

[review]

March 31st. 1807. -

I have this month finished *Tom Jones* - read M[onsieur] de S^t. Disdier's account of the city & republic of Venice - reperused Burke's speech on American Conciliation, - read the first volume of La Bruyere's "*Caractere de ce siecle*". - Of the first I can only say that I have found the strong recommendations, which I have often heard of it to be perfectly well grounded. *Tom Jones* is certainly a lively picture of the manners of its time, & the delineations of character are such of which we daily meet the exact originals, & probably always shall while society continues. -

"*The characters*" of Bruyere is a no less lively & faithful picture of the world. It contains indeed many things which refer only to the particular customs of Paris, or of the author's age, & need explanation. I have met with many such, which I could not possibly understand. - I place *Tom Jones* & La Bruyere on a par - as the best representations of human nature, the one by a long & connected fable, in which each individual personage acts his proper part, & displays his peculiar characteristics - the other by detached remarks, drawn from a various & extensive intercourse with mankind. - The style of La Bruyere is rapid & nervous, often humorous, & when humorous generally laconic. That of *Tom Jones* is flowing & diffuse, a delicate humor pervades the whole, a sportive, fanciful & interesting manner forms its characteristic. -

Disdier's account of Venice is very full & minute, - its style is plain & simple, - it contains some valuable information. -

Burke's speech [^] on conciliation I have read a second time with increased pleasure, & shall a third, I hope, with a still more delicate perception of its refined beauties. -

For my more abstruse studies I have read Locke as far as Chap[ter] 6th of Book 2^{[n]d} - And I have gone over the five first books of Euclid, in pursuance of my plan laid down in the commencement of this journal. [This is from pp 32 and 33, Volume A]

Saturday 14 April [1809, Volume B]

Nothing of interest having occurred this week, I have made no entries in my journal. - The week has been passed in reading, which occupies me much longer than I had intended. - This morning I went with B. L. Oliver to the Church, for the purpose of exercising ourselves in speaking, & of delivering our respective arguments on the question mentioned page 80. - Oliver spoke ex tempore. - My argument was written. I had endeavored to throw it as much as possible into the oratorical style. - I spoke too memoriter Burke's splendid illustration of the rapid growth of America, contained in his speech on Conciliation. - // - Early in this week, I had the pleasure of hearing [^] of the arrival of My friend

Jos. Wilson in Ship *Hunter* at Providence in R[hode] I[sland]. - On Wednesday being informed that Wilson wished me to write him, I immediately dispatched a letter per-mail. - // -

Monday 23 April [1809]

Returned this morning fr[om] M[arble]H[ea]D. - Heard on Sunday two sermons on the Resurrection fr[om] M^r Bowers - that in the morning on the use & effect of this miraculous event, as a proof of our holy religion - & of our own resurrection - that in the afternoon, an answer to the objection made by unbelievers, that the Savior discovered himself after his resurrection to none but his disciples. - M^r B[owers] among other arguments wh[ich] he produced in answer to this serious objection observed that it was not true in fact - for the resurrection was witnessed by the soldiers who guarded the tomb, when the angel came & rolled away the sealed stone - there were many present when Christ “*appeared in the midst of his disciples*” - probably numbers of that assembly were made disciples by this convincing proof. - // - Went this forenoon with Oliver to the Church. There we exercised ourselves in extempore speaking, upon the famous case of presumptive evidence - “one being seen coming out of a house with a bloody sword in his hand, and upon entering the house ~~the~~ ^a body ~~of one~~ being found, recently murdered.” - My part was to prosecute the prisoner. - My success in this exercise was indeed little, but much more than I expected. - I delivered memoriter Antony’s funeral orations over Cæsar’s dead body, and an extract from *Burke’s speech on American conciliation*. - // -

Tuesday 17 July [1809]

I have read but little to-day & most of that little has been in *Montesquieu*, whom from the interest I have taken in the 19th book, I have suffered to encroach on my regular quotidian studies. - The last chapter of that book, containing remarks on the English character, & tracing the source of the peculiarities of that character in their free constitution is a monument of this author’s political sagacity & would alone be sufficient to eternize his fame. - In the afternoon went with Oliver to the Church. - Ex tempore discussion on the supposed case “*of an action by indorsee of a prom[issory] note ag[ain]st indorser, without demand on promissor, he having become insolvent.*” - I spoke memoriter from *Burke’s speech on the Nabob of Arcot’s debts*, that splendid passage where he describes the desolation of the Carnatic by the arms of Hyder-Alli. - We each read passages from *Burke*, in order to try our strength of voice. - In the ev[ening] I employed myself in ~~translating~~ ^{abridging} *Montesquieu’s S[pirit] of Laws*.

I have read in the course of this day & yesterday a pamphlet, entitled “*A faithful picture of the Political Situation of New Orleans at the close of the last & beginning of the present year (1807)*”. - It is ascribed to Livingston & the style bears evidently the stamp of his genius. - It portrays in the strongest colors the wanton tyranny, of Wilkinson - his insolent defiance of the laws - his cruelty joined with cun-

In some instances perhaps deformity may be heightened & exaggerated - but such a statement would not have been hazarded in the very city of New Orleans, when every trans- action was so recent, without some foundation of truth. - It is to be lamented that so aggravated an infringement of the political liberty of our fellow-citizens, so auda- cious a contempt of the constitution and laws should be left so long unpun- nished. - The history of that period brands the administration of Jefferson with the note of infamy & disgrace. - The oppressions of the general were at least winked at - if not backed by the Executive. -

Monday 13 - July - [1812]

On Tuesday the Civ[il] C[our]t of C[ommon] P[leas] commenced its session here. I entered but one action - & may perhaps enter a second. - I find however that want of business is generally complained of & that the number of entries at this term will be unusually few small. - The most important event of the last week was the marriage of my friend Mansfield. It took place on Thursday evening 9th July, at the house of M^r L. Baldwin. - I attended the nuptials. The ceremony was performed by Rev[eren]d M^r Lowell - the Rev[eren]d M^r Holly was present & made a concluding prayer M^r L[owell] began with a long exhortation to the couple who in- tended marriage upon the subject of its importance & its duties. - The joining together he performed with great so- lemnity. - He concluded with some farther observations on the new relation which the parties had contracted. - After M^r H[olly]'s prayer the Bride & Bridegroom were saluted by shaking of hands - and a dull formal silence succeeded till we were called to supper - which was an excellent collation of ham & tongue, decorated with two moun- tainlike wedding-cakes. - I was a stranger to almost all the ladies present, & of course did not enjoy much conversation. - I retired very soon after supper. - Mansfield with his bride took immediate possession of his house in Lynde Street & quietly settled down with every prospect of great matrimonial felicity. The gaiety however of the occasion was a little damped by the recollection of the badness of the times, frequent- ly adverted to on the wedding-night. - I have had no personal acquaintance with Miss Avery, now M^{rs} Mansfield. She has no beauty; but has the reputation of possessing qualities of far more transcendant worth. From all that I have observed of her I am satisfied that her reputation is just, & that my friend will find in her an agreeable & useful companion. - On Saturday I dined with my cousins M^r & M^{rs} Greely at Uncle J. Sewall's. - Before dinner I had the pleasure of seeing Aunt S[ewall] sitting in her easy chair, in a great measure

recovered from her late illness, tho' still too much debilitated to walk, & confined principally to one position. - In the evening of Saturday I called with M^r Greely to see the new-married pair. We found them with only M^r H. Newman, who has just returned from Virginia. They seemed to be quite domesticated - & wore every appearance of a long-settled family. - Yesterday I attended worship in the morning at the Brattle-Street Church. - M^r Holly preached in his turn as pall-bearer of the late M^r Buckminster. - After observing that he was necessarily late upon this occasion, & that his predecessors had exhausted every topic of sympathy & consolation he said, he had reluctantly resolved to employ himself on a theme less interesting perhaps, but not less useful, & which as he understood had not been touched upon - it was - the analysis of M^r Buckminster's mind. - This however had been prefaced with a long & labored disquisition on the value of mind - the loss of which only, he said could diminish the stock of human happiness & worth. - It was a jumble of metaphysics - commercial allusion - & declamation which to my taste made down-right jargon. - - In the loss of M^r B. the capital of mind had been diminished - To give a definite portrait of the mind of M^r B. it was necessary that he should summarily distinguish the different classes of mind among those who were really great. - He went thro' an enumeration, more so the style of a metaphysical treatise, than

of a funeral sermon. - "The clear, rapid, but not profound" such as Voltaire, Shaftesbury &c - "the clear, rapid & profound" as [Edmund] Burke, 2nd Pitt [*i.e.* *William Pitt the younger*] &c - He then proceeded to give a portrait of M^r B's intellectual character, to which he attributed some of the qualities found in each of the ~~other~~ classes. - It was rather comprehensive, than profound - neither fond of mathematical & metaphysical abstraction, nor accustomed to pursue it. - He was however a good logician - He reasoned clearly & persuasively, & compassed by a rapid intellectual survey what others arrived at by the slow march of gradual deduction. - In Biblical criticism he excelled. - He had a system of moral feeling most delicately organized - not fitted for rough encounters - but for all the milder & softer modes of conviction & persuasion. - Finally his was a character which should be imitated. In his death society had sustained a severe loss. - It was our duty by endeavoring to be what he was, to become at last what he now is. - // - In the afternoon I attended with M^r

Lamson at the Catholic Church, when we heard a sermon from ^xBishop Cheverus on the sacrament. He touched upon

[note in left margin:] ^x wrong - it was not the Bishop - but a stranger.

the doctrine of real presence - the arguments against which were he said sophistical - inasmuch as the Church declared the real presence to be one of the mysteries & therefore did not pretend to explain the mode of existence. - He discoursed fluently & impressively on the virtue necessary to a communicant - They were Devotion, Humility, Faith. - Upon the whole I was much pleased with him as an orator & should like frequently to hear him. - I had learned in the morning that my cousin Charles May had arrived below from Rio Janeiro - a very pleasant piece of information in these perilous times. - I went to Uncle May's in the evening to ascertain the truth of the report, & was happy to find it confirmed. - As none of the family was at home I did not go in.

Thursday - 24 Feb[ruary] 1814 -

I have studied little or none this week - My days have been employed either in musing on my forlorn condition or in running about. I was able to discharge my rent on Monday, a day before it was due, & to have some cash left, altho' I had not succeeded in obtaining one parcel on which I depended. Some unexpected incoming enabled me to do this. I was then quite easy, & passed the evening of Monday very happily at Uncle J. Sewall's, where were Aunt Scott, Miss Scollay - Miss Gardner - & the family. Cards were introduced, but I did not join in them. I had some conversation with Miss Scollay, about preachers & religion, & I talked on various subjects with Miss Leverett - Cousin Mary - & Miss Robie. I was shewn a letter rec[eive]d in Sept[ember] last by Miss Robie from Miss S. Savage of Salem. It was a most ingenious enigram or allegory, in which she describes the astronomical studies of herself & her sister, under the type of a new circle of acquaintance, elevated in character, inspiring awe & silence - in their different families beautifully harmonizing, possessing in an eminent degree the virtue of "constancy" & always at home - Among the rest a great military character had figured much, who had no doubt been seen as often in Boston as in Salem - These new acquaintance did not impair her affection for her old friends - indeed she had never spent two hours more agreeably

with Miss W. than the last evening, tho' the unpleasantness of the weather prevented her new friends "making their appearance" - There is much more which I cannot recollect, all in the same ingenious allegorical manner. I was required to solve the riddle. I could easily perceive a concealed meaning, but could not after two or three readings divine what it was. At last my attention being more particularly called to the words "*the unpleasantness of the weather prevented their making their appearance*" - which I had at first understood, & repeated as equivalent to "*prevented their coming*" - I at once discovered the real sense, & that the military hero was no other than Mars. - I admired very much the facility, with which this was written, & the strict applicancy of every word & phrase, to both its obvious & its more concealed sense. - Tuesday evening I called on the Rev[erend] M^r Channing, & delivered the letter handed me by M^r Cole. I had dreaded this visit, as much as I wished it, and I took care to ascertain from E. Channing, what would be the most proper hour. I was ushered into a Room, where were none but ladies, to whom I had never spoken, & to whom my countenance was perfectly strange. They were M^{rs} Channing, the mother - Miss E. Channing - sister - M^{rs} Channing, widow of J. D. Channing - & Miss B. Perkins addressed by D^r Walter Channing. - I took a seat & remained in this awkward predicament, neither speaking nor spoken to, unto M^r C[hanning] came from his study. Then I was somewhat relieved, but still I found it difficult to engage in conversation. M^r C[hanning] however after talking a little about M^r Cole, seized the opportunity of the presence of the family cat, to introduce a conversation about the passions exhibited by animals. It was principally carried on by M^r C[hanning] & Miss Perkins - I introduced a dark & confused observation now & then. M^r C[hanning] discovered his accustomed originality of thought. His first remark was on the reason why the Cat, after catching a mouse, suffered it to escape, & recaught it many times. He thought it was rather to have the pleasure of re-catching, than from any cruelty of disposition. - Miss P[erkins] left us as soon as D^r C[hanning] arrived, & M^r C[hanning] & myself then talked for a time about the expediency of societies like the Washington Benevolent - the nature & effects of parties - the duties of a citizen - the character of

[Edmund] Burke &c &c [-] I said little, & that in a very obscure unintelligible manner. I was delighted with M^r C[hanning]'s affability & ease in conversation. When I retired M^r C[hanning] gave me a pressing invitation to repeat my visit. I shall certainly do so. - On Tuesday morning I was requested by Miss Fessenden to pay her the balance of my quarter's board. For this I was unprepared, & it almost struck me dumb. Having paid \$30 in January, I had calculated on a reprieve till three months from that time. I had only eight dollars. What should I do? - I spent all the morning in anxious deliberation. There was but one course. It was to apply to Uncle J. Sewall for a loan. I had the good fortune to find a favorable opportunity, & obtained \$30 without the smallest difficulty, which I soon paid to Miss F[essenden] & thus settled my arrears, & paid something in advance. Since then I have enjoyed some degree of ease. I have now no considerable call upon my purse for three months to come - Yesterday the news-paper contained intelligence of the death of my uncle Sylvanus Gallison at Windham. This is an event, melancholy indeed, but not to be regretted, as he had for many years been miserable himself, & a cause of uneasiness to his friends. Intemperance had reduced him to a state of most abject poverty. My father's circumstances have latterly rendered him unable to afford him much relief. It was not therefore to be wished, that he should longer remain in a world, where he could find nothing to enjoy, and in which there was no hope of his amendment. He has left many children. He who careth for the sparrows, must provide for them - I passed the last evening at M^r Josiah Dow's, where was a large party of gentlemen. W[illiam] Sullivan Esq[ui]re & M^r Hall were there - M^r Holly too was present but left us immediately after supper. Major Dow of Hampton, uncle of our host, was at the head of the table. He is a perfect model of rude old fashioned wit & merriment. He served in the revolutionary army & as is the case with all who were so circumstanced, has many anecdotes to relate of those days. He has much natural wit, whose homely garb makes it the more pleasing. He afforded us much sport, & seemed himself to enjoy the scene, as much as if he were now but 20 years old. M^r Hall told many stories in his usual ingenious & facetious manner - We left the table at 12 o'clock. For some time 'smut'

had become the order of the night. There was a Major Phillips there, a rope maker, who sang some humorous old fashioned-songs - Among the guests were Gen[eral] Hovey of Salem, & H. Hathorne. It was a jolly time, but tho' very temperate, I have felt the effects of it all day - Yesterday I proposed to A. Everett a law-club. He entered into the scheme, & I think we shall get it up. - The "*Considerations &c*" do not sell, tho' they have been highly puffed in the papers. The Insolvents took 40 copies at 50 p[e]r cent discount, & as the bill is post-poned to the next session, there could not be a more favorable situation of things for the sale. I have therefore a strong hope of at least indemnifying myself.