

Sunday. 1 Nov[ember] 1818.

M^r Channing preached this morning. His sermon was a continuation of one delivered a short time since and which I well remember in "*Examining our faith*" - Text. "*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith*" -

- In the former sermon M^r C[hanning] had pointed out the obstacle to this self-examination, arising from our propensity to think too well of ourselves. - It was now his design to offer some remarks upon our opposite propensity, which was equally a part of our nature, to self-distrust. - He explained with a subtlety & precision, worthy of the acutest metaphysician, & at the same time with a truth & force of remark inspired by the soundness of his subject, the operation of this principle - He thought it to be at the bottom of most of the vanity & pride, which we discover. Men never

are vain of qualities of the understanding & h[ear]t which are really praiseworthy. - It is a de[fi]ciency of consciousness of inward deficiency, which lea[ds] them to place their reliance on outward advantages, on wealth, birth, dress, office, p[osition], notice & distinction from others - - M^r C[hanning] th[en] addressed himself with admirable pathos, w[ith] the clearest reasoning, & a deep insight in to t[he] workings of the heart, to those christians, wh[o] from a desponding temper of mind, are le[d]

to think discouragingly of their spiritual sta[te]
- 1. - Faith - This he said was a quality of
the heart - an obedient temper - a relianc[e]
on God - It was not the assent to the tru[th]
of any creed. - Truth was indeed impor[tant]
as it affects practice - but it is not the mo[st]

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valuable - & the good men, who may be found in
every sect & community, prove that it is not
the creed, the belief merely, which ensures salva-
tion. - 2. - He spoke of the want of that
fervor & joy, which are seen in some, & which
discourages others, who find themselves incapable
of it. - Sensibility was indeed important. -
Christianity often addresses our sensibility - But
much of the former we see, is far from being valuable -
it is often the result of vanity, or delusion. -

Besides, God requires of us only according to what
he has given. True religion consists rather in
a settled, determined purpose of obedience,
than in feeling - Let not then these timid
spirits be cast down - This was an admirable

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sermon. - In the afternoon M^r Warner of
Charlestown preached - His sermon was upon "Rightou[s-]
ness" - It was a good sermon, tho' not distinguishe[d]
by any original thought, or striking expressions.

I made no visits this evening - but passed it
in reading -

Tuesday - 3 Nov[ember] 1818.

I rec[eive]d notice from the stageman that Commodo[re]
Lewis was in town, & had put up at the Ex[change] Coffe[e]
House. - I could not call on him till evening.
About half past six G. W. Gray & myself went, an[d]
after some difficulty found him in the dining roo[m.]
It was nearly or quite twenty years since I ha[d]
seen him. He of course did not know me. - Wh[en]
I had mentioned my name & M^r Gray's he see[m-]
ed rejoiced to see us. - We went with him in[to]
the Dining Hall, and conversed with him abo[ut]
twenty minutes - during which I was endeavor[ur-]
ing to recall some of my former impressions of his

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face and manner, but in vain. Indeed, he is no doubt
much changed since that time. - We took our
leave about 7 o'clock, and I promised to call on
him on the morrow; he, on the other hand saying
he "would call at my bureau." - Little did I
then think what the next hour would bring forth. -

- For I had just set foot in my office on my
return, when the bell rang for fire, and upon look-
ing out of the window, I beheld the flames
bursting frightfully from the upper windows of
the S[outh] West corner of the Exchange Coffee House. ^[7] -
- I made all haste into State Street, where I

found a great crowd, but no fire was to be seen.
Many went away, supposing the danger past -
But it was evident, that there was a great deal of
smoke in the building, and in diff[erent] parts of it, peo-
ple were seen lifting the windows to avoid smothering.

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There seemed to be much bustle within the hous[e]
and I saw at intervals flashes of light, which[h]
seemed to come from the roof, and to illuminat[e a]
volume of smoke that hung over it - The smo[ke]
evidently increased - and in about fifteen m[in-]
utes a cloud of black thick smoke rose sudd[en-]
ly accompanied by a flash of light, which wa[s]
instantly gone - but in a minute after the f[ire]
burst again with great fury from the windows of
the S[outh] W[est] corner - and it became decided, th[at]
it would be with great difficulty, if at al[l]
that this immense pile would be saved - fo[r]
the engines could not reach to that heig[ht]
- The progress of the flames was inconceivably
rapid - - In less than an hour, the whole of th[e]

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two upper stories (6th & 7th) were in flames -
and about that time the dome fell into the area,
where I have since been told by M^r Theop[hilus]
Parsons, he & several others were standing
secure under the lower colonade - and that
the spectacle was truly sublime, the whole
area being immediately filled with white

flame - But it was necessary imm[ediatel]y after this to quit the building, for by this the fire was communicated to the whole lower part of the edifice - The exertions, however, of the citizens, continued as long as it was possible to remain, and even long after the hazard had become considerable from the falling of burning pillars into the area. They thus saved from destruction a great part of the valuable furniture, and some part of the liquors, and even the glass doors & windows

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were taken out & removed. - // - It would be i[m-] possible to describe the splendor, and awful ser[en-] ity of the scene, when the whole of this vast [ed-] ifice had become one burning glowing f[ur-] nace. - The adjoining range of buildings [on] Devonshire Street were also in flames, an[d] added to the terrible magnificence of th[e] sight - - // - For a wide distance, & inde[e]d almost through the town, it was light as th[e] brightest day, and upon issuing from a[ny] room or covered place, where the light did [not] reach, one could not but be startled for a [mom-] ent at the unnatural day, in to wh[ich] he seemed to enter. - The great volum[e] of flame, which poured out from the bur[ning] pile threatened a wide destruction. - But [there]

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was fortunately very little wind. What there

was, was in the direction towards the water,
and carried the cinders over State Street
towards the Long Wharf. - Upon the build-
ings, & warehouses in State Street, & Merch[an]ts
Row - Butler's Row &c there fell a thick
& incessant shower of fire - They were most
of them slated, and in all a watch was
kept. - Fire took on several composition roofs
but was soon extinguished. - // - The cinders
were carried to a great distance - I have been
told, that M^r Williams on Noddli's Island
was obliged to keep a strict & incessant watch
to prevent his wooden buildings, & barns
filled with hay, from being consumed - and
a piece of the balustrade, two or three inches long,

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fell burning on Codman's Wharf, where it was caught up
& extinguished. - A ship, at a wharf at the N[orth]
end, took fire from a spark falling on the tar-paint.

About nine o'clock ~~the~~ large portions of t[he]
Northern & Southern walls fell outward - I w[as]
then absent, having gone to my office to d[ry]
myself, for I had been wet in handing w[a-]
ter - I have been told that the bend & the
fall were awful. Fortunately no one was injure[d.]
The Northern wall struck the top of Roger's build-
ing, & then crumbled down between that, & the
base of the Coffee-House. It is wonderful it [did]
not crush the building, it fell upon - -

The front wall was thus left isolated and presented a most threatening aspect. It was considerably inclined towards the street and was every moment expected to crush them.

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opposite buildings on Congress Street, where were the *Palladium Office - Centinel & Gazette Offices* ^[12]. - A part of the first fall did fall and struck the top of the South-Western corner of Suffolk buildings, which was thus set on fire, but was extinguished by the intrepidity & perseverance of a Company of Engine-men from Chs'tn [*Charlestown*] ^[7] who animated by their Captain Gage, kept their ground at the very foot of the threatening front wall, and played upon the Suffolk building. - I had not considered my friend N. Hale's Office in danger, till about nine. I then went to State Street, & met Mr Duniage, who told me that all Hale's property had been safely removed. - // - // - I saw many persons in the buildings occupied by the *Palladium Office*[,]

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Wells & Lilly's printing office &c at work, throwing water, and passing up the engine hose, until the tottering wall that rose on the opposite side of the street seemed every instant about to crush them. Regardless of danger, they continued to work, & finally saved these buildings.]

By 12 o'clock nothing was left of the Coffee House, & adjoining buildings, but a pile of ruins, & smoking walls. -

The front wall continued to stand, & on the next day had resumed its erect position. It is said, that it was warped by the pressure of the heat & flame - & that it became upright again as it cooled. - I observed it narrowly during the fire, & have no doubt that the top did incline to the street. - I am

equally certain, that it did not so incline, when I saw it on the next day. -

Ingenious mechanics were employed on Wednesday, to pull down the walls. - To level the front wall was a work of great difficulty & danger - It was effected by means of cables & pulleys about four o'clock. P.M. on Wednesday. - I did not see the fall. -

There are many conjectures, as to the manner in which this fire took - the most probable seems to be, that it was from a defect in the kitchen chimney near the roof - and that the fire had extended considerably, under the ceiling before it was discovered. -

The Coffee House was a noble edifice, containing 210 rooms - Its principal front was on Congress Street, where was a handsome

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range of flat pillars fixed to the wall. The base was of granite - There was an inner wall in_ ing an oblong area, open to the top of the build[ing] and covered by a dome, of an oval form, with elegant converging window sashes, thro' w[hich] sufficient light w[as] received. - Around th[e] area were galleries or corridors, supported by p[il-] lars, one for each story, and doors communi[ca-] ting with the rooms. - - There was an elega[n]t spiral stair-case in the South East corner, [as-] cending from bottom to the top of the building. -

It has been for about 18 months kept [by] a M^r Barnum, who had made it a mos[t] excellent establishment. - He is a great suf-ferer.

This same evening, while the fire was raging in B[osto]n, a rope-walk took fire in Chs'tn [*Charlestown*] ^[7], & was burned.

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Wednesday. 3 Nov[ember] 1818.

Nothing talked of but the fire - I did not find out what had become of Comm[odore] Lewis, till about 11 o'clock, when M^r W. H. Bordman told me, he had seen him in search of his baggage, & that

he had gone to M^{rs} Delano's. - As soon as I was at liberty, I called there, and not finding him within, I left a card. - I was however glad to find, that his trunks were there. - - I called again in the evening, but he was not 'within' -
- I called at M^r Lee's in Congress Street, from the vicinity of whose family to the fire, I concluded they must have been in some alarm, tho' in no immediate danger - I was not mistaken. ~~They had~~ The ladies had been much alarmed - I passed an hour there, talking of course of the spectacle, we had seen the ev[enin]g before -

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Friday - 6 Nov[ember] 1818.

In the evening read 100 pages of *Coxe's Life of Walpole*, & finished the 2^{[n]d} volume -

Sunday - 7 Nov[ember] 1818.

M^r Tuckerman has preached all day -
In the morning his exercises, both the prayer a[nd] sermon, were remarkably impressive. - I h[ave] never heard the throne of grace addressed w[ith] more fervor, nor the petitions better chosen or better expressed. - The subject of the sermon was "*the value & excellence of wisdom (or [re-]ligion) above all other possessions or objects of [de-]sire*" - He placed before us the several adva[n-]tages of knowledge, riches, power & estim[a-]tion - and pleasure - all of which are desir[ed]

and when sought with moderation, and with proper motives, are laudable. He compared the

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several powers to contribute to human happiness with that of religion - and in the clearest, most forcible & often eloquent manner, demonstrated the immense superiority of religion. -

In the afternoon the sermon was on "*the benefits resulting from the Gospel*" - ["*The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation &c &c - The Kingdom of God is within you.*"] - - In answer to the inquiry - "*If this religion be of God, why do we witness so few of its beneficial effects?*" - Mr Tuckerman explained & enforced the numberless heartfelt secret blessings which spring from a pure & lively faith - the confidence, and joy, and peace, which the true believer enjoys - He also insisted with much ingenuity upon the improvement in the moral condition of society resulting from the gospel.

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- I read to-day one of *Logan's sermons* - this evening, at the Athenæum, the pamphlet [on] *the relations between the United States & the Spanish colonies*, published some time since in Philadelphia.

- I called at Uncle J. Sewall's, and spent an hour & an half. - It was a melancholy visit. Miss Harriet Sterns has declined very rarely

pidly for the week past, and is now so weak [and]
low, that her dissolution, it is thought, cannot [be]
far distant - -

Sunday - 15 Nov[ember] 1818.

The past week has not been marked by any [oc-]
currence of much importance - My usual occupa[tions]
and studies have continued. I have effected litt[le]
in the way of study, having been for the most par[t]
engaged in business. -

This morning M^r Channing preached. I wa[s]
much gratified at seeing him in the pulpit.

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having supposed that he was out of town. - His ser-
mon was from the words “~~the wicked to~~ ^{^ they that have done evil unto} the resurrection of
damnation” -

Marginal note: John [chapter] V. - [verses] 28, 29.

In this sermon M^r Channing treated
the very interesting subject of future punishment. He
began by remarking, that it was one in which all men
felt a deep interest - that on the one hand, fear re-
presented the wicked as subject to torments, inconsis-
tent with the goodness & equity of God - on the
other, vice was disposed to relieve its anxiety by de-
nying altogether that God had any wrath in store for
the impenitent - and false notions of benevolence
had induced many worthy Christians to hold
the ^{^ same} opinion. ~~that th[e]~~ The idea of God as a punish-

er seemed to be universal. It was found in all religions - among all people. - By nature we are made subjects of punishment. Pain operates upon us perhaps more strongly than pleasure. Hence

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punishment is employed in childhood to discipline _ to obedience & to application. - It might be _ thought strange, that any should assert that _ punishment is denounced in scripture ag[ain]st the guilty. Yet, plain as are the declarations of t[hese] inspired writings, this opinion has been enha[nced] and promulgated - and from its nature it ha[s] found many to receive it - It is a most d[an-]gerous error - It breaks in upon the very constitu[tion] of society - and if it could prevail, there woul[d be] nothing to prevent the repetition of those atroci[ties] which modern times have witnessed, as the res[ult] of atheism. - It had not indeed as yet bee[n] productive of any extensive mischief, because [its] very grossness prevents its being fully & perfect[ly] believed. - There is another opinion, entert[ain-]

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ed by many, who no doubt are very worthy & sincere christians. It is, that the punishment will reform the sinner & that he will finally be happy. - This too, he feared, was a view of the subject dangerous to be held out. - Men would look more at the end, than at the punishment. - If indeed they could have it distinctly & seriously impressed upon their minds,

that ages of suffering would attend those who died in impenitence, the restraint might be sufficient. But very few would be thus impressed. A punishment which has an end would by self-flattery be regarded as of short duration, and in the endless happiness, that should follow it, would be lost sight of.

M^r C[hanning] then said, that his own views of this great subject were, that nothing distinct or defini-

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tive was announced concerning it in scripture. It [is,] he thought, designedly left in obscurity - “[*the solemn darkness rests upon the prison-house of the damned*” - If mercy were intende[d] it would obviously be most consistent with u____ not to reveal it. - Adam, when he was to [ld] not to eat the forbidden fruit, was not told, that [if] he should eat, a saviour would be sent. - So the punis[h-]ment of the impenitent is only denounced generally in figurative language borrowed from the then prevailing [____] of punishment, such as sawing asunder, throug[h] [____] out the body to be devoured by worms, burning &c. T[hese] all convey the idea of a pain terribly great. - In some passages the term “everlasting” is applied [to] this misery - Others appear to countenance [____] supposition - But most seem to indicate annihi[la-]tion, or ceasing to be. - From a comparison of all

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of them, the inference is, that nothing distinct is foretold.

We are told all we [are] concerned to know - that the wicked will be punished, and that their punishment will be great. - But it is no where revealed, that any mercy will be extended to them, or that their punishment will have an end - *“The gospel banishes the impenitent into utter darkness - and there it leaves them - If there be any mercy, it is yet to be revealed. I may have a hope - but it is no part of my message - no part of that doctrine, which I am authorized to preach”*.

M^r C[hanning] would not be thought to recommend fear as a governing motive of conduct. - It was necessary, that we should fear, but fear alone could not make men christians - There might be some, who needed not the curb of fear; and no doubt there had been a few, who had rejected the idea of future punishment ~~from~~ because they found, that their own characters were formed without the influence of fear - But *“firebrands though scattered by the innocent & the well-intentioned would be*

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firebrands still” - Fear might indeed be, and of[ten] had been carried to excess. - There was equal da[n-]ger on that side. These terrible & extravagant des[crip-]tions of future torment, in which some indulged, could do little good. It was like carrying a man to the brink of the precipice, where giddiness, wou[ld] overcome his senses - or he would fly, & forget what he had seen. - Such representations hav[e] induced many to resort to an utter denial of

punishment ^* - And others had become under thei[r]
influence so hardened and insensible, that they ce[as-]
ed to have any effect.. “*The thunder may rol[l]*
till we sleep under its sound” - Terror is an instru-
ment to be used with caution. It may debase & harden the heart, as well as awaken i[t.]

“Alas! for them, that fear not at all -
and alas! for them, whose fears are extravagant[t]
M^r C[hanning] concluded, with praying, that we, who heard

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him, might [be] led to a just consideration of the uncertain, but
great misery, that would be the consequence of sin - and
to place our hope & confidence in the Saviour. -

After meeting I called at Uncle J. Sewall’s, where
I had a melancholy account of the situation of Miss Sterns.
She is now so much reduced, that her release from suf-
fering may daily be expected. - I found Aunt S[ewall]
alone, when I entered, and had a few minutes of interest-
ing conversation on the subject of M^r C[hanning]’s sermon, of which I
gave her an account. - Uncle S[ewall] came in soon, & joined in
the discourse. -

This afternoon M^r C[hanning] again preached - His subject was
the command “*not to love the world, nor the things of the world*”

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[Marginal note: *It was worthy of remark, that this opinion first grew up & was preached
among those, who are accustomed to these extravagant denunciations of wrath.”

It was evident, he said, that many of the

precepts of religion the gospel were not to be received in their strictly literal sense. He then considered some, which were comprehended under the general prohibition of the text. - *“Lay not up treasure upon earth”* - *“Take no*

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thought for the morrow” - *“Labour not for the meat that perisheth”* - These rigorously interpreted would p[rohibit] all acquisition of property - all provision for future w[hen] the earnings of the day must always be spent [before] another day came - men must be wholly regard[less of] their natural necessities - It was apparent [that,] thus understood, the commands could not be obey[ed.] It would also be inconsistent with the practice of ou[r Savi-] our & the apostles - and with many of their pre[cepts -] Instances of these he pointed out. -

Next, the words - *“Woe unto you, when all m[en] speak well of you &c”* - This literally interpreted w[ould] condemn all regard for the esteem & applause of ot[her] men. Yet without this society could not exist - [It was] in its due degree an innocent & even laudable des[ire] & productive of many useful consequences. - [In this] connexion, he would notice those passages, which se[em] to forbid all personal ornament, & all attention [to] dress. - It could not be intended to require of c[hristi-] tians that they should not be conformed in this resp[ect.]

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to the usages of society, if innocent. - God had given us the capacity to receive pleasure from various forms of beauty -

he had decked the fields, & various objects in nature in pleasing colors grateful to the eye - & he had spread over us the splendid canopy of heaven. - Why then should man be forbidden, in his outward decoration, to seek to please others. - M^r C[hanning] then most eloquently pointed out the folly & sin of a minute attention to dress & ornament, as the only essential or important thing - & cautioned his hearers ag[ain]st supposing, that they could derive any real superiority from dress. -

The meaning of these & similar precepts was, that these objects should receive only their just measure of attention. - They must not be made supreme - Our duty to God must be our chief object of concern. -

I read this ev[en]ing at the Athenæum the Review of *Lord Byron's 4th Canto*. It is a splendid performance

but, I think, strained & fanciful in its views - and i[n] its commendations of Byron extravagant & unjust. I can hardly think Byron entitled to the high rank as a poet, which they have given him. H[e] has fine passages - but seldom does he set ou[t] in a strain of elevated or natural sentimen[t] or of vivid description - but some incongru[ous] word or thought - something low or vulgar or out-o[f-] the way - brings down the mind, and destroys the charm. - His "*Eureka*" in the description of Rome is an instance. - It calls off the mind to [a]

common familiar story, & interrupts its course of log[ic]
or melancholy, or pleasurable emotion. -

After reading this I called at M^r Greel[e's]
and passed $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour. - and then went to
M^r T. W. Ward's, where I staid an hour very pleas[ant-]
ly.

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Wednesday ev[en]g. 18 Nov[ember] 1818.

Miss H[arriet] Sterns died last night at about eleven o'clock;
her sufferings for the last four or five days had been
great - and for the greater part of the time she had
been apparently insensible. - Her virtues and
amiable qualities will be long engraven on my memory.
She had the power of attaching every one, that was in
her society, by those engaging, unaffected manners,
which flowed from real goodness and benevolence of
heart. It was her study to contribute to the pleasures
of others. She felt a lively interest in all that con-
cerned her friends, and was never inattentive to the
smallest circumstance, which could mark her regard
for them, or her sense of the favors she received. - Mild,
gentle & affable in her deportment & conversation, she
had yet an energy more than commonly belongs to
her sex. - Her uniform chearfulness was remarkable.

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It had not abated, when I last saw her (ante p[age] 77)
- I cannot soon forget her placid look, and her brisk
lively manner at that time, which I then looked

upon as a last interview. She spoke of a box of plum[s]
I had brought for her from M[arble]h[ea]d and after ex-
pressing her thanks, said, that so much fruit had
been sent her, as to suggest the thought, that
if she were to sell it, she should gain considerabl[e]
money. - But she is gone - and will no longer
animate & cheer the circle, in which she moved -
It cannot be long before all, who have found de-
light in her society, will follow her to the dark
abodes of death. -

I called at Uncle Sewall's this evening - and
passed an hour & a half - Miss Higginson fr[om]
Salem was there - a lady, I have long desired to see,
& whom I was particularly pleased to see now wit[h]

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Aunt Sewall, knowing how much she must sustain &
console her. - Miss H[igginson] observed, that she had not
before seen me since I was an infant in arms.
She conversed much, & very pleasantly. I was much
pleased with her. - Aunt S[ewall] spoke of Harriet [Sterns], and
we had a long conversation on her virtues, each
having some little anecdote to tell of her goodness
of disposition. - I was very glad to find the
whole family so composed - and especially to see
that Aunt S[ewall] could speak of her lost niece with
firmness, and even appear chearful & animated
when describing her many traits of excellence -

Thursday ev[ening] 19 Nov[ember] 1818.

Miss H[arriet] Sterns's funeral was attended this afternoon. I was present with a few friends, & followed the body to the grave. D^r Gardner read the service –

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Sunday ev[enin]g 22 Nov[ember] 1818.

In the morning, M^r Channing preached upon the duties of his hearers to the religious society, of which [we all] are members. - His text was - 42 Ps[alm] - v[erse] 4 - "*I went wi[th] them to the House of God, with the voice of joy & praise, with a mul[ti-]tude, that kept holy-day*" - He pointed out the advan[ta-]ges of religious societies - particularly in supporting the or[dination] of the ministry, set apart to instruct, & awaken those, w[ho] might otherwise be absorbed in worldly things - but whe[n] he in the strongest terms declared the blessed effects of the institution, he admitted that ministers had also been the cause of much mischief, by their dissensions, & proselyti[si]ng [con-]t[r]arian spirit - M^r C[hanning] then pointed out the several m[ean]s in which we might testify our interest in the society of whi[ch] we are members - a regular attendance - a reverent attent[ion] especially in prayer, in regard to which it was remarked, that th[ere] was too common a habit of suffering the eyes to wander at large - He animadverted in very strong terms upon a [cus-]tom, which had been remarked as peculiarly prevailing in t[his] society, viz[it] [*namely*] of going elsewhere when others were to preach in hi[s]

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place. - He remarked on other faults - and enjoined other duties - & dwelt much upon the singing, as not enough regarded as a part of the devotional service. - He had lately heard a doxology sung at the close of worship, in which

the whole congregation seemed to join - He would repeat it imm[ediatel]y before the blessing - and if agreeable to them, it might be adopted - He said he had been led to this subject, by having understood that the vestry was now complete - He spoke of the promptness with which this valuable object had been contributed to, as highly honorable to his people. - - This afternoon M^r Chan-ning's sermon was on the transitionness of every thing earthly, which he described with great force & truth by the past, present & future - but which all changes, nothing intrinsically valuable is lost - The mind remains, & virtue will live & be happy eternally -

This ev[enin]g I called at D^r Big[e]low's, where I passed an hour very pleasantly - next at Uncle May's, where I had the good fortune to find him at home - next at Uncle Sewall's, where I saw the Misses Sterns, whose loss in the death of their ami-

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able sister is hardly to be estimated. - Aunt S[ewall] seemed to hav[e] also shared largely in their affliction -

I was grieved to learn that there is some cause to b[e] anxious resp[ectin]g the safety of M^r W[illiam] Sterns & Miss H. Robie, having sailed from Halifax in the Sch[oone]r *Rabbit* a week b[e-]fore a vessel, which has arrived - This fact has been prudently concealed from Aunt Sewall.

Wednesday 25 Nov[ember] 1818

The *Rabbit*, having on board Miss Roby, & M^r Ste[rns] arrived yesterday, after a long and perilous passa[ge]

of 18 days - Their friends were very anxious for their safety. - // - Aunt Scott also arrived from Portsm[outh] yesterday. This occurrence was very gratifying to [me] and entirely unexpected. - I called this even[ing] at M^r Lee's to see her - and had the pleasure [to] find her in good health - I then called to [see] Miss Robie, whose embonpoint prevented my

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recognizing her for some minutes - This would have been a pleasant visit, but for the damp, which the recent death of the amiable, chearful Harriet [Sterns], threw over all our spirits. She was not mentioned, but it was evident, that she was remembered. - For myself, I could not but fancy continually, how her countenance would be brightened, how her benevolent enthusiasm would glos, were she there among us - I felt as if she must be conscious, in her departed state, and sympathise with her friends. - -

Sunday 29 Nov[ember] 1818.

M^r Pierpoint preached all day. His elocution was excellently correct & graceful. His sermons were in a style of composition, that did not please me - too poetical & fine -

After meeting in the afternoon I called at M^r Lee's

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to see Aunt Scott. - In the evening I made no visi[t]

being engaged at my office. -