

Sunday. 3 Jan[uary] 1818. [sic - should be 1819]

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This morning M^r Channing delivered one of his most excellent sermons. - The text was "*The love of Christ, which passeth understanding*" - The object of the discourse was to set forth the benignity of Christ's character - The greatness of that love, which Christ discovered, in descending f[rom] his state of glory, could not be perfectly comp[re-]hended by us, because we cannot know the nature of that glory, which he had before. - But it was certain, that he was more than human - Otherwise, the Saviour of the world would himself have needed a mediator. We ought therefore to interpret literally the passages, in which he says

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that he came down from heaven - & speaks of the glory which he had with the Father before the world was. - And if we look to his character & actions on earth, how great is the benevolence discovered! - I have not time nor room to follow M^r C[hanning] through all his admirable & affecting illustrations drawn from the life of our Saviour. - He arranged the subject under these heads, each of which he enlarged upon with the most heart-

	<p>reaching eloquence. - 1. The universality of our Saviour's benevolence. - His love was not, like ours, increased by any limitation - The stream did not flow the strongly because pent up. His affections were unbounded - They comprehended all mankind; yet in degree were never equalled. - 2. His condescension, which led him to perform the humblest services, that he might benefit others; to travel on foot with his disciples, as their equal; to sit at their table - and even to invite</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;">129</p> <p>the publicans to that table. - 3. - That he was go[od] to the poor, the lowly & miserable - was not repelled by their vices - but wherever there appeared the least relenting of heart, he delighted to bless & encourage it. It was this spirit, which perhaps made the words "<i>woman, thy sins are forgiven thee</i>" the happiest of his life. - 4. Th[at] his love was in great measure exercised towar[ds] those, who exhibited only enmity & malevolence against him. - 5. His sufferings - His nat[ure] seemed capable of more than human pain. He gr_____ and was agonized by the mis sins of mankind. He could penetrate the secret recesses of guilt in the human heart. - What then must his benign spirit have felt at the view of human iniquity? -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I have never heard from M^r Channing a more eloquent and impressive sermon than t[his]</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;">130</p>

never one, which more awakened both the thoughts & the affections - nor one, which discovered greater force of intellect, & originality of conception.

It closed with an animated ~~rexxx~~ expostulation upon our ingratitude, & sluggishness of affection towards this great & benevolent being. -

This afternoon M^r Channing again preached. His text was "*Who is my neighbour?*" - a question, which after some remarks upon the person who proposed it, the occasion, & the manner in which our Saviour improved it, to teach one of the great duties of our religion. M^r C[hanning] proceeded to answer, by explaining our duties to the several classes of those who are our neighbours in the sense, in which our Saviour used that word - - **1.** Our nearest neighbours, are those

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within our own dwellings. To these we owe m[any] duties. In our domestic relations, there is room for m[ore] forbearance - much self-denial - and we ou[ght] also to endeavour to instruct & improve those [a-] round us - Our domestics particularly a[re] our neighbours, in the sense in which Christ applies the term, that is, to those who are po[or &] ignorant, or in humble condition. - By care [in] instructing them, in relieving their wants, and se[t-] ting them a good example, their affections might b[e]

	<p>gained - their fidelity increased - and their characters improved - Leisure should be given them on the Lord's day, & there should be also stated hours or religious & moral instruction in every family.</p> <p>2 - - Our friends & intimates - that little circ[le] which every one has, with whom he is in habit o[f] daily & familiar intercourse - These we should</p>
<p>__ at M^r Phillips's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">132</p> <p>endeavour to improve, by taking care in our conversation to discover our interest in religion, & our regard for virtue - And in the trying scenes of life, in their afflictions & losses, we should minister comfort & sympathy. - 3. - The poor are especially our neighbours within the meaning of our Lord. - To relieve their sufferings, to encourage in their habits of industry, economy, neatness, order & regularity, & especially in sickness to give them the aids then so peculiarly required, are duties enjoined by the precepts & example of Christ. -</p> <p>Of this duty, the instruction of poor children is a most important part, and one, to which great attention has been paid of late.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-----</p> <p>On Tuesday evening I met at M^r Jona[than] Phillips's, in pursuance of the invitation before given, (page 125) Rev[erend] M^r Channing - M^r Greele - M^r Guild & M^r Phillips - We conversed on several topics,</p>

principally on the situation of criminals condemned to d[ie,]
 a subject suggested by the trial of five persons
 for murder on the high seas, which had been
 concluded that day - We agreed to
 meet once a fortnight - to invited A. Ritch[ie]
 Esq[uires] & D^r Coffin to join us - and at our
 next assembling, which is to be at M^r Chan-
 ning's, to converse on the sources of our knowle[dge]
 of the Supreme Being. -

I am much gratified with the prospect of im-
 provement to be derived from this association.

Sunday ev[ening] 3 Jan[uary] 1818.

After making the preceding record - & reading with muc[h]
 satisfaction *Barron's sermon on the proofs of the being &
 attributes of God drawn from the frame of Nature* - I went
 to Uncle J. Sewall's, where I found Aunt Scott still thei[r]
 guest - & passed two hours & more very happ[ily]
 Uncle May came in about nine - & we came aw[ay]

together about ten.

Tuesday ev[ening] 5 Jan[uary] 1818.

Yesterday was engaged all day in trial of a cause
 in Court - wh[ich] I lost to my great discomfiture - and
 spent the ev[ening] in writing exceptions to Judge Parker's
 charge -

<p>[He]at re[mainin]g in ruins [of the] E[xchange] C[offee] House</p>	<p>This morning as I passed the Ex[change] Coffee House Ruins ^[7], I thought I saw smoke still rising from a place, where the workmen had just shovelled away the rubbish - - Weiss, the barber, to whom I mentioned the fact, assured me the bricks taken from the holes were still hot, & that yesterday he saw a car-man take up one to warm his hands - & that he was obliged to turn it over continually - This determined me to be satisfied myself, & on returning I went to the spot, and stepping into a little arch on the South side,</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">135</p> <p>where the surface of a heap of coals & ashes seemed [to] have been just removed, I immediately pe[r-]ceived heat - & putting my hand to the su[r-]face I felt it so warm, that a very little a[d-]dition to the heat would have made me unable to bear my hand there. - I consider this a remarkable fact, it being now over two months since the fire, (3 Nov[ember] see ante [pp.86-96]) and the weather having since for several days together been very cold - so that the harbour ha[s] been considerably frozen, & all the ponds have been hard eno[ugh] for skating - There have b[e-]sides been several heavy long-continued rain[s] & considerable snow. -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wedn[esday] ev[enin]g 6 Jan[uary] 1819.</p> <p>This day & yesterday have been occupied in the Supreme Court in the trial of the cause Pearson ag[ainst]</p>

Goodridge which has excited a very general interest, from the strange contradictions in testimony, & incompatibility with circumstances of much of Major G[oodridge]'s account of his robber. - M^r Webster made to-day for the Pl[aintif]f one of the finest speeches, that I ever heard. -

I rec[eive]d to-day a letter from my little brother Henry, wh[ich] was quite unexpected, and pleased me very much.

Thursday ev[enin]g 7 Jan[uary] 1819.

This afternoon I called on an old gentleman, over 90, who is blind & partially deaf, with a view to obtain some testimony in support of an action in favor of the heirs of Hez[ekial] Blanchard. - He was very incommunicative, & declared, he knew no more about it, than the Pope of Rome - This he many times repeated - - I have passed th[e] ev[enin]g at M^{rs} Channing's, where I found a large party - A few of the ladies I knew - The Miss Lees were there - But I talked mostly with gentlemen. Among others M^r Quincy accosted me with a frankness I little expected from him, & I had much conv[ersation] with him about M^r Adams's

famous letter on Span[ish] affairs just published - M^r Q[uinty] was very warm upon the subject of a pardon granted some time since by an executive council to Livermo[re] & Angier, convicted of the murder of an Indian.

He said, that he viewed Gen[eral] Jackson's conduct in hanging Arbuthnot & Ambrister, as unjustifiable, [as] far as he knew the facts - but he thought, with such an example to stain our own records, it became us to be silent. -

I passed a pleasant evening.

Monday ev[ening] 11 Jan[uary] 1819.

On Saturday ev[ening] I went in the Stage to M[arble]h[ea]d where I had the happiness once more to see al[l] my friends in safety. - Cousin Mary, to my gre[at] regret, was absent on a visit to M^{rs} Geo[rge] Wil[son] but she returned soon after I arrived, & the ple[as-]ure, which it gave me to learn, that she had come with the intention to remain, could not

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be concealed from myself -

Yesterday I attended Church all day. M^r Smith delivered in the morning a very tolerable sermon on the words "God is Love" - & in the afternoon one not so good, the scope of which was to prove, that it was in a man's own choice to be saved or not. - I made my usual round of visits in the evening, & among others I called on the new married pair - M^r Geo[rge] Wilson & wife, whom I found enjoying their fire-side, in all the enviable tranquility of domestic retirement. -

But no place was so attractive to me, as home. I hurried thither, & passed the rem[ainder] of the evening. -

This ev[enin]g I called at Col[onel] Thorndike's to converse with him resp[ectin]g a cause - I found him & M^{rs} T[horndike] with two or three young ladies en famille. The Col[onel] talked as usual very much, & put me

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a great many puzzling questions. - M^{rs} T[horndike] urg[ed] me to make one of a small party to-morro[w] ev[enin]g - but I must attend our moral clu[b.]

Tuesday ev[enin]g 12 Jan[uary] 1819

Nothing interesting during the day. In the even[ing] I called at M^r Channing's, expecting to meet our newly formed club. - I found there M^r Phillip[s] M^r Greele, D^r Coffin, & a M^r Waterstone - Conve[rsa-]tion turned upon various topics of a religious n[a-]ture - & M^r Channing exhibited his usual felic[ity] of remark. I was much entertained & instructed - After M^r W[aterstone] had retired, M^r C[hanning] stated, that [he] had come to make him a visit - & that, in conse- quence of his presence, he had been careful not t[o] allude to any former meeting - We appointed Tu[es-]day ev[enin]g, a fortnight hence, for a continuance of ou[r] meeting.

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Sat[urday] ev[enin]g 16 Jan[uary] 1819 -

<p>2 Cor[inthians] [chapter] III. [verse] 5</p>	<p>Met with a committee of the Bar at M^r W[illiam] Sullivan's. M^r Webster was present. We discussed the subject of bar-rules - & then sat down to a luxurious supper - M^r W[ebster] entertained us with anecdotes of Congressional Manœuvres, & we broke up at about eleven o'clock.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday - 17 Jan[uary] 1819.</p> <p>M^r Channing preached in the morning. His sermon was upon the power of man to do any thing of himself towards being religious - Text "<i>Not That We are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God</i>".</p> <p>This text M^r C[hanning] said had been used as confirming the opinion entertained by many, that goodness is never our own work - that men are made good or religious, by an irresistable operation of divine grace, in which they are altogether passive - But the passage would not bear this interpretation - It was evident the apostle was speaking only of him-</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">141</p> <p>self & his fellow apostles - & meant only, that they c[ould] not of themselves have discovered the truths which the[y] preached. - M^r C[hanning] then considered the spiri[t] itself, and argued in favour of man's power. - He said we had the same power in this respect, that we hav[e] any other. It is true, that "<i>we can do nothing of ou[rself]</i>" - But this Jesus often affirmed of himself, as well [as] of us. - Its meaning is, that we have no power,</p>

such as is derived - The ability we have - but it [is] given us by God. -

M^r C[hanning] made some strong & pointed remarks upon the evil tendency of this opinion - its destruction of all virtue - its furnishing an excuse for vice. -

In the afternoon M^r C[hanning] again preached, upon our “*dependance on God*” - The causes of our insensibi[lity] were reduced by M^r C[hanning] to three - **1** - That the agency [of] God is silent & invisible - **2** - That we receive so many of our blessings directly from created objects - **3**. Th[at] so many of them are procured by our own activit[ies.]

After meeting I read the first part of *Cam[p-]bell's Essay on Miracles*, which has delighted

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beyond any thing I have read for a long time. It is a work which every lawyer ought to read for its admirable illustrations of the principles of belief founded on testimony.

This evening I called at M^r Lee's, where I found the family in their usual happy condition - I staid there an hour - & then went to Uncle Sewall's, where I found a large circle - Aunt Scott is still there. I remained till ½ past nine -

Sunday - 24 Jan[uary] 1819.

During the past week I have been constantly & busily engaged in Court or in my office - No important event has occurred. -

This morning M^r Channing's sermon was upon "*candor in judging*" - "*Judge not, that ye be not judged.*" - After some excellent remarks upon the duty of exercising charity as it respects the characters & conduct of others - M^r C[hanning] proceeded to enumerate & explain the causes of a contrary spirit - He then combatted with great zeal

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& eloquence the doctrine of total depravity, which h[e] thought contradicted by the text, inasmuch, as if t[he] doctrine were true, it would be our duty to sham[e] & condemn our fellow-men - and the worst motive we should impute to them, the more we should b[e] likely to be right -

After morning service I walked over S[outh] Boston Bridge. The day was remarkably fine, & resembled a fine day in April. The air was mild & the sun shone brightly - and nothing but verdu[re] was wanting to make one believe himself in [the] midst of spring - I prolonged my walk to [the] sea side by the glass-house - As I passed bac[k] of the glass-house my attention was called to a[n] object, which lay there on a pile of boards unde[r the] shelter of the fence. - As I came near, I di[s-]covered beside it a woman's bonnet - & soon s[aw] that it was a well-looking camblet cloak spread [o-]

	<p>ver probably the owner of the bonnet - & a bundle seemed [to] have been employed as a pillow - The person was en-</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;">144</p> <p>tirely concealed from sight - I hesitated whether I should examine into it - but concluding that it was some strolling female, who had here composed herself to sleep, & feeling that I had no right to invade the secrecy, in which she seemed to have shrouded herself, I passed on - I again repassed in a few minutes, & the object remained. I could see no motion. -</p> <p>This afternoon M^r Channing's sermon was upon "the duty of being kind to the vicious, & of endeavouring to reclaim them" Text - <i>Luke</i> - [chapter] 15 - v[erses] 1, 2. This was a most interesting discourse, but I have not time to analyse it. -</p> <p>Since meeting I have read a Review in the <i>Edinburgh Review of Brougham's Speech upon Charitable Abuses</i> - mentioned to me by Judge Prescott, whom I met to-day in my walk - - I then called at M^r Hale's - at M^r T. W. Ward's, where I found Miss Cath[erine] Gray, & had more conversation with her, than</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;">145</p> <p>ever before - & at Uncle Sewall's, where I found a large circle, & as usual was happy for an hour & a quarter. -</p>

Tuesday evening 26 January 1819.

Yesterday & last evening I was altogether employed in business - So to-day - At ½ past seven this evening I went to Reverend Mr Channing's, where I found Judge Davis - Mr Phillips - Mr Greele - Mr Waterstone - & Mr Guild - The conversation was upon a new project started by Mr Channing viz[it] [namely] to have sermons read occasionally by a select number of laymen, instead of being delivered by himself. - Mr Channing wished to learn the opinions which gentlemen had formed. - His own seemed to have been fixed, that advantages would result from laymen of respectability taking this part in religious instruction - Judge Davis, Mr Guild [&] myself expressed our opinion, that the sanctity of

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the clerical office was connected with the effect of the instruction, & that there would be danger in introducing laymen to the desk. - Mr Ritchie came in about nine o'clock - He coincided with us. - - But we all agreed in advising the employment for this purpose of young men preparing for the ministry. - This course Mr Channing finally resolved to adopt, as on the whole the most expedient to begin with. -

We talked also of a form of prayer to be used occasionally - I was much struck by Mr Ritchie's ideas on this subject. He was in favour of a form to be occasionally used. - In free prayer he said, the mind of the minister must always be stretching forward,

<p>Saturday - } 30 Jan[uary] }</p>	<p>while a reverse operation takes place with the hear- er. - Judge Davis too was strongly in favour of a form to be sometimes used -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday ev[enin]g - 31 Jan[uary] 1819.</p> <p>The Supreme Court finished its session on this day (Saturday). In offering for acceptance an award received by E. Hartley ag[ain]st</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">147</p> <p>S. Dana I fell into an unpleasant dispute with W[illiam] Sullivan Esq[ui]re who opposed the acceptance - I asser[ted] that a parcel of goods was admitted to be the sole pr[oper-] ty of Hartley - Sullivan said, there was no such a[d-] mission - I repeated, that there were two parcel[s] of goods, that the first we admitted to be on joint [ac-] count of E. Hartley & A. Dana - and the second [we] admitted to be on sole account of Hartley. - Sul[livan] said, he must give me a flat contradiction - & this was not the first time, he had had to con[tra-] dict in this cause what I had asserted - He [allu-] ded to my having insisted before the [r]eferees, tha[t] a particular entry in S. Dana's books was not there, [when] I had before examined them - I immediately ca[lled] T. R. Sewall as a witness, who convinced me of my m[istake] & I acknowledged it - I now made no rep[ly] to M^r Sullivan, but to send for L. Shaw Esq[ui]re cha[ir-] man of the referees - & to observe, that I did not [intend?] to charge M^r S[ullivan] without with any designed misrepr[e-]</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">148</p> <p>sentation, but believed him in a mistake - M^r Shaw came in, and</p>

confirmed what I had said - I then remonstrated with
M^r S[ullivan] but in vain - He would not apologize - nor explain.
- M^r Shaw having confirmed my statement, I was satisfied
- so left it. -

This morning I had the satisfaction of hearing from
M^r Channing a fine sermon on self-denial - He
made our practice of this duty a main interior of our
proficiency in religion - He defined its nature - & particu-
larly guarded us, against certain dangerous errors in re-
gard to it. - - After meeting I ~~walked in~~ called at Un-
cle J. Sewall's - & passed half an hour delightfully - I found
them all well - - I then walked over S[outh] B[oston] bridge. The day
was fine, & my walk very pleasant. -

This afternoon M^r Andrew Biglow preached on
the sufficiency of the proofs of religion - "*If they believe not Mo-
ses & the prophets*" - It was a very respectable sermon.

I have called this evening at M^r Josiah Salisbury's
& at Uncle Sewall's.

To-day I finished reading *Campbell's Essay on Mira-
cles* - So admirable reasoning, I have seldom seen.