

Wednesday - 1 Dec[ember] 1819

It was my turn to preside this ev[enin]g at our religious association, but I strangely forgot it, and went to the Athænum to go thro' some reading preparatory to writing my address before the Peace Soc[iet]y - I remained there till nine, & did not recollect my engagement, till it was too late.

Thursday - 2 Dec[ember] 1819

This is thanksgiving day - I rose at 5 o'clock in order to set about writing the address. - I made a sketch and felt as if I had performed half of the labour. - Being engaged to dine with M^r Greenleaf at Quincy, I attended service at the Chapel, because it was earlier than at other churches. I heard a good sermon from D^r Freeman on the duty of being thankful for the harvest. - Soon after Church I set out in a chaise with Geo[rge] W. Gray for Quincy, the day was fine, when we set out, but when we reached M^r Quincy's Greenleaf's it had become over-cast. - We found however so cordial a reception, that we thought little of the weath[er] We met there M^r Daniel Greenleaf & wife, & a

young lady, Miss Mary Duncan, of pleasing countenance & manners. - After dinner we walked to the granite ledges, & saw the process of cutting out the stones for the new Church new building -

M^r Daniel Greenleaf reported a singularly strange

expression of Pres[ident] Adams to him. The President lately told him, he had been riding over his grounds farming,” - or “had been riding farmer” (i.e. “as farmer”) - M^r G[reenleaf] understood him to mean, he had been riding a horse so called, noted for new bones & hard trotting - & replied, “what, riding [^]old Farmer!” -

“Riding Farmer!” said the Pres[ident], “no, I should as soon think of riding rock-common in an earthquake.”

In the ev[enin]g a party of ladies & gentlemen assembled - I had engaged to meet the committee respecting a proposed meeting on Slavery, & was obliged to return a little before seven. - It had become very cold, & our ride was uncomfortable - I stopped at D^r Eustis’s house, to make a communication to him resp[ectin]g the arrangements - - - I went imm[ediatel]y to M^r Webster’s on arriving - & found the committee assembled - They insisted on my writing a pream-

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ble to the Resolutions, & tho’ unwilling to attempt it, I consented - I sat up till near one o’clock, & with some difficulty struck out a preamb[l]e. - I endeavoured to compress the argument as much as possible, & to ou[t]line some ideas suggested by D^r Eustis, so as to make the whole palatable to him. - The next morning I added in his own words the last paragraph - & having rec[eive]d from the Hon[orable] N. Dane an interesting letter, stating that he introduced the clause in the ordinance of 1787, † & the unanimity with which it passed, I also inserted

that fact. -

Friday - 3 Dec[ember] 1819.

This was the day appointed for a meeting in the New State House for expressing the public sentiment resp[ectin]g the prohibition of a further introduction of Slavery on the Missouri, & other new States. -

Having been among those, who rec[eive]d letters on this subject from N[ew] York, & having been by M^r Cabot nominated as one of the Committee of arrangements, I was ~~xxx~~ a signer of the advertisement which called the meeting - . The committee consisted at first of

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five only - viz[it] [namely] Mess^{rs} Webster, Quincy - J. T. Austin - Marshal Prince & myself - Having learned, that D^r Eustis was about calling a meeting for the same object, we requested him to put his name at the head of our list - & it was so done - A large number assembled in the Rep[resentatives] Chamber at the hour appointed. D^r Eustis called the meeting to order - W[illiam] Tudor Esq[ui]re was chosen Secretary, & Marshall Prince chairman - - M^r Austin introduced the subject in a speech of some length, & of great ability - A committee of 20 was chosen to report resolutions, and I was honoured with a place in this committee. They adopted my preamble, & the resolutions attached to them, which M^r Webster had written - They were reported & read from the chair - M^r Secretary Bradford expressed in a long speech some constitutional samples - Geo[rge] Blake Esq[ui]re replied to him - M^r Webster then

ably answered, & defended the constitutionality of Congress imposing the restriction - ~~and~~ demonstrated the fallacy of the objection founded on the Louisiana Treaty - and eloquently enforced the expedience of the measures on the ground of morality, & public safety - - The vote

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was then taken, & the resolutions adopted - and Hon[orable] M^r Quincy - M^r Webster - G. Blake - J. T. Austin & myself were chosen a committee to send copies to our delegates - & to transmit to Congress a memorial.

Saturday - 4 Dec[ember] 1819.

Having fallen yesterday morning & hurt my knee, I did not go to my office this afternoon, but staid at home, & commenced my P[each] Society address.-

Sunday - 5 Dec[ember] 1819

I have not attended meeting to-day, wishing to rest my knee, with wh[ich] I cannot walk without limping. - I have read M^r Norton's Review of Professor Stuart with great delight & profit - tho' I cannot agree in his last hypothesis about the Logos, as I rather incline to the opinion, that by the Logos Christ is meant, and that he in truth by a deriv[e]d power created the worlds - that he is more than man, was with the Father before the world was - & is exalted to be a Prince & Saviour. - I think, with Justin, that

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God has always manifested himself & operated by agents & ministering spirits - that of these the chief is Christ, who is indeed the "power of God & the wisdom of God" - & so fully represents him, & is his image, as to be called God - The angel of God, so often spoken of in the Old Testament, which appeared to Moses in the bush, & conversed with Abraham, is probably the same being.

Sunday evening - 26 Dec[ember] 1819.

My employments since my last entry have been too constant to admit of my continuing my journal. The Supreme Court being in session I have been obliged to devote much time to business - and all the leisure I could command has not been more than sufficient for the writing of the Address to the Peace Society, with which the appointment of the Executive Committee had honoured me; and some other engagements out of my profession, to which my attention has been called - A little time has been bestowed upon the Missouri Question, and I have also published three essays in the D[aily] Advertiser upon the practise of Maritime Captures, which cost me much labour & time [^] and I also wrote, on the same subject, a report to the Peace Society - I also in the begin-

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ning of the last week, at the request of some merchants, wrote a memorial to the Legislature on the subject of ~~auction~~ a tax on auction sales. - But my main business, when out of my office, has been to write & prepare for speaking the Address to the Peace Society - About the execution of this task I have felt extremely anxious, & perhaps should have done better, had I been less so -

As I have already recorded, I made a plan of the performance on Thanksgiving morning - and I commenced writing the next Saturday & Sunday ev[enings] - I have written since at intervals, as I have found leisure - but mostly on Saturday and Sunday evenings. - The last Sunday I was attacked by a severe cold, which affected my head & lungs, & made me quite sick. I kept abroad however & went to meeting - & in the evening, notwithstanding a very severe head-ache I made out to write several pages. - I was to have gone on Friday ev[en]g to a Christmas Eve party at M^{rs} Lee's - But I had a new affliction, a severe tooth ache - & my oration was still to be revised - re-written in some parts, & committed - I sent an apology, spurred myself up to the work with some difficulty, & at last had pretty well re-touched it. I went ear-

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ly to bed, but could not sleep on acc[oun]t of my tooth ache. I arose therefore about three, made up a fire, & went once more to work - My tooth ache left me, my cold was relieved; the wind, from a warm rainy dull dispiriting atmosphere, changed to a clear & exhilarating North-wester - I went cheerfully to work, & in two hours had read over the oration twice, & pretty well impressed on my memory the most important parts. - So I went again to bed - slept two hours tolerably well - & rose with a light heart - & thanked God for all his goodness.

In the forenoon I wrote again the concluding paragraphs & much improved it - & read over the whole aloud.

I dined at Uncle Sewall's - Miss Savage
& Miss H. Hinckley from M[arble]h[ea]d ^ and Aunt Judge Sewall, Cousin Anne & Charles, & Mr Greele were present - I of course
ate little or nothing - I had carried thither my gown, borrowed of Rev[erend] M^r Channing - the ladies arrayed me in it,
& at the appointed hour I departed with dreadful forebodings in a hack, which set me down at the O[ld] South.
I went directly to the pulpit & took my seat - The Society came in soon after - the House was respectably filled
& the services commenced - The prayer was made by

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the Rev[erend] M^r Ware, & was very appropriate. I had looked around with fear & trembling on my friends whose faces I discovered in different parts of the meeting house. - The prayer ended, candles were lighted, & the awful moment had arrived. I rose, & began in a low voice, as I have been since told. I went on with more ease, than I had supposed possible, & was about 40 minutes delivering the address to a very attentive audience - I was rejoiced when it was through, tho' very doubtful how it had been received. D^r N. Worcester gave me the first encouraging word, when I asked how long I had been. After stating the time, he added the audience, he trusted, had not been fatigued. He besides said, that he was gratified by the performance. - M^r Ware & D^r Harris, the latter with encouraging cordiality, expressed their approbation; & I felt in some degree, tho' still in some doubt - I got in to a hack, as soon as I could, & went to Uncle Sewall's - It was then, I experienced the happiest moments of my life - The ladies rec[eive]d me with congratulations, shook me in turn by the hand, & were zealous in offering to assist in taking off my gown. - I felt then assured, that not having

disappointed the expectations of so partial friends, I had

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certainly not disgraced myself - - I staid at Uncle Sewall's till near nine o'clock, happy as I well could be, feeling all the ease & leisure of a Saturday evening in addition to the pleasure of having finished so dreaded a task. - I went to M^r Shaw's, but found only Savage & D^r Hayward - & staid but an hour -

M^r Channing preached this morning on the duty of Charity to the Poor. "The poor ye have always with you" - I cannot give a full account of this sermon. The design was, to inculcate the duty of compassion to the poor, which M^r C[hanning] tho[ugh]t the late discussions had tended to repress & chill. - It was admirably eloquent, fervent & impressive. -

In the afternoon, one M^r Stetson filled the desk, and delivered a sermon without notes, from the words "Run, speak to that young man" - It was bad eno' - & it appears, that all the divisions & thoughts are taken from a printed sermon of D^r Lathups of Springfield - In his concluding prayer, he offered petitions for his own son, describing him very particularly - & it is said, he was present. - M^r Channing appeared very uneasy. I had in-

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tended to enjoy this evening in visiting - but was called upon to attend to some business. - I however contrived to pass a little time at J. Mansfield's, where I saw his father for the first time these six years - He appeared much altered for the better. - At nine, I called at

Uncle Sewall's - & spent an hour - - I then looked over my peace oration, & corrected several passages, wh[ich] I had changed in the delivery - -

Monday - 27 Dec[ember] 1819

Sent the Peace Oration to Rev[erend] M^r Channing requesting him to peruse it, & give me his opinion, as to publishing. - This evening I rec[eive]d a note from a Committee of the Society, requesting a copy for the press.-

Tuesday - 28 Dec[ember] 1819

Rec[eive]d the Address from M^r C[hanning] with a note expressing his approbation, & advising to publish - but questioning the consistency of my representation of Patriotism, & I shall alter that part agreeably to these valuable suggestions - Same day, rec[eive]d from M^r J Tappan a letter written to him by D^r N. Worcester, in which that gentleman expresses himself much gratified with the Address, & proposes to publish a large

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edition for distribution - This was the most grateful testimonial, I could possibly have rec[eive]d, as it comes in an unquestionable shape, from one whose sincerity cannot be suspected -

This day, I was called upon by M^r J. Tappan who introduced to me M^r Kayser, a German, who comes here to teach German & Hebrew, & produces the most satisfactory recommendations - -

Thursday - 30 Dec[ember] 1819.

Commenced again the trial of the case of the Brig
Resolution - & was occupied all day - In the e-
vening finished revising a copy of My address for
the Committee of P[each] Society -

Friday - 31 Dec[ember] 1810

Sent the copy to the Committee - The case of the
Resolution took up all the day - & till after 8 o'clock PM.