

<p>Reported Capture of the Sea-serpent</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>Thursday - 3 Sept[ember] 1818. – In the evening I went to a large party at M^{rs} Winthrop’s. There were many Carolinians & New-Yorkers present. - I was introduced to Judge Dessaussure of South Carolina, a very pleasant, intelligent, & merry man. -</p> <p>The Sea-serpent was the general subject of conversation. A messenger had come express from Gloucester to bring intelligence of his capture - he said, he had seen the animal lying alongside of a sloop - that he was 109 feet long, & would be in Boston, the following day. - All believed, & all were filled brim-full with expectation. Little parties were arranged to visit the monster. D^r Warren said, he had been requested to go below in the morning, & superintend the dissecting of him. He invited Judge Dessaussure & others to</p>
<p>Friday 4 Sept[ember] 1818</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31[a]</p> <p>go with him. -</p> <p>Next day came a woful disappointment. The might[y] prey turned out to be nothing more, than an Ablicore or Tunny [<i>i.e. tuna</i>], or horse-mackarel - a sort of fish not very uncommon. He dwindled to 20, 12, 9 & at last to 7 ½ feet. - Never was chagrin so general. Some raged, & some laughed. The talk was now of the <u>hoax</u>. -</p> <p>I dined at M^r Prescott’s. There I met with</p>

M^r Verplank, editor of *Salmagundi* ^[10], & afterwards of the *Analectic* - his two sisters, & a brother. -
E[dward] T. Channing was there - The two Grays - Gardner - Eliot &c. - It was a very pleasant party
I have seldom enjoyed one more. -

In the evening I went there again, & found a part of the company - but I was soon left with only the family. The young ladies were very

32

merry - & I was not in a merry mood - so I soon came off -

Saturday - 5 Sept[ember] 1818. - I had resolved to go this day to Salem in the morning stage - & thence to Marblehead. My object in going to the former place was, to converse with my friend J. G. King, & ascertain whether his spirits were much oppressed by the late unhappy affair of his brother James. - - I could not go in the morning, & did not get away till the afternoon stage at ½ past five. - - It was after seven when we reached Salem. I set out immediately for Marblehead on foot, and stopped at King's house by the way. I found him with his brother in law, M^r Whipple, evidently engaged in some arrangements about his brother. - He seemed much depressed, & his thin & palid countenance indicated great anxiety & distress. - I staid but a few minutes. He urged my passing the night there, but I declined, promising however to return & take tea, & pass the night on the next day.

My walk to Marblehead was sufficiently solitary, the night being quite dark, & the road deserted. -

I reached my Father's house soon after nine o'clock, [&] was joyfully received, and glad to retire to rest.

I enjoyed an unbroken slumber, & rose on Sunday in good health. -

Sunday. 6 Sept[ember] 1818. - I attended Church all day, & heard from M^r Smith in the morning a sermon on some doctrinal point, in which I felt little interest. - In the afternoon, I was better pleased, & instructed by a sermon on keeping the sabbath, in which the Preacher with considerable force, pointed out the several ways, in which we are guilty of disregarding or profaning that excellent institution.

After Church, according to my promise, I walked to Salem. To avoid the dust, I took the route across the fields, and tho' I made the walk unnecessarily long by taking a too northerly direction

I yet enjoyed it very much; for the evening was fine, and the shrubs & trees appeared in all their beauty.

- King seemed rejoiced to see me, and was more composed & chearful, than he had been, the evening before. - The cordiality of my reception from both M^r & M^{rs} K[ing] gratified me much - Their interesting

little girl, now just beginning to lisp, added much to our pleasure. I was pleased to see the fondness of the father, which seems to have no bounds, & is fully justified by the beauty, & engaging playfulness of the infant. - M^r King went out in the course of the evening to see his Father, who is unwell - His absence gave M^{rs} K[ing] an opportunity to speak of the affair of James, & its effect on her husband. -

She said, she was extremely glad, that I had come to see him - that M^r K[ing] seemed more like himself, than he had done since the melancholy discovery of his brother's fraud - that thro' the whole day

35

he had been anticipating my coming with an interest, which nothing else had excited -

She said, his distress had been extreme - that for several nights he had hardly slept - no one could tell, how much he had endured - His father had kept his chamber ~~for~~ ever since James's flight and was in a most wretched state of mind. -

The interest, which her husband felt in his child, seemed alone able to soothe him, & to call off his mind from its painful reflexions. -

After K[ing]'s return, he appeared for a little time agitated & melancholy - but conversation cheered & restored him, & we continued talking, till a rather late hour. -

<p>Monday 7 Sept[ember]</p>	<p>I slept well - breakfasted with King - and then went to M^r Cole's - He was not at home but I remained conversing with M^{rs} Cole & her daughter, till he returned. He seemed much</p>
<p>Tuesday 8 Sept[ember]</p> <p>Wednesday ev[enin]g 9 Sept[ember]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">36</p> <p>gratified at meeting me, & I was glad to find, that it was vacation with him. - I staid a much longer time, than I had any idea of; and was surprized on going down in town to find the fore-noon so far spent, as to leave me very little time for the visits, I had intended. - I called on Judge Story, & passed a quarter of an hour very pleasantly - I made some other calls, but could not go to see Miss Shillaber, as I had intended -</p> <p>I returned in the Stage to M[arble]h[ea]d where I passed the afternoon & night - & on Tuesday morning returned to Boston. -</p> <p>On Monday night commenced a rain-storm, being the first rain for five weeks - it has continued raining incessantly till now (Wedn[esday] ev[enin]g)</p> <p>Nothing has occurred of much importance since my return.</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;">37</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Boston. Friday - 11 Sept[ember] 181[8]</p> <p>Nothing remarkable occurred yesterday - excepting</p>

that Slyv[anus] Gray was attacked with a severe indis-
position, that has confined him for two days to
his bed. - It proceeded probably from a disor-
dered stomach. - He is now doing well. -

This day I have spent almost entirely in
business. - This evening I called at M^r
T. W. Ward's, and passed an hour & a half
very delightfully in company with him &
M^{rs} Ward. - We talked of the *Reviews of*
Franklin & Chalmers in the *North-American*.

Thence I went to C. W. Greene's to see
my old Friend Wilson, who is about sailing as
purser of the *Macedonian* on a long voyage - in-
deed I had some fears, that he might have
sailed to-day. I however found him, & enjoyed
an hour there very much - M^{rs} W[ilson] shewed me

38

a portrait of her husband lately painted by Stewart.
The likeness is very fine. -

Sunday - noon. 13 Sept[ember] 1818.

This morning I prepared myself, or rather at-
tempted to prepare myself, by prayer & reading the
scriptures, for the services of the day. - I have for
a long time found my mind wandering, and
my affections cold. I have been unable to
perform my private devotions with much interest,
or to enter with spirit & attention into the public

services - This day I determined to make an effort; My success has been partial. Vain thoughts still intruded, and even accompanied me to the house of prayer. -

M^r Channing preached. I had not heard him before for two sabbaths. His prayer was fervent, and in some parts of it, I was able to join - but some association repeatedly called my thoughts to other subjects

39

wholly unworthy of the place and the day. - I was better satisfied, however, with my performance of this duty, than I have been for some time past [in] public. - But M^r Channing's sermon was powerful & eloquent beyond description. Hi[s] text was from St. Paul - "*We walk by faith & not by sight*" - His purpose was to inculcate the duty of fixing our views & hopes constantly upon the future life. - The life of the Christian, he began, is a life of conflict. The senses are continually at war with the spirit. He feels, that he is prone to forget God, and in the cares & pleasures of this life to lose his interest in eternity. He needs [a] continual reflexion & prayer to revive & anima[te] his convictions of the reality of the Gospel promi[se] and his impressions of a future existence . -

That it is our duty to cultivate & maintain in ourselves this constant regard to futurity – this

40

liveliness of faith - we may have from the example of our Saviour. In all his instructions & discourses, we find a continual reference to the future life - he illustrates it by images, which are familiar to our senses & thoughts - Nor did he only teach - he gave himself [as] a sacrifice for the sins of mankind, that we might inherit ~~this~~ eternal existence [^]life. If God gave his own Son that by his death & resurrection, we might be assured of our own immortality, how evident is the importance of our preserving a constant regard to this great end - In our Saviour's resurrection, we have the fullest possible evidence of this future life - It could not be brought nearer to us. We then see humanity exalted into immortal glory & happiness - And how greatly superior to all that this world can afford are even the faint ideas of future happiness, which are given us here. - We see immortal man, with enlarged

41

powers, & new intelligence, entering upon an eternal[] existence. The body, we behold, raised in glory, sp[irit-]ual, pure, holy & active - every tear is wiped from the eye - its vigor is immortal. - Shall it be said, that the pleasures of our present existenc[e] are sufficient to justify our neglect of thes[e] sublime hopes? - What then is that existen[ce?]
Three score years & ten, or at most eighty ye[ars,] is the most that any mortal is daring enough[h] to look forward to - How few even attain to

that. Death strikes not alone the heavy head.
His chosen victims are those, who have not reach[ed]
the summit of the hill of life. - And ~~how~~ will
you say, that this short existence has joys, tha[t]
are worthy to call off our affections from eternity.
Go to the chamber of sickness - look upon the palid
cheek - the half-closed eye - and then ask, if
this life can boast such exquisite delight -
Go, to the house of mourning - behold those mel[an-]

42

choly weeds - those sighs, that heave the breast -
and then say, if here are pleasures, in which we
may well forget the prospect of a ~~future existence~~ ^{^ futurity}.

But, it may be said, these are only solitary in-
stances in the midst of an abundance of delights
& joys. Let me then follow you to your chosen
abodes of pleasure - Let us look at that prospere-
ous family, whose table is loaded with every
luxury, which has bidden farewell to care -
Even here, I see the appetite palled with excess;
an incapability of ~~enjoyment~~ ^{^ pleasure} arising from mere
abundance - and that “worst of fatigues, the
fatigue of enjoyment” - Nor is this all - While I
look, this gay & splendid scene vanishes from my
sight; the place, that was filled with cheerful-
ness, is now empty & gloomy” - -

(But I cannot follow M^r C[hanning] any longer -
At this passage pronounced with admirable effect,

I felt myself overpowered - my eyes were suffused with tears, & I was obliged to conceal them from view - The pathetic description was pursued, every word was filled with feeling, and found its way to the soul. But I do not remember them. I have no recollection but of the feelings they excited - .) - The sermon closed with an eloquent exhortation to the hearers, never to lose sight of the great object of their hope to endeavour continually to revive these holy impressions by relexion & prayer - & to set their affection on things above. -

Sunday afternoon - called before meeting to see Miss M. Lee, who came into town yesterday from M[arble]h[ea]d & is at M^{rs} Jackson's. - From her I learned that my Father on Friday evening was quite indisposed with a head-ache so severe, as to produce for [a] time some alarm. But on Saturday morning, he had

recovered. - - M^r Popkin preached for M^r Channing. His sermon was a most uninteresting one, on Virtue its own reward - Text - "*In keeping these there is great reward*" - - After tea Geo[rge] W. Gray & myself walked to Medford. We found M^{rs} Gray's family seated round a fire - and passed two hours with them very pleasantly - We set out on our return a little after nine, and after a slight

sprinkling with rain, we reached home about
20 minutes past ten, very little fatigued. -

Monday - 14 Sept[ember] 1818.

In the morning I prayed with more than usual
satisfaction, and went about the business of the day
with a feeling of serenity. - The forenoon was chiefly
devoted to business - M^r Lee informed me of a fact,
to which he had alluded on Saturday - that A.
Tours, incensed by my insisting on my Father's claims
against him, was maligning me to every one, &

45

endeavoring to injure my business - and had, to M^r L[ee]'s
knowledge, prevented one person's coming to me who
had intended it. - I could not but despise th[e]
man for this piece of petty malice - I have
indulged too, both to-day & on Saturday, some feel[ing]
of anger, which it is my duty to suppress. - I wro[te]
him a letter on Saturday, expostulating on this con-
duct. What has been its effect I know not - T[his]
controversy exposes me to great temptation - an[d]
I am somewhat perplexed as to the course, which
it may be most prudent to take. -

I dined to-day at the house of M^{rs} Pres[cott]
widow of the late Judge P[rescott] - It was a dinner g[iven]
by Theoph[ilus] principally for M^r Elliot, who is about s[ail-]
ing for Europe. - Besides M^r E[lliott] there were pr[es-]
ent M^r Phillips, M^r Greenwood, M^r Sparkes,
M^r Pickering, Spinner, Geo[rge] Mason, & J. T. Winth[rop.]

It was a pleasant dinner. I had considerable conversation with M^r Sparkes resp[ectin]g *Chalmers*, & the late *Review* by M^r Brazier.

This ev[enin]g has been spent in writing or thinking at the office - & from 9 to near 10 in walking in the Mall - being a fine moon light.

Sylvanus Gray set out this afternoon for M[arble]h[ea]d intending to go thro' Medford, & to take his sister with him.

Boston - Tuesday ev[enin]g - 15 Sept[ember] 1818

Nothing remarkable has occurred to-day - - I have passed it rather lazily - I have been much grieved at rec[eivin]g from my father a letter, in answer to one of mine, discouraging an expectation of his refunding any part of the sum I paid for him to Tours, towards enabling me to make up a fund for purchasing books in England. - Tours has failed to perform his promise of paying \$100 - & I have determined to send the papers to M[arble]h[ea]d that a suit may be commenced

there. - // - This ev[enin]g the Heavens have been illumined by vivid & almost incessant flashes of lightning - pr[incipally] in [the] north - where I think must have been a tremendous storm. - Some thunder clouds have passed directly ov[er] us - but not uncommonly charged - The air this afternoon & evening has had a deadning stup[or &]

warmth, attended with great dampness.

Thursday ev[enin]g 17 Sept[ember] 1818.

Yesterday & to-day I have spent principally in reading *Mass[achusetts] Rep[or]ts* - together with some lighter reading . - Ther[e] has been no event of any importance.

Sunday. 20 Sept[ember] 1818.

M^r Channing preached in the morning - His text was the same as that of the sermon noticed ante p[age] 4 - "*Watch & pray, that ye enter not into temptation.*" - - M^r C[hanning] now pursued the subject by pointing out the da[n-]gers to our Christian character arising from our dw[el-]ling in a large & populous place - These he clas[sed] under several heads. - 1. The multitude & variety of objects, which distract the attention & dissipate the in[terest,] and by exposing us to a rapid succession of impressions

48

tend to prevent those deep impressions, which religion demands. -

[2.] The power of opinion - the influence of ridicule - & of fashion - M^r C[hanning] remarked, that in small places there might be more of malignant slander - but in large places, there was more of satire and sarcasm. Men dread ridicule more than hatred - and are tempted to sacrifice everything to avoid it. - On the homage paid to Fashion M^r C[hanning] was powerful & eloquent. She was, he said, erected into a divinity, and obeyed with a devotion seldom paid to the true God. - [3.] There followed a noble exhortation to Christian Independence, the nature of which M^r

	<p>C[hanning] most happily described - This was the best part of the sermon - & it has seldom been excelled, even by M^r C[hanning]. - [4.] The gratification of the senses, & the disposition to splendor & shew was the next division –</p> <p>Here too M^r C[hanning] was deeply impressive. He attacked with irresistable eloquence, that “<i>gawdy, shewy, self-indulgent</i>” life, which too many lead - that sacrifice of every thing to outward splendour. –</p>
<p>Here M^r C[hanning] introduced admirably the parable of the Pharisee & Publican.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">49</p> <p>The Hon[orable] Sec[retary] of State (J[ohn] Q[uincy] Adams) was one of the hear[ers] of this sermon. -</p> <p>In the afternoon, the Devotional parts of the service were p[er-]formed by Deacon Greele. - M^r Channing preached, an[d] his sermon was a very instructive and impressive[e] elucidation of the proper mode of performing the duty of prayer - Text. Luke [chapter] 11 – [verse] 1 . “<i>Lord, teach us to pra[y]</i>” M^r C[hanning] enumerated & enlarged upon the following requisites to acceptable prayer - 1. - A sense of entire dependence on God - 2. - A belief in God’s forgiving goodness. We must pray with faith - 3. - Humility - a sense of our own unworthiness - and a conviction, th[at] whatever is given must flow solely from God’s undeserved mercy. - 4. - In our petition for earthly blessings, o[ur] language should be general, moderate & chastised 5. - We should pray with submission to the will of God. 6. - We must have a benevolent, forgiving dispositio[n] towards others. - On all of these in order M^r C[hanning] i[n-]sisted with his usual clearness and force. He exerted</p>

<p>Tooth extraction</p> <p>The <i>Macedonia</i>, with my friend J. Wilson [as] purser, sailed [a]bout noon, on [a] long voyage.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">50</p> <p>himself less on speaking, than in this morning - and his sermon would probably be considered less eloquent - To me, however, it was even more interesting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>Just before afternoon service I called on D^f Randall, and submitted to the extraction of a tooth, which had decayed, and had not only caused me much pain - but had caused my face to swell considerably. - The extraction was rather difficult, and gave me for the moment great pain. - But it was of short duration - and I rejoice that my jaws are rid of so troublesome an inmate.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>Evening - After half an hour spent at the Athenæum, I called at Uncle May's, where I found Aunt M[ay] returned from Portland - and apparently very well. - I staid there an hour; & then, having learned that Aunt J. Sewall had returned from Brookline, I went to see her. I</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">51</p> <p>met there Uncle May. - Aunt S[ewall] made a favorable report of Miss Sterns's health - & seemed herself chearful & well. - An hour passed away rapidly - & at nine o'clock I returned home.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday</p> <p>Tuesday. 22 Sept[ember] 1818. - Having yesterday rec[eived]</p>

from M^r Williams of London a letter conveying the pl[eas-] ing intelligence of his having obtained a transfer to [the] name of Miss A. Orne of the S[outh] Sea annuities bequeathed to Susannah Orne her mother by the will of El[ijah] Russell & had rec[eive]d the dividends for one third of the nett proceeds of which, being £44..13[shillings] St[erlin]g he authorized Miss Orne & J. Prentiss J[unio]r each to draw, a[nd] supposing that my friend King, & all the oth[er] Salem gentlemen on whom I could rely to transa[ct] the business for me, were attending Court at M[ay] bury-port, I resolved to go to Salem in the eleve[n] o'clock stage. - I did so - in the stage was M^r Gilman, brother of M^{rs} King, & M^r Henry

52

Blanchard. M^r G[ilman] communicated to me many facts resp[ectin]g the literary men of Edinburgh, which I did not before know. It was a tolerably entertaining ride. - We reached Salem about a quarter past one; so that I thought it better to take my dinner at the tavern, than to trouble any one of my friends. - Soon after dinner I met Judge Story, who insisted on my going to his house, & had the goodness to turn back with me. - He shewed me a letter to himself from Sir W[illiam] Scott, respecting the two volumes of my Reports, which he had sent to Sir W[illiam] thro' M^r Bagot. - The letter contained many compliments highly flattering to the Judge. He expressed the satisfaction he derived from perusing these volumes, and the impression they gave him of the high state

	<p>of legal science in the U[nited] States. - The letter was forwarded by M^r Bagot, in one from himself, in which he gave</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">53</p> <p>an extract on the subject of the Reports from Sir [William's] letter to him, still more highly complimentary.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">I spent an hour with the Judge in his stud[y] very delightfully. Altho' his mind appeared to [be] much & painfully occupied by the situation of his little girl, afflicted with a dangerous & distressing illness, he conversed much & fluently as usual. -</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Thence I went to Miss Orne's house, & found she was at Col[onel] Lee's. On my way thither, I passed a shop, from which Miss Shillaber kindly came out purposely to meet me. I was rejoiced to meet her, and would gladly have spent much time with her could I have spared it. As it was, I could only ask if she had any message to M[arble]h[ea]d - & then af[ter] a few minutes conversation, I hastened onwards.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">I found Miss Orne at Col[onel] Lee's - com-</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">54</p> <p>municated to her the joyful news - and then went away for M^r Savage, a Notary Public, and procured Miss O[rne]'s signature to a power of Attorney, to be sent by ^to M^r Williams. - - As I was</p>

about sending by M^r Eliot for some books, & wished some funds in London, it was very convenient to me to take Miss Orne's bill for £44 .. 13, which I did & paid her the money, not deducting my own charges. - Having settled this, I called on B[enjamin] L[ynde] Oliver, who shewed me a book he has just published entitled "*Hints for an Essay on Happiness.*" - I am told it is a singular production, 7 not without merit. . - Contrary to my expectation, I found King at his Office. He seemed rejoiced to see me - I went to his house & took tea - and at near seven o'clock, set

55

out to walk to M[arble]h[ea]d - King kindly offered to accompany me part of the way. - I was at a loss to know, whether he wished to talk of the late unfortunate affair of his brother & W. S Gray - or to give me an opportunity of talking with him on my own views, as he [^] some time since expressed a wish to do - I waited, & even gave an occasion for introducing the first topic, but f[inding] ing he said nothing about it, I opened to him my own state of feeling on the subject of my hom[e-]less unmarried condition. - I was surprized to find, that he rather discouraged marriage & said that he enjoyed himself as great a share of domestic happiness, as fell to the lot of most, but that he could hardly conceive that a man situated as I am, with many friends

	to visit, & every means of gratification, should
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 23 Sept[ember]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">56</p> <p>sigh for matrimony. - We then entered into a discussion of this subject, I urging the miseries of being an old bachelor - he palliating them, & at the same time advising me, if I wished to be married, in what manner I should proceed - So we went on, till we reached the hill just by Wyman's Mills, & there I objected to his going further. - We parted, & he called to me, saying he would write me a long letter on the subject. -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I found at M[arble]h[ea]d my Mother, M^{rs} Bubier, & Cousin Mary, seated <u>en famille</u> at work. - It was near nine o'clock, for I had stopped to talk with Capt[ain] Prentiss, & make an arrangement about his business in England. - They were much surprized, of course, at seeing me. - My Father came in soon after, & was yet more astonished. -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The next morning I returned by the Stage,</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">57</p> <p>having left the completing of my business with Capt[ain] Rentiss to my Father, who, to my great satisfaction, undertook to procure also his bil[l] for £44 .. 13 [shillings] - deducting my charges. - I was hop[ing] to be able to bring some fine Moguls to Miss H[arriet] Sterns.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">On this day, I opened in the Dist[ri]ct Court a cause</p>

<p>24 [September]</p> <p>Friday</p> <p>25 [September]</p>	<p>of the U[nited] S[tate]s ag[ain]st Hon[orable] J. Thorndike, respecting ___ on Treasury notes. It is one of some importance in principle. -</p> <p>In the afternoon I went with M^r John H[all] to examine the machinery at his dye-hou[se] in Lynn, he having retained me in a ea[se] suit, which Barrett & Stearns have commenc- ed ag[ain]st him for infringement of their pat[ents.]</p> <p>- The inquiries there occupied considerabl[e] time, & we did not reach Boston again, ti[ll] near nine o'clock.</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p>26 Sept[ember]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">58</p> <p>This day I was happy to receive from my Father the bill I had wished for, which added to that from Miss Orne, will purchase the books I now stand most in need of. - I handed a memorandum of the books, & the bills of exchange, together with a letter to S. Williams Esq[ui]re inclosing Miss Orne's power [of attorney], to M^r W[illiam] H. Eliot, who kindly undertook to attend to purchasing my books. -</p> <p>I dined at M^r E. Dwight's, the brother in law of M^r Eliot. The dinner seemed to be a parting one between M^r E[liot] & his friends. - Miss Cath[erine] Eliot, & Miss Bradford were there - Judge Prescott, M^r J. P. Davis, M^r Dutton, M^r Sparkes & M^r Green- wood, were among the guests. - It was a pleasant dinner enough, tho' the conversation was neither</p>

	<p>very brilliant, nor very instructive - M^r Tyng came in after the Ladies had retired. -</p> <p>I took leave of M^r Eliot at the office about six o'clock. I regret much to lose him from the office.</p>
<p>M^r Sparkes</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">59</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday. - 27 Sept[ember] 1818.</p> <p>I rose early, and enjoyed a very fine walk o[ver] South Boston Bridge. The morning was cool, but un[u-]sually bright & pleasant. It was the fine bracing a[ir] which invigorates the step, & elevates the spirits. -</p> <p>Before meeting-time I read about 50 pages of H[annah] More's work on <i>Female Education</i>. -</p> <p>M^r Sparkes preached for M^r Channing. It is, I believe, the third time of his preaching, first of his preaching in Boston. His prayer was very fine ^{^ devout} - His sermon was on Error - its causes & consequences. - Text. "<i>Always learn[ing] yet never coming to the knowledge of the truth</i>" -</p> <p>The sermon did not equal the expectation I had formed from my knowledge of M^r Sparkes. It however contained several striking passages, and though less original in thought, & cogent in expression, than I had supposed would proceed from his energetic min[d]</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">60</p> <p>it gave promise of better things to come. His manner</p>

Falcon sails

was in general easy & unembarrassed - occasionally impressive - but for the most part wanting in spirit & feeling. - I think, however, when more habituated to preaching, he will succeed much better.

This day at 11 o'clock was appointed for the sailing of the *Falcon* for Liverpool, on board of which M^r Eliot & several others were to go. - I hastened to the wharf after meeting to see them off - & take leave again - but they had been so punctual to the hour, that the ship was then far on her way to the Castle ^[11]. -

In the afternoon M^r Channing preached. His sermon was from John's Gospel - Ch[apter] 8 - v[erse]s 31 to 34 - The subject was "*the liberty which true religion gives*" - - M^r C[hanning] undertook to shew, that the restraints imposed by religion on our passions & appetites are

61

intended to make us free - and that these inclinations, when uncontrolled, become despotic masters and enslave both our bodies & minds. - He instanced in, and descanted at large, & with his usual eloquence, upon, 1 - Our Sensual appeti[tes] - 2. The love of gain - 3. The love of human pra[ise.] - It was the same with all our passions & desires. -

After meeting I had a very pleasant walk over S[outh] Boston bridge with J. Mansfield. We entered the new church there, which we found a very

neat building inside. -

After reading at the Anthenæum the concluding half of the *Article on the Poor laws* in the *Quarterly Review*, I went to Uncle J. Sewall's - I found Aunt S[ewall] altogether alone - She seemed unusually well & in go[od] spirits. - I enjoyed very highly half an hour's conversation with her - Uncle Sewall came in, & another half hour went off equally pleasantly. - These

62

are friends for whom I cannot be too grateful to God. - Miss Sterns, I learned, is not yet essentially better.

Monday. 28 Sept[ember] 1818.

I rec[eive]d a very grateful mark of attention from M^r & M^{rs} Lee of Congress Street. - M^r Lee called on me in the morning, & invited me to a family dinner, saying there was a packet at his house for me from Montreal, which M^{rs} Lee had detained & would not suffer him to bring up, because she would ensure my coming to dine.

- I of course assented to these pleasant & easy terms of recovering my sequestered property.

- I found there M^r Potter, an English Gent[leman] the bearer of my packet, & M^r Wells - M^r P[otter] had come to Boston with the intention of going to England in the *Falcon* - but was a few hours too late - - We had a pleasant social dinner.

63

I never enjoyed any moments more, than in this
right generous & hospitable family -

I passed the afternoon & ev[enin]g in my office,
preparing for the C[ommon] Pleas [Court].

Tuesday. 29 Sept[ember] 1818.

The C[ommon] Pleas began. - Nothing new during
the day.