18 (Monday). A sort of Military Gathering for the purpose of raising men to go to the westward for the Continental Service, for 3 or 4 men. I visited Asahel Biglow who is exceeding bad of Inflammation of his Bowels -- prayed with him.

1779 October 19 (Tuesday). I rode to Mr. Biglow's at West Sudbury -- it being Minister's Meeting. Mr. Stone, Mr. Smith and Mr. Bridge were all that came. Mr. Biglow prayed -- no Concio -- conversation on the Difficulties Ministers undergo by the depreciated Currency. I prayed at the Close. Mr. Stone and I lodged there, and very agreeably.

1779 October 20 (Wednesday). In the morning perplexed -- Our Horses had left us. I rode Mr. Biglow's Horse in Search after them. Found them at Mr. Samuel Sherman's in Marlborough. I went on to Mr. Stone's and informed his Son who sent back Mr. Biglow's Horse and his Father's from Mr. Sherman's, so that I came home. Elias was come from Cambridge and with him Gen'l Ward's Son (whose Brother led down Breck's Horse for Elias to come up on) and Parkman Bradshaw here likewise. He lodged here and Master Foot, going to Colchester. N.B. Mr. Johnson of Lyn and his Lady had been here while I was absent.

1779 October 21 (Thursday). I visited and prayed with Asahel Biglow, who is much better. On his Horse I rode to Southborough and preached the Lecture on Luke 22.15, which may God graciously own and bless! Returned at Eve.

1779 October 22 (Friday). Breck is building another Store. Mr. Jacob Foster and his Lady going to Canterbury, called and dined here. Nigh night came Lydia and Suse Parkman from Concord and lodged here.

1779 October 23 (Saturday). Sorrowful news from Cambridge of the Drowning of a young Student at fresh Pond in Cambridge yesterday. His name was Charles Cutter, a soph-more. The Body not found at nine this morning. May the Lord sanctifie it to all, especially his own Classmates and Friends. Breck raised his new Store.

1779 October 24 (Sunday). Preached once more on Isa. 46.4. Nobody dined here. I consulted the Deacons about having the Communion notwithstanding the Trouble with some Members, about Mr. Adams. Preached on Prov. 27.1, occasioned by the late Disaster at Cambridge. N.B. My son Elias was so far effected by that Providence, that he, by a note, desired Prayers in the Congregation that God would Sanctifie it to him. I appointed the Communion and lecture. At eve, Breck and Suse, her Brother Elijah etc. were with us and Sang.

1779 October 25 (Monday). Breck to Boston. In his way carrys Suse and the Child to Col. Brigham's. Mr. Francis Whipple of New Braintree makes us a visit. I began to read Mr.

Buckminster against Mr. Isaac Foster, which was sent me by the author, by means of Mr. Maccarty. But was interrupted by the coming in of Mr. Belknap and after him half a score of the Brethren of the Church besides, one after another, to confer about Mr. D. Adams and his Wife. Those that came (besides Mr. Belknap) were Deacon Bond and Deacon Wood, Messrs. Daniel Forbes, Benj. Tainter, Joseph Grout, Jonathan Grout, Levi Warren, Eli Whitney, Joseph Harrington, Jonathan Forbes. They agree upon a small number of them to go to Mr. Adam's tomorrow, to advise him to consent to choosing together with his wife, Referees before whom to try their Affair, or at least to take Counsel of them in order to Settlement, and Mr. Adams is to be apprized that these Brethren request that notice be given after the next Lecture that as many of the Brethren as shall incline to are desired to stop a little for further Conference upon those Matters.

1779 October 26 (Tuesday). Stephen Fay desires to be Married next Thursday, and that the wedding may be at Mr. Andrews', who requests I would go to his House. I am preparing for the next Sabbath.

1779 October 27 (Wednesday). Mr. Stone came to my Help. He dined here and preached my Lecture on Rev. 22.11, former parts, "Let him that is unjust" etc. And may God graciously afford His Almighty Blessing! A number of Brethren stopped to confer together about Mr. Daniel Adams' case. A few had been to him to know whether he would join with his Wife to choose some Men to hear and advise them, but he refused and did now before the Brethren that were together today. N.B. Dea. Phelps, Mr. Jonathan Twitchell, and Coll. Aaron Perry, all of Holliston were at Mr. Adams' Request with us. But nothing was done Except that Mr. Adams in defending his Refusal to do any more, pleaded how much he had done in going to her, to persuade her to return, *taking men with him -- writing to her* etc. I left them. But I was informed when I was come away Mr. Adams warned all of them against entertaining his Wife. At eve, about 8 or 9 Brethren were here at my House, viz. Messrs. Belknap, Dan. Forbes, Batheric, Two Grouts, Eli Whitney, Jonathan Forbes. They agree to have 2 or 3 of them to go to Mr. Adams in some short time, to see what his mind is since his Three Friends advising. Mr. Isaac Parker and his Wife desire to come and join the Church. N.B. A number of young Gentlemen, Graduates, were here to see Elias.

1779 October 28 (Thursday). Elias goes to Worcester in the Room of Mr. Elijah Brigham to fetch the Spy in his stead. He brings it, and contains Mr. Daniel Adams' Caution to all people not to trust his Wife.¹⁶ P.M. by desire I rode to Mr. Andrews' and married Stephen Fay to Betty Andrews and John Warren to Anna Forbush. N.B. A great deal of Company and a plentiful Entertainment. We Sung part of Ps. 45. N.B. In administering the Covenant, I made a Mistake in mentioning the Names of the Brides. When I came home, found here my Kinsman Bryant, and her Daughter, Mrs. Pearn Atwell, and her little Girl, Pearn, in a Chaise. Timothy also came to wait on his Mother and Sister. They lodged here.

¹⁶See *Massachusetts Spy*, Oct. 28, Nov. 5, 11, 25, Dec. 2, 1779.

1779 October 29 (Friday). Mrs. Grout (wife of Mr. Joseph) came to the Door, upon her Reading the Publication in yesterday's Spy. Spoke of the great Reason her poor Sister has to refuse to live with Adams any more.

1779 October 30 (Saturday). One John Fletcher, who says he was of Pomfret, but has been a Prisoner and is come from Halifax Jayl, wants Refreshment, which was given him, but there was Reason to suppose he drank too much. Elias brought home Suse from his Father Brigham's. P.M. Breck returned from Cape Ann.

1779 October 31 (Sunday). I preached again on Ps. 36.7 and dilated on some Instances, particularly Mr. Joseph Alleine, and the Two Janeways, William the Father and John. I administered the Lord's Supper -- a number of Strangers with us. My kinswoman Atwell, member of Mr. Roby's Church at Lynn, partook. Master Hazzletine dined with us. P.M. preached on Isa. 50.10. I received today by Mr. Francis Barns, a proclamation for a Day of Humiliation and Supplication, which I read.

N.B. I baptized Mr. Davis's son Isaac. N.B. I was greatly Spent -- insomuch that I went down to the Elder's Seat without praying, but prayed there. At eve, Breck read Mr. Henry's Communication, Comp.¹⁷ Ch. 12 in part.

1779 November 1 (Monday). May God grant the Grace, that as Time is swiftly Spending, I may do with my might what my Hands find to do! I am much concerned about my preparations for the Day of Solemn Humiliation before us, It being unusual, and called in the Proclamation, neither Fast nor Thanksgiving. I have also much interruption by the Company which still continue with us: yet they are dear to me.

1779 November 2 (Tuesday). My Kinswoman and her Son and Daughter are prevented journeying by Rain, till it was (they conceived) too late. Mr. Aaron Crosby of Blandford here, in his way to Boston.

1779 November 3 (Wednesday). It being bright, though cold, my Cousin Bryant and her children leave us to return to Stoneham. N.B. I gave her 14 Dollars for making and mending 3 pair of Shooes by her Son Elias Bryant and to Tim, Leather for a pair of Shooes. Mr. Parkman Bradshaw came from Brookfield, and is going to Stoughtonham and thence to Cambridge. He dines here -- Seems to be a solid, pious young man, and a Lover of Learning. I engage him to befriend my dear son, that he may continue at College, though it must be with no small Difficulty, as my Circumstances now are. But I pray my Confidence may be in God alone, who has ever provided for me, and helped me hitherto!

1779 November 4 (Thursday). A Day of Humiliation and Prayer with Thanksgiving. I named for my Text a. and p.m. Ps. 51.17. Made a large Introduction, explaining the Proclamation, and

¹⁷This is undoubtedly a reference, mistakenly transcribed, to Matthew Henry's *The Communicant's Companion* (reprinted several times in Boston); see also May 6, Sept. 9, 1781, and July 28, 1782).

then used some former Preparations on that, mentioned passage, with various alterations and additions. I had expected Mr. Crosby to help me, but he came not till near the Close of the Exercises. He was with us at eve and then went to his Brother Samuel's. Three Brethren of the Church, viz. Messrs. Batheric, Gale and Dr. Hawes came here and desired me to give notice to the other Brethren of the Church, after the Exercises of next Sabbath, to tarry and confer a little further upon the Adams affair.

1779 November 5 (Friday). Elias went early to Brookfield for the rest of my Cattle at Coit Hill. Benj. Grout was here for his pay for making 3 pair of Shoes: and I therefore wrote him a note to Breck, for 63/ old Tenor of old Value.

1779 November 6 (Saturday). Elias returned with the Cattle, and had a good Journey. N.B. He paid Landlord Jones of Worcester 2 Dollars for pasturing one yearling. He asked a Dollar per week.

1779 November 7 (Sunday). I preached a.m. on Ps. 36.7, p.m. on Prov. 1.23, for next Thursday has been appointed for the Execution of David Young. Mr. Moses Brigham and Mrs. Maynard dined here. At eve a Letter received from Mr. Caleb Alexander.

1779 November 8 (Monday). I visited and prayed with Asahel Biglow. P.M. Mrs. Dolly Rice here and drank Tea with us. Five Men are requested to go to Mr. Adams and to his Wife to persuade them to Reconciliation. They are Squire Baker, Deacon Wood, Mr. Daniel Forbes, Mr. Gale and Mr. Twitchell.

1779 November 9 (Tuesday). Mr. Levi Warren here to kill a Cow for me, and informs me that the Said Brethren were together and that Mr. Adams was with them. That they were together till midnight, and then adjourned to next Sennight. The Cow turns out well. Mr. Warrin dines here, and gives his work. P.M. Mrs. Bowker and her sister Bowman of Oxford make us a visit.

1779 November 10 (Wednesday). [No entry.]

1779 November 11 (Thursday). Elias goes to Worcester to the Execution of Robert Young, who was condemned and hanged for a Rape on Jane Green of Brookfield. At Eve, I went to Capt. Fisher's, who reads part of the Report of the Committee for forming a plan of Government. I borrow of him the new Military Dictionary, vol. 2, by T. Simes Esq.

1779 November 12 (Friday). Have news of the poor Criminal's Behavior yesterday. Mr. Maccarty preached.

1779 November 13 (Saturday). Mr. Isaac Parker was here and brought his own and his Wife's Relations. He excused the incorrectness of his for want of Time, and took it again.

1779 November 14 (Sunday). Through the great Goodness of God I am allowed to begin another year of Sabbaths, and would gratefully praise His Glorious Name! I preached a.m. on

Deut. 32.46-47, which may God graciously impress us with! Mr. S. Barrett and his Daughter Nancy with us and dined here. P.M. delivered the Remainder of sermon on Prov. 1.28 as being seasonable Warning after the late Execution.¹⁸ O that my own Soul might be deeply impressed! Propounded Isaac and Margery Parker to join with the Church.

1779 November 15 (Monday). Ephraim having rid home on Saturday eve, returned this morning. I visited Capt. Wood's Wife and prayed with her, she being very low. P.M. By Mr. Hezekiah Maynard of Marlborough, I sent Mr. Simon How's Book of the Indian Wars.

1779 November 16 (Tuesday). Visit Mrs. Woods again. Having read I returned to Capt. Fisher his Draught of the Plan of Government! Dined at Squire Baker's. Consult him about paying my Young Man (Parker) and I went to Lt. Joseph Bond's on the same Affair. Miss Rebecca Nurse here to be examined. Widow Rhoda Maynard here with her.

1779 November 17 (Wednesday). Messrs. Brigham and May lodged here last night. Elias goes to Cambridge and Boston. Mr. Kendal of Southborough here to look of [*sic*] my Sheep. Mr. Isaac Parker with his *Relation*.

1779 November 18 (Thursday). Read several Lives in Vol. II (B) of Biographical Dictionary. Mrs. Parker (Isaac's Wife) and Miss Anna Parker (Ephraim's Sister) made us a Visit. Deacon Doliber sends me a Present of Fish.

1779 November 19 (Friday). Deacon Doliber calls here in his way home -- gives me account of the Grants of their Society at Marblehead to their Minister for the year. P.M. Elias returns home from Cambridge, but has not seen the President, though I wrote him by Elias.

Letters from Ashburnham informing that Mrs. Cushing was delivered of a Son on Wednesday Oct. 27, and it is called Doddridge.

1779 November 20 (Saturday). Have been and am now much engaged in the Prophetic Visions of Zechary. May God greatly illuminate my Soul with Truth!

1779 November 21 (Sunday). On Zech. v. 9-11. And finished my exercises on that chapter. P.M. preached my sermon on Isa. 63.9-15. I propounded Rebecca Nurse to join in full Communion with the Church. Sometimes we have no Singing in the Family on so much as Sabbath Evenings. But we had this evening. Josiah Brigham is wont to lodge here and assisted in the Singing.

1779 November 22 (Monday). Master Elijah goes to Ashburnham, expecting Sophy to return. I wrote by him. I visited Mr. Jonathan Tainter's sick Child and prayed therewith. I rode up then to Mr. Eli Whitney's and dined there, and visited Mr. Benj. Wood and his Family (no Kindred

¹⁸Prov. 1.28: "Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me."

between Deacon and him). Some words pass about his son Reuben's living with me. Went in also to Mr. Ebenezer Miller's. N.B. At Squire Baker's was assured that Mr. D. Adams did verily sign what was last published in the Spy: retracting what was published before. Ephraim Parker comes up this evening to reckon with me for his nine months Work for me: first for six months, and for them asks my biggest Oxen, for which I am told I may have £500, and for the other three months as the price is stated. But he would have me ask Advice of my Neighbors.

1779 November 23 (Tuesday). I walked to Mr. Ebenezer Forbush, to talk with him, and he not being at home spent some time with his Father and Mother. In returning I made an Opportunity with Mr. Elijah Hardy, who tells me that he gave his Young Man for six months, not £250, and Mr. Benj. Fay not more. I next talked with Mr. Barnabas Newton, who will take it into Thought. At eve, speak with Caleb Harrington. But Parker is gone over to his Brother Elisha's.

1779 November 24 (Wednesday). Mr. Brigham returned from Ashburnham and Sophy with him. Left all well there, and Mrs. Winchester is willing to send me her William.

1779 November 25 (Thursday). Mr. Elisha Parker came, and Ephraim and I came to some agreement, viz. to give him my Principal Oxen for seven months of his work: and to pay him in Money or Indian Corn for the two Months of October and November, according to common custom, in the old way or in proportion as men's wages are for youths'.

1779 November 26 (Friday). I had too many anxious Thoughts about the high Demands of Ephraim.

1779 November 27 (Saturday). Elisha Parker came when I was about paying Ephraim, but a Controversie arose concerning *What was the Usual Custom at this time of the great Alteration of Money within these few weeks*. Ephraim would take no less than £60 for the Two Months. I was not willing to give any more than 55. But I was obliged to borrow the money of my son Breck, and they all went to the Shop, where Breck gave Ephraim the whole Sum he required, viz. £60, and so he went to his brother Elisha's with the Cattle on the Cart to carry his Chest and things there, promising to come and make up the Time, viz. 5 Days that yet remains next week and onward.

1779 November 28 (Sunday). Preached a. and p.m. with new Introduction, Sermons on Heb. 5.9 to p. 12. Mrs. Maynard dined here, as did Ephraim Parker. P.M. read proclamation for Thanksgiving.

1779 November 29 (Monday). Mr. Dan. Matthis of New Braintry was here to consult me about their Troubles with Mr. Foster's Doctrines, but I could not tarry long with him, because I was preparing a line to send to the Town (of Westborough) who this Day have a Meeting to Consider my Sallery. They met. Mr. Gale was Moderator. I humbly waited upon God most high in the first place and then sent my Paper, entertaining myself with Judge Hale's Meditation on

Contentation.¹⁹ My mind was wrought into a placid Frame; in some Measure resigned to the Disposals of Providence. At Eve, by Lieut. Grout I understood that the Town has voted to make up my Sallery £1300, and 40 Cord of Wood. For which G.D.

1779 November 30 (Tuesday). Read Judge Hale of a good Method to entertain unstable and troublesome Times -- and of Redeeming Time.²⁰ In the Evening unbent a while with reading Mr. de Lange's Journal at Peking.

1779 November 30 (Tuesday). [Note: The published version of the diary has two entries for November 30.] Miss Rebecca Nurse here and gave me her Relation. By reason of a debate about those votes aforesaid by a Friend that came in, Sent to Col. Wheelock, the Town Clerk, for the Transactions of the Town yesterday, relative to me: who wrote that They voted and granted to make up the Rev. Mr. Parkman's Stated yearly Sallery for the year ensuing £1300. Voted to get the Rev. Mr. Parkman 40 Cord of Wood the year ensuing. Signed Moses Wheelock, Town Clerk. My Kinsman Parkman Bradshaw came from Cambridge by the way of his Father's, and lodges here. I wrote to my old and esteemed Friend, Mr. Quincy, having much Solace in this Correspondence.

Thus ends the short month of November -- An Emblem of this short Life! On Retrospect, how very little has been done of the Grand Business, with all the Advantages in my Hands! but how many my Deficiencies, how many and grievous my Miscarriages! May the blood of Jesus Christ cleanse from all my Guilt and Errors!

1779 December 1 (Wednesday). It is of God's great Goodness I am thus indulged to begin another Month. Breck to Boston and Dr. Hawes and his Wife make us a visit and drink Tea.

1779 December 2 (Thursday). Deacon Wood brings Mr. William Campbell, heretofore of Oxford to see me. He offers to buy my Sheep, but I dont incline to sell part without he takes the whole. I read Lives of Squire Boyle, Charles Boyle and others.

1779 December 3 (Friday). The Doctor brings me a Third Vol. of Biographical Dictionary from Mr. Cranch. Mr. Joseph Grout brought me a Letter from Mrs. Abigail Davis (heretofore Nichols), who had lived ten years at Mr. Moses Warrin's, bearing testimony concerning the Harmony between him and his Wife Persis, the present Mrs. Adams. Mr. Ebenezer Maynard came and acquainted me that his mother Winchester Expired last night, at 10 o'clock in her 79th year. The Lord prepare me for my own Decease!

¹⁹See "Of Contentation: And the Motives to It, both Moral and Divine," in *Contemplations, Moral and Divine. In Two Volumes. To Which Is Prefixed, an Account of His Life and Death. By the Right Reerend Dr. Gilbert Burnet, Lord Bishop of Sarum* (Glasgow, 1763), 1:323-40.

²⁰See "A Good Method to Entertain Unstable and Troublesome Times" and "Of the Redemption of Time. How, and Why It Is to Be Redeemed," in *Contemplations, Moral and Divine. In Two Volumes. To Which Is Prefixed, an Account of His Life and Death. By the Right Reerend Dr. Gilbert Burnet, Lord Bishop of Sarum* (Glasgow, 1763), 1:3366-71, 373-84.

1779 December 4 (Saturday). Breck returns from Boston, my Relations well there. He brings me a present from my son Samuel, a valuable Silk Handkerchief of Fifty Dollars price, much wanted: my son William, his Wife and Young Child John, rode here in their Chaise, arrived in the Evening.

1779 December 5 (Sunday). Preached a.m. on Zech. VI.1-7. P.M. went on with discourse on Heb. 5.9. Admitted Isaac Parker and Wife, also Rebecca Nurse into Communion. May God accept them and make them Ornaments to Christianity.

1779 December 6 (Monday). Was called away to see a young Son of Capt. Jonas Brigham, viz. his son William in his 12th year, who was thought to be under extremely dangerous Symptoms. I went, prayed, breakfasted there. P.M. Town Meeting by Adjournment. Capt. Morse was here, full of earnest advice and Entreaty that I would send something to the Town of my Thanks for what they had done lately for me, and my satisfaction in it. I accordingly wrote a paper and sent it by Mr. Joseph Harrington, and he was here at eve to acquaint me how it was accepted, and he believed it was *well*.

1779 December 7 (Tuesday). Mr. Edward Brigham came to acquaint me that his Brother dyed this morning and to desire me to attend the Funeral on Thursday, at nine a.m. I remonstrated, but it was settled, I suppose.

1779 December 8 (Wednesday). Mr. Samuel Forbush, Mr. Solomon Batheric, and Mr. Nathan Maynard junior came with their Teams and brought Wood. The two former two Load, the latter one.

1779 December 9 (Thursday). General Thanksgiving through out the States. I did not go to Capt. Brigham's, as I was at first desired. Mr. Edward had come yesterday and told me that his Father would conform to the proposal to bring the Corps to the Meeting-House. They did so, and I prayed there. After this they proceeded to the Interment and I went to the Grave with them.

We re-entered the Meeting-House and having prayed already began with singing. Preached on Ps. 68.26-28. I took to my House a Stranger, one Mr. Joseph Thompson, by Birth, a Philadelphian. At eve we had singing at my House, a number of young Gentlemen came, besides Mr. Elijah Brigham, and Joseph Brigham, Mr. Moses and Mr. Saml Brigham, Mr. May (the two last lodged among us) and Master Hazzletine. This evening also Eleazer Wheelock and Thankful Maynard (Captain's Daughter) were married -- such a Variety of Exercises had I in one Day! May God forgive what was amiss, and accept what was (through Grace) sincere!

1779 December 10 (Friday). Breck, Suse and Sophy (by invitation) ride in the Sleigh to Col. Brigham's. Mr. May goes to Boston. At Mr. Stone's Request I headed a number of Papers of Subscriptions for printing a spirited Letter against Mr. Isaac Foster, Sent one to Mr. Stone, gave to Mr. Simon How, to Mr. Moses Brigham, Mr. Isaac Parker, to Master Sam Brigham, each of them a Paper in Trust to promote Subscribing. The account from Northborough is confirmed

that they have there voted Mr. Whitney for this year 3000£. Messrs. Forbush and Batheric bring old Wood, 2 Load apiece. The weather prevented my visiting Mr. Jonathan Childs' sick Daughter. I wrote to Mrs. Winchester of Ashburnham concerning her son Billy to come and live here.

1779 December 11 (Saturday). Sent to Ashburnham by Harvey Maynard. I cant change with any minister. I there review and make large additions to former preparations, which I humbly hope God will graciously accept through Jesus Christ.

1779 December 12 (Sunday). Mr. Benj. Wilson junior came from the Widow Eager of Northborough to desire me to attend the Funeral of her daughter Cutter tomorrow (the wife of Ebenezer who is among the British troops). I preached a. and p.m. on 1 Pet. 1.8. Administered the Lord's Supper. Master Hazzleton and Mrs. Maynard dined here. May God graciously accept our offerings! N.B. Cold, stormy, few at Communion.

1779 December 13 (Monday). Deacon Wood came with his chaise to go to Mrs. Cutter's Funeral, but it was too stormy for me to venture. Elias rode with him.

1779 December 14 (Tuesday). I sent by Dr. Hawes, Mr. Cranch's 2d Vol. of Biogr. Also my Watch for a new Crystal. Mr. Elisha Parker brought me several worthy presents, Beef and Tea, 10 lb. of one, 1/2 lb. t'other.

1779 December 15 (Wednesday). Read part of Biographical Dictionary. The Lives of Confuius etc. Messrs. Sam. Forbush and Sol. Batheric sledding wood from the Minister's Lot. Newspapers from Boston and Worcester. Received a Letter from Bethiah Parmenter, alias Wheaton, dated Hopkinton Oct. 19, 1779, open and dirty, desiring a Contribution.

1779 December 16 (Thursday). Went to Deacon Wood to inquire about the Letter received last evening. Wrote to Mr. Fitch about it and enclosed it. Sent it to Deacon Wood by young Asa Brigham for conveyance. Messrs. Forbush and Batheric more wood. Gave the former a Receipt for ten cord. He tells me the Town voted to give 7£ per cord to Four of them 70£ apiece for 10 cord each, viz. Samuel Forbush, Solomon Batheric, Nathan Maynard Junior and Jonathan Maynard, who have undertaken to bring 40 cords.

1779 December 17 (Friday). Breck to Sutton in the Sleigh to get Paper. Succeeds but in part. Elias has borrowed a mathematical manuscript which he is transcribing.

1779 December 18 (Saturday). It is exceeding Stormy, snowing, blowing and very cold, but through God's great Goodness, we have Shelter, Wood, Bread, Meat, Drink, Cloths but especially Health, Reason, above all the Day of means of Grace! To His Name be praise and glory! May God commeserate the exposed, and the Necessitous!

1779 December 19 (Sunday). Difficult getting to Meeting, but few there. I was first. Preached a.m. on Zech. VI.8th and from v. 9-11. P.M. Went on with and concluded Sermon on Hab. 5.9, which may the Lord bless to us! At eve read part of Fleming's Confirming Work of Religion.

1779 December 20 (Monday). A very cold season, and continues so. I am engaged in Biographical Dictionary. C. Confucius, Cato, Casaubon, Mons. Le Clerk etc.

1779 December 21 (Tuesday). Mr. William Chandler of Pomfret in straight for a sled to go to Framingham. I have let him have mine, and he leaves his Waggon here.

1779 December 22 (Wednesday). I am taken up very much with Biography. The Life of Lucius Cary who is Lord Falkland, Dr. Sam'l Clark, old Mr. Calamy, Des Cartes etc.

1779 December 23 (Thursday). Young Chandler returns and solicits my sled to go to Pomfret. I yielded to his Importunity and for Mr. Lamson's putting two Guards in front, and for his Journey to Framingham he pays me 10 Dollars and for the Sled 50 Dollars. P.M. came Mr. Nathan Goddard to desire me to change with him, who is to be in Mr. Sumner's stead, while he is to go to Hubbard's Town to preach for Mr. Parker. Mr. Peter Whitney here and relates the Proceedings of his Parish in granting him 3000£. At Eve, Mr. Reuben Puffer and his Brother with a Letter from Fisk concerning the said Puffer's Examination. I referred him to the three Ministers which are near to him: viz. Messrs. Bridge, Biglow, and Newell.

1779 December 24 (Friday). Breck and Suse, Mr. Brigham and Sophy rode in the Slay to Mr. Whitney's.

1779 December 25 (Saturday). I rode up to Shrewsbury -- to Mr. Nathan Goddard's who has persuaded me to take this cold ride. Went to Mr. Sumner's who was gone with design to preach tomorrow at Hubbard's Town. I lodged at Mr. Sumner's.

1779 December 26 (Sunday). Preached at Shrewsbury. A.M. on Ps. 74.17. P.M. on Ps. 90.10, which may God graciously own and bless! Lodged there again.

1779 December 27 (Monday). Breakfast at Sister Cushing's. Visit Mr. Farrar's Wife who is sick, dined at Mr. John Maynard's, called at Mr. Gershom Brigham's and begin to take Thomas's Spy of him -- went in to Mr. Samuel Fay's, but neither he nor his Wife at home -- arrived safe at home. D.G. Mr. Goddard preached for me yesterday. His text a. and p.m. 1 Cor. 23.24. Dr. Hawes brought me my Watch from Mr. Cranch -- the new Chrystal cost 12 Dollars. This evening came William Winchester to live here.

Mr. Nehemiah Maynard came with him. N.B. His father Mr. Nathan Maynard sat by and heard. I told Mr. Maynard that I would do what I could conveniently and reasonably in teaching and influencing him in Reading, Writing and Cypering, according as his Business in taking Care of the Cattle, Cutting the Wood etc. would give opportunity and as his Capacity should admit it. This was in answer to what Mr. Maynard delivered me as Mrs. Winchester's Errand to me by him.

1779 December 28 (Tuesday). Read Biogr. A close time for study, but a great Storm abroad. God be merciful to the poor and to all the Exposed!

1779 December 29 (Wednesday). A very dismal morning. Storm continues till about noon. Snow-Banks very high nigh my saddle-house 6 feet high. Roads blocked up. What can have become of poor Mr. Goddard, who proposed to set out with Wife and children etc. on his great Journey to Walpole, has sold at Shrewsbury and would now move. My son Breck had also designed to go in a double Sleigh to Ashburnham, but no Team nor Sleigh can Stir. How wonderful the Works of the Great God!

1779 December 30 (Thursday). I keep close to my Study, though Mr. Antipas Brigham had requested me to go to Capt. Edmund's to marry him. But nobody disturbs me. Enough to do to keep warm.

1779 December 31 (Friday). Jejun.[?] and Prec. Reflections on the Year past, with praise for Preservation and numberless Benefits. Humiliation and Penitence for Ingrat. Deficiencies and Miscarriages. May a gracious and merciful God remitt through Jesus Christ -- So teach me to number my Days that I may apply my Heart to true Wisdom! Lt. John Forbes from Otter Creek here and gives me account of the State of Vermont.