

**Thursday. 3 Dec[ember] 1818.**

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving day - an anniversary, which aw[a-]  
kens all our kindly feelings to our friends, & \_\_\_\_\_  
to awaken all our gratitude to God. - I atte[nd-]  
ed service at M<sup>r</sup> Channing's - & heard fr[om]  
him an excellent sermon on the Love of God  
towards his creatures - which M<sup>r</sup> C[hanning] demonstrated  
from the ~~paternal~~ tenderness always associated  
with the paternal character on earth - and o[ur]  
disposition to associate the same idea with  
that of God, as our creator, the source of all  
being, life & happiness - He also demonstrated  
it, from our own frame & constitution, natural  
& moral - & from the natural beauties, which  
every where smile around us -

I dined at Judge Prescott's, & was happy

to be received by that excellent woman, M<sup>rs</sup> P[rescott] with her  
former cordiality - for I had suspected of late, that  
my favour there had declined - There was not  
a large party. M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Amory & family - M<sup>r</sup> Tho[mas]  
Perkins J[unio]r & wife - M<sup>r</sup> W[illiam] H. Gardner & sister - &  
M<sup>r</sup> Gould, were some of them. - It was a  
very pleasant, social dinner. - I took tea  
there - & there was a considerable addition to the  
evening party - but many young ladies, that

	<p>I could not approach - I took my leave early in the evening to go to M<sup>r</sup> S. Salisbury J[unio]r's, having been invited the ev[enin]g before to meet Aunt Scott there.</p> <p>- M<sup>r</sup> Salisbury is now in the mansion-house in Summer Street, which he has lately fitted up &amp; altered -</p> <p>- Here too I went with melancholy reflexions upon the mutability of human things. - For seven years past I had, on every thanksgiving evening, met there the Salisbury family assembled under their</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>119</b></p> <p>paternal roof, and with their aged father presid[ing] over them, &amp; tasting the highest felicity on earth. Since that time, death had removed that father, &amp; thus in a manner dissolved the tie that united them. - I found no family a[s-]sembled. Aunt Scott was there - M<sup>rs</sup> Johnson a sister of M<sup>rs</sup> Salisbury - M<sup>r</sup> &amp; M<sup>rs</sup> Seaver - Miss Prentiss - M<sup>r</sup> W[illiam] Sterns - M<sup>r</sup> Tho[ma]s R. Sewal[1] M<sup>r</sup> John, &amp; M<sup>r</sup> Sam[uel] Leverett - Miss Eli[zabeth] Higginson - - M<sup>r</sup> T. N. Ward &amp; wife came in soon after. - The evening passed pleasan[tly] enough, &amp; Little Eliz[abeth] Salisbury played se[ve-]ral tunes on the piano very well - &amp; M<sup>r</sup> John _____ accompanied on the flute. We sang M<sup>rs</sup> Ba[r-]bauld's Thanksgiving hymn <sup>[5]</sup> - &amp; several other pie[ces]</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>120</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday - 6 Dec[ember] 1818.</b></p> <p>M<sup>r</sup> Channing preached in the morning, &amp; delivered one of his best sermons. The text was from</p>

*Matthew* [chapter 13, verse 31] - “*The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a grain of mustard seed &c*” - After contrasting the present with the early state of Christianity - its extended dominion, & daily progress with its feeble beginnings, where to human foresight nothing could have seemed more unlikely, than that it should attain its present strength - he proceeded to notice the dangers connected with this very extent & security. - **First** - an hereditary, established religion, is not new to our thoughts. As long as we [have] known or heard of any thing, it has been familiar to us. Hence we are in danger of receiving it passively, & without any attention & effort of our own minds. - It is with religious truth, as with all other. We must employ our thoughts

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upon it actively, if we would make it our own, & incorporate it with our own hearts, as a living inward principle - The importance of this view of the subject led Mr C[hanning] to enlarge upon it - & with great animation & force of reasoning he expressed this part of our constitution - & the importance of our working inwardly -

**2<sup>ndly</sup>** - We have no other religion with which to compare Christianity - We hear of others, they prevail in remote countries - - And [the] blessed effects of Christianity having been always in our view, we have not a proper conception of the inability of human nature alone

	<p>to produce them. - We cannot return back to the y[ears] prior to the coming of Our Lord -</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup>ly - We are in danger of indiffere[nce] &amp; sluggishness from our very security - Dange[r]</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>122</b></p> <p>awakens sympathy &amp; interest. - It is thus, that often our interest for our friends is increased by their sickness - &amp; our affections grow warmer with their danger. - Nothing binds together converts, &amp; excites them to so lively a feeling of the value of their religion, as its being exposed to danger.</p> <p>M<sup>r</sup> C[hanning] said he had not time to point out the modes, in which these dangers may be counteracted - but generally, they should induce in us greater diligence, activity &amp; care. - <i>“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”</i></p> <p>In the afternoon M<sup>r</sup> Channing again preached, and his sermon was one, I had heard before, from the text <i>“Set your affections on things above”</i> - The uncertainty &amp; unsatisfying nature of every earthly possession were insisted on as arguments for our endeavouring to</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>123</b></p> <p>keep alive that hope of an hereafter, which the gospel inspires, and which St. Paul in his epistles has so eloquently expressed.</p>

	<p>After meeting, I walked over S[outh] Boston bridge. I me[t] and joined B. Guild Esq[ui]re, who contributed much to the pl[ea-]sure of my walk - - Returning, I stopped at M<sup>r</sup> Gr[ee-]le's - &amp; was sorry to find that M<sup>rs</sup> G[reele] is sick with rheum[a-]tism. - I took tea there - and went thence to th[e] house of L. Shaw Esq[ui]re] but an appearance of their being considerable company prevented my entering -</p> <p>I next called at M<sup>r</sup> Lee's, &amp; there I remained till half past nine - Aunt Scott was there, being still the guest of this excellent family. - Cousin Thomas R. Sewa[ll] &amp; M<sup>r</sup> &amp; M<sup>rs</sup> Sterns came in soon after - Cousin T[homas] broug[ht] his flute - Miss Rebecca took her station at the pian[o] and we all joined in singing some of the best hym[ns] - Our voices, it is true, were none of the best, but w[e] enjoyed it very much - and in this way the evening we[nt] till it was too late to go to Uncle Sewall's, where I h[ad] intended to end it.</p>
<p>S[und]ay. 13. Dec[ember]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>124</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday. 3 Jan[uary] 1818. [sic - should be 1819]</b></p> <p>I went on Sat[urday] ev[enin]g to M[arble]h[ea]d and remained until Monday morning - I had the satisfaction of finding all my friends well - They welcomed with a joy, that gratified me much. My Father especially seemed extremely [happy] to see me - I attended Church  { all day &amp; heard M<sup>r</sup> Smith preach. - The organ  { played, &amp; the Church was warmed by a stove for  { the first time - - I called to see my several friends, &amp; passed some time with each. -</p>

<p>S[und]ay. 20. [December]</p> <p>Ch[ris]tmas.</p>	<p>I dined this day at Uncle J. Sewall's, Aunt Scott being now their guest. It was very gratifying to meet her again, &amp; to see her cheerful &amp; animated, entering as she always was wont, with all her soul into the pleasures &amp; social intercourse of her friends. - M<sup>r</sup> Channing preached, &amp; his sermon in the morning was on the satisfaction derived from virtue - <i>"I will lay me down in peace &amp; sleep, for the Lord makest me to dwell in safety."</i> (nearly but not exactly - See Psalms - between 10<sup>th</sup> &amp; 20<sup>th</sup>) -</p> <p>I dined on Christmas day at Uncle J. Sewall's. I ex-</p>
<p>Peace Society</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>125</b></p> <p>pected to meet Aunt Scott there, but she dined out. I heard in the morning a good sermon o[n] the blessings of Christ's advent from M<sup>r</sup> Ware.</p> <p>Christmas evening I attended the meeting of the Peace Society, of which I have lately bec[ome] a member. I had deliberated for some time, [&amp;] finally being satisfied that the principles of t[he] society are such, as every Christian ought to e[n-] courage &amp; promote, I resolved to add my name to its roll - After transacting some business at the Old S[outh] Vestry, we proceeded to the O[ld] South Church, &amp; then heard an excellen[t] Address from A. Ritchie Esq[ui]re]. It was a very beautiful &amp; chaste production, and delivered in an elegant &amp; graceful manner. -</p>

	<p>On this day too I was called on by  M<sup>r</sup> Jona[than] Phillips, who wished to know, if I sh[ould]  be pleased to meet M<sup>r</sup> Channing, M<sup>r</sup> Guild, [M<sup>r</sup>]  Greele &amp; himself, periodically, as a sort of clu[b.]</p>
<p>Sunday. 27  Dec[ember]</p> <p>28<sup>th</sup> De[ember]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>126</b></p> <p>for moral &amp; religious conversation. - This application  pleased me very much - I of course assented.  The design was, that we should meet first, &amp; then  agree on others to join us. -</p> <p>M<sup>r</sup> Greenwood preached in the morning  for M<sup>r</sup> Channing - His sermon was upon  the light shed by the Gospel - There was a good  deal of fancy, &amp; some elegant writing in the sermon.  - In the afternoon M<sup>r</sup> C[hanning] himself preached -</p> <p>On the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> &amp; 30<sup>th</sup>, I was engaged in  the Supreme Court in the trial of a cause of rather  a singular character, Bordman &amp; wife vs Dillaway -  It terminated unfortunately for our client. -</p> <p>Last evening I attended a club at Lem[uel] Shaw  Esq[uires]'. This club I had some time since been in-  vited to join, &amp; had refused, because I thought  much time would be occupied by a weekly meeting  of the North American Club. - Those meetings being  now irregularly held, I concluded to try the other</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>127</b></p> <p>but I was not very well satisfied; the conversation</p>

	<p>turned almost exclusively to Story telling - the worst species of talking - I was glad to get away at a little after ten, bringing with me a stro[ng] stench of cigar smoke. -</p>
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