

Purges and Purging

1739 October 29 (Monday). Abroad in the forenoon, but in pain, chiefly in my left Hip and Groin. Dr. Gott occasionally here. P.M. could not walk. At Eve my pains exceedingly increas'd. Neighbor How came and got my bed down into the lower room, and lifted me on to it. All night in great pain. My Wife got up twice. Took Flower of Brimstone, which purged Me.

1739 October 31 (Wednesday). Ebenezer rode to Dr. Gott but he came not. He Sent me the Turbith Mineral¹ which I did not venture to take. Mrs. Maynard and Brother Hicks watch'd.

1739 November 2 (Friday). The Doctor came and bleeds me again. Gave Something to prevent my purging.

1739 November 16 (Friday). Extreme Cold -- froze up the Earth. My House unbank'd, my Potatoes the greatest part in the Ground. A purging has attended me and continues, but by the Cold we were prevented sending to the Doctor. Stephen Fay had engaged to watch tonight, but fail'd. My Wife Sat up again till past midnight, after which I did without.

1744 November 29 (Thursday). Preach'd my Lecture myself, on Rom. 16.20 first part. Repeated from Heb. 13.20. Little Sarah greatly Exercis'd with Vomiting and purging. My wife detain'd from Lecture.

1746 September 1 (Monday). Molly took another part of her purge, and I hope she is better. *Deo Soli Laus!*

1750 February 2 (Friday). Undertook my Journey from Boston about 10 a.m. Din'd at Brother Champney's at Cambridge. Call'd at Mr. Stephen Prentice's who was confin'd to his Chamber; and at Mr. Hancocks at Lexington, but he was not at home. The old Lady receiv'd and entertain'd me kindly. At Concord at the first of Evening. My son had been much indispos'd, and weaken'd by Vomiting, bleeding at the Nose, and purging -- but was Somewhat better, through Gods Goodness.

1750 February 20 (Tuesday). Was Somewhat concern'd about Ebenezers spitting Blood, but this Morning it disappears. Abraham Batchellor had watch'd. Billy seems better in the first of the Morning, but afterwards droops again. Dr. Gott here. He gives Billy a Purge. Lucy complains and is laid by.

1759 July 6 (Friday). Divers of the Children have purgings. *Samme* has also signs of Canker. He sleeps very much. *Sophys* Meazles were in splotches and Spread over her yesterday. To Day she is better but is confined to her bed. Sarah is chiefly upon the Bed, breaks out in a Measure and So does Alex -- but neither of them fully. The latter has a great Cough. *Hannah* also Somewhat more broke out, yet the Distemper is to no ripeness with her.

¹Turbeth Mineral, a basic mercuric sulphate used as a purgative.

1761 May 28 (Thursday). My Concern about to days Service was great but not distressing or especially overwhelming. I early committed the whole Affair to God imploring Remission of my Great Offences former and later. Fervently besought the gracious Presence of the Spirit of God to purge and purifie me, especially to deliver me from the sinful Fear of Man and raise up in me the true Fear of God; and to Save me from Seeking my own Glory; to help me to seek sincerely the Glory of God and to Enable me to aim At the Approbation of the most High rather than human Applause. O might I have the Grace of holy Faith and humble but firm Trust in God who is able to Carry me through. Thus I cried to God most high, to God that performeth all Things for me: And Said, What Time I am afraid I will trust in Thee! The Convention were late by reason of preparing Addresses, particularly to the King and to the Governor.

1775 June 8 (Thursday). I visited at Lt. *Bakers* on consideration of the Great and unusual Trouble the Family was of late exercised by. It was this: On Thursday, the first Day of the Month, Mrs. *Baker* and a Number of the Children, after eating their Breakfast of Bread and Milk, were strangely affected; were taken with *Vomiting* and *Purging*; and with some of them it continued through the Day. Nor can they, any of them give any Account of what was the Cause, or what could Ail 'em.

1775 August 22 (Tuesday). *John* is low -- but able to converse. Thanks to God! ...*John* has so great a purging [*torn*] him self to night.

of any yet. Purging has fool-

him all night. Attended the Funeral of *Asa Bell*-

Sorrowful Time. The Lord look upon us in

But prepare us for His holy Will!

1775 October 17 (Tuesday). I went up to see Mrs. *Clark*, one of the strangers who had lately lain in, her Child ill, and to Mrs. *Wheelocks* [*torn*] a Child of about 20 Months, being extreamly bad, of worms and purging.

1776 August 31 (Saturday). I am greatly Indisposed.... I was much indisposed through the Day: At night vomited heartily, as well as purged -- and I hope it was a great Relief to me.

1777 July 15 (Tuesday). My poor Daughter is in a low state -- Cough, purging, faint, no appetite -- wastes, I think, more and more.