

Monday - 27 July. [1812]

On Tuesday of last week my Father arrived in town & staid till Wednesday afternoon. - His object was to procure insurance on property shipped him from France, but

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he could not succeed. - I passed tuesday ev[enin]g at Uncle Gray's with him. - On Tuesday I had also the pleasure of meeting on the Exchange ^[NOTE 16] my old Friend Wilson. He seemed to be well in health & tolerably so in spirits. - Thursday was the day appointed by Gov. Strong as a day of fasting & prayer on account of the war. Politics would of course be the theme of every sermon. As the violent proceedings & publications of the Federal party have excited in me great alarm lest an attempt should be made to disunite the States, I wished to hear on this occasion a moderate & constitutional sermon, and having heard from M^r Holly on the anniversary of Artillery Election, the last year, a sermon most forcibly demonstrating the vital importance of Union, & eloquently exhorting all classes to guard it as the fortress of their happiness, I selected him as the Preacher who would be most likely to gratify me. - The first part of his sermon, which was from the text 14 Jer[emia]h 19v[erse]

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was employed in defending the practice of "preaching politics". This he did ably & ingeniously. He proceeded to explain the nature of our Constitution - and here I was most miserably disappointed - as the principles which he avowed were

such as the Jacobins from 90 to 1800 trumpeted thro' the land. - His leading views were, that the national was accountable to each State Government for its measures & conduct - that the States were still sovereign, & entitled to the first duty of their respective citizens - that each State government had a right first to be satisfied of the correctness & purity of the doings of the Federal Government, before it suffered its citizens to be bound by them - and that as our Union was no more than a sort of alliance or compact among sovereign States, whenever that compact was violated by one or more of the parties, the obligation as to the State injured by that violation was dissolved. - This would make our union a feeble thing indeed, & expose us to all the horrors of civil

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war whenever any factious demagogue of credit & influence enough to be believed, should come forward & boldly tell a portion of the people upon some plausible pretext, that their interests were wounded & their rights abandoned.—In the present crisis, such views must inevitably in a short time produce a civil dissension of the most horid & implacable kind. - During the progress of this discussion as the Preacher gradually unfolded his faction's sentiments, my feelings were excited to a very great degree. Terror was mingled with indignation, and I secretly resolved to address an answer to Mr Holly thro' the public prints. - I have not done this & probably shall not do it - in the afternoon the agitation of my spirits rendered me unfit to attend worship. I remained at home & wrote two letters one Aunt Lewis & the other Miss H. L.

Mrs Woodruff

Lewis, which I intended to send by Miss M. Lee & Cousin Mary Gray, who I supposed were to set out the next morning attended by M^r Jer[emia]^h Lee

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for Philadelphia, & would stay some time at Amboy. - This journey however was deferred till this morning & they are now probably on their way to Providence [*Rhode Island*]. - Would I were with them! - On Friday a corps of infantry composed of students of Harvard College made their first appearance in Boston under arms, & performed every evolution with great spirit & correctness. The interest excited by their scholastic character was apparent in the magnitude of the crowd which was assembled to see them, & the loud huzzas, which burst forth, as they left State Street. - I felt myself powerfully affected by the sight & in a manner which I cannot describe. It was however very pleasing. - For three evenings in succession [^] Tuesday - Wednesday - [^] & Thursday ~~& Friday~~ I enjoyed a fine sea-bath at S[outh] Boston in company with D[octo]r Burge. - The moon shone brilliantly on two of the evenings, & the tide on each was at a proper height. - I found the effect upon my health & spirits, which before had been rather low, to be extremely favorable.

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Saturday ev[en]g I passed at M^r Mansfield's. - M^r & M^{rs} Upham - Miss L[uc]y Minot - Miss L. Avery were the other guests. Politics were the topic of conversation between M^r M - M^r U - & myself. - // - Yesterday I attended worship all day at the Chapel. - M^r Freeman preached in the morning - his subject was "the benevolence of God" & his text that sub-

lime passage from the 1st Kings . - “*And a wind came before the Lord which rent the mountains &c*” - He endeavored to shew, that in the works of God, & in his revealed word he more often appears as a king & beneficent parent than as an awful king or severe judge. He examined nature for this purpose & referred to the numerous commands in scripture to love & cherish kindly affections one to another. - M^r Cary in the afternoon talked much about a subject, which I then well knew, but as the sermon made but little impression on my mind, have now forgotten. - Uncle May invited me to dine with him & to wait on Cousin Louisa home. - To so pleasant an occupation I of course could not object. - Uncle M. brought home with him the sermon

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delivered by the Rev[eren]d M^r Gardner on Fast-day. - He read a part of it before dinner, & I finished it while he smoked after dinner. - It is written with elegance & force - but is violent in its recommendations of disunion, & civil war. - I waited on Cousin L. to Church in the afternoon - I took tea at M^r Mansfield's - only himself & his wife present. - I was much pleased with the amicable and dignified deportment of M^{rs} M. - With such a companion M. must be happy in any situation, he may be placed in. - After tea M. proposed to me to ascend to the top of his house, whence he said there was an extensive & beautiful prospect. - I found his representation perfectly correct. The clouds in the west afforded a more brilliant view than I had ever before seen. - One column of cloud stretching high above the horizon presented to the fancy the appearance of a tall mountain, & the broad skirting of gold, resembled

the stream of burning lava from a volcano. - In the North at some distance was a thunder cloud - the flashes of

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lightning were not frequent, but were brilliant - and we could observe the progress & course of the shower. - We were soon joined by M^{rs} M. - & shortly after by M^r Th[oma]s Rice - a man of M^r Baldwin's, & two M^r Wards soon followed - and we had thus quite an aerial party. - I left them to visit the family at Uncle Gray's - it being the intention of Miss Lee and Cousin Mary to set out on the following day for N[ew] York - Ambry & Philadelphia. - I had the pleasure of finding the[re] Miss L. Shillaber, & after an hour happily passed I had the good fortune to attend her home. Again, as ever before, I was charmed with her amiable & interesting deportment - the intelligence, prudence & modesty that appeared in every word & action. Never did I enjoy any moments more highly, than the few which I passed in conducting her from Hancock to Summer Street. - She is not accomplished, having had but few advantages of education, but she has what is worth ten thousand accomplishments - virtue & good sense - and a mind capable of any degree of improve-

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ment. - I returned to Uncle Gray's in order to learn some further particulars respecting the *Constitution* said to have arrived. I found, that after, by wonderful exertions of skill & perseverance, having escaped from a large British Fleet, by which she was chased 60 hours, she had anchored below. - I bade farewell to the ladies & M^r Lee and left them about two o'clock. - On Monday evening I

**Sunday - 2. Aug[ust].
commences this entry.**

called at M^r S. Salisbury sen[io]r for the purpose of seeing M^{rs} Leverett, my cousin. - I found I had called very opportunely as it was her intention to leave town on the following day . - // - In the early part of the week I was making great exertions to collect a little money out of Blagrove's demands, for the purpose of setting Turner forward - B. having written to me that I must furnish what assistance was in my power. - On Tuesday evening I paid him ninety dollars, & with 30 more, which he borrowed on M^r Blagrove's credit of M^r Jones, he, Miss Jones

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& his three children set out on Wednesday morning - I much fear lest the fund should not hold out for the transportation of so large a family. - Nothing of the smallest importance occurred during the remainder of the week. - It has rained almost every evening which has prevented my enjoying society. - Only one evening I called at Uncle Gray's, & found there Miss Shillaber - I staid but a short time, having found Miss S. rather a dangerous object to be long near. - This day (Sunday 2 Aug[ust]) I have attended worship in the morning at the Chapel, where I was accompanied by M^r Lawson. - M^r Cary performed the service. His sermon was rather a trite one, upon the necessity of aiming at the attainment of every Christian grace & virtue - and the danger & absurdity of relying upon a solitary virtue or upon faith alone, when the violation of other laws was habitually indulged. - This afternoon I have attended at M^r Channing's & heard a good sermon upon "the slavery of sin." - After some general remarks upon the text, which he translated "He that pra-

tiseth sin, is a slave to sin", he limited his discourse to the subjects of intemperance - & the malevolent passions.- Both of these he discussed with much force & elegance. - // -

On going to the Post-Office this morning, I learned the intelligence received by the mail of the day of a transaction, which has filled every soul with dismay & horror, & will eternally stain the annals of our Country. - For some time past the city of Baltimore has been disturbed by a furious mob, which has torn down the office of the Baltimore Federal Republican, & committed other enormities without any effectual efforts being made by the civil authority to quell them. By our last accounts it appeared that the paper having again issued, the office where it was distributed was attacked - & defended by M^r Hanson, the editor & several of his friends, who upon the mob's attempting to force the doors, after giving warning fired and killed several of the rioters. This was the state of our last accounts. - But the letters of this morning are filled with news of more horrible import. It seems, that to satisfy the infuriate populace, M^r Hanson,

with General Lee, late Governor of Virginia, & others of his friends, consented to be conveyed to prison, & to wait there until justice should decide on what they had done. In this place they hoped to be secure, but on the following night - Wednesday last - the mob assembled & having planted a field-piece in front of the prison to prevent any assistance being given, they burst open the doors & horribly murdered M^r Hanson - Gen[eral] Lee & thirteen others. Only two es-

caped - M^r Bigelow - lately of Cambridge & M^r Finch.- Their fury did not stop here. They tarred & feathered the bodies of several of the murdered and dragged them thro' the city. Here let me stop. When can an enormity of this horrid character ever be forgotten? - How dark a page has it formed for American history? - Are the crimes of the French Revolution to be acted over again in this once happy Country? Can such savage barbarity exist in the breasts of Americans? I pray God, that they may be found to be of foreign blood. It cannot be that my countrymen have been this infu-

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riate. - M^r Channing touched most feelingly upon this terrible event in his prayer this afternoon. - I received this morning a letter from Pelham. - He seems to be in good spirits & probably has by this time acquired some thing of the soldierly character.

Review.

In the months of June & July I have done little either of business or study - I however have drawn up an examination of an interesting question respecting the effect of the British Treaty in regard to lands devised by will after the separation of the countries, & before the treaty - & have read a considerable part of a French Work - "*Histoire de Henri le grand*" - the author is Hardouin de Perefice, Bishop of Rhodéz [*Rodez*] - it is a work of about 1670 [*incorrect: on page 140 he writes 1660; he died 1670*] ^[NOTE 1] instruction of

Louis 14th It is a concise account of the principal events in that interesting period of French History. - I have also finished reading Priestley's Memoirs, which I have found entertaining & instructive. - The life of this extraordi-

nary man abound in incident more than those of most

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literary men. - His boldness in reasoning & in avowing the conclusions of his investigation however opposed to the sentiments of his friends, or his own prejudices, extorts the praise of sincerity & independence of mind. - The simplicity of his character - & the uprightness of his every thought and intention, make him a valuable model in a ~~hit~~ moral point of view - His religion as it was founded on reason, & presented the Supreme Being in a light which must attract the love of his creatures, & make men contented, peaceful & happy here, is a system the extension of which is greatly to be wished. - The history of his labors in chymical & philosophical departments exhibits the most astonishing instance of industry, which perhaps the world ever saw, & where we are told, that he was always at leisure to receive his friends, & had time enough for his amusements, we cannot but admire the effect of that method with which he prosecuted his intense studies. - These memoirs are the

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more valuable for having been in part written by himself. —