

Sunday ev[enin]g - 5 Jan[uary] 1817.

Sermon on
forgiveness of sins. -

Constant occupation has prevented my making any entry in my journal since the 22nd Dec[ember] - In the interval no event of much importance has occurred - To-day I have attended worship at M^r Channing's, & he has himself officiated both forenoon & afternoon - In the morning his sermon was on "the Christian doctrine of forgiveness of sins" - The preacher illustrated the peculiar excellence & value of Christianity, as a religion which inspired the sinner with hope - and invited him, however black may be his crimes, to approach the throne of mercy - In this respect it is distinguished from all other systems of religion - Inasmuch as all men are sinners, as even the best have need of repentance, & are conscious

of many errors & imperfections, such a religion is obviously necessary to give hope & consolation. Without it, we should be miserable indeed - But we must be careful not to adopt erroneous impressions. The scriptures teach us the true original & spring of forgiveness to be in the essential mercy of the Divine Character. It was a dangerous error, adopted by many Christians, that God was moved to compassion & to the sal-

	<p>vation of mankind, by the sufferings & death of the Saviour - His sufferings & death were not the <u>cause</u>, but the <u>effect</u> of God's purpose to redeem the world. -</p> <p>The sermon closed with an impressive inculcation of the conditional nature of the forgiveness promised by Christ. It was offered, not forced upon us. It was in our power to forfeit & lose all the bene-</p>
New-Year's Sermon	<p style="text-align: right;">33</p> <p>fits of the Christian salvation. Repentance, obedience & newness of heart were the essential pre-requisites -</p> <p>The afternoon sermon was on the New-Year - <i>“Ask ^{now} of the years ^{days} that are past”</i> Chxx ^{Deut[eronomy] - [chapter] 4 - [verse] 32}</p> <p>It was an impressive discourse upon the duty of reflecting on our past lives, & on the events which have occurred, with a view to improvement in character - Particularly, M^r C[hanning] recommended calling to mind our friends, who have been removed by death - contemplating their virtue - remembering the interest they felt, & probably continue to feel, in our characters & hopes. By such conversation with the deceased a powerful influence would be produced upon our minds - & we should be better prepared for our own passage to eternity.</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;">34</p> <p>In the interval before dinner I called at</p>

M^r Greele's, who has been confined to the house by a slight indisposition. I found him much better.

I have read to-day only N^o 1 of the *Friend of Peace* - This work I have undertaken to peruse at the earnest recommendation of my excellent friend, M^{rs} Sewall.

Called in the ev[enin]g at Aunt Scott's - at Uncle Gray's - at M^r Jona[than] Phillips - M^r P[hillips] has recently lost a daughter about 6 years old - He was absent - but M^{rs} P[hillips] was at home - & I staid with her some time - She shew me a volume of *Cuppe's sermons on practical subjects*, which I have a great desire to read - // - I went thence to Uncle Sewall's, where I found Miss S. Savage in addition to the usual circle - a M^r Tho[ma]s Chase. -

35

I passed more than an hour there very pleasantly - Soon after my return I rec[eive]d a letter from Uncle Gray, informing me that a relative of his, named Gray, was in ~~go[al]~~ is in goal [*gaol*] on a charge of forgery - & to be tried tomorrow at 9 - He also sent me a letter to him from the wife of the accused, begging his assistance - He wished me to inform him, what was to be done - I could only answer, that nothing could be done to-night - but I would attend to it in the morning -

<p>Death of M^{rs} Greenwood</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday evening 19 Jan[uary] 1817 -</p> <p>On Wednesday of the week before last died M^{rs} Elizabeth Greenwood, widow of M^r James Greenwood, my unfortunate friend, who died so miserably in Feb[ruary] last. Since his decease M^{rs} G[reenwood]'s health has been in a bad state - By the humane efforts of Uncle J[oseph] May her wants have been supplied by many kind</p>
<p>Grafton's guilt</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">36</p> <p>friends, whom he has interested for her & her children - She passed the summer principally at Cambridge Port to recover her health - About two months since she returned to town, & took charge of a charity school raised by subscription by the ladies of the Chapel Church - She was assisted by the young ladies of the society - Hardly had she commenced this labor, when she was attacked by a more severe return of her former complaints - and after much suffering, she died, leaving <u>four</u> helpless & unprotected orphans, the eldest only 10 years of age - They are Frances, Louisa, James & William - all fine children - remarkably intelligent & well-behaved -</p> <p>Yesterday occurred a most unpleasant affair. It was discovered that M^r J. D. Grafton, who was so long my fellow boarder, & chamber mate,</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;">37</p> <p>had been in the habit of <u>forging</u> the indorsements of different persons in order to raise money on notes.</p>

Immediately attachments were made on the stock of Gin & Grafton - The father of M^r Gin came to me to be assisted in obtaining security -
- Thus I became acquainted with a scene of fraud and crime surpassing belief - and the actor a man, in whom I had placed confidence & who had lodged in the same room with me for a long time together - I was astonished at the depravity, which may lurk under a fair outside. The condition of his partner Gin, is really pitiable - By thus pledging the notes of the firm Grafton has, without his knowledge, involved him in a load of debts, from which it is to be feared, he will not soon escape -
- Grafton has absconded.

38

I have attended worship all day at M^r Channing's - & have heard two fine sermons from him - that in the morning on the true meaning of the phrase "*glory of God*" - and the proper means of promoting it - "*Whatsoever you do, whether ye eat &c do it to the glory of God*" - He affixed two meanings to the phrase. 1st the attributes & perfections of Deity - 2nd the honor & praise which these perfections demand from his rational creatures.-

This afternoon, the sermon was on the duties arising from our influence on the characters of others - "*Edify one another*".

	<p>I called at Uncle Gray's & at Aunt Scott's this evening - returned home at ½ past seven to prepare some papers - but found several persons waiting for me who detained me till after ten.</p>
<p>Grafton</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">39</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday ev[enin]g 20 Jan[uary] 1817 -</p> <p>Grafton's villainy is far more extensive than was at first supposed - Notes with forged indorsements to the amount of more than \$10000 have made their appearance - It is said that several persons have gone in pursuit of him -</p> <p>I have passed the day in business altogether - Nothing of importance has occurred -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday - 26 Jan[uary] 1817 -</p> <p>The last week passed in various occupations of business, & without any very remarkable occurrence - - On Thursday I dined at Uncle Sewall's - the other guests were Uncle & Aunt May - Eliza May & M^r Frothingham - M^r Greele came in after dinner - Time passed pleasantly, as indeed it could not but do in the company of such friends -</p> <p>I attended worship this morning at M^r Channing's, & heard from M^r Ware, a young gentleman</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">40</p>

<p>phylacteries ?</p>	<p>recently settled in the place of the late D^r Lathrop, a very intelligent & interesting discourse, on the true meaning & spirit of the command given to the Jews, to wear the law “<i>as a frontlet between the eyes</i>” - a command which at the time of our Saviour was perverted by many among them to mean literally, that they must wear the law about their persons - they accordingly sewed into their garments pieces of parchment having portions of the law written upon them. These were called “phylacteries” - But the true meaning is that the law should be understood and obeyed for the sake of its author -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This afternoon I did not attend meeting, because I was not sufficiently provided against the snow under my feet, & have already a cold. - I however spent the time pleasantly & profitably in reading <i>Sherlock’s Sermon</i> from the words - “<i>Great peace have</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: right;">41</p> <p><i>they, that love the law</i>” - I also addressed my Maker in a prayer, which was less feeling & spirited than I could have wished. - Immediately after meeting I was obliged to set about preparing an indenture of assignment to be executed this evening - I was assisted by Mess^{rs} Dummer & Adan I had written one part between 9 & 11 last ev[enin]g to avoid the necessity of drafting it on the Sabbath.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I rec[eive]d a letter from J. G. King the last week, from which I learned for the first time that</p>

	<p>he has a daughter. I have written to him this evening to congratulate him on that event.</p> <p>Mr French of M[arble]h[ea]d has been for some time quite sick - & his friends have been alarmed for his safety. I was happy to hear, however, on Thurs-</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;">42</p> <p>day, that he was better -</p>