

From 25 April to 6 June - 1819.

Various accidents & engagements having caused the suspension of my journal for more than a month, I shall now note down the principal occurrences. -

M<sup>r</sup> Channing left town on Tuesday 20 April to attend the ordination of M<sup>r</sup> Sparkes at Baltimore - He returned a day or two prior to Sunday fortnight - - In the interval of his absence we had different preachers, and their sermons not being of a very interesting or instructive character, I have made no minutes of them.

M<sup>r</sup> Greele having also gone to attend the ordination I took charge of his class at the Sunday school, and attended them one Sunday during his absence - and that immediately following his return - Their exercise on the first Sunday was the beautiful parable of the Prodigal Son - After hearing them repeat it, not exactly

26

in the language of the bible, but according to their memory of the facts, I asked them a few questions, mingled with explanations, intended to lead to the application of this most interesting narrative to moral & religious purposes - I was much gratified with the intelligence which their answers discovered - -

The following sabbath the subject assigned was the cure of the blind man in John's Gospel. - This they committed less perfectly - & I found it more diffi-

cult to found on it any illustrations, that might be useful to them - I however led their attention to some of the prominent circumstances - & particularly the belief, which this miracle induced in him, who was the subject of it, enforcing upon them the propriety of its having the same effect on us -

M<sup>r</sup> Channing preached the sabbath after his return, & I attended all day - but ~~have~~ I cannot now readily recall the subjects. -

Some time in the latter part of last month finding myself in possession of a surplus of money I was able for the first time to make an investment. I purchased \$469 of U[nited] S[tates] 7 per cent stock - Since that I have deposited

27

\$100 in the Savings Bank - By God's goodness my business has been ~~suff~~ successfull - so that, tho' I have sustained some losses, yet my actual receipts from 1 May 1818 to 1 June 1819 - from my separate business originated within that period, have been sufficient within a few dollars to pay my expenses - There is now a considerable due to me, which as it comes in I hope to invest either in books, or in productive property. -

On this day I went in the morning stage to Salem; part of my object was to procure from Miss A. Orne bills on M<sup>r</sup> Williams for am[oun]t of her stock. - This I arranged with her at Marblehead the next evening. - I dined

with J. G. King, who distressed me by the style in which he seemed to think it necessary that his table should appear.

- M<sup>rs</sup> K[ing] was pleasant, as usual - & little Augusta, an interesting child - but apparently less healthy, than when I last saw her. - I called at M<sup>r</sup> Cole's; & had the gratification of spending an hour with him & M<sup>rs</sup> C[ole] -

I walked over the bridge to S[outh] Fields, directing the stage to call for me there. I went to the house of my friend Miss Shillaber, lately & since I saw her, become M<sup>rs</sup> Treadwell - There I found her, and my admirable

28

cousin, Mary C. Gray - They received <sup>me</sup> cordially, & I spent half an hour very happily. - I there learned that M<sup>rs</sup> Bubier was at her daughter's near, & intended to go to M[arble]h[ea]d in the stage - I therefore went to M<sup>rs</sup> Turell's, & surprized them by my sudden appearance. M<sup>rs</sup> B[ubier] was highly gratified.

At Marblehead I was joyfully received by all, & felt a happiness, which I cannot express. - God has been good to me far beyond my desert - I cannot be grateful enough - indeed it seems to me, that I am dead to feeling, when I reflect upon his blessings. I found all my friends in the enjoyment of health & of the comforts of life - My every prayer seemed to be answered, excepting as to their spiritual state, and even in this respect I think I discover ground of hope - My Father, if I do not mistake, is less disposed than heretofore to speak

lightly of sacred subjects -

On Sunday I attended Church all day, & heard Rev[erend] M<sup>r</sup> Carlisle of Salem - In the afternoon, his sermon on prayer was a good one. -

I visited my several friends - passed an

29

hour in the evening very pleasantly with M<sup>rs</sup> June Wilson, & Miss Lydia W[ilson] - and on Monday morning returned to Boston -

Wedn[esday] ev[ening] last (2 June) I met for the second time a society for religious conversation, of which I have lately become a member \* - - The subject for this evening was the passage in Isaiah 53 “He hath borne our griefs &c -“ & several other texts relating to the same sublime doctrine of our religion - “In what sense Christ may be said to have died for our sins?” was the question growing out of these passages - I had examined with some diligence, & read M<sup>r</sup> Knight’s commentary on St. Paul’s chapter in Hebrews - I had rested in this conclusion viz[it] [namely] - “That it is clearly revealed, that the death of Christ was effectual for the salvation of men, not merely as a confirmation of his doctrines, or as an example of virtue & obedience, but in some way, which we cannot understand, but which the apostles compare repeatedly to an atonement or expiation -[\*\*] Paul referring to the 110<sup>th</sup> Psalm, compares Christ’s offering of himself to the annual offerings for sin of the Jewish high priests - These sacrafices he

expressly tells us did not avail of themselves, as an atone-

\* The first meeting that I attended was a fortnight previous at M<sup>r</sup> Lewis Tappan's – & the subject was the exclamation of Thomas "My Lord & My God".

\*\* Marginal note: Nature of Christ's mediation.

**30**

ment - as a satisfaction for sin - "the blood of bulls & of goats cannot take away sin" - but as outward acts expressive of an inward obedience, & a sincere purpose of ~~obed~~ amendment - So Christ's dying "once for all" was an act of obedience, which caused him to be "crowned with glory & honour" - & to be exalted to be our intercessor at God's right hand - our high-priest for ever - our advocate & mediator - that as many as believe on him should have eternal life - & that he should be "their leader (captain) into salvation".

- This is analogous to the general course of God's providence, which is to dispense blessings through media - through intermediate agents - who are thus made the instruments & channels of his mercy, as a reward for their own goodness. - At the same time we are plainly taught, that we have this proffered mercy, only through faith in Jesus Christ, appearing in the fruits of repentance & holiness - But we are imperfect, sinful beings - "all have sinned, & come short of the grace of God" - we cannot therefore by our own works merit salvation - we have it only thro' the blood of Christ & thro' his merits - not merely, as it seems to me, that by reason of his

**31**

suffering & merit, he is exalted to be the instrument of God's mercy - to reveal it - and finally to distinguish those to whom it shall be given from those who are excluded - but also in some other way, not revealed, his death is the procuring cause of our forgiveness - without it we could not have been forgiven consistently with God's eternal purpose - The mercy is indeed God's - & it is freely given, but on such conditions, that had not Christ died, the same state of mind, & same obedience, which now are accepted, would have been rejected & condemned to punishment" - . -

Different gentlemen present expressed different views - M<sup>r</sup> T. W. Ward particularly, with great modesty & a desire to be informed, suggested, that we are at best unprofitable servants - incapable of ourselves to do any act acceptable to God - that all our righteousness is filthy rags." [Isaiah 64 - 6] &c - When we had severally explained our views, M<sup>r</sup> Channing, who had attended all the ev[en]ing, briefly but clearly explained his - I believe he differed from me only in considering the death of Christ as causing our salvation by its exalting Christ to be the instrument of God's merciful dispensation, by revealing his will, his purpo-

ses of grace, & the certainty of eternal life to all who sincerely repent, thus reconciling me to God, and bringing them to such a life of holiness, as should make them fit objects of God's mercy - If without Christ's death, as I understand M<sup>r</sup> C[hanning], men were equally penitent, & obedient to God's law, they would be equally saved.

- To this view I cannot entirely subscribe at present,  
- neither do I reject it - The scriptures seem to me very plainly, & in numerous passages, to ascribe to Christ's death an immediate & direct efficacy for the remission of sins, upon the condition of repentance & obedience - the repentance & obedience, without the offering, would not have procured salvation -

Why this is, I know not - but I incline to the belief that it was God's original purpose, declared by his prophets from the earliest time, that forgiveness should be procured by an act of great devotion & obedience by the highest derived being in the Universe - Christ fulfilled this act - and thus became our mediator & saviour. -

What exalted love is this! how worthy our highest admiration & gratitude! how tender the mercy, which has provided for us a high-

33

priest touched with the feeling of our infirmities - one by whom we may come boldly to the throne of grace - who sitteth at the right hand of God, where he ever liveth to make intercession for us! - It is the most sublime & animating of all the doctrines of our religion - indeed it is its very basis & substance.

---

On Friday I dined at Uncle J. May's with cousins Tho[mas] R. & Sam[uel] Sewall - & M<sup>r</sup> Brown of Beverly.

- Yesterday I dined at J. Hall's in company with my classmate J. Lovell - The other guests were Henry Cabot Esq[uires] - M<sup>r</sup> Lyman of the army, & D<sup>r</sup> Robbins - M<sup>rs</sup> Hall & her sister, Miss Bartlett were the only ladies - - The conversation was on a variety of topics, not very interesting to me, & I could take but little part in it.

Last evening I called at M<sup>r</sup> Lee's in Congress Street - I had the good fortune to find there Uncle & Aunt J. Sewall - M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Lee with their two excellent daughters & Aunt Scott, formed a groupe, where I could not but be happy for an hour or more, & I was sorry to depart.