

Fast day -

**Boston - 1 April - 1819 - Thursday -**

This being fast day, I attended in the morning at M<sup>r</sup> Channing's & heard from him an excellent sermon from these words "He bringeth princes to nothing - & maketh the Judges (rulers) of the earth vanity" - The purpose of the sermon was to shew, that it was upon the character of the people, the prosperity & happiness of a country must depend - rather than upon their rulers - that history proved rulers to have generally in view their own exaltation, riches - glory,

rather than the virtue of their subjects - & that in every government, even the most absolute, the conduct of the government must be determined in a great measure by the prevailing dispositions of the people - M<sup>r</sup> Ch[anning] then proceeded to make some very judicious & forcible remarks, on the employment of art & policy in the affairs of nations - he pointed out very happily the futility of these plans of human ingenuity - & how often those, which are most ingenious & deeply laid produce effects the reverse of those intended -

This afternoon I have enjoyed the luxury of remaining at home, & reading Boswell - & this evening I read in the Gent[leman]'s Mag[azine] for 1740 - 41 - 42 - the Lives of Barretier - Blake & Drake - referred to by Boswell, as the productions of Johnson's pen.

**Saturday - 3 April - 1819. Boston -**

I dined at S. Swett Esq[uires]'s. - This was the first time I had entered that house, since the sale of the furniture of my late Uncle, S. Gray. However, I thought little about it - The inhabitants, & not the house, were the objects of my affection - It was to me as a new place, & I soon entered into the hilarity of the friends, whom I met there. They were E. T. Channing, F. Dexter, Ja[me]s Savage, O. Pickering,

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and a gentleman, with whom I had no previous acquaintance - M<sup>r</sup> P. T. Jackson - F. Gray assisted his brother in law in doing the honours, M<sup>rs</sup> Swett being absent. - We had a pleasant, convivial dinner - considerable conversation - but not very enlightening - - I came away at a very seasonable hour - and repented all the evening till nine o'clock of having unfitted myself for study - About ½ past nine I took up the Adventurer - & read with some delight two or three papers - particularly one on Sleep by Johnson, which pleased me - & another on Confederacies by him also, as I judge from the signature T. -

**Sunday - 4 April - 1819 - Boston -**

M<sup>r</sup> Channing preached in the morning - My mind was unsettled & had no alacrity - I was grossly inattentive to a very excellent sermon, on the "duty of hearing Christ reverently & affectionately" - from the words spoken by God himself out of the cloud at the time of the transfiguration - "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased - Hear ye him" - - After remarking, that this is one of the few instances, in which God has instructed man by his immediate voice, & referring to prior instances, as that of Mount Sinai &c - M<sup>r</sup> Channing proceeded to

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<p>Visit M<sup>r</sup> Deblois</p>	<p>state the reasons &amp; motives for a reverent &amp; affectionate hearing of Christ. - 1 - That God himself hath spoken of him, as in the text - and that from the beginning of the world until Christ's coming, he had been an object of hope &amp; expectation - constantly foretold by God &amp; his prophets - &amp; to prepare for whose advent, the Jews were separated from all other people - 2 - His own dignity &amp; excellence of character. - 3 - His having suffered &amp; died for our sins - Of this M<sup>r</sup> C[hanning] said, he was reminded by the symbols before him (it being communion day) - He concluded with a most pathetic, eloquent appeal to the reason, and best affections of his hearers - To an earthly benefactor, they deemed ingratitude the basest of crimes - How then could they forget the benefits received from Jesus Christ - his suffering, &amp; death - how could they neglect his commands, and lightly abandon his table?</p> <p>In the afternoon M<sup>r</sup> Francis preached, a young gentleman, who has lately commenced. - His sermon was an able one on the "Example of Christ." - shewing in what manner this example is peculiarly beneficial - - M<sup>r</sup> F[rancis] in all the services was animated, correct &amp; impressive. -</p> <p>After meeting, I called at the Alms-House to see</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>M<sup>r</sup> Deblois - I found him much better, than I had expected. Indeed, since I last saw him, he has recruited amazingly, &amp; he was able to converse very well - tho' I observed generally a vacant idiotic laugh. -</p> <p>This was the ev[enin]g of the Caucus preceding the General</p>

Election - but I did not attend - Looking this ev[enin]g into the Gent[leman's] Mag[azine] (in the Athenæum) for 1748, I found (p[age] 412 D.) a catholic creed drawn up by Bishop Gibson. It pleased me not a little - I also read some anecdotes of Swift by M<sup>rs</sup> Pilkington -

I called at Aunt May's, & saw only the two boys James Greenwood - & Charles Winship - - I staid a little while to talk with James who gave me an account of his studies - I was gratified to see his sprightliness & intelligence. -

I then went to D<sup>r</sup> Biglow's - & passed an hour very pleasantly. We conversed of various matters - emulation in education &c &c - -

My next & last visit was to Uncle Sewall's - where I spent ½ an hour with my usual delight - Miss Robie was absent on a visit to Salem, which took something from my pleasure -

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**Tuesday - 6 April - 1819.**

I passed the ev[enin]g at M<sup>r</sup> Channing's with the friends, I have usually met there. M<sup>r</sup> Sparkes was there, when I went in - but retired in about half an hour. - We conversed on a variety of topics - & Paul's Epistles being spoken of by M<sup>r</sup> C[hanning] I suggested the remarkable passage in 1 Thess[alonians] Ch[apter] 4 - from which it would seem the apostle & others expected to live until the coming of Christ, & to be caught up into the clouds. - This led to a variety of interesting remarks mostly from M<sup>r</sup> C[hanning], & to sundry explanations - That wh[ich]

best satisfied me is, that “we” means all christians, who should then be living - I have looked since at Griesbach’s text, & tho’ the passage is not free from difficulty, I am the more strengthened in this opinion -

**Wednesday - 7 April. 1819.**

I tried in the Sup[reme] Court, the action of Gardner ag[ain]st Warren - It took all the forenoon - By God’s goodness I was enabled to perform my part with tolerable facility, & I believe acceptably. I made a short address to the Jury, in which I was more methodical, than I have usually been -

**Thursday - 8 April. 1819.**

The Jury returned a verdict in my favour - dam[ages] \$1050.

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I spent the day in business, & an hour of the ev[enin]g in reading Coke’s 2<sup>[n]d</sup> institute.

**Friday ev[enin]g - 9 April. 1819.**

Day - little jobs - Ev[enin]g - called on my classmate, Rev[erend] F. Parkman, whom I had not visited before since his wife’s death. I found him alone, & spent an hour with him. He seemed glad to see me - and was very social -

**Saturday - 10 April - 1819.**

In the evening met the club at Hale’s, who is just fixed in a new house in Common Street. Part of the conversation was to me of an unpleasant cast. I was relieved, when M<sup>r</sup> Ritchie came in, & changed it to a discussion on the advantages & disadvantages of sending young clergymen

to Europe. - M<sup>r</sup> R[itchie] supported the position, that clergymen are made less fit to perform their sacred functions by travelling - Col[onel] Swett supported the other side with his usual warmth - & suffered no one else to speak.

**Sunday - 11 April. 1819.**

M<sup>r</sup> Channing's morning sermon was appropriate to the day, being Easter Sunday - After noticing the direct & positive testimony of the Resurrection, which he observed was perfectly clear & satisfactory, he proceeded

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to remark on the corroborative testimony, arising from the purpose of Christ's coming - his character - the circumstances & characters of the Apostles - &c - He closed with an animated & sublime address on the hopes & views, which this event should inspire in the sincere christian, & the conduct, to which it should lead us. -

In the afternoon, his sermon was on the use of reason in understanding & interpreting the scriptures. -

I called after meeting to see Aunt Scott, whom I found rather unwell - I called in the evening at M<sup>rs</sup> Lee's in Congress Street, where I remained an hour, and then went to Uncle J. Sewall's, where I staid till half past nine - Returning, I found myself so wearied, as to be obliged to go to rest.

**Wedn[esday] 14 April. 1819**

M<sup>r</sup> Quincy meeting me in the street asked if I had rec[eive]d a billet from M<sup>rs</sup> Q[uiincy] & upon my answering in the neg-

ative said, it had been intended - there was to be a party at his house on Thursday ev[enin]g - but as they feared M<sup>rs</sup> Sullivan's sickness would occasion a postponement, they had retained many invitations -

**Thursday - 15 April. -**

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M<sup>r</sup> Quincy had the goodness to call at my office, & say the party was postponed - but he wished me to hold myself engaged for some other evening. - This attention from a man I esteem so much gratified me highly - but I have a feeling that I do not deserve it - & cannot repay it.

**Saturday. 17 April - 1819**

The Juries in Sup[reme] Court dismissed this day - to my great joy - In the evening went with a vacant mind to a club at Ritchie's - It was very pleasant, & the first pleasant one, I have attended. - We talked upon many subjects - the proposed hospital for penitent prostitutes - the new gaol - imprisonment for debt &c - It was on the whole improving & I came away tolerably well satisfied with myself.

**Sunday - 18 April - 1819.**

Mr Channing's serm[on] in the morning was a very fine one on the natu[re o]f zeal in religion - I have only time to say of it, that it inculcated, as the only zeal that could be called Christian, an earnest endeavour to advance in purity of life & manners -

In the forenoon after service I went into the Vestry to hear the instructions given to the children. I had promised M<sup>r</sup> Greele, that I would take charge of his class during his intended absence on a journey to Baltimore, to assist in ordaining M<sup>r</sup> Sparkes - I wished therefore to see the manner of instructing - I was exceedingly interested

- In the afternoon M<sup>r</sup> C[hanning]'s sermon was on the Dignity of Our Nation - & our consequent duties.

I read Boswell's Johnson - in the intervals & in the evening visited M<sup>r</sup> Hale - & Uncle Sewall's family - I called upon Aunt Scott & M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Mansfield after meeting -

**Wedn[esda]y ev[enin]g 21 April. 1819.**

Went to a large & brilliant party at M<sup>rs</sup> Quincy's - saw the celebrated N[ew] York belle, Miss Henderson, & was at a loss to imagine [why] she is so much admired - I passed such an ev[enin]g, as I have usually passed in these fashionable assemblies - - -

**Friday - 23 April. 1819.**

I dined today at G. P. Curtis's with only Miss Martha

Curtis - Miss H. Glover - & Cousin Mary Gray - - It was a pleasant quiet dinner, & very grateful to me. - Miss Glover I had not seen before for a great while - -



Judge Prescott has, it is said, announced an intention to resign - Consequently, an application has been set on foot to be signed by the members of the Bar, signifying to his Excellency, that Lem[uel] Shaw Esq[ui]re would be highly acceptable in this post. - I spent all Thursday afternoon with M<sup>r</sup> Minot in getting signatures.

Judge P[rescott]'s resignation is much to be regretted, but he has already raised the character of the Court - & improved the habits of the Bar.

**Saturday - 24 April. 1819.**

Day spent in writing - Evening from ½ p[ast] 6 to 8 at Channing's Office hearing some articles for the N[orth] Am[erican] - from ½ past 8 to 11 at L. Shaw's at the club, which was tolerably pleasant - Conv[ersation] on the Velocipede, just come into notice - & on the Salem witchcraft.

**Sunday. 25 April. 1819.**

In the morning M<sup>r</sup> Capen preached - I had heard this gentleman 4 or 5 years ago, when he first began to preach, since which I am told, he has been settled at Sterling, and has ask-

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ed & obtained a dismissal on account of the smallness of his salary - - His sermon was upon the comparative tendency of the Christian Revelation - & of the scepticism, wh[ich] is opposed to it, to exalt the dignity of our nature. - The Christian doctrine M<sup>r</sup> C[apen] contended presents a more interesting & exalted view of man's nature, than scepticism, with all its boast of natural reason, and of virtue - The subject was well treated -

In the afternoon M<sup>r</sup> Francis preached, & gave a very good sermon upon the words “I am the way, the truth & the life” -

In the intervals I have read Cox’s Life of Melancthon.

After meeting this afternoon I called on Aunt Scott, and found her in better health & spirits, than I have seen her for some time - I spent half an hour or more with her.

In the ev[enin]g I called at Uncle May’s, & spent half an hour talking with Cousin Samuel - - -

I then called at Uncle Sewall’s, where I found Miss Robie returned from Salem, and also saw M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Greele - - After staying here half an hour I called at M<sup>r</sup> Quincy’s - Here I found M<sup>r</sup> Savage - I staid till M<sup>r</sup> Quincy returned from his

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Sunday ev[enin]g engagement, and for some twenty minutes after, bringing it near to ten o’clock - These moments were most happily spent - & I came away with regret - not a little gratified however at rec[eivin]g from M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Quincy invitations to call on them at their farm in Quincy, to which they remove next week.