

**Sat[urday] ev[ening] 1 Jan[uary] 1814 - [Volume G, pp 80-83]**

Since my last entry I have pursued my studies much as usual.

I have read however but little by day, & that little mostly in *Hale* - Some time however I spent in examining the new embargo-law, & comparing some of its provisions respecting coasters with those of former laws. - The evenings I have passed at the Athenaeum, where I have finished *Milton's* "*Speech for the liberty of unlicensed printing*" - a work abounding with noble thought, & energetic expressions, but displaying much of that parade of useless learning so common in that age - I next took up *Lord Bacon's* "*Advancement of Learning*" & read the first book - I have long desired to become acquainted with his style, & have been delighted with many passages of that book - Yet here as in *Milton*, there is much learning exhibited which encumbers the page - & much reasoning rather quaint than convincing. - I was amused to find that *Bacon & Milton* use very many of the same arguments & examples in defence of the utility & dignity of learning. This may be particularly remarked of some anecdotes of *Cato - Alexander &c* - Last evening I bid a sad adieu to the Athenaeum <sup>[NOTE 3]</sup>, my finances not permitting the renewal of my subscription. - 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 fluctuating 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. - // - I attended a Barr-meeting today on the subject of admitting a M<sup>r</sup> Howe, who has not complied with a rule which requires one year's study in this County. - I contended that the rule being inconsistent with the rules of the Sup[reme] J[udicial] C[ourt] was in fact abrogated by them. - Finally, a committee was chosen to consider of the rule, & of M<sup>r</sup> How's case - it is composed of W[illiam] Sullivan & Benj[amin] Gorham Esq[uires] & myself - an honor which I was far from expecting when I went to the meeting. - // - This evening since I returned from Greenwood's I have spent in making up my yearly accounts. - I find that my business in 1813 to amount to \$328 - my expenses to \$530 - - My estimate of ways & means, without some extra-acquisition, leaves a deficiency, debts & all of \$300. - I must exert myself to make this up in some way.

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In December I have read 134 pages of *Hale*, from Ch[apter] 38 to Ch[apter] 52 Vol[ume] 1 - & examined collaterally the *Mass[achusetts] statutes* & *Foster* occasionally - I have also read some cases in *Mass[achusetts] Reports*. - // - I have finished, & reviewed the 4<sup>th</sup> *Iliad*. - At the Athenaeum I have read *Milton's letter to Hartlib on education* - & his *Speech for the liberty of unlicensed printing* - and the first book of *Bacon's "Advancement of learning"* - I have also spent much time in examining into the bankrupt laws of England - & France

- & made researches into the civil law - & in some works  
of a general nature, respecting insolvent laws - their history  
- benefits &c - this I have done with a view to write a  
treatise on the subject, & publish it before the next Gen[eral]  
Court. My success is very doubtful. - I have also  
read *Lord Byron's "Giaour"* with great delight. -  
Have I done no more? - Alas! no more! - With a  
new year I will commence a new resolution of dili-  
gence . -