

Wedn[esda]y ev[enin]g 3 Nov[ember] 1819

Attended a meeting of the Religious Assoc[iatio]n at M^r Waterston's -
 Subject, "how much of his time & money might a christian to de-
 vote to the good of others?" - -

Friday - 5 Nov[ember] 1819

I had rec[eive]d & accepted an inv[itatio]n to a danse at M^{rs} Jno.
 Amory's at Jamaica Plains - It was inconvenient to me
 to go, but as I had two or three times before been obliged to
 refuse M^{rs} A[mory]'s very kind invitations, I resolved this
 time to perform my agreement. - I had made no arrange-
 ment for going, & being detained rather late, was obliged
 to take a chaise - It was cold & I feared the effects,
 but after I got there, & found a pleasant little party,
 I enjoyed myself very well, & tho' I did not dance,
 I looked on with pleasure - M^{rs} A[mory] expressed much gra-
 tification at seeing me there. I hope it was real.
 - M^{rs} Prescott also was very cordial. -

Professors Everett, & Tickner were there - After
 I had been there some time President Kirkland
 & Professor Brazier arrived. -

I returned by a bright moonlight, ~~about~~ so as to
 reach Boston about ½ past eleven o'clock.

Saturday - 6 Nov[ember] 1819.

Found in the morning, that nearly all our offices in
 Barrister's Hall had been entered in the night -

the desks broken open, papers examined - & from M^r Pickering's office a surtout & some change taken away. - My own was entered, as appeared from the door being open, but nothing taken or disturbed.

In the evening had a very pleasant club at M^r Baldwin's - met there E. T. Channing, who sent me a day or two since a note resigning his share in the N[orth] A[merican] Review. - I have not communicated it to the Prop[rieto]rs - C[hanning] seemed anxious to remove any impression, that he felt less cordial, than heretofore - -

Sunday 7 Nov[ember] 1819.

D^r Kirkland preached all day for M^r Channing. In the morning he delivered a sermon, full of the soundest thought, & most elegant expressions, on the duty of a cheerful worship. "Thro' whom we have access boldly &c" (Heb[rews]) - I have seldom heard a discourse so animating, so refreshing, so truly eloquent as this - I have not time to say more of it. -

In the afternoon his sermon was on "self-denial" and

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was also excellent. He explained in a most happy manner the nature of this duty, enforced its obligation & necessity, & concluded by pointing out its false forms. - .

I dined at Uncle Sewall's - The two Miss Hincklys were there -

After afternoon service I called on Aunt Scott -
& in the ev[enin]g at M^r Greele's in his new house - &
at Uncle May's.

Saturday - 13 Nov[ember] 1819

The past week has been spent principally in looking
into & noting authorities in the case of Sullivan ag[ain]st Thorn-
dike - The evenings I have sometimes employed
in reading, & have begun to employ my thoughts upon
a subject for the Peace Society Address. -

Monday afternoon I called upon E. T. Chan-
ning, to converse with him, & endeavour to dissuade
him from his purpose of relinquishing his share in the
N[orth] A[merican] Review, & withdrawing from any part in the con-
duct of the work - Tickman had before conversed with
him on Saturday without effect - and I soon found
that all argument was in vain. He felt himself to
M^r Dana, & that their intimate friendship required
of him, that he should withdraw, as Dana had done.

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At the same time he professed to have the same friend-
ly sentiments to every member of the Club, as he had
ever had -

This evening met the Sat[urday] Ev[enin]g Club at Hale's.
We had taken a cup of coffee, when there was an alarm
of fire, which proceeded from the rope-walks at
the bottom of the common. - We hastened to the
spot, & before we reached the mall, the whole
line was in a blaze. - It was an awful sight -

There was at the same time a most brilliant Aurora Borealis, vying in splendor with the fire.
- At first, as there was a high wind, there appeared to be great danger of an extensive conflagration among the wooden buildings in Pleasant & Nassan Streets. They were covered with sparks & cinders, & nothing saved them, but their having been soaked in the morning with rain. - I took my post in a line, & passed water an hour or more, standing mostly in water. My feet were very wet & cold - Three rope-walks & the hemp-stores attached to them were burned - - The new one, just covered, built by W. Lewis on the site of one destroyed the ev[ening] of 6 Oct[ober] (Vide [see] p. 102) was saved

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with great difficulty, & some damage. - - After shifting my clothes I returned to M^r Hale's, where I found others of the club, & passed a pleasant evening. -

Sunday. 14 Nov[ember] 1819

In the morning was somewhat fatigued with the exertions at the fire, but better far than I had expected to be, as I had [not] only been exposed by standing in the water, but had eaten imprudently of cake & fruit at Hale's. - I took a warm bath, & found great benefit.

D^r Ware preached in the morning. His sermon was from Ps[alms] 63 - v[erse] 6 - "When I remember thee upon my bed, & meditate upon thee in the night watches" The subject was, the benefits of meditation on God's providence. It was in every respect an excellent discourse.

D^r Kirkland preached this afternoon & he too delivered an admirably written sermon, on “seeking honour from God only” - - He closed with some appropriate reflexions upon the recent death of our excellent Gorman Strong, & pointed out some of the principal features of his character -

Evening spent till 8 o'clock at the Athenæum - 8 to 9 at Aunt Scott's, where I met Uncle & Aunt J. Sewall, & M^r & M^{rs} Lee.

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Wednesday - 17 Nov[ember] 1819

Several gentlemen, to whom letters had been addressed from New-York on the subject of Slavery in New States met at my Office. - Present - Hon[orable] Geo[rge] Cabot, D. Webster - J. Quincy - W. Prescott - W[illiam] Sullivan - and James Prince Esq[uires] Ja[mes] Savage - F. C. Gray - W. Dutton - W. Tudor - - The subject was discussed, and M^r Webster, Quincy, Marshal Prince, J. T Austin & myself were appointed a committee to prepare & make arrangements for a meeting of citizens, wh[ich] upon the whole was preferred to a Town-meeting - M^r Webster had taken some disgust at what he thought fear, & excessive caution in the gentlemen present - & I had some difficulty in persuading him to act as chairman - but he consented at last, & appointed a meeting at his house in the evening - I had suggested to M^r Cabot, who presided & nominated the committee the expediency of putting M^r Savage in my place as far more competent, than I could hope to be - He replied call upon M^r Savage for assistance. - I therefore re-

quested M^r Savage to attend at M^r Webster's in place of M^r Quincy, who would be out of town. He assented. -

In the evening we met as appointed - all present but Marshal Prince, who was sick, & M^r Quincy, who

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was represented by M^r Savage. - After some discussions, it was agreed to adjourn to Monday ev[enin]g - & meanwhile to inform ourselves upon the subject - M^r Webster was to see Judge Story, & if possible induce him to prepare a memorial. - M^r Savage to see M^r Fuller, & get his speech, & such documents as m[igh]t be useful from last session of Congress - M^r Austin to procure the insertion of some extract, or other notice in the Patriot, & I to apply to M^r Hale to insert a notice in the Advertiser.

Thursday. 18 Nov[ember] 1819

On appl[ication] to M^r Hale, found he was already promised some essays on the Slavery Question, to be written by one eminently well qualified -

Friday - 19 Nov[ember] 1819

Passed the ev[enin]g at J. Mansfield's where was a small party of friends. The Misses Hinckley were there. - I was much interested by a beautiful, modest & intelligent young lady, Miss Fiske, who keeps a school in town - but I was able only to have a few moments conversation with her.

Saturday - 20 Nov[ember] 1819

By divine blessing, after being threatened with sickness, I find myself in good health - Spent the day in business, & attended

club at D^r Hayward's in the evening.

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Sunday - 21 Nov[ember] 1819

M^r Channing having returned during the past week from N[ew] York, delivered this morning a sermon, which he preached while there to a Society now forming upon the Unitarian Plan. The text was from 1 Peter - [chapter] 2, [verse] 15 - "be ready always to give an answer to ever man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" - M^r C[hanning] said, that it was well known to his people, that he disliked & avoided controversy in the pulpit - but when the voice of reproach was continual & loud, to be entirely silent would be to desert the cause of truth. He should therefore attempt to answer some of the principal objections urged against the sentiments adopted & practised upon by us. - The objections answered, were - 1 - That we deny the divinity of the Saviour - In a sense in wh[ich] this term is very often used, we do not deny, but maintain his divinity - that is, his divine mission & office, & that God so dwelt in him, spoke in him & worked in him, ~~that~~ and he was so truly the brightest image and expression of his Father's perfections, that in seeing and hearing him we see & hear the Father - But in the sense that Jesus Christ is himself the Supreme God we do not & cannot believe, thinking it both unscriptural & absurd - 2. That we take away an infinite atonement, and thereby since the sin of man is infinite, we deprive the sinner of his only hope - The language upon this subject, M^r C[hanning] treated as de-

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clamatory, & altogether unwarranted by scripture. He called for a single passage in scripture, where infinite sin was mentioned, or the necessity of infinite atonement. If he was asked upon what his hope was founded, he should answer, it was upon the infinite goodness, and paternal character of God - and it seemed to him to be derogatory

from the Supreme Excellence of God to suppose, that having made man frail, & liable to sin, he had yet no other means to save him but himself to endure pain & suffering - The ~~being~~ sovereign whose laws were violated was himself to atone to himself for this violation. The very statement carried its own refutation.

3. - That our system produces less piety & zeal. - This objection was not very modest or very humble - & it was one difficult to answer without appearing to boast. - We are sure that our views of religion ~~have~~ are better adapted to awaken piety than those opposed to them - If ~~it~~ we are not pious, the fault is in ourselves, not in our faith. - Mr C[hanning] then ~~renew~~ pointed out some of the causes of this charge - viz[it] [*namely*] our not using the same means, which others tho[ugh]t themselves justified in using, to make proselytes, and our believing, that those who are sincere, tho' they agree not with us, may yet be saved - &c (a)

4. It was argued as an objection to the Preachers, that they preached mere morality. - If by this term was meant, what it naturally imputed, in "the whole duty of man, as a christian"

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confessed that we preach morality - But some probably meant by it, that the preachers inculcated only "a social & worldly morality" - He hoped that those who made this charge, did it from rumour - He appealed to all hearers, that it was utterly false -
- Others by moral preaching meant only, that they did not insist on certain doctrines - such as the Trinity - original & total depravity - and an electing grace - - These it was true, they did not preach - & if they should, they doubted, especially as to the two last, wh[ether] they could be called "moral preachers" - for they seemed to them to border on ~~infe~~ immorality -
5 - That the system led to infidelity. - At this he could only say, he was amazed - It may be true, that

many, who begin by renouncing the corruptions, he had been opposing, by a natural tendency of the mind, fall into scepticism, and irreligion - None are so prone to believe too little, as those who begin by believing too much - Of this we have had a practical illustration in France & Spain - and if there were any thing in the argument, it would with as much force go to the support of popery, as of Calvinism - But it is a fact, that of those, whose learning & pious zeal has contributed most to the defence of Christianity, the greater number have been Unitarians - M^r C[hanning] then enumerated them, with some remarks on each - They

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were Locke - Newton, of whom he said, we have strong reason for believing he was an Unitarian - Lardner - Chandler - Clarke - Priestley - & perhaps Payley - With the exception of Butler, who perhaps had done more than any one man to defend Christianity, & whose name was never to be mentioned but with reverence, the ablest supporters of Christianity ag[ain]st the attacks of infidels had been Unitarians.

6. It was objected, that these opinions gave no consolation & support in sickness & death - At this charge M^r C[hanning] expressed his utter amazement. - He then in a most beautiful & pathetic manner, related concisely the circumstances of the sickness & death of the late Rev[erend] M^r Abbott, whose dying words ^{^ were} "Father! into thy hands I commit my spirit." --

This was an eloquent sermon, delivered with great spirit & animation. It closed with a solemn declaration, that if his opinions were erroneous, he prayed God, that he may not succeed in his efforts to extend them.

M^r C[hanning] requested the children to meet again in the

vestry - I attended my class, & an exercise was assigned them. - I then called at Uncle J Sewall's, & passed half an hour, conversing on the sermon with M^r Gree[le] & Miss Robie - & M^{rs} Hill -

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This afternoon M^r C[hanning]'s sermon was from the words - "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear" - He said, he had selected them, because he feared, that subjects of controversy, such as had been treated in the morning, had an effect to induce them to refuse attention to religion, as a thing obscure & difficult - M^r C[hanning] pointed out the different motives, which may lead men to this criminal negligence - He then proceeded to say - that there were two subjects of inquiry - 1 - Was Christianity true? 2. - What does it contain? - Upon the infinite importance of these above every other subject of inquiry M^r C[hanning] insisted with his accustomed force, & pointed out the difference in this respect between Mahometanism & all other false religions - & Christianity - This too was an admirable sermon - but I have not time to record it more in detail -

I called on Aunt Scott & passed some time -

Spent the ev[enin]g till 8 o'clock in the Athenæum, reading the Missouri Question.

Sunday - 28 Nov[ember] 1819

In the morning M^r Flint of Bridgwater preached - & in the afternoon M^r Channing. -