

**Monday ev[enin]g 12 Oct[obe]r [, 1812]**

The last week was to me an eventful one. - I dined on Wednesday at Uncle Jos. Sewall's. There were no other guests but Uncle May & Col[onel] Benson from Buckstown - the last, a plain worthy man, from whom I have received some civilities in the transaction of some business at Buckstown. - I had long been meditating a removal from M<sup>rs</sup> Smith's - My situation there is indeed very pleasant, and I have experienced nothing <sup>^</sup>but the kindest attention from the whole family. - But it is absolutely necessary for me to have in the winter evenings a fire in my chamber, which I cannot have at M<sup>rs</sup> S[mith]'s, my chamber not admitting it - Besides it has been proposed from the time when Mansfield & myself boarded together at M<sup>rs</sup> Turner's, that when he should be married, I should be a member of his family as a boarder. It will be extremely grateful to me to be thus associated with an old friend & play-mate, & the quiet of his small family will be

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favorable to study. - I had therefore resolved to decamp - but to communicate this resolution to M<sup>rs</sup> S[mith] in such a manner as not to offend her feelings, nor to excite any jealousy or displeasure, was difficult. - On this evening however / Wednesday / on going home to tea, some remarks being made on the coldness of the weather, I observed "that the cold weather had brought me to one resolution, which was to quit this house & went on to explain my principal reason. She expressed a regret & sundry compliments passed. - So this disagreeable job was now well over, & since that time I have found that the kindness of the family increases so that I flatter myself they really feel some regard for me. - I will mention in this connexion that I am & have been much embarrassed for money to discharge my bill with M<sup>rs</sup> S[mith] - I can

see no way of providing for it but to apply to Uncle Sewall for the sum of Fifty Dollars, which is about 20 more than is due to me from his house - I have no doubt of obtaining the sum in this way, but so repugnant to my feelings is it to ask a loan, that I have not been able as yet to bring my mind to it, altho' I have several times sought him for the purpose. - And particularly to day which I fixed upon for a last effort, after going to his store & not finding him there, I met him most opportunely on Change <sup>[NOTE 16]</sup>, & half-stopping - half-going on, I merely bowed & passed on. The sale of his Stock which begins to-morrow & will occupy him several days, will stand much in the way of my application, & I hardly know how I shall effect my purpose - But the money must be had from some quarter. - // - Wednesday ev[enin]g I

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called at M<sup>r</sup> Deblois's, & passed a couple of hours very pleasantly in chat with him & M<sup>rs</sup> D[e]blois] - On Thursday morning a circumstance took place which has exceedingly agitated me. - A lady came into my Office, whom I had never seen before. After inquiring my name, & finding that I was the person she sought, she said with a voice half stifled with sobs, & eyes streaming with tears, "that she had come to speak to me about M<sup>r</sup> Greenwood" - I knew at once the whole. I instantly rose - gave her my chair - & requested her to go on. - She then informed me, tho' often interrupted by her tears, that her husband, terrified with the apprehension of debts, for which he found it impossible to provide, had abandoned himself to despair - accusing himself of imprudence in the management of his affairs, & had advised her to apply to me as a friend to know what was best to be done - He wished, she said, to give up all into the hands of some one, who would provide for her & her children, for whom he thought that he himself could do no more good. - She informed me, that M<sup>r</sup> G[reenwood] had once been insane, & she feared, if he should be thrown into prison

he would be so again. - She confidentially communicated some other parts of his history, & in the deepest anguish [of] soul said that she looked to me for direction under this affliction. - I endeavored to console her, & went with her to see M<sup>r</sup> G[reenwood] - I found him dressed in a loose gown - his eyes bespeaking distraction of spirit - and all the firmness of despair was marked in his features. - He repeated or began to repeat some part of the story which M<sup>rs</sup> G[reenwood] had before given me, but fearing the effect, I stopped him from this. He then stated his embarrassments - & said, that such was

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his frame of mind, that unless by assistance he could be enabled to provide for his debts, he must sink under the disgrace. He could never endure to walk the streets, & see the man who had suffered by him. - When his respectability of character was gone, life was no longer dear to him. - His frame had once suffered a severe shock, & since that time he had been subject to occasional depression, which entirely unfitted him for business. He well knew that the anxiety occasioned by his present circumstances would unless he should be relieved, bring on this state of mind. - He wished to know if there was any mode by which his effects could be put into the hands of some guardian, so that his wife might be supported, while he should go to some other place, & endeavor to find business. - I answered, that this was impossible, nor ought he to think of removing. He would have to encounter great difficulties in any place where he might attempt to fix himself - he could not remove without some expense - his wife & children could not be provided for - he now held a place, which gave him a moderate salary, by which he could support his family, & perhaps slowly pay off his debts - in this his best hope seemed to be placed - to adhere to this was a duty which he owed to himself, to his family & to his creditors. - That he ought not to feel ashamed, while he had done nothing criminal - that his feelings should be somewhat wounded was unavoidable - but resolution & philosophy would conquer the mortification, & enable <sup>him</sup> to go on cheer-

fully & resolutely in performing his various duties - that to fly at this time would be much to his dishonor - He replied, that

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fortitude was an admirable thing to those who could exercise it, but absolutely out of the power of men of strong feeling - that it would be impossible for him under the anxiety & depression of spirit which he should suffer to go on as he ought in executing the duties of his office as clerk. - I only enforced the necessity of resolution, & its wonderful effects, observing, that it was only to resolve, & the thing was done. - So I left him saying I would see him again in the afternoon. - During this conversation M<sup>rs</sup> G[reenwood] brought into the room two of the most beautiful children I have ever seen. Their blooming innocent faces, & cheerful prattle made me feel extremely solicitous to do something for the family. - Nothing seemed to stand in the way of their complete happiness, but the want of a small sum of money. Would no one loan it at a long term? - I returned to my office - I turned the thing over & over again in my mind. - I saw no way of relieving my worthy friends. - All the afternoon I thought of his situation - but not a ray of hope. - Oh! how did I wish to have the means of carrying them comfort & consolation! - But my hands were tied. My own affairs gave me no small uneasiness. - How was I to pay M<sup>rs</sup> Smith? - A loan from Uncle S. was revolting to my pride. I dreaded to ask it. - My business seemed to be stopped, not having been sufficient for some time to defray my expenses. - My thoughts alternately were employed on G[reenwood]'s troubles & my own, & I experienced no small degree of unhappiness. - In the evening I called again

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on Greenwood. - I found him much composed. He seemed cheered, & much more resolute than before. - Particularly I was pleased to learn, that he had determined to go to the compting-room on the mor-

row. - I communicated to him a conversation, I had had with M<sup>r</sup> Mather, his worthy friend, whom I had sought for the purpose of advising with him, & who had concurred with me in opinion that it was at all events best for G[reenwood] to retain his situation as clerk of Pachard. - After a long conversation, finding that G[reenwood] had some hopes from an application to Pachard from some other quarter, of obtaining an advance of his salary, I offered to go & see him. - I called several times at his house for the purpose, but he was not at home. - In one of the intervals, I called at Uncle May's, where I found only Aunt M[ay] & a M<sup>r</sup> Hobby. - I stayed about ½ an hour. - I passed the rest of time at G[reenwood]'s, going several times to Pachard's without success, untill ten o'clock, when I determined to see P[achard] on Change <sup>[NOTE 16]</sup> the next day. - On Saturday I had resolved to leave M<sup>rs</sup> S[mith]'s, - but the want of money made me glad to find an excuse in M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Mansfield's absence from town untill evening, when it was not convenient to move. - I called to see G[reenwood] & had a long conversation with him, but nothing conclusive. - I told him I would see him again on the following day, & left him. - I was glad to see that his spirits were not low, & that he was going on as

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I had proposed to him. - // - On Sunday - / yesterday / I attended worship in the morning & afternoon at the Brattle Street Society. In the morning M<sup>r</sup> Lowell preached. His sermon was short from the text "*We all do fade as a leaf*" - The allegory suggested in the passage was deduced at length with considerable ingenuity. - The language, tho' rather turgid, was copious & poetical. - // - I dined at Aunt Scott's - present only herself & Miss Gardner. - I rode to meeting with Aunt S. in the afternoon, & heard a very good sermon from M<sup>r</sup> Mc Kean on the evil of "*following a multitude to do evil*". - The performance of the celebrated D[octo]r Jackson on the organ gratified me exceedingly - particularly some volunta-

ries & other pieces, which he played after meeting, & which I stayed to hear both in the forenoon & afternoon. - In the evening I called again on Greenwood. I took a view of his affairs, & proved to him, that a less sum than he had required would extricate him. - I also corrected a mistake which he had been in as to the liability assumed by bail - for supposing that the bail was collaterally bound to pay the debt, he thought it improper to ask me to become bail for him on a suit, which he expected for rent - a sum of only \$45 - Finding me quite willing he seemed rather relieved, & I gave him a paper to be shewn to any officer, who might be charged with service of the writ, declaring my readiness to become bound. - He had now resolved to apply to one Bames for a loan, & as he must do it on that evening I left him about 8 o'clock. - I called afterward at Uncle Gray's - This day I have done little or nothing but attend Court, & a drill of the Company at Faneuil Hall. - The evening I have passed at Mr A. P. Cleveland's with a family circle - Uncle & Aunt S. to my great regret were not present. - I was fatigued with my exercise, & said & did but little. - I was pleased on the breaking up to receive an invitation from Mr S. Higginson Jr to pass the next evening at his house. -

#### **Thursday evening 15 October**

I now write at Mansfield's, having removed hither on Tuesday evening - Mansfield loaned me 50 dollars to pay Mr<sup>s</sup> Smith, to be refunded to him as soon as I can procure the sum from Uncle S. - This was a great accommodation. - The family at Mr<sup>s</sup> Smith's have expressed great regret at my departure - and I believe have felt some. - At one thing I rejoiced - I parted with them on good terms, & shall always find there a friendly reception. - I passed the evening at Mr Higginson's. - Uncle & Aunt S. were present, & near-

ly the same circle, as were at M<sup>r</sup> Cleveland's the preceding evening. - The conversation was mostly of a political cast. - I found assigned to me at Mansfield's a very large, commodious & pleasant chamber - very neatly furnished, & promise myself much satisfaction in my new situation - Yesterday

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morning I attempted to renew my studies & read a few pages of Bacon - but with difficulty. - In the evening I called again to see Greenwood - it being the day on which his bond was to fall due at the Custom-house. - I found him in very good mood - not more depressed, than he should be - reading Oxenstierna, & profiting by his counsel. - He had been unsuccessful in all his attempts to procure money, & had resolved to meet his fate with all the resolution & firmness of which he was master. - I stayed with him but little while, & left him, much please on my part to find that he was going on in the right course. - The occurrences of this day have been quite unimportant. - I went to Charleston in the forenoon to see M<sup>r</sup> Holden about M<sup>r</sup> Blagrove's land. - I had between 1 & 2 o'clock a long conversation with Capt[ain] J. Daggett about the liability of Sewall, Salisbury & C<sup>o</sup> to make up any deficiency of the proceeds of articles saved from the wreck of the *Com[modore] Preble* toward satisfying the expenses of salvage - & convinced him that the Insurers, & not S[ewall], S[alisbury] & C<sup>o</sup> were the parties liable. - The ev[ening] I have passed principally at home. -...

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**Thursday morn[in]g 22 Oct[ober]**

... - The last ev[ening] I called on M<sup>r</sup> Greenwood. - I found him somewhat depressed, and without any hope of obtaining pecuniary relief. I ex-

horted him to resolution & courage - & have some hope  
that my arguments will have their effect. - I staid but a  
short time, & called next on Capt[ain] T. Ward. I found him & M<sup>rs</sup>  
W[ard] sitting quite domestically over a good fire, & spent an hour with  
them very pleasantly, which was principally occupied in conversing  
with Capt[ain] W[ard] on political topics. We are both of moderate politicks -  
but disagree in some things. - I went next to M<sup>r</sup> M. Wells's where  
I had been invited to pass the evening with a party of friends. -

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### **Friday ev[enin]g 30 Oct[obe]r**

...- I wrote a short notice  
of a Musical Dictionary lately published here, in which my friend  
Greenwood is interested & handed <sup>^it</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Hale for the Messinger,  
but it is somewhat doubtful whether it can be published there.  
My object was to assist G[reenwood] - tho' I took care to say nothing of  
the work, but what was strictly true. -

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### **17 [Volume E]**

### **Tuesday - 19 Jan[uary 1813]**

... - On Saturday I had an application

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from my friend Greenwood, which perplexed me not a little. It was to  
indorse for him bill of exchange for \$66 on Havana. He had re-  
ceived advice of his liberty to draw, & there was very little doubt that  
his bill would be honored. - He had an opportunity of selling his bill  
& was in great want of the money. - I felt a strong inclination to serve  
him, but thought it inconsistent with the narrowness of my circumstan-



ces. - I answered him therefore, that I could not contract a responsibility, which if called on I should be absolutely unable to meet - that it would be doing an inquiry to the purchaser of the bill, as it would induce him to take it under the idea, that he had an additional security, while in fact his security would not be in the least improved. - He seemed rather disappointed, but did not urge his request...

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**Thursday morning 10 Mar[ch]**

Tuesday ev[ening] was passed very pleasantly at Uncle Sewall's - I found there in addition to the ladies, who were present at dinner - M<sup>rs</sup> Bray & Miss Savage - M<sup>r</sup> Bray was also there - M<sup>r</sup> Barney & Uncle May did not appear in the ev[ening] - I had much conversation with M<sup>r</sup> Bray on Chess. - Yesterday my friend Greenwood called on me in the morning, quite distressed by the circumstances of the Marshal's having called with an ex[ecution] on his bond to the Custom-House, & informed him it was the last day. What was to be done? - I agreed to try the effect of an intercession with the Collector - Marshall & District Att[orney] - I applied to them all, but in vain - The Marshal said he must go to Worcester as an Alien-enemy, the Presi[dent] having ordered that all of that description any way concerned in commerce, should be removed to the distance of 40 Miles from the coast, or be taken into custody. - Here was a new source of ruin, I pleaded in vain his poverty & his total disconnection with commerce.-

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He had reported himself a merchant, & must go. - M<sup>r</sup> McGaw with whom he has been at work lately on a set of accounts, kindly contributed his exertions to save him from imprisonment, & fi-

nally after spending the whole day in the business, during which the Dep[uty] Marshall M<sup>r</sup> Thaxter had exhibited a patience & good-nature much to be honored, by drawing all the fruits of 3 weeks labor & anticipating those of three weeks to come, & by procuring a sum of \$20 from one M<sup>r</sup> Barnes, Greenwood raised \$95- the rem[ainder] \$37 was procured by German, one of the bondsmen, & so the thing was settled - but what G[reenwood]'s family are to do heaven only knows. He has now no resources for their support, but Heaven will aid the honest & unfortunate. - M<sup>c</sup>Gaw heroically borrowed \$30 to loan to Greenwood, depending on the labor of a fortnight to come for his repayment. I shall ever honor him for it. - I passed the ev[ening] at home, & partly at Uncle Gray's where I found M<sup>r</sup> J[osiah] Lee, & M<sup>r</sup> W[illiam] Swett. - I rec[ieved] from Uncle G[ray] & Mary an account of the brilliant Naval Ball, which must indeed have been very elegant.

**Monday ~~morn~~ PM. 15 Mar[ch]**

On Thursday ev[ening] I called to see Greenwood & his family. I found him tolerably easy, & extremely sensible of the favors done him. - M<sup>rs</sup> Greenwood expressed the highest obligations to me, I was conscious of deserving much less gratitude than she seemed to feel, but experienced the most exquisite gratification in hearing for the first time the lan-

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guage of a heart grateful for kindnesses received from me - A pleasure how much greater than all that wealth, splendor & power can impart, separately from this idea of doing good!...

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**Tuesday Ev[ening] 23 Mar[ch]**

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...- In the ev[ening] I called at Uncle Gray's -

at M<sup>r</sup> S. Salisbury sen[io]rs - & at J. Greenwood's - I found

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the latter apparently very comfortable - & was highly delighted with the sober & rational sentiments of religion, which I found his wife to possess. - She observed that she had long wished M<sup>r</sup> G[reenwood] to procure a seat at some house of worship - not so much on her own account as an account of her little daughter, who was now just old enough to require the beginning of a habit so important to her future character. - I communicated to G[reenwood] an invitation from Uncle May to make use of a seat in his pew at the Chapel, with which G[reenwood] seemed to be much pleased.- When I left G[reenwood]'s I could not help reflecting on the difference of situation between the persons I had visited that ev[ening] - Two of them superfluously rich, but with minds uncultivated - & ideas narrowed by habits of business. - The other suffering the extreme of anxiety - chilled by penury, & in hourly dread of absolute want - but with a soul large & generous - with faculties of the highest order - & a mind stored with reading & observation - refined by elegant literature, & when relieved from grovelling cares, active in the pursuit of knowledge...

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### **Tuesday ev[ening] 20 Apr[il]**

I have no material occurrence to record. - The Com[mon] P[leas] Court sat by adjournment yesterday. Some little business in it has occupied a part of my time. At 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon I went to Fort Hill, where a number of N[ew] E[ngland] Guards assembled to exercise the 6 pounders loaned us by Gen[eral] Boyd. - They were fired with blank cartridge. - I passed a little time at the Athenaeum, after seeing my poor friend Greenwood committed to prison, & becoming bound for the debtors liberties. - Tupper who had the ex[aminati]on behaved in a most liberal & heroic manner, suffering inconvenience himself in waiting until the late hour of 8 in the ev[ening] to accommodate G[reenwood].-

From the Athenaeum I went to Uncle Gray's, & staid there nearly an hour...

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**Sat[urda]y 29 May - 1813**

I have studied a little to-day, but most of the day has been spent in conversation with two afflicted friends, Harris & Greenwood. - H[arras] had this morning an interview with Com[mander] Bainbridge. The result was such as to blast all his hopes in what he considered his last & only resource. The Com[mander] stated "that 30 sailing-masters had lately been dismissed from the navy for want of employment. He therefore did not feel himself authorized to appoint, but had written to the Sec[retary] who would no doubt appoint to the Constitution one of the present Sailing-Masters. If he should not however immediately appoint one, he would appoint Harris - Thus was Harris left to the deepest despair. What should he do? He had tried every thing in vain. Excluded from his father's house he had no means of support. Poor fellow! his agitation was extreme. He gave a loose to his poignant feelings, & seemed for a while in the greatest agony. His tears flowed co-

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piously. I could not console him. I know not where to find topics of consolation. I could exhort him to fortitude, & to avoid despair. I advised him to go to Portsmouth - to claim the help of his Uncle, who is friendly towards him - & to solicit the assistance of Capt[ain] Hull with whom he is acquainted in procuring a commission in the Navy - He answered that he would not bear the thought of going to Portsmouth, & not entering his Father's house - how could he see his Father? - how could his pride

support a return to Portsmouth under such circumstances?  
- I endeavoured to obviate these objections by urging, that it was absolutely necessary to overcome such feelings, there being now no other course left. - He left me more composed, & I believe determined to go this afternoon to Salem, & should nothing offer, after conversing with King, to go to Portsmouth. -  
- Greenwood has become extremely & justly anxious as to his miserable situation, His wife & little ones are the objects of his chief concern, the sting which points the anguish of his heart.- He called to ask my advice as to a letter, he had prepared for my Uncle - Col[onel] Jos. May requesting his counsel, & the liberty of calling on him. I told him that a personal application from me would suit my Uncle better than a billet. I

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went to him immediately & finding him at leisure had a long conversation on the subject. - How inestimable is his worth! He enters with the liveliest sympathy into G[reenwood]'s situation. He has him ever in mind, & is anxious above all things to relieve him. - He mentioned the fabric of cigars, as an employment, that might give him present subsistence, & related an anecdote of a family, that by undertaking this business ~~at his request~~ by his advice, had been relieved from great distress, & become independent & happy. - He said too that a reference was getting up in the great cause of Holker & others which would require an accountant, & ready writer. He had recommended G[reenwood] & thought he might have the business. - He would gladly see G[reenwood] at his house or office. - I returned to G[reenwood] & relieved him very much by communicating the result of the conversation. - This evening I have passed at the Athenaeum, reading a part of Erskine's defence of Paine. - I am exceedingly anxious about my own affairs. I find myself oppressed with

debts, which I have no mean of paying, unless by borrowing. The only expedient I can think of is to apply to Uncle J[osiah] Sewall for a loan of \$100. - This ev[ening] I have humbly asked the guidance & direction of Heaven in my present difficulties, & in this exercise I have found indescribable relief...

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**Wednesday ev[ening] 9 June-**

Last ev[ening] & this morning I finished reading a bundle of letters handed me by M<sup>r</sup> James Greenwood, principally from his brother Sam[ue]l A. Greenwood, who was a captain in the Hon[orabe] E[ast] India Comp[any]'s service, & in the full career of reputation & success fell a victim to a disorder of the liver in 1810. His letters are interesting, & shew a generous heart, an acute mind, laudable ambition, and unwearied activ-

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ity in the pursuit of every acquirement which could adorn his profession...

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**Thursday ev[ening] 10 June - '13**

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- M<sup>r</sup> Mansfield informed me, that he mentioned to-day to Uncle Sewall Greenwood's pro-

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ject of making blacking, & his want of capital. - Uncle S[ewall] at once expressed his readiness to advance a sum of \$50 or perhaps more. - This led me to propose to Uncle S[ewall], who himself introduced the subject in walking up State Street, to call on Uncle May, & converse on the subject. We did so, & the result is, that I think my friend G[reenwood] will get along very well.-

I called this ev[ening] to inquire for the heath of M<sup>rs</sup> Gray, & was happy to learn that she has been all day much better.-

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**Wednesday ev[ening] 14 July**

Yesterday I passed the day mostly in my office, but from want of spirits was not able to read much.

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...Early in the ev[ening] I called to see Greenwood. I found him in dishabille, engaged in making a spout for rain-water. His children's were highly interesting - they are proofs of the worth of their parents. After conversing a little on his affairs, & viewing his habitation & its environs I returned home, whence I went to M<sup>r</sup> Baldwin's - M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Mansfield being there. I passed there the rest of the ev[ening] rather pleasantly. - M<sup>r</sup> Morse, a lawyer - & M<sup>r</sup> Gassett were there - & M<sup>rs</sup> & Misses Newman. - It is a delightful evening - our walk home was pleasant beyond description...

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**80 [Volume F]**

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**Sat[urday] ev[ening] 1 Jan[uary] 1814 -**

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...- This day I have passed in filing letters - Greenwood called on me between 1 & 2 in a most melancholy & dejected state. He complained that he was again attacked by the nervous depression of spirits, which so afflicted him the last fall.

I endeavored to reason him out of his fears - but in vain.  
I promised to call on him this evening, which I have  
done. I passed more than an hour there - talked much  
about his situation. M<sup>rs</sup> G[reenwood] I admire more & more.  
She evinces great good sense & an admirable temper. -  
G[reenwood] himself is worthy & upright of soul - but the fluctu-  
ating nature of his spirits renders him miserable  
indeed - I endeavored to draw him off from the subject of  
his disorder, & his debts. I succeeded at last, & talked  
with him considerably on some literary topics...

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**Friday ev[ening] 11 F[ebruary] 1814**

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...- To-day my pamphlet has appeared. I have sent  
copies to my Father and to C[hief] J[ustice] Sewall. I also  
gave one to Uncle May - one to M<sup>r</sup> C. Lamson - one to

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M<sup>r</sup> J. Greenwood - one to my friend Hale. - It ap-  
pears at a happy moment, as the subject is now  
just resumed in the Senate, & the public will  
no doubt take great interest in it. I am however  
so doubtful of the success of my work, that I have  
determined, if possible, to conceal my authorship.  
Nothing encourages me, but the favorable opinion ex-  
pressed by Judge Sewall.

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**Friday morn[ing] 25 March - 1814**

Yesterday I read none - part of the time I passed in Court  
- part in business of various kinds - but the greater part

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in idleness - In the evening I called at M<sup>r</sup> Salisbury sen[ior], I found there M<sup>r</sup> Higginson; stayed till near nine, talking of the news &c. I then returned to my office, intending to devote an hour to *Homer*, but I had hardly kindled my fire, when M<sup>r</sup> J. Greenwood came in, & kept me in conversation until near ten, when feeling very dull and sleepy I went home...

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**[Volume G—no page numbers]**

**Monday ev[enin]g - 10 July - 1815**

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This afternoon Greenwood called on me, in a state of dejection & misery exactly contrasted to the state of excitement & elevation, which has lately hurried him from scheme to scheme, & hope to hope, & imprudence to impudence, till he has embarrassed himself without remedy. I warned him of the effect in the midst of his most sanguine expectations. But he could not listen to me. He seemed aware of his error miserable & desponding. I knew not what to say to him. Indeed, I can devise no mode for relieving

him from his difficulties. I endeavored to encourage him, but faintly. I could ^ only say to him , that he must not despair. His prospect of employment is small indeed - and what shall become of his wife and children. Heaven only knows, & Heaven, I trust, will take care of them - I called this evening at Uncle May's I found there Aunt M[ay] & Cousin Thomas. Uncle M[ay] did not return until 10 o'clock, having been out to Brookline. I communicated to him G[reenwood]'s situation. He entered into it with his usual sympathy - and will endeavor to procure him some employment...

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#### **Sat[urda]y morn[in]g - 15 July -1815**

Yesterday I passed the day in my usual occupations. After preparing the Messenger in the morning, attended to the business of the Brutus the greater part of the forenoon - Afternoon transcribed on of Judge Story's decrees - called to see Greenwood, whom I found much afflicted. I could not console him, for in fact, I know not in which way he can turn. Every hope seems now to have failed him...

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#### **Saturday ev[en]g 22 July - 1815**

On Thursday was mostly occupied in the forenoon with the Messenger - In the afternoon towards ev[en]g I called at Greenwood's, & succeeded in putting into M<sup>rs</sup> G[reenwood]'s hands the relief I contemplated. She seemed not unwilling to receive it...

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#### **Monday ev[en]g - 24 July - 1815**

I rose at 6 - read Marshall till 7.- made up out side pages of Mess[enger] - & attended to business during [the] day - This ev[enin]g at Athenæum history of K[ingdo]m of Naples in the Universal History, & Coxe's H[istory] of Austria with a view to write something upon the subject. The worst part of my job remains, viz[it] [*namely*] to ascertain the present state of the title to the K[ingdo]m, & that of the Sicilies. - Greenwood called on me this afternoon, & is, I think, much better, as to his state of mind & spirits...

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**Friday - Oct[ober] 20 - 1815 -**

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This afternoon, while I was conversing, in my office, with M<sup>r</sup> Greenwood, on the subject of my connexion with the Messenger, & the wish I have to terminate it, & to devote myself to Law, the Hon[orable] M<sup>r</sup> Prescott entered to inform me, that the event some time since spoken of (viz[it] [*namely*] M<sup>r</sup> Guild's quitting him) was soon to take place - "But perhaps, he added, your own situation is changed." I answered " No, not so as to alter my views upon that subject - & that I should still be pleased, I thought, with a connexion, such as he had proposed." - He inquired, if I should be in town for a few days to come, & receiving an affirmative reply, he left me...

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**Boston - Tuesday ev[enin]g - 6 Feb[ruary] 1816.**

The most important occurrence since my last entry in this journal has been the melancholy death of M<sup>r</sup> James Greenwood, of whom frequent mention is made in its preceding pages. M<sup>r</sup> Greenwood, after a great many attempts of himself & his friends, to procure employment, had at last succeeded, thro[ugh] the influence of my excellent Uncle, Col[onel] Jos[eph] May, in obtaining the situation of book-keeper in the counting-room of Pickman & Rogers with a salary of \$700 per annum. I had been much gratified at learning this success, & on Sunday, Jan[uar]y 28th, I called after meeting in the morning at his house, anticipating the pleasure of seeing him, & his beautiful groupe of children happy. But on entering his door I beheld in his countenance despair and deep-rooted melancholy. I was no sooner seated, than he began to tell me, in a tone of great depression, that he was attacked with his old malady, that he felt flat, & was apprehensive he should not be able to go on with the business. He ascribed this change in his health to the closeness of the counting room, & to a Quincy-stove, by which it was kept very warm. - He had applied to Col[onel] May on the subject, & requisited him to send a note to P[ickman] & R[ogers] - He had also consulted D<sup>r</sup> Gorham, & had, at his suggestion, taken some medicine. - I endeavored to cheer him - assured him, that the evil was trifling & could easily be remedied - that it was more imaginary than

real - that if he would walk at regular hours,  
he would feel no injury from the stove. - I enjoined  
it upon him to walk that afternoon - & again, be-  
fore going to the store, on Monday morning - Above  
all, I conjured him not to lose a place, which had  
been obtained for him at so much pains, & after  
so many disappointments - - I could perceive, that  
all my arguments & exhortations had no effect.  
There was still a vacant glaze of the eye, & a  
fixed melancholy of expression, which proved to me,  
that my words were not heard, or not regarded.  
Dinner time arriving, I left him - He followed  
me to the door, & I believe from his manner of  
taking leave, had not then any intention of com-  
mitting the horrid act, I am about to relate. On  
Monday morning - (Jan[uary] 29<sup>th</sup>) I received a mes-  
sage, while dressing, ~~informing~~ requesting my  
immediate presence at M<sup>r</sup> Greenwood's house.  
My mind foreboded the shocking intelligence, I was to  
receive, for I knew that Greenwood had before  
attempted his life. I hastened towards the house,  
but at a short distance from it, I met Un-  
cle May, who was coming from thence, & who  
informed me, "that about 12 o'clock on Sunday  
night, after M<sup>rs</sup> Greenwood had gone to bed,  
& M<sup>r</sup> G[reenwood] was to follow her, she perceived that  
he attempted to blow out the light without suc-  
cess, & then put it out with his fingers. He  
got into bed & she immediately perceived that  
something was the matter. " Good God, she ex-  
claimed, M<sup>r</sup> Greenwood, what ails you"- "Say

nothing, he replied, say nothing let me die easy" - She rose, & found that her husband had cut his throat - D<sup>r</sup> Gorham was instantly called. He sewed up the wound, which had cut off the wind-pipe, or trachea, but had not touched the large blood-vessels - Greenwood expressed sorrow for what he had done, & made no resistance - These facts I learned from D<sup>r</sup> G[orham] on whom I called at Uncle May's request. He also said, that there was every reason to suppose that Greenwood would recover - as he had lost very blood. - I thought it would be much better, he should die, as he had by this act, rendered himself incapable of any further usefulness, & certainly could never enjoy happiness himself, not contribute to the happiness of others - On monday, G[reenwood] was very quiet - & appeared to be doing well - but on Monday night, he became restless - On Tuesday I called, & saw Mr<sup>s</sup> G[reenwood] for a few minutes. She told me her husband was very delirious - & so restless as to ~~endanger~~ prevent the healing of the wound - that the D<sup>r</sup> feared a mortification - I did not call again, as I found I could do no good, & was interrupting M<sup>rs</sup> G[reenwood]'s attentions to her husband - I offered my services as a watcher, whenever wanted - M<sup>rs</sup> G[reenwood] informed me, that one was engaged for that evening. - I was very busily engaged on Tuesday night, & the following day - On Thursday morning I found by the news-paper, that

my poor unhappy friend had died on Tuesday evening - & was to be interred that afternoon - I called on Thursday forenoon to offer any assistance I might be able to afford - but I found, that every thing had been arranged by Uncle May - I conversed with M<sup>rs</sup> G[reenwood] & found her very suitably impressed with the nature of her situation - She seemed to have a firm trust in God's providence, & to be resigned to his will - The charge of supporting, & educating four young children, one of them an infant, was indeed, she said, a great one - but she hoped, by God's favor, to whom she prayed & by her industry, to be able to execute it. -

She related to me the manner of M<sup>r</sup> G[reenwood]'s death - He had complained of great pain & uneasiness, thro' the day - he did not know the persons in the chamber - & talked wildly - In the evening, the D<sup>r</sup> thought him better - he examined the wound, & pronounced it in much better state, than he had feared - He proposed bleeding, but M<sup>rs</sup> G[reenwood] objected to this, as M<sup>r</sup> G[reenwood] was so desirous to die, & it might be feared, he would tear off the bandages. The doctor assented to this danger & substituted a dose of salts G[reenwood] drank the salts - appeared more easy, & said himself he was so - M<sup>rs</sup> G[reenwood] was employed in raising his head - she perceived a great change & remarked it to the gentleman, who attended as a watcher - M<sup>r</sup> G[reenwood] did

not speak ~~but~~ again, but turned to M<sup>rs</sup> G[reenwood] & smiled - & soon after, without any struggle or pain, he expired -

Thus ended the life of a man, who might be accounted among the most miserable. Possessed by nature of ardent & lively feelings - of great quickness of perception - & at the same time, an extreme irritability of nerve - M<sup>r</sup> G[reenwood] was seldom permitted to enjoy a calm, rational & settled state of mind. He passed from an intoxication of pleasure to the lowest gloom & despondency. In his delirium of happiness he committed acts of imprudence, which embarrassed him, & gave him cause for repentance & affliction, when the tide turned, & left him depressed & unhappy. He had been well educated - had a correct taste in painting & poetry, some knowledge of music - & in general, an activity & acuteness of intellect, which, under a proper cultivation, & in more favorable circumstances, would have made him a distinguished ornament, & a useful member of society. - His religious principles were not, I believe, fixed, & to this perhaps, his misfortunes may be in some measure ascribed. His mind wanted a balance - it needed some principle to regulate & check its excesses. That assemblage of qualities, which we call Prudence, was to him a stranger. Fortitude he possessed, for he supported the most trying poverty, &



a series of disappointments & ills, with manliness & dignity. But the exercise of this quality depended on the state of his spirits -

He was generous & open-hearted - ready to assist others, & had he been rich, would have opened his purse with a profuse liberality - He was upright & honest in his dealings, though in some instances betrayed by his impetuosity of temper, & his total incapacity of ~~of~~ <sup>for</sup> foreseeing evils, into acts, which partook somewhat of moral obliquity - He loved his wife & his children most tenderly - but in his gay & elevated mood, he had an aversion to the sight of them, & even grossly maltreated a woman, of whom at other times he spoke in the strongest terms of respect & affection. - Since his death, M<sup>rs</sup> G[reenwood] has told me, that on the Friday preceding the fatal act, he told her, he had apprehensions for her safety, when he next should have a "high fit" - for, strange & unaccountable as it was, at such times he hated the sight of her.

Greenwood has often inquired of me, with great anxiety, whether I believed him irrecoverably subject to the excesses, of which he had been guilty - I told him, I thought, that if established in some regular employment, he would be as steady of mind, as most other men - that I supposed it to be, the alter-

nation of hope & fear, which caused his present inequalities - I was wrong in this belief, as the event has proved.

Uncle May is now continuing some plan to enable the widow comfortably to support herself & her children. One, which he has proposed is, to establish a little school from the children of the Salisbury family - another is to give her a little shop - I have visited M<sup>rs</sup> G[reenwood] since the funeral. I found her composed - ready to adopt any plan for her support - & piously relying on God's goodness. She appears to be an amiable & excellent woman. The following little anecdotes of her children speak her praises in a language, that cannot deceive - They were related to me by Uncle May. -

Little Louisa was on Monday sent to Uncle May's house. My cousin Louisa May was request[ed] by M<sup>rs</sup> G[reenwood] to communicate to the child her father's death. On receiving the intelligence, she sat down & wept for some time - She then paused, & said "Well, cousin Louisa, Pa's an angel now - Ma-ma always told us, that God makes good people angels when they die - I will be good, & then I shall be an angel too, shall I not." -

This child is about 5 years old. At another time, she sat on Uncle May's knee in the evening. In a fit of gratitude, she clasped his neck &

exclaimed, "Oh! I love you dearly!" - "And I love you" said he - "I'm delighted at that", cried the little girl - "But is it not time for you to go to bed, Louisa?" - "I am going presently" - "But don't you say your prayers before you go to bed?" - "No - I never say my prayers before I go to bed - but after we are all in bed, then Fanny says her prayers first - & then I say my prayers - & then James says his prayers - and when Pa is pretty well, he says prayers at table - & when he is not, Ma does - when Pa says prayers, Ma does'nt - & when Ma does, then Pa does'nt" - At another time, she saw my cousin Louisa do something in a way, she had not been accustomed to - "Let me see you do that again", said she - "Ah! now I can do it - & when I go home, I shall teach Fanny - that's the way, we do - when I learn any thing, I show Fanny - & when she learns any thing, she shows me - & we both teach James - but by & by when he grows up, he'll teach us." - This little James, not yet four years old cried out to his mother, when he saw her in tears "Don't cry Mama - God will be your father - & I'll be your father, Mama - I shall soon grow up - & then I can take care of you" - The same little fellow, as his mother, & Uncle May were sitting conversing, & both in tears, had fixed his eyes steadily on the latter's face. His mother

remarking it said to him, " James, you shouldn't  
stare in Col[onel] May's face so" - He burst into  
tears, & cried out - "Ma I could not help it -  
I didn't know what to do" -

The following circumstances of little James  
was related to me by M<sup>rs</sup> Greenwood -

When she shewed him his father's corpse  
he kissed him, & remarked "I'm sure, my  
Pa looks happier now, than he did, when he  
was alive" -

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**Sunday ev[ening] 21 Apr[il] 1816**

I called to-day at M<sup>rs</sup> Greenwood's, where  
I found, that she was very sick, having  
continued thro' the week in a very feeble & re-  
duced state...

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**Friday ev[ening]- 23 aug[ust] 1816**

Nothing of much interest these two days. - I  
inserted an advertisement this morning in the paper for  
a small house, hoping that I might thus find one  
for M<sup>rs</sup> Greenwood. Two applicants appeared - & I  
called to look at one of the houses in Pinkney Street -  
But this evening I went to Uncle May's, to carry  
home Price's sermons, & there I learned, that a-  
partments had been secured in a house belonging  
to M<sup>r</sup> Tho[mas] Pons, which are to be ready on Monday...

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**Sunday evening 19 January 1817 -**

On Wednesday of the week before last died M<sup>rs</sup> Elizabeth Greenwood, widow of M<sup>r</sup> James Greenwood, my unfortunate friend, who died so miserably in February last. Since his decease M<sup>rs</sup> Greenwood's health has been in a bad state - By the humane efforts of Uncle Joseph May her wants have been supplied by many kind 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 four helpless & unprotected orphans, the eldest only 10 years of age - They are Frances, Louisa, James & William - all fine children - remarkably intelligent & well-behaved -