









Martha F. Brady.

Oct 22nd - 1843.







Sunday Oct 22nd

"Passing Away." to dream,  
Was it the chime of a tiny bell,  
That came so sweet to my dreaming ear,  
Like the silvery tones of a fairy's shell  
That he winds on the beach, so mellow & clear,  
When the winds and the waves lie together asleep,  
And the Moon and <sup>the</sup> Fairy are watching the deep  
She, dispensing her silvery light,  
And he, his notes as silvery quite,  
While the boatman listens and ships his oar,  
To catch the music that comes from the shore?  
Hark! the notes on my ear that play,  
Are set to words: - as they float they say  
"Passing away! passing away!"

But no; it was not a fairy's shell,  
Blown on the beach so mellow and clear,  
Nor was it the tongue of a silver bell.  
Striking the hour, that filled my ear,  
As I lay in my dream; yet was it the chime  
That told of the flow of the stream of time.  
For a beautiful clock from the ceiling hung,  
And a plump little girl, for a pendulum swung,



As you're sometimes seen, in a little ring  
That hangs in his cage, a Canary bird's swing;  
And she held, in her bosom as beclinging, so quiet,  
And, as she enjoyed it, she seemed to say,  
"Passing Away! passing away!"

O how bright were the wheels, that told  
Of the lapse of time, as they moved round slow!  
And the hands, as they swept in the dial of fate,  
Seemed to point to the girl below.  
And lo! she had changed - in a few short hours  
Her nosegay had become a garland of flowers,  
That she held in her outstretched hands, and flung  
This way and that, as she, dancing, swung  
In the fulness of grace and of womanly pride,  
That told me she soon was to be a bride;  
Yet then, when expecting her happiest day,  
In the same sweet voice I heard her say,  
"Passing Away! passing away"

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While I gazed at that fair one's cheeks, as shade  
Up thought, a care, stole softly over  
Like that by a cloud in a summer's day made,  
Looking down on a field of blossoming clover.



The rose yet lay on her cheek, but its flushy  
Had something lost of its brilliant blush;  
And the light in her eye, and the light on the wheels,  
That marched so calmly round above her,  
Was a little dimmed, - as when evening steals  
Upon Noon's hot face; Yet one could not but love her  
For she looked like a Mother whose first babe lay  
Rocked on her breast, as she swung all day;  
And she seemed, in the same silver tones to say,  
"Passing away! passing away!"

While yet I looked, what a change there came!  
Her eye was quenched, and her cheek was wan,  
Stooping and stooped was her withered frame,  
Yet just as busily, swung she on;  
The garlands beneath her head fallen to dust;  
The wheels above her were eaten with rust;  
The hands, that over the dial swept,  
Grew crooked and tarnished, but on they kept,  
And still there came that silver tone  
From the shrivelled lips of the toothless crone; -  
(Let me never forget till my dying day  
The tone on the burden of her lay,  
"Passing away! passing away!")



I have transcribed this sweet piece in my journal, for it will ever remind me of one of my pleasantest days at Bournemouth, namely our visit from Mr Pierpont. And beside this, his explanation of the origin of the lines adds new beauty to it. While he was reading it, I could almost hear the ticking of the clock, & see the plump little girl for a pendulum swing, & as she swung hear her lay in silver tones "Passing away! passing away!"

Monday 23<sup>d</sup>. Yesterday I was so busy, (as I always am on the Sabbath) that I could not afford much time for journalizing. I became so interested in arranging my sea mosses upon paper that I thought of nothing else. They look very pretty & will be quite an addition to my collection. There is indeed "beauty in the deep."

This afternoon we had a sing, & Mr Birdy complimented me at a great rate. I hope I shall not be puffed up in consequence; however, I do not feel at all elated for if I ever sing well, it is always owing to chance & never to skill. He is continually telling us how hard we have got to work when we go out to teach, but I am not in the least discouraged. — I have found a minutes time to night to read in my Willards History. The Author seems to think that America was first peopled by a branch from the Egyptians; that they wandered east, crossed Pherings street



and interest America; for remains have been found very similar to those in eastern Asia, but that fierce & ruder tribes follow in their train & expelled them from these regions.

Tuesday 24th. - At breakfast this morning, I told Lanny I was hankering for a letter from home, & when our Geometry class was called to recite, Miss Downing presented me one that she had just taken from the office. Then angles, triangles, & circles were all the same to me, I could see nothing but the oblong shape of my letter. At last I could wait no longer, but broke the seal & read. It was from Rebecca, and brimming full. It contained a deal of news, but the pleasure the receipt of it afforded me, was marred, when I read how nearly she & Cousin Isaac came to spending last Sabbath with me. She says, had I known of their plan I should not have been quietly seated at my composition. I almost wish I had never known it, & then I should not have felt so sadly disappointed as I now do. It seems he is to sail for Europe a week from tomorrow. May he have a happy winter & return safely to his native land, when the 5th Mo. shall arrive. - Willy, it seems, is now at home; how long it seems since I saw him. The Lyceum lectures have commenced too; how much I should like to hear Mr. Giles, but



it cannot be, so I must remain content. — At school things went on as usual. The spelling preface was recited quite tolerably. My explanations in the sequel were miserable, but I will endeavour to do better next time, & it is so important in a teacher too, to explain clearly. — This evening I have spent in copying my Geometry problems & reading a little history concerning the Indian tribes. One of traditions or truths which I read was this, It seems great disputes had arisen between the different tribes, & the Iroquois sent this message to the Delawares; "It is not profitable that all the nations should be at war with each other, for this will at length be the ruin of the whole Indian race. We have therefore considered as a remedy. One nation shall be the Woman, & we will all defend her. She shall make no war, but she shall speak words of peace, to heal the disputes of those who are walking in foolish ways. The men shall then hear & obey the Woman. The Delawares consented; a council followed in which the Iroquois declared in their figurative style, "We dress you in a Woman's long habit, we give you oil and medicine, & a plant of Indian corn with a hoe. To your care we commit the great belt of peace & chain of friendships. — I dearly love to read about the Indians. The above is a very good if not a true story. — Wednesday Aug 25th.

This forenoon we had scripture readings; these I enjoy.



very much, for our teacher is an excellent reader & brings out all the hidden beauties. To day we read the story of Haman which is full of instruction & warning. After access we had an excellent lecture on teaching. I took a page of notes & shall transfer them to my extract book. - Last night I went to McKays & procured a sheet of paper for my map. Mrs M. was very polite & pleasant; I like her very much, she is so original & bright. She invited me to come up & stop, & not wait for an order, which I should like very much to do if I could find the time. But oh dear instead of gaining time I am losing it fast; for I have been this whole afternoon at work upon my map of the world & at last spoiled it! Oh the trials of this world are many & various. I got almost out of patience & was just ready to find <sup>fault</sup>, because the world was made round, when by one wrong ruling my three hours work was as nought; I thought I might as well laugh as cry, so Fanny joined me & a merry time we had. The Bible says there is a time for every thing so I do not deppen of getting a map made yet.

Thursday 26th. - Another sing to day & another puff from Mr Bird. Fanny makes herself quite merry about it, however, the worst of it was, I did not deserve it. - Poor Abby has spoiled her map too by an ink spot, she does seem to be unfortunate indeed; but trials won't kill patience. - This morning we had some



beautiful remarks from our beloved teacher on Prayer.  
And we also had a rich flow of sentiments. Miss Puges  
was as near as I can recollect this

"Rise upon ~~truth~~ where'er 'tis found,

Among thy friends, among thy foes,  
On heathen or on christian grounds;

The plant's divine where'er it grows."

Then Miss Downing read a sweet piece about a shell  
& the dew drops & rainbow. — I called a few minutes  
between day light & dark to see the girls at Mrs Johnson's  
but my manifold duties prevented my staying long.

To night Fanny had a real hearty crying spell  
about ~~nothing~~, & I could do no less than — cry with her?  
no. laugh at her most heartily; after a while she con-  
-cluded to change her tune & join mine, but she still  
thinks she feels all the better for the outburst. — It is so  
late I shall not be able to read any Indian tales, but  
must go to bed. — to farewell —

Friday 27th. To day  
all my lessons went off well, explanation of all is a "that  
was done well" from Miss Tilder, which was worth a great  
deal; We have come to something in Algebra where she says  
we must study hard, this I expect to do every day, but  
I like it. Our lesson to day in Geography was interesting  
about the western states; And to night, as we have no



particular lessons for tomorrow except snap evening,  
I have enjoyed in reading about the Indian tribes  
who formerly lived there: Alex of Pocahontes, the most  
distinguished woman of aboriginal America. The seat  
of Powhatan's dominion was on James river & was called af-  
ter his name. The two most remarkable chiefs of New  
England were Father & son of the tribe of Pokanokets; Mas-  
sasoit, distinguished for wisdom & goodness; & King Philip  
for valor. — Fanny & I are getting to be quite titanic,  
entirely absorbed mind & body, for we both went to  
school this morning & but once did we think that we  
had not eaten a bit of breakfast. Fanny said she felt  
faint but did not know the reason, but as I am some-  
what used to going without, I did not feel any inconve-  
nience from it. My Geometry Lesson often answers for a break-  
fast for me & I relish it too as Livy Pope would say, I do  
wonder if the Love affair is settled between her & the Philadelphian  
friends. Rebecca says not a word about it. — Oh the splendid  
sunsets that we have witnessed these few days past, quite  
equal to the Italian skies so famed in story, & this is as beau-  
tiful work. I do not feel one bit sleepy but it is after  
ten so I must journalise no more to night.

Saturday 28th. A happy day has this been to me. At our  
morning reading our beloved teacher explained to my satisfaction



that remark of Jesus' is it meet to cast the children br  
to dogs. It has somewhat puzzled me, for it seemed so dissonant  
with the lovely & loving character of Christ; but I have now no  
doubt it was spoken in the tone & manner our teacher supposed.

- We had another lesson in map drawing; Oh the patience of Mr  
May; he is truly a second Job. I said something hastily, against  
the study of map drawing, for which I felt sorry afterwards, for  
I believe it cast a cloud over my teacher's face, & I would not  
of course do any thing intentionally to cause that; another thing,  
it might, perhaps, have discouraged some of the class who were  
all ready faint hearted, but in future I shall endeavor to  
take heed to my words. - After recess I had the pleasure  
of reading to the school, one of the most beautiful allegories  
that ever was written; I was perfectly charmed with it.

The language was exceedingly melodious & the thoughts it  
contained were exquisite. Our division have for our next com-  
po. to write what we can remember of it, but I fear to touch  
it as Mr. Pierpont did his dream, for I shall surely disfigure  
it, so that it would never be recognised. - Miss Page has  
made us a long call this afternoon, I think she is a fine girl,  
Fanny has been so absorbed in her maps that I could  
scarcely prevail on her to spend a minute on the beau-  
ties of the sunset sky. I cannot describe its glory, it would  
take the pen of Mrs. Child to do it justice, at such times I



almost seem to catch a glimpse of heaven. Oh how beautiful God has made his children's home.

I have not read any to night for my eyes begged for rest.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>. How many, many things I would like to have done to day. In the first place, I would like to have spent the whole day in reading; I would like to have written three letters & thus paid my debts, if they accumulate much more I shall be obliged to do as all rogues do; go into bankruptcy; but if they will give me time I hope to pay with interest. Another thing - I would like to have arranged my leaves & flowers & mosses, & I wanted to have taken a long walk in the woods, & I wanted to have filled out my allegory; so here is quite a company of wants; if, as the poet says, Men's wants are few, I am sure women's are not. But instead of doing any of these pleasant things I have been this whole day drawing my map of the world. After working on one seven or eight hours I spoiled it! Oh dear I could not have believed I should have felt so badly at a trifle; a trifle? no, it was not a trifle, it was one of the real trials of life. I rested awhile & then commenced another & here it is eleven o'clock & it is just completed & my back is nearly broken; I was obliged to stand or rather bend over all these hours & sometimes I felt as if I must scream out when I attempted to



to stand upright, & I greatly fear I shall feel it worse  
on the morrow than to day. The thoughts of that beautiful  
Allegory cheered me on my way & suggested quite a train  
of ideas to my mind. — M. Hopper came in & was quite  
importunate for me to call with her on Mr. Day, but as  
much as I wished to do so, yet I had the moral courage  
to refuse. I now feel quite tired enough to go to bed.

Monday 20th. This morning I shall not soon forget, &  
it was even as I thought; when I attempted to rise from the  
bed I thought I should have fainted. my back was so  
lame; I made quite a number of efforts & actually  
shed some pearly drops on the occasion before I succeeded  
in gaining an erect position. Fanny has been administering  
to me & I hope in a few days to recover my wonted height.  
We have been at work upon partial payments to night  
& I rather think we shall see decimal figures in our  
dreams. — Abby & Maria went to walk at noon & brought  
me a number of curiosities from the woods, the many  
colored leaves were very beautiful; they do indeed "glow  
with beauty to the last & brighter in decay". And the spec-  
imens of mosses & fungus were exquisite. The way they  
decorate their room with their spoils makes me think  
of crazy Butler, that used to visit us in my youthful  
days. (I am now over sixteen) "passing away, passing away."



Abby & Augusta have been at work with us to night,  
& have just left; I dare not say how late it is, but this  
much I will say; it is so late that spirits can walk  
unseen. I don't know when I shall get time to read again,  
Miss Vilden wishes to get us through the sequel this term  
so we take pretty long lessons, and I can but just find  
time for my regular studies.

Tuesday Nov 1st. Oh how sadly I felt when I went  
into school this morning to find our long partial pay-  
-ment sum was wrong. After toiling upon it till midnight  
it seems too much for poor frail human nature calmly  
to endure. However, I commenced upon <sup>it</sup> long as it was,  
& was able to finish it & get the right answer before our  
class was called, & it really paid me for my trouble, to  
see Miss Vilden's face brighten when she saw so many of  
us had the right result. - Our class in Geometry has  
diminished down to one half. It seems strange to me that the  
girls are willing to give it up, for it is really an exceedingly  
useful study. Mr May has, I believe adopted a new plan, about  
the reading in devotional exercises. I hope he has not done giving  
explanations of the scripture readings, for I enjoyed them so  
much. And oftentimes a few words of his, would throw great light  
upon a dark passage. He cannot think we consider them value-  
-less, for I am sure all the girls must feel interested in them.



Wednesday Nov 2nd. This day dear cousin Isaac em-  
-barks for Europe. May favouring breezes waft him safely  
to the shores of the old world, & when Spring again re-  
-turns may we greet him, safely home. What changes may  
take place between now & that time is known only to  
Him who sees the end from the beginning. May we so live  
that we may be prepared for any change be it what it may.  
And when our summons comes to leave us hence, may we  
accept it with rejoicing & not with sadness. To the truly  
good, afflictions however severe, will be met without  
repinings, for he sees beyond them his Heavenly Father face  
and with Him can had daily communion.

To day we had another lecture or school teaching. The  
remarks of our beloved teacher upon the moral culture  
of children were excellent, very beautiful & exceedingly  
launching. I could not help thinking he was inspired. As for  
keeping the tears back, I could not. Thought I struggled hard to  
do so. If I am <sup>not</sup> made better by them, my heart must be hard  
indeed. Oh dear, shall I ever be good enough to teach? This is a  
hard question & I cannot now answer it, may the morrow find me  
better than to day. ~ The select readings were very good, that  
is, what I could hear of them. Some, seemed afraid of their own voices.  
Mary has longed to smoke the freshmen, for she was kept on the  
qui vive to be able to hear at all. I have spent this afternoon



in Algebra & Sequel till 4 o'clock. Then we had a very pleasant call from Miss Tilden, how I wish my organ of calculation was as large as hers, but I must be content. Now I must go to work on my beautiful allegory. I greatly fear I shall not finish it to evening in tomorrow. I must banish sleep from my eyes and slumber from my eye lids & travel off into the regions of fancy. ——— Thursday 3d Decr. It is Thursday night and I feel quite relieved, for my map is finished, that is the worst part, and my long compo. is completed, and it lies upon the desk in season. But not without consuming some midnight oil, for I could not bear to lose any I could remember of it, so when I finished writing it out, I had two large sheets full, & it took me no small sum of time to copy nearly eight pages. To night I feel right happy, minus a bad cold & a bad headache. Fanny says I look as if I was 40 years old, but old age is honorable, so I mind it not. I did not go into the sing kettle apres midi, for my poor head ached & I wanted quiet. So I rested awhile & then went over & took tea with the girls at Normally, it really seemed pleasant to be settled at my old place again. It is a delightful evening, the moon is shining gloriously. I should like it, if the "Great Trumpet" would set me home on a balloon, or bubble, &



let me spend ash, horn or two, if he would, I should not  
care how many monkeys or jugglers accompanied me  
on my way, But I have not yet looked at my Geometry.

Friday 4th. "It's one day goes, another comes", our promise  
used to say; & here at Normal they come and go so rap-  
idly that it really alarms me. Another term is nearly  
finished: passed like a dream, yet very pleasantly, though  
I have had to work hard; even longer than while the  
day lasted. I do hope that it will be considered a desirable  
& profitable for me to come to the school more than one year.  
I cannot endure to think my year is nearly two thirds  
gone. Every day but shows me how important and responsible  
is the office of a teacher. — The girls say Mr Mann will  
visit the school in a few weeks. I think I should like  
him very much, & yet I dread to meet his catechisms in  
the school room. Oh these awful examinations! I can  
compare them to nothing but passing through a fiery fu-  
-rnace. I would like to go to school as long as I live, were it  
not for meeting with these horrid days. — We had a  
fine lesson in Algebra to day; and Leguel was all right.  
No other thrilling scenes here I to record, for we all  
kept the even tenor of our way. — My soul is worse, were  
I at home I should be dictating. Tomorrow we review in Geometry,  
so I have been taking a large dose of angles, triangles, quadrilaterals &c.



Saturday 5th. It is only about a week since I received a letter from home, yet I feel to day, most sadly the want of me. I could hardly believe the girls when they told me there was none for me. — After recess we all had the pleasure of hearing an allegory from Mary Tres. She wrote it for her compo. & it was so good. Mr May read it to us. I thought it was very pretty indeed, worthy a place in the Experiments. I had a presentiment that she was the authoress when he commenced; & after he had finished reading it; she wrote on a piece of paper & handed me wishing to know if I was not charmed at the reading of her compo. I think she possesses a great deal of talent, but she is very queer & rather disposed to be envious; a trait of character not as lovely in my estimation as some others I could mention. Let me shun it as I would a viper. "Of this fault, the old philosopher said, we carried before us, but our own, we hang behind out of our sight. Too true alas! The girls have all been to Leon Pond this afternoon. I should like to have been of the party, had not my cold been so bad. —

Sunday 6th. As my health would not admit of my attending church to day, I felt it would be right for me to work upon the Novel; & I am happy to say it is nearly completed without spot or blemish. I have also filled a sheet to send to Salem by to-morrows mail, and this evening



have made a short call on my friends at the Normal House.  
So on the whole I feel quite satisfied with my days progress.  
- Poor Abby feels quite discouraged about her snap. I believe  
she has spoiled season. I wish I could assist her, for she is  
always ready to do a kindness for me whenever it is in  
her power. She has many good qualities, although she is  
not blessed with a happy disposition at some. But I  
think she has improved very much since she came to Nor-  
malty. How these splendid moonlight nights reminds me  
of my visit at Westbrook, just a year since. What changes  
have passed over many who were visiting together at that  
time. Four have been called to "that house from whence no  
traveller returns" and a warning sound says "Be ye also ready."  
I have <sup>not</sup> prepared my lessons sufficiently for the morrow,  
so I must go to bed, & arise before the dawn of day.

Monday 7th. When I went into school this morning I had  
a presentiment that I should have a letter, so I asked Mary  
Spies if she had been to the post office & she answered "yes, &  
there is a letter for you from New York, post paid & from a gen-  
tlemen. said I, why did you not bring up with you. Oh said she,  
I did not think of it, besides it was too much trouble.!!!  
I said no more, but have thought of it many times since, For  
a long while she has seemed, I thought, to have a pique  
against me, & this odd answer about my letter had confirmed my



suspicious. However, as I have never given her the slightest cause for unpleasant feelings towards me, I shall not trouble myself at all about it - As I was perpetrantly engaged, Fanny went for me to the office, & returned with a nice long & interesting letter from Cousin Isaac. The last date was "off Staten Island". He seemed to be in perfect health & good spirits. When he told me how nearly he came to visiting Lexington, it made me feel almost homesick. He seems somewhat afraid that I shall injure my health by too close application to study, & says my health is much more to be valued than a little addition to my stock of knowledge. I believe the man little knows how ignorant I am; it seems sometimes as if I hardly knew my a b c's.

This afternoon we were all on tip toe <sup>in</sup> expectation of a visit, <sup>from</sup> Prof. Longfellow, but we were doomed to be disappointed. He came, but did not stop more than five minutes. His business here was to obtain some relics of the days of West-  
-minster. The antiquarian fever seems not yet to have passed over

I have been standing at the black boards doing Algebra a good part of the evening & Abby has been very kind, held the lamp for me, while I copied them all; I hope, some time to be able to return the kindness. But I must go to bed, for I am sleepy & tired. ~ ~ ~ Tuesday 3th. A lovely day



It has been, though cool. - We have for our comfort to perform in our next lesson, an awful compound interest sum. I must lay in a stock of patience, & rub up my organ of calculation, & commence & finish with care, else our good Miss Tilden will have a long face. & I should be unwilling thus to distort her smiling "visage" Were I as perfect in Numbers as she is, how rich I should feel. I should "envy not <sup>the</sup> rich and great." - We have no lessons to prepare for the morning, & I shall enjoy the rest, nothing to do. I shall be as happy as a clam. We have a nice blazing fire; sitting under our own vine & figtree with none to molest or make us afraid. An enviable situation, indeed. John Jacob Astor feels not more independent than Fanny & I.

Our food is always cooked in the best style, although our dining & tea set, somewhat resembles Joseph's coat of many colors. We have one cup & saucer that matches very well indeed, the cup being blue & the saucer drab; and as we are both nearly tea drinkers we do not mind our tea pot being minus a nose, or spend to speak gently. Going to housekeeping is generally the next step after getting married; but Fanny & I thought it safest to try it before, inasmuch as it is easier to get rid of a house, than a husband.

Our parsing lesson was not explained very well this afternoon; how much easier it is to see the meaning of a passage, than to explain it in proper language. I believe the other exercises were performed to the satisfaction of all concerned. Tomorrow the library is to be fixed up



so I must return the books that are in my possession, without fail.

Wednesday 4th. Am I not a favored child? Another long letter have I received to day, from dear Cousin Maria. She says I must visit her, before I commence my occupation as teacher, & I should dearly love to have a peep at the precise city of Philadelphia, & sail up the North river & then on to Niagara. Mr May has not told us half enough about his visit there, how I should like to have been one of his correspondents during his journey, he would, I suspect, have found it "more blessed to give, than to receive". But I would a little rather have been a companion de la voyage. "Hope on, hope on", my blessed motto, tells me, that I may yet have a view of Niagara. ~ I shall have a nice time during vacation answering my letters. What a comfortable feeling it is, when one has paid all their debts.

This forenoon we had scripture readings; they were not quite as interesting as usual. ~ Mr May seemed so pleased with my map when Abby showed it to him this morning, that it was really a sufficient compensation for all my trouble in drawing it.

Abby has been in to see "this afternoon, to get, as she said, two or three ideas for her "Death & the drunkard". But I fear she was unsuccessful, for ideas here, are as scarce as gold dust. ~ Fanny & self have been occupied in doing our Logarithms & Algebra. I hope to get through in time for a walk but do it not.



Thursday 10th. Before going to rest last night. Fanny  
& I sat down & studied together our Geography lesson,  
which was made up entirely of dates. How difficult  
it is to get them fixed in the Memory. We adopted  
various plans of association in order to fix them in  
our minds, & so merry time we had, for some of them  
were ludicrous in the extreme. On reciting to day,  
we found our plan had been of great benefit, for we  
were able to remember quite a number. We are  
now through the section, in Geometry, on proportions,  
& I am right glad for one, for it is as dry as politics.  
Eliza seems to think the reason that so many have  
left the is because she does not teach it properly  
& thus make it interesting. But I do not think so. at  
all. I suppose the poor things had to study entirely too  
hard. Our Mathematics consumes entirely too much  
time. Another visit this afternoon from Mr Birds.  
What a queer thing he is. I was amused to hear him  
take us off for doing so well, sitting so upright, & being  
so exceedingly attentive, when in the August presence of Prof.  
Longfellow. Every one, he said, appeared awed but Mr May; he  
was not, for he was used to such things. I cannot speak  
for the others, but for myself I must say I did not know  
he was, a "very great character". I was aware he had written



some very sentimental poetry, & if that constitutes greatness, great men & women too are not so very rare. This evening I went over to Normalty, & performed Algebra with Maria, she is a dear good girl, though her exterior is not as pleasing as some.

Friday 11th. How dreadfully sleepy I was this morning, I could almost say "a kingdom for a nap." & I felt that I could willingly resign a journey to Niagara even, for a "little more sleep a little more slumber". I remember well how shocked I was at reading an expression of Gray's (of the Elegy) where he compared his ideas of the joys of heaven to lying on a sofa all absorbed in a novel! But I must confess, this morning, mine, were but a little more elevated when I heard the sound of the Normal Bell at five o'clock.

The thoughts of missing my lesson had an effect to rouse my sleeping faculties, & after I had left my couch & was fairly & entirely awake I felt how strange it was that I should have so strong desire to indulge in dreamy sleep, when time is so precious & we so much to do in so short a time. We finished this afternoon "Pope's Essay" How beautiful the whole of it is but particularly the closing remarks. — After getting my reading, spelling & parsing I went into the yard & had a nice time play



ing graces, not very gracefully however.

Penny is grieving over her compo. & no wonder, the subject is enough to cause her to do so "Death of a Drunkard! Oh horrible, glad am I that I am not of the party. She is imagining a particular case, but truth on this subject is stranger than fiction.

Saturday 12th. This morning our beloved teacher made some very beautiful remarks upon these im-  
pressive as well as expressive words of Jesus.  
"Inasmuch as ye have done unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me". I am very glad he has commenced reading the Scriptures to us, in-  
stead of our reading to him, for I think he is one of the best readers I ever heard, I will not even except Pierpont.  
We had a review in Geography, & we came very near having another projection given us; but as most of the girls had made so little progress on their map of the world that it was deferred till next week. ~ After recess Mr May read us some very interesting facts respect-  
ing the Elephant, wasp, & moth. from the "Common School Journal". He says if he were to be placed upon a desert island & could have his choice of books to take with him, he should take first the Bible & next the Common School Journal. I was not aware before that it was so valuable. I must



place it on my list of books for my school library.

This whole afternoon have been at work on sequel, and this whole evening on Algebra, & only one answer have I been able to get. They are now harder to unravel than the Gordian knot. — Fanny is still musing upon her drunkard. She says she shall call on me to help her kill him. If I take part in the murder I shall give him a tremendous pill of kindness & thus choke him at once. But as I do not choose, to take part in so foul a deed, I shall just go quietly to bed, & if she cannot succeed in putting an end to his existence she must let him die a natural death.

Sunday 13th. It has been a very cold windy & disagreeable day, but I have enjoyed it notwithstanding, for I have been seated this whole day by a comfortable fire reading "Miss Child's letters from New York". They are admirable "ever charming ever new". What a gift of language she has, so musical too; she is indeed one of the gifted. Her book is filled with flowers, & grottoes & precious pearls. This I must place upon my list. Her letter on Women's rights is capital. — This evening we have had a long & very pleasant call from our dear school mate Mary Hopper. We conversed upon the various subjects of the day, our future plans of school teaching, in short our joys & trials. She told us



some of I. M.'s queer speeches which were really amusing & original. Then we commenced singing revival & Methodist tunes & hymns & she at last took her departure, but not till she had, without liberty, clandestinely & with evil intentions concealed under her shawl my journal. Some people are prone to take what does not belong to them; "it is loan with them", therefore we must have charity. Fanny has just finished her compo, & gone to bed entirely worn out. I believe she let the hero of her tale die of exhaustion, which she came very near doing ere she completed her task. Oh the composition seizes are wearing to the spirit. Last night the thoughts of my head upon my bed troubled me. I was making wrong equations the whole night, & to fill my cup of trouble I thought Mr May was going to leave the school, & on awaking found myself crying sadly & most happy was I to find it was only a dream. As I have given this whole day to pleasure I must be up long ere the dawn & prepare my lessons for the morrow.

Monday 14th. A very poor beginning for a new week in our Algebra. Even Maria with her great head, & Joanna with her reasoning powers, was not able to perform them. Miss Tilden, however, did not scold, though I felt quite as badly as go into the class with an imperfect lesson as I should to have a scolding, & more so. The



same problems are given us again for tomorrow. In sequel we had Allegation. Miss Silden's way of explaining it, is really beautiful, compared with the manner of our performing them. - She also gave us a sum in Algebra which she says if we look at it rightly, will be exquisite. I have been looking at it this evening & think I caught a glimpse of how it should be done, but shall not perform it <sup>full</sup> morning - perhaps I may dream it all out. - We had for our parsing lesson "Ode to Elegance". And this whole noon we were turning over Encyclopedias, Classical & Biographical Dictionaries, Universal Histories, beside consulting all the wise ones, & they are (scarce), to enable "to find the right meaning of all the allusions. It was a capital exercise. I enjoyed, and the parsing very much.

Tuesday 13th. This morning I did not quite understand our query in Geometry & thought if I attempted to explain it I might learn more than by hearing the others; so I went to the boards & soon found I had not seen the forty eleven Angles <sup>where</sup> it was composed in their right relation. Elected explained it so rapidly that I could not see it, nor understand, indeed, I never felt so perfectly exasperated in all my life. My head ached badly before I went into the class but ere I left it, I hardly knew whether I had any head or not. At any rate I felt sure my brains were gone, what little I ever had. As soon as the class had recited



I went into the fresh air, oxygenated my blood, by a little run, & soon felt better; if I had not, I believe I should have been running distracted by this time. The sum Miss Tilden gave us was beautiful. I happened to get my equation right & it really showed the "Poetry of Mathematics". She gave us another in the class equally pretty. Our performances to day were, I believe quite satisfactory. — We had a visit from Mr. Bird this afternoon, & he would insist on Mary, Elsie & I, going out & singing together before the whole school. Mary did her part very well indeed; but mine was a perfect failure. However, he was satisfied because I did my best. — The whole of last night I was dreaming of equations & getting out sums; to night I shall see nothing but that figure made up of angles. I used to dream of home, but my thoughts, <sup>of late</sup> seem to be quite concentrated near the Lexington Monument.

Wednesday 18th. On entering the school room this morning the cry was "one of the board of committee is here & we are to have an examination of the school. My heart went 'pit a pat' & all looked with eyes aghast. I hoped they had been mis-informed — but no. As soon as the introductory exercises were over Mr. May confirmed the statement, & soon a rap was heard, & lo! the man of the board entered. His head was white with age, & his face wrinkled & his teeth missing. He spoke as old men do, & told us he came at this time so as to see the school just



as it was, without a prepared examination. Oh if there is  
one word that sends a chill through the frame, & almost  
stops the action of the vital powers, it is examination.

Murder, fire, thunder, earthquakes, death even, awakens not  
more appalling feelings. I was ready to exclaim with the  
sensitive poet, "Oh for a lodge in some vast wilderness."

But to return. we were placed in the fiery furnace with-  
out a moments warning, & I expected if we lived to come  
out we should be nearly singed to death, almost past  
recovery. But the prospect brightens. The read & spell & the  
boards was delightful. I began to suspect he was hoarse of hear-  
ing for he said he never heard better reading in any school in  
his life. I thought the performance was a little below mediocrity.  
Then we had Numeration, decimals, fractions, interest &c &c.  
The gent then made a speech, said he had been exceedingly grat-  
ified & should spend tomorrow forenoon with us. So we are to  
be tried once more. I should like it if he should happen  
to be a little unwell tomorrow, just enough to prevent his  
presence among us & to make him conscious of the inestima-  
ble blessing of health. ~ There is a light yet at Normalty,  
although it is very late; some of the juniors are going to sit  
up late that they may be able to explain well tomorrow. So  
bed I must go, for it has been a trying day & I want rest.

Thursday. 17th. The subject of the reading this morning was Love.



The Committee man favored us with a few remarks, & an excellent prayer, the tenor of which was Love. When the sentiments were called for, I repeated those lines "Let us love one another" which I believe the old gentleman liked very much.

He came into our Geometry class, & made some very apt remarks. He enquired if we knew what proportion the circumference of a circle bore to the diameter, & I said it was three times the diameter. Whereupon he came & patted me most lovingly on my head, & said "Oh my dear if you know that you know more than any body else". I felt all colors, but particularly red.

Next came our Algebra which went off finely. Miss M. said we explained beautifully & that was worth a fortune. The whole of the time after recess was taken up with a speech from the man of the board. Some of his remarks were good, but others I liked not at all particularly on the management of schools.

He said he was pleased with the pleasant manners & dignity of the ladies; I heard no more after this class, for some time. In short he seemed pleased with every thing he heard & saw, & has left us very favorably impressed. — This evening Mary & I, went up to Mr May's; but as he was on the point of going to his tea, we did not stop but a few minutes. When I can find time, I intend to spend an evening there.

Friday 18th Our spelling lesson was performed laughably enough last night; I thought the gentleman from Bridgewater must have been highly entertained, & must



also have had a high opinion of our spelling powers: & to night it was not much better. — He had to explain to day all about why adding a negative quantity is equal to subtracting an equal positive quantity, & adding a positive equal to subtracting a negative &c. &c. Miss Tilden thinks our reasoning powers are not yet fully developed. — Tomorrow we are to have a review in Physiology, & I have been reading "Mann's Report" with as pleasure as I did at first. Some parts of it are beautiful & the whole excellent of course. — Yesterday I received a long letter from Rebecca. It seems the great wedding come off in Lynn, yesterday. A splendid time for Lynn (among friends I mean). But dear me, were I going to <sup>be</sup> joined in hymens silken chain, I should wish to be all in the quiet; a great parade at such a time would ill accord with my feelings; but "so goes the world" & I suppose if we live in it, we must go with it. Then after they get to their Philadelphia home, what a partying time there will be; the thoughts of it are enough to frighten as children like me. Their cups of earthly bliss, "seems sparkling to the brain"; my wish is, that it "may overflow beyond their latest hour". — Part of my letter was from Willy; it seems he has gone again to school at Providence. I shall answer it as soon as I can find time.

Saturday 19th Nine o'clock — Fanny has gone to bed



with a sick head ache, but I feel remarkably well  
& wide awake notwithstanding we have had such a  
perilous week. These little trials do us good, we ought  
to be ready for an examination at any moment, & if we  
have a few days at Thanksgiving I shall spend all the  
time in reviews. — Our Physiology review this morn-  
ing, went off rather sluggishly; had Horace Mann been  
present I should have "absquatulated". I wish we could  
have reviews in something every day, instead of the  
spelling lessons, but I suppose spelling really is more impor-  
tant than any thing else. — Our beloved teacher gave  
us a short lecture on reading, or rather advice as to the  
books we should read & the course we should pursue. I  
have taken a list of them, & shall read them when I find  
time, & own them as soon as I am able. My highest am-  
bition at this time seems to be, that I may become a well  
qualified teacher, & to possess a well furnished library.  
Are not my wants few, my wishes all confined? Oh, one thing  
more I want — with all my gettings, may I get understandingly.  
The sweet piece of poetry that Lanna read a few days since comes  
to my mind "One thing is needful yet." Ah yes — without that  
my life will be as a bubble on the stream of time. How  
excellent was our beloved teacher's petition to our Heavenly  
Father this morning. His allusion to the spirits in heaven,



when we should be all gathered there, was very beautiful & quickening. — Miss Tilden made us a very pleasant call this afternoon; she is a darling child. I dearly love her. — I went over about five o'clock to walk with Hopper, but as she was just going to tea & gave me such a pressing invitation to accompany her, I could do no otherwise than accept. After which, we had a very pleasant walk & chat. Met Mr & Mrs May, who invited us to pass tomorrow evening with them, which I shall be most happy to do. Have been over Positive & Negative quantities & think I shall explain clearly when Monday comes.

This has one of the warmest & pleasantest days we have had for a long-long while. — I finished my bead needle case & presented it to our kind Landlady Mrs Monroe, who seemed much pleased with it. On the whole I have accomplished a great deal this week. — Farewell-journal for this time on Sunday 20th. This morning Abby & Mary made us an early call, before we had made our toilet or arranged our parlor; but we were not in the least disturbed, left our things all in disorder as they were & sat down & politely entertained them. — They said they were going to <sup>attend</sup> a meeting in the woods, & wished me to accompany them. I gladly accepted & we enjoyed the preaching as much as any we ever listened to. The mosses & ferns were eloquent. I almost cov-



- shipped them. The trees & the running brook gave us music, & the dry & withered leaves spoke to us in "low and solemn sounds". - I busied myself in collecting a quantity of tiny red leaves, colored by the frost, hoping in vacation to form them into a wreath for <sup>my</sup> "Lock". If I possessed a little of Ellen's taste I could make something very beautiful of them. After remaining about an hour & a half we returned, but not without casting many a lingering look behind. Each of us was borne down with the treasures we had collected.

Unfortunately for us, the meetings had just closed, & we felt some hesitancy about appearing in the streets at such a time & under such circumstances. But as all our vessels were so heavily laden, we could not seem to find any safe & favorable port short of Normal harbour; we therefore decided to steer directly there & not allow a moment's time to be lost. - We were so fortunate as to anchor safely, without being obliged to throw overboard any of our valuable cargo. We have disposed of it to our entire satisfaction, & feel entirely paid for the toil & trouble of transportation. -

I have passed a very pleasant evening <sup>at Mr. May's</sup> in company with several of our schoolmates & Mr. & Mrs. Crafts. The latter I liked very much indeed.



Monday 21st. Notwithstanding our exercise in the woods yesterday, I have had a tremendous headache all day, I must have taken cold standing on the damp ground collecting brakes. — I got excused from singing school this afternoon as Fanny & I, had decided to visit her friends; but we were first to get out our sequel turns. The lesson was so long & we were so dull that it was nearly dark ere we finished them. So <sup>we</sup> were obliged to postpone our intended visit to a more convenient season — I have just finished a letter to send to Salem by Mary Fox, who left our ranks to day. How much I shall miss her; she has been my near neighbor so long. In about a week she enters upon the duties of a teacher. She has my warmest wishes for her success. If she had a little more patience, joined with gentleness of manners & decision of purpose, I think she would make an excellent teacher. — — Last night Mr May said to me, why do you not prevail on Abby Parker to take more exercise, her lowness of spirits is occasioned by the want of it. Thinks I to myself, my advice would be ill received; for precept & practice would in this case be far separated. I would like to exercise more than I do, but I really cannot get the time. Oh time how precious show art. — — Tuesday 22nd. How

more than glad I was that I got excused from singing yesterday. Abby & Maria called on us in the eve



-ming & told us that some of the girls so grieved  
for the Bird that he left the school in tears. Too  
disgraceful, entirely. I felt very sorry on several ac-  
-counts, to have such a circumstance happen. Not the  
<sup>least</sup> the trouble it will cause Mr May. But I doubt  
not all who took part in the joke are by this time  
heartily ashamed & sorry. — — What a delightful call  
Abby & I had on our beloved teachers last evening. I  
went up to enquire about the age or rather the  
death of Nathaniel, & did not think of stopping more  
than ten minutes, but he was so pleasant, & made  
the time pass so rapidly, that an hour glided by before  
we were aware of it. He read to us that beautiful  
piece of Thomson on the death of Sir Isaac Newton.  
Passages in the book from which he read were marked in  
pencil by his Father which caused the conversation to  
turn upon his life &c. He then showed us his likeness, which  
was without exception the finest I ever saw. How much  
Mr & Mrs May loved him. It was really beautiful to hear them  
both speak so warmly in his praise, indeed, I should think  
no one knew him but to love him, or named him but to  
praise. I never shall forget the expression ~~the expression~~  
of our teachers countenance when he was relating to us  
his Father's habits of life, his cheerful spirit, & the love he



seemed to have for every one, particularly for the suffering & unfortunates. I think he said he died at the age of eighty four, & was in death one of the number to whom, could with perfect truth, be applied those beautiful lines of Mrs Hemans

Calm on the bosom of thy God,  
Thine spirit rest thee now,

E'en while with us thy footsteps tread,  
Thine seal was on thy brow.

Dust, to its narrow house beneath,  
Soul, to its place on high,

They who have seen thy look in death,  
No more may fear to die!

I know not when I ever passed so pleasant hours, & I came home, I feel sure, with my spirit made better. What an influence one such person as this joyous old man must produce on all with whom he associated; awakening in the hearts of those around him all that is good and true. His children rise up & call him blessed.

Things at school progressed as usual; the afternoon session now commenced at half past one. This arrangement is not convenient at all for us housekeepers; for we do not find time enough to prepare our dinners, as school does not close often till half past twelve.



Wednesday 23<sup>d</sup>. I wish we could have, the remain-  
der of this term, instead of readings Wednesday fore-  
noon, some reviews, in the studies we had last  
term; say Mental Arithmetic & Physiology. But I  
suppose our teachers know what is best for us. My  
compo. is finished & on the desk tomorrow  
morning, so I must begin to "roll thoughts in  
my head" else I shall be tardy. Would I could sum-  
mon to my aid some of Mrs Childs "thoughts that  
breathe & words that burn". Her words & thoughts come  
gushing out all sparkling & radiant with beauty.

Between ten & eleven - My compo. is finished &  
right glad am I, for the subject was one to awaken any  
other than pleasant reflections. Wars & warriors have no charms  
for me. - We had select readings this forenoon from the Lec-  
-ures. The piece read by Mary Hopper was very beautiful. I must  
learn it, & as to teach it to my pupils. - The lecture on  
teaching from Mr May, was really excellent; I enjoyed it very  
much indeed. I shall copy what I can remember, into my  
extract book. - This afternoon I went into Normality &  
found the girls preparing a letter to send to Maria's brother  
entreating him to favor us with a barrel of apples. I was ex-  
-cessively invited to join in the epistle my words of entreaty.  
Nothing ~~like~~ I took the pen & added my mite & a merry



time we had. We set forth in glowing language every inducement for him <sup>to</sup> comply with our wishes. We referred him to that passage of Scripture "he who giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord"; and that "our children & childrens children would rise up & call him blessed". If the apples do not come his heart must be hard indeed. But here I am writing nonsense, & not half of my lessons prepared <sup>for</sup> the morrow!

Thursday 24th. — Maria Manning is really a sweet child, for she invited Mary Lincoln & I, into her room to night & gave us a most generous treat of Molasses cake. It reminded me of that salt fish sauce which I attended last term. — We talked about Thanksgiving, which seems now to be the all engrossing topic. Mary invited me to spend the day with her, provided I will stuff the turkey and make the pudding. I have the subject under consideration. However, I believe I could do either, and eat them afterwards, better than I can prove all about those Negative and Positive quantities. We had an excellent lesson to day in Algebra as well as sequel. I had the pleasure of doing a sum for Mr May; finding the interest of a dollar & a half for fifteen minutes. Computing interest Miss Tilden's way, show the Poetry of Mathematics. — In about three weeks our term is out; I want to see the familiar faces at home very much; but I cannot



endeare to think the time is so near when I shall say, "this is my last term". Oh I must come another year, I cannot think of leaving in the spring, there are so many many things I must learn yet, before I shall be competent to teach. I shall soon be obliged to take my turn in the Model room. I shall like it very much only I feel that I cannot lose a week from my lessons without getting far behind my classes. But I shall study night & day during that week & endeavor to keep with my class. If Mr May would be willing I should prefer to stay a week or two after I have finished my term, & go into the school below & take lessons in teaching. I think I shall ask him; I am sure he will let me do what he thinks will be the best for me.

Friday 25. This has been a very happy day, though without the clouds have been weeping & smiling by turns. There is surely "not an hour but has its charm, from dawning light, to dying day." Every tree around our dear Morsenal home is bereft of its summer attire, yet they are still beautiful. There is to me something very pleasant in the thought that every tree sympathizes with its family, even when placed beyond the touch of the chilly Northern blasts. I will remember when I took up my dear little maple tree & placed it so carefully among my house plants, thinking it would grow



in so warm room through the winter; and how surprised  
I was to find, when autumn changed her green robes, for  
one "brown & bare," that my sweet little tree so sympathetic  
with its tribe, that every leaf sickened & died: so true was  
it to its nature & kind. I loved that little sapling; "but 'twas  
the first to fade away." — I sat down <sup>to write</sup> about my day in  
the Model room; but my thoughts, swifter than the  
flight of the Eagle, have been carrying me far away;  
my pleasant ride with Ellen, at which time I found my  
Maple, our visit to the Hermit, & the conversation with  
that eccentric being; all these things & many others, have  
passed like a picture before me. I do love that old steady  
white horse, that has given me so many pleasant rides.

Now to return. The model school has improved wonderfully  
since I visited it in the spring, or else my interest in  
schools, & teaching has increased wonderfully, for I have en-  
joyed the day exceedingly. — I heard two of the older classes  
read & spell & they tried so hard to please me, that it was  
a real pleasure to teach them. Their performances this forenoon,  
in Algebra & Sequel would do credit to heads many years older  
than their. Lucia is a capital teacher, almost equal to Miss  
Filder. This afternoon their spelling & parsing was excellent. Oh  
how I shall love to teach, when I become qualified; ah, that  
one word has meaning — but I will try. "Hope or hope ever." I had



prepared all my lessons for to day - so I feel that I have lost not much, & gained a great deal.

Saturday 26th. How excellent was the petition borne on the wings of this lovely morning, to the throne of our Father in Heaven. How I would like to have a school where I could come in as Lucia does, to the devotional exercises. How I shall miss these pleasant portions of time when I leave the school. Ah, the thoughts of leaving, comes upon me every day so that I often feel really sad. But I suppose these are selfish thoughts & I must endeavor to banish them, & feel that it is my duty to be doing something to make myself useful in the world, & answer in some measure the design of my being.

We had a review in Geography this morning, but dear me how deficient we all are in this branch of study, seniors, extra seniors, as well as "one of the Middle Class". It is an interesting study, & one that young children would be likely to take a great interest in, if it is properly taught. I have taken Walter Briggs Universal Geography from the library to day, & in it, I find a mass of useful matter, which I intend to copy for the express benefit of my pupils. I must ask Mr May why it is that over some of the bays of Lake Huron there are always electric clouds; no traveller has ever passed there without hearing thunders. — After recess we were favored with a lecture from Rev Mr Crockett "in the faculty of Abstraction"



which was short & good, but delivered in a very sleepy way. After he finished Mr May took up the subject & made many excellent & useful remarks, particularly the way we should endeavor to cultivate this important faculty in our schools. I intend to make practical use of his hints when it falls to my lot to teach in the Model school. He related to us a wonderful instance of the concentration & abstraction of mind in a young physician, while performing a very critical surgical operation. Mrs Hamiltons & Abercrombys works were highly recommended for our careful perusal. Journal, I must now say farewell, for Fanny & I, are going visiting.

Sunday 27th. The sun dawned upon me this morning in a strange place, viz. <sup>in</sup> Mrs Wellingtons chamber! Fanny & self spent the afternoon there very pleasantly, & fully intended to return to our own domicile at the going down of the sun. But darkness came upon <sup>us</sup> before we were aware of it, & as the way home was through a lonely wood, we were prevailed upon to pass the night with them. Mr W. favored us with his company in the evening, & we found him very sociable & pleasant. We talked about Phrenology & Theology; Ministers who preached for money, & those who preached from a sense of duty; while on this point, Mrs W. went to the bookcase & brought forth & read to us some very beautiful lines apropos to the subject. Universal



-son was introduced & I soon found he was strong  
in the faith. He seemed quite conversant with the  
scriptures & brought passages from Genesis to Revela-  
-tions to prove his doctrine was true. The same, I suppose  
can be done, by every sect under the canopy of heaven. The  
bigoted old Puritans & the somewhat stiff & persecuting  
Quakers, were also brought up for consideration & we at  
last wound up with dissertation on Love & Matrimony;  
altogether we had a very merry time. - The "little one"  
was quite delighted to sit in my lap & have me re-  
-peat to him again & again, the story of "the sick mouse"  
"Tommy & the mouse pie" &c. &c. - But the pleasantest  
part of our jaunt was the walk home. We came round  
by Viles' garden, & as we stood on that eminence & saw  
the roads so exquisitely tinted by the frost, intermingled  
with the deep green & unchanging fir, all lighted up with  
smiles by the rays of the rising sun, the soft blue clouds, &  
far in the distance, "Monadnock's hoary head", all, these, formed  
one of the most beautiful pictures I ever saw. I took a  
daguerotype impression of it which I shall ever retain.

The rest of the day I have spent very usefully of course. Mary  
Hopper & Abby Parker favored us with their presence a part  
of the evening. I entertained them by reading aloud some  
wonderful things which I had found in "Universal Geography."



My mind has, to night, been peeping in upon the family at home. Rebecca has been reading aloud (rather hurriedly I fear) from the book of Matthew. She has finished, & is now pulling her under lip & reading something from Fredericka Bremer's pen. Cousin Ezra is seated in the rocking chair busily pouring over the contents of Mrs Prince's paper & Cousin Cynthia is either thinking or dreaming about Willy. I could not exactly determine which. Cousin Sally has given them her pleasant company a part of the evening; she enquired after Martha & has been edified by hearing her last epistle, I fancied I heard her say, "Oh how I long to see her", & how I long to see her too, which if nothing prevents, will be here shortly.

Monday 28th. How we have felt the loss of Miss Tilden to day; she left us on Saturday to visit a sister who is at the point of death. Miss Bacon took her place, & would do very well indeed were she not so diffident. I suppose her qualifications are far superior to Miss Lincoln's, but she has not half the confidence. I would like to know how the latter lady feels to night, for it seems to me, if she were to "pass keen severe reflections" upon the doings & sayings of the day, the "monitor within" would reprove her for some hasty words. The sentence she passed upon Miss Burchstedt "I don't think you live to the truth," before all the school & in such an angry



manner too, was, I think entirely too severe & altogether unmerited. Oh how grieved, how dreadfully grieved I should have been, had she said that to me. I don't think I could have forgiven her for so long, long while Electa thought she had <sup>not</sup> tried to perform her sums in Sequel & Algebra; but from what the girls say, she studies very hard indeed. And even if she did not as well as she could, what a strange way Electa took to produce a reformation! How different would have been Mr May's language to a delinquent scholar; his "I'm sorry you were not attending", is entirely sufficient to bring tears of repentance. Oh he is one of earth's best.

I went to the sing this afternoon & after it was over we had a touching appeal from Mr Bird. The tears would come all I could do. — Lucia has made us a long & pleasant call this evening. I dearly love her. — I have a bad head ache to night & shall retire early. —

Tuesday 24th. A pleasant & happy day this has been to me with one exception; our beloved teacher seemed so affected this morning that he could not read, & when he made some remarks upon the passage of Scripture his voice trembled at every word, I wish I knew what we have done to cause him to feel so sad. — Our Geography lesson he made very interesting, & begin to like the study very much. He gave us



to little history of the life of the heroes & heroines of the South  
which interested me exceedingly. In connection with the  
lesson I read again the romantic story of Love of Mr. F. I had  
I had Wordsworth poem wherein he portrays his wonderful  
exploits. Mr. May recommended for our careful perusal  
D'Aubigny's work on the ~~French~~ <sup>European</sup> Revolution. I wish we had  
some such book as that to read from, instead of Porter's history  
then we could be learning history & reading at the same  
time. How beautifully Mr. May read that piece "On the Power  
-fulness of God," I did not know it was half so beautiful till he  
read it to us. I believe I prize good reading more & more every  
day, tomorrow I shall enjoy, for we are to have Scripture  
readings. — To night Fanny & I, accompanied by a num-  
ber of our Manual band, have been to the Stone Manufactory  
at the east village, we were not successful in obtaining the  
articles we wished, but we had nevertheless a delightful walk,  
& we all came home with most ~~sharp~~ <sup>appetites</sup>.

This evening after reading my lesson for the morrow, I went  
over to Northville & assisted Sarah in putting her dress to ap-  
pear in, on Thanksgiving day, after which we had supper.

Wednesday 30th. Our English reading was most interesting  
but what miserable masters there are in the lower classes. I do not  
think they have improved much since I started my first instruction.  
Nearly all the girls left us at noon to appear Thanksgiving at the



dear spot, home. As soon as dinner was over Fanny  
& I started for East Lexington fully determined upon pur-  
-chasing a stove of some kind if there was one left in the  
store. We soon decided upon a neat and tight. By the way  
I must not forget to mention that we discovered an old  
lucky tea-kettle of Mrs. Monroe's in a pocket handkerchief  
& carried with us to the said stove store to be mended, for  
our express benefit. Fanny seemed rather troubled that  
I should allow the handle & nose to remain uncovered,  
but I reminded her that pride must have a fall, so she said  
no more. She carefully measured the fire place before we started  
so as to save the man the trouble of coming all that distance  
for the purpose. When she handed him the dimensions, he looked  
at it a moment, & said he thought it must be a most singu-  
-lar looking fire place, for he never, in all his rough expe-  
-rience upon hard iron, made a fire board so long for the width.  
We were rather touched at this remark, & assured him it was  
not awkward at all, but was, on the contrary, a very gentle  
fire place. As we were sitting around our fire in the evening  
the idea flashes upon me that Fanny has taken a wrong  
measurement. I seized the rule & found to our utter  
amusement that we were more than a foot out of the way!  
What to do we did not know; every moment we expected  
the store & so ashamed would we have been at our mis-



take. But as good luck would have it, it is now past ten, & the man will not come, so we are hoping to send him word before the board is made. A good lesson this has been, to teach us to be accurate. - Very good!

Thursday Dec 1st Thanksgiving at Normeltz-

When we rose this morning the ground was white with snow & the pure flakes were still falling. But as the sun proceeded on his course the clouds were scattered & the earth was lighted up with smiles of joy & thankfulness. Soon after breakfast we took our "paraphernalia" for map drawing & proceeded to the school room where we arranged things most conveniently for the purpose. Only five of our numerous bands remained, the rest had all gone to the dear spot "home". At first, we felt rather lonely, but we soon drove away all gloomy feelings, & worked most industriously upon our maps, which were of all projections. About one o'clock we were summoned to pronounce judgment upon a turkey of gigantic dimensions, several birds of smaller race, together with puddings, pies & the like. We do not arrogate to ourselves too much, when we say, that being persons of excellent taste & judgment, we unanimously decided they were worthy to be ranked among the benefactors of a race, whose "illustrious predecessors" have, for so many years held a high office in the month of Nov. & Dec. This important business being settled, we returned to our maps. By four o'clock our poor brains



were entirely worn out, & we longed for a ride; & a ride we must have. Two of our number sallied forth in pursuit of a horse & wagon. They bent their steps to the well stocked barn of one Rufus, a Farmer. Not finding him there they wandered round from cow-yard to pigsty where they found the said Rufus, <sup>busied</sup> in the usual occupation of administering to the wants of these poorly & interesting creatures, whose bright eyes, if I may be allowed to quote the words of an excellent divine, resembles "the stars in the heavens, the first dawning of Venus." — But to return to Rufus. He was not attired in his "Sunday's best" as is usual upon Thanksgiving days, but he graced his homely garb, for true it is that beauty needs not the foreign aid of ornament, but is, when unadorned, adorned the most. So it was with Rufus. — He asked him if we could procure his horse for a short ride. "I do not know," said he. "We wish to deal fairly with you," said one of our number, "we do not want to hire, but borrow." Ah, said he, the horse is not mine, he belongs to my brother, who lives over in your store." He solicited an introduction to the rightful owner, but the <sup>inmates of the</sup> cries from the pigsty had more effect upon his noble heart, than our humble petition. He then returned to Normally & told our success. The thoughts of a ride & frolic were too tempting to be surrendered without another effort; so we obtained a powerful reinforcement, & decided to introduce ourselves to the brother in the store. We first found the above mentioned Rufus, & obtained from him a kind of



promise to aid us in harnessing the noble steed, provided  
we were so fortunate as to obtain him. - Most happily for us,  
we met the brother in the yard. - He told us in sorrowful ac-  
cents, our tale of woe; <sup>our beloved</sup> how we were 90 miles from home &  
friends; left all alone near the battle field, sad & forlorn, & we  
wished, most earnestly, wished, the loan of his horse & wagon for a <sup>day</sup>  
short ride. He would not, at first, listen to our humble request, for  
said he, you will come home killed; the vehicle will be broken  
& my noble animal injured! He assured him we were well  
skilled in driving & if the horse was not dead when we started, we  
most faithfully promised to return him safe & sound. But, said he,  
my old wagon is broken, entirely unfit for use! Upon hearing this,  
one of our company asked, in "a low soft voice, so becoming in woman",  
if he would not just loan us his best covered wagon. By this time  
we had made an impression upon his heart, & he pleasantly consented.  
Blessings upon him! Delighted beyond expression we started for the  
highly to obtain the promised assistance of Rufus. But our high  
hopes were about to be prostrated! A strange fit had seized him, &  
every obstacle was thrown in our path. In the first place, this day,  
& the morrow's wants of the dumb creatures under his care, required  
all his time. The dear little pigs must have their "swill". He promised  
to mix the ingredients & "tote" it to us. Then there were potatoes to boil  
a fine build. We stood ready to do all this. Then the cows were to be  
milked & pumpkins to be cut up. Upon this we stretched forth



our hands & promised to perform faithfully, all these duties if he would only grant our request. But, said he, the old wagon is broken. We assured him we had the promise of the best one. Then the seats in the best one were missing. This difficulty we soon obviated, for we all preferred to stand. But my young friends, said he, the worst of it all is, the harness is broken & sent away to be mended!! "This was the unkindest cut of all!!" We stood almost petrified with cold & disappointment. The sun was fast sinking behind the hills & each moment had seemed as home to us, standing as we were, upon the cold frosty earth, for we had followed the tiller of the ground from the pillars of the peggery to the posts of the barn yard, & thence to the potato kettle. We stood a moment, not knowing what should next to strike! At last we importuned him so piteously to "fix up" any old thing for us, that he softened a little, & said he would go & talk with his brother. He soon returned, but no harness could or would be found. Then we all proceeded to the said store & had a long parley about the harness. At last we obtained a solemn promise, that the horse, wagon & harness should be at our door on the morrow. As we were passing the yard, on our way home we had a glimpse of Rufus. He immediately surrounded him, & once more begged him to "fix up" a harness. But not a ray of hope beamed upon us! At this moment, one of our company said in a very gentle voice, "It seems as if we could not return to



Normally without something to cheer us. Have you a few apples you would like to give us, just to save them from decay? This request touched a tender chord! He stood with eyes aghast, & lips compressed! He thought him deprived of speech! Our hopes hung upon a thread more frail than the gossamer. With a convulsive shuddering the spirit moved, & speech returned, & he uttered these words! Three apples apiece will I give you, if you will take your departure & leave me at rest! He left us, & soon returned bearing a basket filled with fruit, quite as tempting to us, as they were to Adam of old. They were not, however without spot or blemish, for decay, with his ever busy fingers, had commenced his ravages upon them. The sight of this big full basket caused us to forget entirely our restriction to three & we all began filling our pockets most industriously; upon which, Rufus said in a modest tone, you do not consider that there are soft places in the fruit; I fear you will soil your clothes. We thanked him for his kind caution, but assured <sup>him</sup> the decay was of a peculiar kind, they were hard, soft places, & therefore no harm could follow. Then with our pockets & hands filled with apples & our hearts with gratitude and thanksgiving, we bade adieu to the kind, good, generous Rufus, pouring blessings upon the head of him & his for favors already received & earnestly hoped a continuance on the morrow.

How Momally sung with laughter when we returned & made



known the success of our romantic adventure & our bright hopes for the morrow —

I took tea with the girls at Mrs Le Baron's & spent the evening, working upon my map, talking, eating nuts &c.

Friday Dec 2nd. True to his promise, as the needle to the pole, at ten o'clock the carriage stood at the door. The last seats were found, the harness mended & the noble animal, who had undoubtedly been carried <sup>(instead of down)</sup> ~~up~~ for the occasion, looking as if he felt all the importance of being hon-ored with so valuable a cargo. Five of us entered the ark; notes of preparation were sounded, & we drove off amid the ringing of bells & the shouts of the assembled multitude.

They told <sup>us</sup> the clouds betokened snow, & the flakes were already falling. But we heeded them not, for we saw only blue sky, green fields & waving trees. — Shall I describe the noble steed? I cannot. My pen would not do him justice. Suffice it to say, he was just such a creature as Alexander would have given a kingdom for. His coat white as the driven snow, except now & then delightfully variegated with spots of blue & drab. The harness fitted him just loosely enough to show to advantage the exquisite symmetry of his form, which was "moderately unequal", & without exaggeration such as a painter would delight to copy. He bounded lightly over the frozen ground, with ever & anon, the string of the whip dangling gracefully over his



up-pricked ears! The carriage I will not attempt to describe. Noah's ark was nothing compared to this. Every one we passed seemed ready to do us reverence. - We drove to the lovely village of Lincoln, & called upon one of our beloved Normal friends who received us with the greatest pleasure & cordiality. After giving our horse an Irish hating we started for home, where we arrived with sharpened appetites just in time for dinner. The horse & carriage were delivered to their owner with many thanks. But as these seemed a meagre return, for so much pleasure, we all, at the hour "when spirits walk unseen", serenaded with our angelic voices, the persons who had so kindly, & without any solicitation on our part conferred upon us so much happiness. Their names will be ever held in grateful remembrance! And the doings of Thanksgiving day, of 1843, will be <sup>treasured</sup> among the pleasantest by all who were instrumental in, the carriage, horse, & last, but not least, the harness. - Spent most of the remainder of the day shading my map, which looks quite nice.

Saturday 3d. - A lovely day this has been; mild & pleasant. Spent the whole forenoon reviewing Geometry & learning our next query which is very pretty indeed. About noon the stage drove up & we were made happy by the sight of our beloved teacher, Miss Tilder. I could believe the school could seem



so changed by her absence. — I went over to the school room this evening, & when I returned what was my joy to be saluted by our new stove, all fitted up, the room so nice & warm. It is so darling air tight & we shall enjoy it exceedingly. How thankful should we be for the many blessings bestowed upon us.

Our friends have, many of them called upon us during the vacation. This afternoon Mary & Electa Lincoln favoured us with their company. — Oh dear, the trials of housekeeping. This day has been a sad one for us. Our pudding was burned, & our only pudding bag entirely spoiled! Our only excuse (& it is a sorry one) for such a catastrophe, was, being so much engrossed in literary pursuits. But all these trials & perplexities do us good.

Sunday. 4th. I am ashamed to say it was seven o'clock before either of us woke this morning! Thus we have lost two precious hours. — I have made a very pleasant call on Miss Tilden, who I was most happy to hear, found & left her sister still living. She says she is resigned & ready to depart, which must be one of the greatest consolations to her friends. Five little children will soon be left motherless. But "He who tempests the wind to the shorn lamb" will guide them home. My very heart aches for poor Miss Tilden; would it were in my power to do something for her. — I have been writing for the



Experiment nearly all the afternoon; & this evening have been occupied in administering herb drinks &c, to my room mate who seems quite sick. I must now go to bed, hoping she will be better on the morrow. Vacation is over & I feel as if I had accomplished nothing (except my map) though I have been very busy all the time. I must rise betimes & go to work, else I shall not perform the duties of the coming day. How much there is to do, & how short is the time!

Monday 5th. How pleasant it seemed this morning to be our beloved Mr May & all, or nearly all, our school-mates in their accustomed seats. A few days vacation is very pleasant, but it is pleasant, to be together again advancing in our studies.

Every day I am more & more in love with Miss Tildens faculty of teaching Mathematics. How perfectly she explained & proved Negative exponents to day; the same thing we went over with Miss Black & none of us could like it one bit, & moreover could see no sense in it, but to day it was made so clear even to my dull vision, that I was enchanted with it; oh she is a treasure, & I love her more & more every day.

Almost every scholar has returned with the influenza. I have been so careful I hoped to escape, but this afternoon I have had such a cough, head ache & sore throat that I have not been able to study a single lesson. In the morning I must be up before the dawn & prepare for school, else I shall be obliged to say "don't know."



Tuesday 6th. We have had company in school all day  
and such miserable recitations as we have had too! But if  
the spectators had such awful colds as we all have, they would  
have done no better; I wished them safe at home a dozen times  
& myself warm in bed, for I felt perfectly chill'd & too headachy  
to do any thing well. I should not have gone into school to day,  
but I wished to hear the Experiment read & therefore made  
a great effort to do so. But the editor was sick, so the  
reading was postponed till another day. — Fanny has  
received letters from home, informing her of her Grandmother's  
dangerous illness & wishing her to return directly. She has  
been packing this evening, & I feel sad & somewhat low spirited  
at the thoughts of being left quite alone; but as I have com-  
menced a map of Asia on the globular projection, I  
shall be so much engrossed I shall not find time to miss her  
till that is finished. It will be more difficult than any I have  
yet attempted. — Wednesday 7th. Well, here I am left alone.  
Fanny's brother came for her this morning, & a busy time we had to  
get her ready by eight o'clock. She is a dear good girl & I shall  
miss her sadly. — This forenoon we had an exercise in  
Memory. Mr May read to us an account of the introduc-  
tion of the arts & sciences into Rome. I was very much  
interested in it & obtained a great many new ideas  
respecting the customs of the Ancient Romans. I hope he



will continue the history next Wednesday, for I think it is much more useful than our select readings. I have been at work hard this whole afternoon upon the globular projection & I dislike it for it is a real time-consumer. I don't know as this map drawing will be of much use to me, for I fear I shall have no scholars who will have the patience to draw them correctly.

Thursday 8th. To day we have had a real genuine snow storm, but I enjoyed it, for it is so much better for the Farmers to have the ground kept warm by a covering of snow during the winter; & then too, the boys can transport their ice so much easier. - I hope Charles & Fred. will succeed well in their schools; but I would like to spend a day with each of them. Every day my interest in schools seems to increase, "grows with my growth & strengthens with my strength."

I was sorry no more of the class have commenced a map of Asia, as it was Mr. May's particular request; & how disturbed he seemed in consequence of it, at the close of our geography lesson to day. It is entirely too bad to cause that good man so much trouble. He knows it is for our good & we ought to make an effort at least to do as he desires in this respect. I think his remarks on the subject, will have a tendency to rouse us to greater



diligence. - Our other lessons went off as usual.

Friday 9th. How beautifully pure every thing looks this morning, covered with a mantle of snow; the trees round Normandy looked splendidly, & I never saw any thing more beautiful than the pendant icicles on the Normel house; I could not keep my eyes off of them during our geometry notwithstanding we had that pretty problem the Carpenters theorem.

We had a capital lesson to day in Geography; I do think a word now & then from our teacher does good. But our parsing this afternoon was miserable. Mr May got almost tired waiting for answers. Abby's frequent "don't know" of late, seems to trouble him; I wish she would not do so. I don't know why it is, but she has not taken half the interest in her studies lately, <sup>that</sup> she used to. But this influence is enough to make one lose an interest in every thing except cough drops. - I came from school to night & commenced upon my map, & by one wrong measurement spoiled all my Wednesday's work. - So I went over to the Normel house, began another with Abby, got all the parallels beautifully drawn, when lo, an ink spot appears! Was it all carelessness? We will not talk about that for I shall try again tomorrow, & try till I succeed.

Saturday 10th. How pleased was our teacher with our



review in Geography to day. He said he should not have been unwilling to have had the Board of Education present. I should however, the very name, & the idea of a visit from them fills me with alarm. - I shall rest to night very comfortably for my map, the projection part, is finished, & it looks quite nice, & Abby has succeeded finely in hers too. Mr May I am sure will pronounce it beautifully done. But I must go to bed, for I feel tired enough.

Sunday 11th. I went over to the school room to night & been to my perfect dismay that the whole Board are to visit next week, beside several other worthies. I intend to work hard this week, & get my organ of courage well rubbed up. Oh these Boards are trying to the spirit. I am determined not to trouble Mr May with my complaints, for I know he dislikes these awful examination days as much as we do. So I shall yet "hope on, hope ever" that they will be done away before many years, for they are remnants of a barbarous age. - My map of Asia is entirely finished & I feel right happy to night, notwithstanding the astounding intelligence. - How kind, how very kind is my landlord Mr Monroe. Last night I remained at the school house, for it stormed tremendously & the girls prevailed on me to stay all night; but at nine o'clock, during all the storm & suffering too from a terrible cold, Mr Monroe came out &



shoaled a path for me quite to the school gates, was he not exceedingly kind & thoughtful? I hope I am sufficiently thankful for all my kind & good friends, with which I am blessed. —

Monday 12th. Last night I had a sweet little gift from Mary Hopper. She talks of leaving us next term; how much we shall miss her. — How pleased Miss Tilden seemed, to day, with all our recitations in Mathematics; if we only do as well "the last Tuesday," I shall be rejoiced, for her sake more than my own. — How interesting Mr May made our lesson in Geography; what would I not give for such a fund of useful information as he possesses. — Oh dear, I do feel a little bit lonely to night; I wonder if Fanny often thinks of me in my widowed state, she has escaped the great day, which she so much wished to do, I suppose we shall all live through it, for I have never heard of its being the immediate death of any one. — Tuesday 13th. We had a capital review in Geometry to day, & our other lessons went off well. To night we all attended Mr Bird's concert. The children sang very sweetly indeed. It was really amusing to hear the tiny ones, I did enjoy it very much. After they finished the Birds twittered; but they were not the kind of birds I love to hear. The "death of Marmion" I could not like at all though good judges pronounced it to have been very finely



executed. Simplicity to me, is the beauty of every thing.

What could Mr. Buick mean when he ranked whistling with lying; I thought he was not at all happy in his remarks, but made himself appear rather ridiculous. — It is a bitter cold night; what should I do without this blessed stove.

Wednesday 14th. We had Scripture readings this forenoon, which I enjoyed very much. Mr. C. reads them better than any one I ever heard. Miss Parmenter has returned, & read with us; she is the finest reader in the school, better much, than Miss Lincoln. I hope we shall have some good specimens to exhibit to the Board. — I have been at the school room all the afternoon, at work upon a map of Africa: so far, it looks quite nice. I have made it on the plain projection, so my patience has been not at all tried. I hope my pupils will love to draw them even better than I do. Next term we attend to Ancient Geography, which I shall like very much. — Mr. May gave us to day, an excellent lecture on the teaching of Grammar; he has promised me a copy of it, which I shall value for several reasons. — Thursday 15th. As the other recitations took up all the forenoon, we omitted Arithmetic, & have been had at work all the afternoon instead of our usual lessons, & a glorious time we have had, getting discount interest, building wall around ditches, shingling houses, extracting square root & every thing else. I do enjoy it, but I



feel tired out now & if I had all my lessons for tomorrow, should like to enter now the land of dreams. I sometimes wish we could do without sleep, for here at Lexington especially, I cannot seem to afford the time. — How I do want a letter from home, but I suppose I shall <sup>not</sup> hear from there again this term, but I don't know how I can wait.

Friday 16th Various things seem to require my time so much that I can scarcely afford a moment for journalizing. To day our dear Miss Tilder had quite an ill turn during her recitation in Greenleaf. She worked entirely too hard yesterday, I am thankful for her sake we are going to have a vacation, for she needs rest. Her organ of calculation is exercised quite too much. Mr. M. said last night he was afraid we should kill her; & to day when she was taken so unwell I was afraid there was too much truth in his remark. — After our reading & punctuation was over, Mr. May excused me that I might assist Lucia prepare her school room for examination which happy circumstance takes place tomorrow. The room looks right nice, with pretty mottoes & wreaths of evergreen. I have nearly, or quite, worn the epidemics off my fingers in twining wreaths of pine to hang in festoons around the walls; & now it is finished it looks sweetly, particularly "Hope" & "we love one another" which is very pretty, & appropriate. I hope all things will go on and off well for Lucia.



sake. I am so tired I must leave all lessons & go  
to rest. — Saturday 17th. — We had no school to day,  
that we might all attend the examination of the Model  
school. The whole performance did great credit both to  
teacher & scholars. How beautifully Lucia appeared.  
The little class on the circle amused me very much; &  
how well they understood the use of the Globes & how beautifully  
the classes performed in Arithmetic & Algebra. The grammar  
was not quite as good as usual, but every thing else  
went off grandly. The Compositions were excellent & the maps  
very nicely done, I thought & I consider myself quite a judge,  
of the latter I mean. Oh if ours was only as well over a half as  
well I should rejoice with exceedingly joy. — Have spent the after-  
noon & evening finishing my map & attending to various house-  
hold concerns too tedious to mention. — It has been snowing  
softly all day; may all the elements rage & storm on Tuesday next.

Sunday 18th. It has been so very stormy day, snowing and  
hailing by turns. The trees do look beautifully all dressed in  
icicles; if the sun should come out tomorrow they will present  
a splendid appearance. I have not read much nor ac-  
complished a great deal of any thing to day, for I have felt  
somewhat unsettled both in mind & body, owing in part to  
several causes. My thoughts have been roaming far &  
wide, to the past, present & future; the thought of mis-



-iting home before another Sabbath, made me feel  
glad, & the thoughts of examination made me feel sad;  
& the thought that in a few weeks I should be on my last  
term caused sadder feelings still. — This evening I have  
spent half an hour at the Cottage; since then have been  
practising discount at different per. cent. & reading  
aloud. I feel rather lonely for me, so I will re-  
-tire early & enjoy some pleasant dreams.

Monday 19th. To day has been spent entirely in  
reviews; some of them I thought needed "fixing up"  
before the great day, which will dawn upon us to-  
morrow. I do hope if it is for the best (or if it not, I  
should not be particular) that it <sup>will</sup> rain & blow & hail  
& snow, just enough to keep every living mortal by  
their own fire side, & may all who have any idea of  
attending the Examinations, be comfortably sick with  
the influenza. Miss Richardson will do well, for she is  
good in every thing; but her goodness of heart & strict  
adherence to right is much more beautiful than her  
excellent scholarship; a bright example for us all.

What a treat we have had this evening, yet, a spiritual  
feast; & if we do not all deeply profit by what has been  
said to us for our eternal good, great will be our condem-  
-nation. Our beloved & excellent teacher, said he felt it his



duty to call us together this last evening before the term closes, to impress upon our hearts more strongly & earnestly than he has been able to do, in the short time now allotted for the devotional exercises, the incalculable importance of the "one thing needful", as subject which should engage the first attention of all, but most especially for us, who are soon to go forth as teachers of the young, to lay the eternal structure of an immortal edifice. What a thought! and how strange that it does not engage more of our serious consideration. How beautifully, how earnestly, how affectionately he spoke to us for nearly two hours, & yet how short seemed the time, I could have listened with pleasure as much longer. I never saw him appear more engaged; he seemed indeed borne upward & onward in the intensity of his feelings. I am sure he was truly inspired, & his lips touched with a coal from off the living altar. Oh how good he is, & how he draws every one to him with chords of love, he not only "points to Heaven, but leads the way". How touchingly Mr. Lufts spoke of him in his prayer; said he trusted he would enter late into the golden gates of the eternal city, like a sheaf of corn fully ripe. His Heaven I am sure he is now enjoying, for it is within him. He says he often goes home delighted with the attention & progress the scholars



have made in their various studies, yet a cloud will come in his spirit, lest in such strict attention to these studies he has not sufficiently impressed upon the importance of gaining the wisdom that cometh from above. It is now late & I must go to bed, earnestly desiring that this evening has been productive of spiritual good to us all.

Tuesday, 20th. Ten o'clock, yet I feel so happy and excited, I cannot sleep, so I will just "take notes" of the doings of the day. Examination is over, and what is better than gold or diamonds, it went on & off, to the entire satisfaction of pupils, teachers & spectators.

Geometry was "first rate" and Geography was better than could be expected. But what a funny time we had about the reading of that Thanksgiving piece, in the Experiment. Was it not queer that Miss Kinnear should favor us with her company just at this time, however, by dint of personal exertion, every thing was as it should be. Now the day is well over I wonder that we should have cared so much about it & decided it so much.

How interesting was Mr Brooks lecture "on Natural History". He related to us many wonderful & interesting facts respecting birds, lions, geese &c. He says the eagle is furnished with an eye that can see a partridge or any thing else a mile



distant, & darts with unerring aim upon its prey.

The Woodpecker has so singular structure of the foot, having two toes behind, so that with his tail, he is able to support his centre of gravity while standing upon the upright trunk of a tree — The Cross-bill lives entirely on the pine cones, & for this reason his beak is so constructed that he can take off the shell & hook out the meat which no other birds can do. — The Tomtit has the power with its eye, of seeing things magnified to two thousand times the size they appear to the eye of man. thus when they are flying about, they are able to perceive the smallest grain of food. — The Cuckoo feed their young with insects; and they have often the impudence to lay their eggs in other birds nests, but never in any that do not feed their young with insects.

He said he knew a person who caught a wild goose & by cutting her wings kept her for a number of years. By this time he thought she had entirely forgotten she was once wild & neglected to keep her under bonds. One day a party of wild geese flew by & called loudly upon this one to follow them, she could not resist the temptation & away she flew. About a year afterwards, the person went into his goose pen, or rather looked in, hearing an unusual noise, and behold, nine wild geese! and among them he recognised



his friends. And notwithstanding she had been gone nearly  
a year, yet she was able to guide her children to the  
very spot where she had formerly found a home, & here  
she has brought them to educate. Was not this wonderful  
in a goose? - One more pretty story of a swallow. He has  
been caught in a noose so that he could not possibly  
make his escape, & he screamed loudly for help. In the course  
of half an hour a large company of swallows commenced  
flying over the prisoner's head & each one as he flew, darted  
down & bit the string. Before the end of an hour, their work  
of mercy was finished & the poor imprisoned swallow liberated.  
Are not these facts beautiful & interesting? It shows that Heaven  
has touched them with his spirit. I hope to introduce the  
study of Natural History into my school, for there can be  
no surer way of teaching a child to look through nature,  
up to Nature's God.

Palestine - Dec 25th. Here I find myself  
journalizing at home. I arrived about 4 o'clock on  
Wednesday & found friends all in usual health. My  
journey from Lexington to the City of Peace, was very pleas-  
ant indeed. The weather very fine & the trees looked  
surpassingly beautiful, glittering with their icicle diamonds  
in the rays of the sun. We had a merry party to Boston  
& there we all separated. It seems to be my lot, to be



placed among children, for we had no less than four  
very little ones in the stage to Salem. One of the little ones  
being rather uneasy, I took him in my lap, & by letting peep  
out through the curtains soon charmed him to silence.  
There was among us a man & his wife & two little ones. And the  
way the gent. managed was quite enough. Thanks I to my-  
self, the politeness how beautiful thou art. He was entirely  
engrossed with a book & seemed to take no thought of the cares  
of his wife. If there is one thing more to be desired, than another  
in wedded life, it is every day politeness. And an anti-to<sup>bac</sup>-  
co showers. — Soon after I returned our neighbor Mrs. Bremer  
very politely sent me a ticket to attend the Lyceum. We  
had a lecture "On Falstaff" by Mr. Giles. I had never  
read the play & therefore was very little interested in it.  
The first part was very funny where he described, or  
rather drew a comparison between a fat & lean man.  
The antithesis between humor & wit was the best part  
of it. The hall is very much improved being painted  
in fresco. — Thursday Lydia, Ellen & Anna called; Ellen  
& Lydia said they should start the next day for Phil-  
-adelphia, so I wrote a letter to Willy to send in the  
box, then filled a sheet of 8 pages to send to Phila-  
-delphus. The next afternoon Cousin Sally took tea with  
us, she seems as young & lively as ever. Yesterday com-



- menced reading D'Aughbenies history of the revolution. - Have attended church all day. Friend Pope gave us a sermon in the forenoon & William H. this afternoon. I had just commenced a letter to Portland this evening when Cousin Abigail came in. Of course I preferred listening to his interesting & funny stories which are "ever charming, ever new". His pork & beef story was too good. I must remember his account of the salesman in Calcutta, the Malay, who would not tell a lie for his right hand, when his face was turned towards the Ganges. He also gave me some ideas about map-drawing - but no more to night. Sunday Dec 31st. Well a whole has gone & I have not found time to journalise one bit. Monday I wrote to Cousin Sarah giving her the particulars of our goings along in housekeeping. The next day I was out shopping. We received a letter from Cousin Nathan giving us the joyful intelligence of the safe arrival of Cousin Isaac & Lucy Ellen. - Wednesday evening heard Mr Giles "An O'Connell". It was very fine indeed, a first rate Anti Slavery lecture, such as the Salem gentry have not often the pleasure of listening to. - Thursday took tea with the bride at Wrenthams; she looked quite happy as she should. But the sleigh ride home was the best.



part of the visit. The horse reared so, when we first started that I felt really alarmed though I said not a word. Seven of us in that tiny sleigh was no slight load, & required a very experienced stevedore. — Friday & Saturday spent the time in receiving & making calls, reading "the reformation" & patching. — This forenoon attended church — had a silent Meeting, which I always like. He had however a few words from Lydia Pope, just to remind us that this is the last day of the year, & a fit season for reflection. She seemed much affected; for a year at this time her beloved sister was as likely to live to a good old age as any of us. Now, she has gone to her long home. — Cousin Sally & Esther took tea with us & admired my book of leaves & flowers — About nine o'clock P. came in & brought me two long letters from Philadelphia & a book of poems. Rejoiced was I to see them; a quick & prompt answer to my lengthy epistle.

Sunday Jan<sup>th</sup>. Let me see, where did I leave off — I am getting sadly remiss in a journalizing way; but there is so much lathering & gadding to do that I can't find leisure for every thing. Monday I did a little washing. M. Papes spent most of the evening with us. Tuesday called on the Dentist, & saw Miss Bacon. The



next day & evening it stormed violently, so that none of us were able to attend the Lyceum. Thursday made another visit with the bride, which I enjoyed very much, & had a delightful ride home. Friday I worked hard upon my double ribe resting now & then, to accede & talk. Yesterday went to the dentist & was almost "kilt" in having my poor teeth "fixed up". Had a peep at Miss Bacon as she was going down stairs all in apple-pie order for housework. I hailed her & we had a pleasant chat — Have attended church all day though it has snowed violently — took tea with William & Lydia Chase. Their little boy is quite good & interesting. — Last night called with Cousin at Mr Coles & Mr Upham's to see about the best plan of arranging Billy for his entrance into the high school. From what they said we have about decided to send for him to come home directly.

Tuesday 4th. I have finished a letter to Fanny to let her know why I shall not be with her in our own hired humble home to night. I thought I would let her enjoy the delights of housekeeping alone for a few days. P. & self had an invite to spend this afternoon in Poescoy, but the weather was



so bitter cold, we thought it not best to go, so I  
instead accepted an invitation to tea with  
Helen. Since I last visited there, she has had a present  
of a sweet & darling little daughter. Some of Loney's  
queer capers amused me very much. -

Friday 12th. Evening before last had a ticket sent  
me to attend the Lyceum, for which I felt particularly  
thankful, as it gave me the pleasure of hearing R.  
W. Emerson. I expected something quite transcendental  
& therefore disunderstandable to common mortals;  
but to my great joy, it was quite the contrary;  
subject "The character of New Englanders" very excel-  
-lent, very just, & also very amusing.

Yesterday was our Monthly Meeting; had an  
excellent sermon from Friends Coffin. - Several of our  
Lynn friends joined us with their company to dinner.  
This afternoon we have had a social party of Cousins  
Every thing went off as well as could be expected.  
Tomorrow, I shall probably see Lexington & some  
of my Normal friends.

Lexington Jan 14th 1844

Well here I find myself seated at our own  
warm air tight stove. Arrived last night  
at 5 o'clock & met a hearty welcome from Fanny



- Spent most of the evening in unpacking, which was no small job, for my trunks contained quite a variety, both for the mind & body; such as books & sausages, Yearly Meeting Epistles, & pickles, salt fish, pies, apples & the seven wonders of the world gingerbread, writing desk, tarts, cricket & arm chair beside many other things too numerous to mention.

Attended church this afternoon & heard an excellent sermon. Had the pleasure of meeting our beloved teacher there. The house was so warm, it gave me a dreadful head-ache, & I now feel almost sick, & must go to bed.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. How pleasant it seems to be at school again, & how very pleasant to be so kindly greeted by teachers & school-mates. The room is now quite crowded with the new juniors. I think on the whole, they are much better looking than the previous class. - How delightful to hear the tones of our teachers voice this morning. His remarks upon the fifth Chapter of Matt. were most excellent. - We have two new studies, "Come in the Constitution of Man" & The School & School Master. - The lessons to day went off about as usual. I wished this term to go into the Mental Arithmetic class, really regret that I cannot. All our time is taken up in



recitations. — Tuesday 15th. This morning Mary  
sent to the school from my little gift "The silk  
worms will". What a sweet piece it is & it has a  
beautiful moral. I must learn it & then teach it  
to my little pupils. Oh how happy shall I be  
in my school, for I expect they will love me & need  
from me only no look to do as I wish them. Miss  
Spiller told me a sad tale of her experiences in  
managing the little ungovernable urchins, & that  
in her school she could not get along without  
using the stick!!! But I do not feel the least  
alarmed at yet; & my faith in the law of love  
is entirely unshaken. — <sup>God!</sup> We have commenced stud-  
ying the globe & some of us are awkward enough.  
Wednesday 17th. Have had a very pleasant day.  
This forenoon an exercise in reading the Scriptures  
which I always feel interested in. And then our  
lesson in "Schoolmaster" was beautiful. The remarks  
of the Author on Education were very fine, indeed,  
& to these were added many useful & interesting  
sayings from our teacher, particularly his remarks  
relating to the management of children.  
After recess had a kind of conversation "on the estab-  
lishment of Communities". I find Mr. May is quite



in favor of the plans now going into operation,  
- I must tell <sup>Waac</sup> Louisa about it, when I write, for  
I believe he has more than half an idea of joining.  
Should he do so they will find him quite an acqui-  
-sition. Oh dear, he is full of notions. - Fanny has  
been very busy writing an epistle this afternoon, &  
I quite as much so, in attending to our many  
& various household affairs - Received a sweet  
note from Mr May (expressing his thanks for my  
baguette) which I shall keep among my treasures.

Thursday 18th. Had so many lessons to attend to  
today that Lezeub was omitted & gave us no longer  
time for our "Combe" which was exceedingly interesting.  
Then Mr M. talked so beautifully to us about the truth  
the work contained, said he gained more knowledge &  
good from it than from any work except the Bible.  
I have perfect confidence in his judgment & have  
no doubt it is excellent, but were it not for losing  
his conversations & remarks upon the various passages  
during our recitations, I should rather prefer reading  
it some other time & study philosophy instead. Oh  
there are so many things to learn & the time is so  
short. I wish I could go to college & stay four years  
if Mr M. & Miss F. could be the teachers. Next



week they say I am to go into the Model room  
as a teacher. I would like so to do, were it not  
for losing the recitation of so many lessons, however  
the experience in the school there, sitting as I  
shall at the feet of Gamaliel (Lucia) may be of  
more service to me in the end. Then I now preside.

Friday 19th. Quite a change in my situation since  
a week from to night; I was then at home & our party  
of Cousins all quizzing me about my school, & if I  
should get a public one, they were all to visit me  
at the Lyceum, to which place I should be paraded  
all in a row, at the head of them through Essex St.  
for examination. Delightful perspective, for me; al-  
though they made themselves very merry at my  
expense, yet as a kind of sweet meat; they said I  
should make a first rate school ma'am. — I should  
like to peep in upon them at home to night right  
well, & I rather think I shall visit them in my dress.  
— At school to day things went on about the same  
as usual. A pleasant lesson in "Combe", & what makes  
us all look very happy is the thought of writing an  
abstract from it, to be ready by Monday & Wednesday  
oh these abstracts are trying to poor mortals whose  
Memory is as treacherous as mine —



Sat. 20<sup>th</sup>. To day have had an excellent lesson on the  
globes. I enjoyed it very much, & think I obtained con-  
siderable information, but I must study them yet a  
great deal before I shall feel qualified to teach. We  
were favored with a visit from the learned Mr. Gort,  
who is going to lecture on the Cometary system at the  
Lyceum. If I had a memory like to Miss Richardson, I  
should certainly attend the lectures here, but as it is  
I feel that my time will be more profitably spent on  
my every day lessons. - Finished my picture in my  
drawing book & I am happy to say it looks quite nice.  
This afternoon have been much occupied in attending to  
various domestic concerns. Mary Hopper took tea with  
us. It is a bitter cold night, & while I am sheltered from  
the northern blasts, how many poor creatures have not where  
to lay their heads. I am not sufficiently thankful for my  
many blessings. A week has past since I left home, & oh  
how short, on eagle's wings the moments fly.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>. Another cold day - neither of us have attended  
church, but we have had an excellent meeting at home.

Last night. Fanny, Hopper & self called on our beloved  
teacher & spent a short hour with him. When I get there I  
never know when to leave, he is so agreeable & pleasant & yet I  
fear too that I am intruding upon his limited time for



reading &c. While I am gaining so much, both pleasure & information, I do not consider that he receives nothing; but I must go again as soon as I can. He recd us some of Alcott's strange ~~stairings~~ <sup>stairings</sup>, which to me, were more strong than sensible. He loaned me a work of Furness' on the life of Christ, as far as I have read, I like it much.

Monday 22nd. To day have been extracting & give a root, & like it so far very much, but I am deficient in explaining, which is so all important in a teacher this part. I must become more familiar with. Our other lessons went on & off after the usual fashion. We had a very pleasant recitation in "Combe," & as usual, our teacher talked beautifully to us about the subject of the lesson. We are to spend the time for a new lesson on our abstract, which comes upon the Carpet Thursday. So dear, these abstracts, I never shall or can have the slightest fancy for. But it is very late that I must go to bed, else the morning will find me napping. ~ Tuesday 23rd. We have commenced Greenleaf and are going over the first principles of Arithmetic which is just the thing I wished & needed to do. My organ of Number is very limited, but as it is, I believe I have more than our beloved, or rather Mr May's beloved Combe possesses, but I hope to live & learn.



We have had an excellent lesson in singing this afternoon. I intend to apply myself strictly this term & see if I cannot learn the science. Mr Bird was full of wit as ever. This evening had a long and pleasant call from Electa Lincoln, she brought me "The turned head." to read tomorrow, it is a very laughable story, & I am sure the girls will like it.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>. This morning we waited school a long time, & no Mr May appeared. At last Electa opened the school. Presently a note came saying he had gone to Boston, & also that he wished us to go on as usual. So we commenced our select pieces. The selections were all very good indeed, I am sure Mr May would have been gratified to have heard them. Miss Burchstead's choice "The Motherless," was exquisite & exceedingly touching, the tears would start all I could do. - Mary Lincoln read "The Lady Bug & Ant" which was very pretty & contained an excellent moral. I must learn it, to teach my little ones. "The turned head" seemed to excite the organs of truthfulness at a great rate. I was fared to keep mine in subjection although at one time I greatly feared I should not be able to do so. Spent this afternoon in finishing my Abstract, but I was not able to form a connected story without referring to "Combe" several



times. This evening perused my algebra with "Grandma"  
& Abby. What a dear, good, patient, willing, generous,  
warm hearted, amiable, obliging and blessed child  
Maria Stevens is. I do hope she will come next term  
if I do, for I love her very much. — How I do want  
a letter from home. I absolutely enjoy the girls  
when I see them decouring their letters.

Thursday 15th. This morning our beloved <sup>teacher</sup> was still  
absent. Miss Velden opened the school very beautifully.  
The silent prayer was very impressive, but notwithstanding  
she did so well, we missed the voice of our good  
shepherd very much. Lucia came to me directly after  
the devotional exercises & wished me to take my turn  
as her assistant. My heart went "pit a pat," but she in-  
sisted, so I consented to go in & teach the A. B. C's to the  
little ones. Well. I have really arrived at the title of "School  
Mam". took the chair to day & according to the prophecies  
of some, shall take the stick tomorrow. But for my "words sake"  
I shall endeavor to spare the rod, & as a substitute, clothe  
myself in aweful dignity. I fear however, it (referring to dig-  
nity) will not be as easily perceived here, as in the more  
Eastern parts of the world. — To day at noon recess, I  
filled a sheet to Rebecca, told her how tempting the girl  
letters looked when they were brought from the office, & as a



"word to the wise is sufficient" I hope to receive an answer very soon. This is the end of the first day in the Model School & so far it has been a very pleasant one.

Friday 20th. Oh how beautifully, how excellently our beloved teacher talked with his pupils this morning, on the responsibility of teachers & the importance of their possessing that wisdom that cometh from above. He seems just the person to take charge of such a school as this, for his influence on the scholars is most salutary. — This whole day has been spent by me in teaching the "young idea how to shoot." My aim was good but whether the discharge effected any thing, time will show. They all treated me very kindly, & I passed a happy day. I never expect to equal Lucia, but I do hope to get many valuable hints from her in the art of teaching. They all appear to love her very much & she certainly merits their love. In my classes I noticed a tell tale propensity; that organ of all other is my utter aversion. It is said that "a word fitly spoken, is like apples of gold in pictures of silver", so upon this wise saying, I ventured to say a few words on the prevalence of this most disagreeable habit, & hope they will not be without effect.

The anecdote of that little ground cricket, appeared to interest the class very much; indeed, I was very happy in being able to tell them several interesting facts.



How hard it must be not to have favorites. I fear I have, only lacking two days. For instance, my little A.B. C. scholar, she is a darling. And Josy May is another good child, & is as bright as a button too. Oh dear, I never before felt such a craving for bright, teachable children. I tried my patience & skill in making them understand as passive verb, & on some of the Mechanics I succeeded beautifully. — To night I have been, not whaling but coasting. How I enjoyed it, with Davis for Pilot. She is a capital steersman. We made 5 successful voyages & returned home laden with glowing cheeks & high spirits. How I wanted thly here to enjoy that beautiful hill. But I must prinalise no more.

Saturday 27th. This morning Lucia allowed me to open the school, which I did in the most dignified manner possible; read to them my favorite portion of Scripture, the last part of the 5th Chap. of Matthew. If Lucia had not been present I might have made some remarks, but as it was I felt somewhat diffident; however I did all I could, I even sang with them! The sentiments were all very good indeed. Things went on very pleasantly, & we had a very happy forenoon; I am sure I shall enjoy my week with Lucia very much indeed, & I am also sure it will be profitably spent. Some of my little ones looked not so pleasant at each other on several occasions, though they treated me with



perfect good humor, & were entirely obedient. On several occasions when the same looks were too apparent, I endeavored to picture to them the beauty of a pleasant face, & kindness one to another. I am sorry to say my eloquence seemed not valued by them, but "Hope on hope ever"; it is constant dropping that we are away stone — Yesterday I saw the fact that children are imitative beings, for in the spelling class one little busy body caused a great deal of merriment in her part of the class; I looked round to see what caper was being cut-up, & beheld there stood little Miss Murray with her frock over her head putting on a "Bishop" which she had made of her pocket handkerchief. I did not stop to think twice, but sent her to her seat about the quickest — This afternoon Fanny & I have had a delightful walk as far as Mr. Wellington's, where we took tea & had a very pleasant visit. I thought their poor little boy would be rejoiced when we were gone, for the child was all the time obliged to be shown off like a learned pig. In the midst of all his funny stories they wanted him to repeat the Lord's prayer! Alas as it was I could not but smile at the wisdom displayed in the bringing out of their of their little ones intellectual faculties. Sunday 18th. — This forenoon attended church & heard a sermon from Mr. Field's Father. I sat up gallery & Fanny's look directly into the pulpit & watch the workings of the divines. His maneuvers were to me strange enough. Instead of



sitting down in the quiet & composing his mind for the solemnities of the occasion, he kept one continual fixing & then did not seem to ~~have~~ be altogether ready. His stock, or rather his neck handkerchief, shirt & even his teeth, all had to be adjusted. Then it was some time before he got his standing-stool & cushion just right. In justice to him I must say that it appeared more like pidgittimes than pride. I thought the discourse very good indeed. Have spent the afternoon & evening in reading & writing letters, my thoughts even & anon running to Salem. Westbrooke & even to Paris. — Monday 24th. Well Another day has passed & I believe I can say that I have tried as well as I knew how, to teach my little pupils in the way they should go. I was very happy in my selections of sentences for my little Grammar class, for while I taught them the Passive verb, the subject suggested quite a number of questions relative to the building of Solomon's temple & so they learned several important historical facts. And how eagerly they listened. Oh it is delightful to have an attentive class, I never before came to a realizing sense of it. How much those children love Lucia, & I believe the feeling is reciprocal. Where such feelings of attachment exist between scholars & teacher knowledge will slide in almost unawares. Would I had her talent & knowledge too, in teaching Arithmetic, Algebra



Philosophy. But let me not overrevere at my own talent  
but with "believing & attentive faculties," with perseverance  
industry & hope, accompanied by "Time Faith, Energy," I  
might be able to accomplish something in the world &  
in some degree answer the design of my being. But what  
have I said? These are powerful auxiliaries, indispensable,  
but "one thing thou lackest yet." It is the possession of that  
spirit that keeps the heart & whole life controlled, yes - the  
spirit that actuated in all his doings him who said "suff-  
fer little children to come unto me & forbid them not."  
Shall I ever attain to this spirit? If thou dost not, says a still  
small voice, beware how thou takest under thy charge "the  
children of to day, the men of tomorrow & the immortals  
of eternity!" I cannot write more to night for I do feel so. Done

Tuesday 30th. How happily this day has passed. I have really  
enjoyed every moment. the children have been very good & the  
lessons very good & altogether we have had a very good time. To  
day I felt particularly desirous that everything should go on in  
a very orderly manner, for we had two ~~extra~~ <sup>extra</sup> seniors as visitors,  
Miss Parmenter & Miss Philib; I must say I did not welcome them  
as cordially as I should some others I could name, for I felt they  
were great critics. After a while I endeavored to forget they were  
present, resumed my wonted equanimity & every thing went off  
well. The devotional exercises were particularly quiet, which to me



is very important; & some of the sentiments were excellent. By studying their lessons each day, I found I had learned many facts from Natural history which they would be interested in; the Ant-eater they were particularly pleased with for they could tell me a great deal about the creature & I was as much interested to listen as they were to tell. As for Jossey May, he is ready & eager to listen to any thing, & it is a real pleasure to teach such ones. To night I have been searching among my treasures for good sentences for my little Grammar class. Henceforth I intend to have a book on purpose for this object, & for the especial benefit of my own little Grammar class, in which I shall <sup>place</sup> all such paragraphs as appear to convey some knowledge to their minds, & such as will quicken thought & interest the young beginners. I have found already quite a number relating to dogs, horses, bees, swallows, the seven words of the world &c. - As I now feel somewhat tired I will say - fare well. Wednesday, 10th. To day, as Mr. Linapp was going to lecture above stairs, Lucia left me sole in charge of the school. The children were very obedient though I saw very quickly that some of them felt that school was nothing in the absence of their beloved teacher. Lucia wished me to hear her Algebra class, and as I had not looked at the lesson I felt all in a panic lest I should not teach them well. I called the class & was so thankful to be all alone (as I was putting my powers of teaching so new subjects to the test, when lo, just as I had got about half through, the lecture closed & in came Lucia!



Oh dear how I felt, but I rallied my spirits with a powerful effort & actually succeeded beyond my inmost hopes. What I shall do when visitors come in to my school I know not, but sufficient to the day is the ~~evil~~ thereof - I regretted that I could not hear Mr. Knapp's lecture for the girls say it was beautiful. This afternoon have been assisting the present ones, & showed how to use their scale of proportion. Finished & mailed my letter <sup>last</sup> Thursday Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>. This has been my last day as an Assistant to Lucie. I think I shall ever look back to this week spent with her, with feelings of pleasure; for I am quite sure it has been profitably spent. The scholars have all treated me with perfect kindness & I feel quite attached to them. Miss Mullikin is an excellent scholar & more & far better than this, she is really good; I do not know that she has a fault. What an influence even one such person has in a school. She corresponds to our Miss Richardson. - I do regret to leave my little Grammar class, for it was so pleasant to teach them, & they were always so attentive. Lucie has the same class teaching them Geometry, I wished every day I had nothing to do at that time but stop & listen to them. She has too an interesting class in Philosophy. - I thought there was a great deal too much borrowing & lending, this I should endeavor to expunge. Another fault was, when a question was asked to me, all who knew would answer & they sometimes



reminded me of a parcel of black-birds all chattering together. Another great fault was, that nearly every scholar old & young wanted liberty to leave their seats to ask where & how far their lessons extended, when at the end of every recitation the lesson had been given out by the teacher. This I should utterly <sup>so should I.</sup> forbid, for it is necessary they should each exercise their own faculties of attention. - A bad habit of telling tales was visible which to me appears almost as bad as telling lies. But children are not Angels, at least the present generation; when all the world becomes 'Comtustorian', then will appear a perfect race of beings.

Friday 30. It really seemed very pleasant indeed to be once more a scholar; after all, being taught is much better than teaching. And then how pleasant it was to have Mr May so kindly welcome me back. But it was not so pleasant to me, to have that critic of a School Master Mr Grold, listening to our recitation in Ancient Geography, for I thought the performance a little below mediocrity.

In Combe we had a talk about the deviations of the laws of Nature; the Miracles were brought up & some, or one doubted the actual existence of Miracles, <sup>& thought</sup> that the Author of the universe exerted his power according to <sup>an</sup> established order. Mr May observed that many phenomena, which were once ascribed to ~~a~~ supernatural agency, are now



reduced to known laws; as an illustration mentioned the Comet. He thought that many of the Miracles attributed to Jesus might at some future time be traced to Mesmerism. I brought up the raising of Lazarus, this Miracle Mr May had no doubts upon, for if we doubted this, we must at once conclude that Jesus practiced deception, & such an idea as this he could not for a moment entertain. - This afternoon he brought me a book to read containing no sermon of Dr Channing's "On the evidences of revealed religion", for which I felt greatly obliged.

Oh what a fiasco the girls led me into, at noon to day such an one as I have <sup>not</sup> had since I entered as a pupil I lost both my looks & ashamed enough was I when Mr May, after school commenced, held ~~them up~~ <sup>itself</sup> called for an owner! - Saturday 4th. This forenoon Mr May spent nearly two hours with us teaching us how to draw a map of the Ancient world on the stereographic projection. He also showed us a labor-saving way of getting our meridians &c which was very pretty indeed. After recess had a talk about post-offices. - How little do we know what a day may bring forth! Just listen, Miss Tilden has appointed me as teacher of an class in Algebra! Yes. no teacher of great gown up tall girls! I told her again & again, she must be devoid of her reason, for my organ of calculation was perfectly



flat. But I could not convince her, of her insanity, & so I am to enter upon my duties next Monday, & I shall do so with fear & trembling. Several of the class came to me to day & expressed their pleasure at the appointment; but dear me, I do fear I shall not teach them the best way. However I only take it on trial, & if I find I cannot go safe, shall quickly resign my office. — Last night

Hopper, Frank & self went over to Mr Wellingtons & picked up half a cord of wood, & to night it is snugly packed in our attic woodhouse. I shall not soon forget our transient ride home. Miss M's clock has just told me that it is quite time slumber rested on my eye lids. —

Sunday 5th. Fanny has been to church all day and left me to the quiet enjoyment of my own thoughts; I believe however, I will not transcribe them, for they would present a strange group I fancy. Oh how hard it is to have entire control over our thoughts, to keep them profitably employed; I am sure I have had some good ones to day, for I have been endeavoring to profit by the petition & also the remarks made by our beloved teacher during the devotional exercises yesterday upon the passage "I thank thee O Father that thou hast hid these things from the wise & prudent, & hast revealed them unto babes." He said he could not think we were to understand this passage literally that these things were really hid from the wise & prudent, but



that many of that class reject the truth, he rejoiced there were some in the world of a teachable spirit, who would receive the truths as taught by him. I liked the remarks exceedingly. And then how fervent was his petition to our Heavenly, or rather, ever present parents, that we should, by living in the world, make it happier & better; that we should be good & true. True goodness can never die, no particle of truth is ever lost, it is as eternal as the throne of God. Look, he said, at our high pattern, the blessed Jesus. He wrote no book, erected no outward monuments, did nothing, with a view to perpetuate his name, but merely spoke the truth & lived the truth, yet by his words & his deeds will live forever — Have been reading the book Mr May loaned me, <sup>in</sup> which I feel much interested, & I have also studied "Combs"

Monday 6th. Well I have lived through the day, & strange to say, feel to night more than usually happy. But how I felt when the time came for me to take my place as teacher in "H-galva". And worse than all when they said I must take them in the Model room, this I at first refused to do, but finding no other alternative, I made a powerful effort & entered. Lucia, blessings upon her, said I might take the class in the entry, which was done, & my first lesson in teaching the old idea, was given. How relieved I was, when it was well gone through. Prompt



I saw during the half hour I should judge they would make a first rate class, & I do hope I may teach them the best way, which of course, will be Miss Tildens. Dick not have a lesson in our beloved Combe to day, for Mr May got so interested in his Geometry that the time was all taken up. As for the reading & parsing, my mind was entirely abstracted from both. The lesson in Geography I enjoyed very much. Mr May interpreted the fabulous story of the Centaurs to my entire satisfaction. Talked about Tetzel & the indulgences, "Middletown letter from Rome" I must read — To night have been to the Lyceum & heard a lecture from Mr Stetson, which was very fine indeed. I was however a little disappointed for I expected more than I realized.

Tuesday 4th. A snowy day, but it has been to me a happy one; poor Miss Whittier has been crying sadly because she was careless in her Arithmetic, but it would not have affected me in the same way. I have found long since that nothing was gained by sitting down & wasting tears & time over the past, & I have also found that the only safe remedy for all these school trials, was, to put my own shoulders to the wheel & try hard, then if I did not succeed, to call upon Hercules, whose assistance was willingly bestowed. If she had wept over our tangents & mean proportionals I should not have wondered, for the lesson was horrible. — Have had a visit from Mrs. Birde. The witty, I should like to know if Miss Flint is



really captivated with his loving glances - if she is, then I shall think Cupid is blind indeed. I dare say he is an excellent man, but I should as soon think of falling in love with - I cannot find a comparison - To day I saw him use the floor for a spittoon! that was sufficient to recommend him. But we should not judge a person I know, by such things, for it might all have been owing to early education; if I had been left to myself, how many degrees better should I have been, than hundreds whom I should consider as almost devoid of the spark divine - these thoughts should make me humble.

- To day our lesson was about Greece, which was very interesting. I was ashamed that I did not attempt to say something about the battle of Marathon when Mr May asked me; I read an account of it in Rollin's history years ago, & I should have remembered it so as to have given a connected story. - Miss W. has loaned me her history of Greece, & I intend making copious extracts. Wednesday 8th. Well here it is just about ten o'clock & how delightfully we have passed the day. This morning we were entertained with select readings from the Middle Class. I was very sorry that many of the girls did not prepare themselves with pieces, for I saw that Mr May was disappointed & grieved. After recess Mr M. read to us a discourse "on Lewis & liberal education" which was excellent. I took about a page of notes which I shall print when I have leisure. - Two or three days



ago a plan was formed for us all to have a sleigh ride to  
Concord & attend a lecture from Horace Mann at the Lyceum  
in the evening. Well the said plan was carried into execution  
& at three o'clock 2 splendid sleighs one with six & the  
other with four noble horses started at the Normal gate.  
We had no particular steward & so we packed ourselves  
in the best possible manner, in the least possible room.  
I believe there were about fifty in all including our  
beloved teacher & wife, & our Bridgewater Normalite. I had  
the pleasure of being in the immediate vicinity of these  
worthies, & of course enjoyed their company very much.  
The afternoon was very mild indeed, all we could wish.  
Arrived at Concord about six; were conducted to the Lyceum by  
a polite old gentleman of the place, whom Mr May introduced to  
us, who escorted us into the best seats of the hall. Here we had  
the pleasure of listening to one of the finest lectures I ever heard, on  
Mr Mann's favorite topic, "Education". I must endeavor to collect  
the pearls that fell from his lips & transcribe them in my book  
of gems. The ride home was very pleasant indeed; Mr & Mrs May  
talked about the beauties & sublimities of Niagara till I  
actually longed for wings that I might view them with my own  
eyes. Tomorrow we are to be visited by Hon. Horace Mann & I  
must go to studying my lessons.

Thursday 9th Oh what a day this has been! How I wish it would



be blotted from the annals of Normatt. I <sup>have</sup> actually dreaded  
the presence of that Honorable gentleman among us, but had I  
known how like perfect fools we were going to appear, I would  
certainly have absquatulated. As soon as Lucia saw him  
enter the school room, the tears fell fast & thick; this scene  
almost unman'd me, but what shall I say when our class  
in Ancient Geography made their appearance to recite before  
this august personage! Language is not adequate to tell how  
humbly, how awfully, how superlatively bad, we recited. We  
seldom have very good lessons in this, but to day it was infi-  
nitely worse than ever. It was a kind of review, & the week  
I was in the Model room, I did not have time to study these  
lessons, so I was particularly deficient in answers. Then to  
crown the whole I went to the map & made myself appear  
like a natural fool in attempting to point out Macedonia.  
I could have borne my own disgrace but when to this I added  
the mortification I caused our beloved teacher, it was more  
than I could stoically bear. This is the first time I have dropt  
a tear about a lesson since I entered the school, & I feel now  
as if I could cry all night. The model school did not do  
half as well as usual & Lucia feels dreadfully.  
Those words of our beloved teacher "Guiltiness broods over  
the past" have just entered my head, & they do almost  
seem like a ministering angel (like their author, Oh that



I should even <sup>have</sup> caused the good man so much pain as he evidently felt to day.) so I will just dry my weeping eyes, take a lesson from the past, & hope for the future that Mr Mann will never show his long neck in our school again. I believe I should tremble were I to meet him in the street. But I must go to bed for I am "feeble, weak & weary". May angels guard & bless Horace Mann & keep him - out of Lexington; & more than all - out of our school room.

Friday 16th. A change has come over the spirit of my mind since the fatal yesterday; and I now feel so happy that I can scarcely conceive of the sorrows I then experienced. Our lessons were all gone through with finely & my Algebra class did beautifully. Having got over the first lesson, I am quite sure I shall enjoy teaching them very much. Our lesson in "Combe" to day, I liked exceedingly. How beautifully Miss Richardson recited. I almost envy her, her memory.

I tried to apologise to Mr May for troubling him so yesterday. The dear man replied that he too was disconcerted, as well as the scholars, when hearing us recite in the presence of this great school reformer. - We have had a call to night from Hopper & Mackett. It seems Mr May took tea with the cottagers, & Mary was in no peck of trouble because she laughed when he was asking a blessing. I must say she was rather unfortunate, but since I have hecd my cry out, I



begin to think it is the part of wisdom to laugh at  
the follies & trials of the world like Democritus of old,  
rather than weep, particularly when the latter has such  
an effect upon the organs of vision, as it had on mine.  
Miss Downing took her place as teacher of the "Young Ideas"  
to day. I think she will find them not easily concentrated.  
Saturday 11th. Had a review to day in Geometry, not as  
good as it might have been. We have just come to the  
transmigration of figures, & I expect we shall have to study  
hard. After recess Mr May finished that excellent discourse  
on liberal & servile education. After he got through with  
reading it, he made some very excellent as well as  
beautiful remarks upon the best ways of teaching the young.  
His last words were "Live to the truth." — This afternoon I  
have been very busy drawing my map, & assisting the girls  
at the Normal house to draw the stereographic projection,  
which is very pretty, indeed I am quite in love with it.  
When I placed Macedonia on my map as thrull passed through  
me, & I felt almost faint. The situation of this country I  
shall remember till I am grey, & my children &  
childrens children are grey also.

Sunday 12th. My thoughts to day have been often running  
home to Salem. I am perfectly voracious for a letter,  
what is the reason Rebecca does not write. I think she



cannot have received the letter I sent in Miss Creamer's bundle. I have been thinking of Welly too, for it now about time for the poor child to be examined to enter the high school. Oh the trial of this would be many & various. In this I can fully & entirely sympathize with him, for my own experiences in this particular furze of affliction are yet warm in my memory. — Last night Miss Oakes was sent for in consequence of the dangerous illness of her Mother. I do hope <sup>her</sup> parents life may be spared, & that she will soon return to us, for she is indeed a very lovely girl, & I have become exceedingly attached to her. Have spent this day I hope profitably, in reading studying & contemplation. Tomorrow I must have no letter —

Monday 13th. Well this day has gone & no letter, but I will endeavor to be as patient as I can. Miss Tilden sends we were all sleepy in the Algebra class. But I am <sup>I was</sup> sure wide awake & obtained quite an amount of information, respecting the quadratic equations. I shall like them very much when I understand them perfectly. — My class performed admirably, & I enjoyed the time I spent with them very much. He has a miserable lesson in Combe, notwithstanding the sentiments it contained were so beautiful. His style is very fine indeed, & it does seem almost wicked to mutilate it as we do. — How solemn & impressive were the devotional exer-



-cases this morning. How feelingly Mr M. spoke of Miss Lane she has gone, I suppose, never to return to us again. He shall miss her, for she used to call on us, as Mr Cleveland was wont to do on Miss Hatty; just after tea Sunday evening.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>. Pleased am I to record an excellent lesson in Ancient Geography, & more particularly as we had company. Mr May was called out during the recitation, & left the class in my charge, & as I had very fortunately, consulted, biographical, as well as Classical dictionaries, & taken copious notes, respecting the pyramids, Lake Moeris, Alexandria's Library, city of Thebes, Cleopatra's Needle, Ptolemy &c &c. I was able to show off my stock of knowledge to great advantage; they questioned me about the Shepherd kings, this staggered me, & I was obliged to confess my ignorance, (which by the way, I am <sup>often</sup> obliged to do). Our lesson in Combe was beautifully interesting to day; it related some facts in Natural history, which always interests one; & then our beloved teacher made some excellent remarks, which to me are ever quite as valuable as "Combe" himself.

This afternoon had a nice sing, after that, took our first lesson in Book keeping - This evening have done our Algebra for Thursday that is the only lesson I have prepared; I attempted to study Geometry, but it did not amount to much, for the lack of getting a correct equation of angles out of a dodecahedron



awoke me, & so, if I may believe Fanny, Morpheus had had full possession of me for more than half an hour.

Wednesday 15th. To day had scripture readings, which are always interesting. If Miss Creaser had been I should not have felt at liberty to make any remarks, for from what she said yesterday, any remarks upon her reading except it be from the teacher, would not <sup>be</sup> gratefully received. After she has been with us awhile, I am sure she will perceive that all these things are done in the spirit of kindness.

Mr May talked a long time this morning on the absolute necessity of our taking better care of our health. As quite a number of the girls are sick, he felt exceedingly anxious lest we did not take exercise & a proper quantity of sleep; that if we gained all knowledge, even the wisdom of Solomon, & lost our health, what would it all be worth? He did seem really grieved that so many had disregarded the rules of health.

Poor Abby has had a sorry time drawing her stereographic projection. I believe she has spoiled three or four already. Her patience has increased wonderfully since I became acquainted with her, or rather, since she became acquainted with me. There is Grandma, just as easy as an old shoe; she works on hers about an hour & then put it by, till the spirit moves again, which time, reasoning from analogy, will be next day after noon. Oh she is one of the easiest & best tempered of the earth. —



Thursday 18th. I am happy to say that I have gained quite an amount of information to day from our Geography lesson. I spent a whole hour & a half, & very profitably too, in finding references. The Iugurthine wars were all new to me, as well as the characters of several worthies of antiquity, such as Callimachus, Euthyphorus, Carneades, &c. The doings of the latter interested me much. I was also amused with the three regrets of Cato. But as for remembering the names of the countries that comprised the different ancient Empires, I could not. The fifteen belonging to <sup>the</sup> Persian, I could repeat, but when the question was asked in the class, I could not think of the first one, & therefore could not tell a single one! — At noon

to day I collected a class around me, & taught them a lesson after the plan of "The School-ma<sup>n</sup> abroad," which Mrs May sent me. I must not fail to thank her for it, when I see her. I read it this morning as a sentiment, & it created quite a sensation. Another sing this afternoon, & how like a fool Mr Bird talked to us; one of his bright speeches was, to us young ladies — but it was too silly, & I will not waste any ink in writing the nonsense.

A second lesson in Book-keeping. I thought Mr May would be entirely exhausted, for he has to repeat some of his rules, I don't know but a dozen times; I felt really ashamed of it.

Took a pleasant walk upon Concord hill with quite a party of Normalites. This evening have been hard at work —



Friday 17th. To day received a letter & package of love  
from Salem. I know not when I ever hailed any thing with  
more delight. The letter I devoured in the Geometry class,  
& the package, (or a part of it) about half past twelve.  
My letter contained the news of the death of our old Neighbor  
Capt Field. What a loss he will be to his family, & particularly  
to his invalid & helpless wife. He had a rough exterior, but I  
always liked him for his kind feelings & generous heart, and  
perfect uprightness in all his dealings with his fellow men.  
Such characters I quene to say are altogether too rare.

Tomorrow we are to commence a map of Palestine; is  
it not comforting? - To night called at Mr Davis to see the  
lady from Salem, who brought my letter; invited her to visit  
our school on Wednesday next. —

We have had a regular "soiree", this evening, Electa, who is to be  
an inmate of our family, called with her sister Mary to take a survey  
of our extensive mansion, her future home. The pleasure of showing her  
round, devolved on me; so I introduced her with all becoming  
dignity & "gentleness of manner" to our breakfast, dinner, & tea set, the  
latter of which excited wonder & admiration. Our glass was, certainly  
particularly the steel cellar forth another exclamation of delight,  
then our lamp feeder, was the sine qua non; & the sugar bowl with an  
odd cover that matched, showed the wonderful adaptation of external  
circumstances, & things, to objects around them. And last, but not least,



I introduced them to a large pot of pork & beans which  
we were then stewing in our stove, &, at the same time assured  
them, that a ~~few~~ further acquaintance with the said pork  
& beans, would be very agreeable to us; they acknowledged it  
would be as much so to them, for their pleasant bubbling  
chit-chat had not only sounded like sweet music to their  
ears, but their odoriferous fragrance had affected delightful  
sensations as conveyed by their olfactories, & the organs of taste  
were in a high degree excited. So we poked the fire, stirred  
the beans & tried the pork, I will just remark that I have  
never felt that reverence for Pythagoras since I learned that  
he was a mortal hater of beans, that I did before. But we  
will leave the philosopher, & set the table, and here language,  
I mean dishes fail me; every thing seems strangely metamorpho-  
-phosed. The table took the form of the lid of a chest, (on which  
Fanny drew her map) resting gracefully on the laps of the two  
visitors. On this, were placed soup plates very much resembling  
sauces, a tureen filled with ~~the~~ beans, looking precisely like  
a bowl, a plate containing pickles, that to my vision appe-  
ared like a large yellow pudding dish, but as we had every  
thing on a large scale, this <sup>appearance</sup> might have proceeded from an  
ocular distortion. A plate of crackers in the exact form of a  
huge travelling basket, a cup of pepper, a crucifix, no, a bowl  
of vinegar & other things in the same order & style. I, the servant



waited on the table, or rather the lid, but the near proximity of the to the stove & the latter to the bear kettle rendered the task comparatively light. Every thing went off remarkably well, (particularly the beans) much better than could have been expected, when we consider that Fanny & self have not been much accustomed to company & style, since living all by ourselves near the Monument.

Our meal was altogether Cornbeisterian, for it was enlivened by entertaining & instructive conversation & the visible organs were also called into activity. On the whole we had, as Willy would say, a first rate time.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>. Yesterday commenced & finished my map all but shading, this I think I shall paint. After access Mr May read to us a continuation of that address on Education. The qualification requisite for a teacher are now so high, that I often fear & tremble, lest when I shall have been examined for the office, they will find me wanting, Oh dear. It actually makes me feel faint to think - yes - even think, of passing examination, as the phrase is. — Last night we had a nice time - We had an invitation to take tea yesterday & spend the night with Mary & Electa Lincoln, which we were very happy to do. We made up the bed the other way & all four slept together, & a merry time we had. Electa read us



a letter which she had received from Father Peices; it was entirely filled with that all important subject Matrimony. Mary leaves our ranks in about two fortnights; I wish her every success for she is a lovely girl & I have become very much attached to her.

To day I have been much interested in reading the character of Christ by Mr Furnace. His remarks upon his miraculous birth, are, I think very just as well as excellent. - To night called at the Normal house, Miss Creasner looked quite bright considering the scene yesterday - poor child, I pitied her dreadfully, however, she had been entirely too rude & noisy, & Mr M's remarks will, I doubt not, have an excellent effect. - - -

Monday 20th. To day Miss Vinton left us on account of ill health. May she soon return to us quite recruited.

We were not very bright in our classes to day, & our Scriptive Geography was superlatively bad. - Mr Forde honored us with his company a part of the forenoon & all the afternoon. We read that beautifully sublime piece "An address to the Deity;" & the above named gent. gave us a specimen of his way of reading it, & I must say I disliked it exceedingly. - I was obliged to go out to my Algebra class, therefore lost any remarks he afterwards made. He lectures this evening, & if my head did not ache so badly, I should like to have gone.



& listened to his wise & witty sayings. - I shall retire early for I am tired & sleepy, neither Algebra, Geometry nor "Combe" ever, have any charms for me to night.

Tuesday 21st. It has been a lovely day, so very spring like, & the Birds twittered delightfully; the Sing on the whole was much better than the last. He ought to be obliged to Mr Bird & the Sisters for singing so sweetly to us; I suppose it is my want of the organ of tone, that I do not appreciate more their fine voices, as many think them, but to my ear there is little melody in their trills. - Had a decent lesson in Geography, for which I always feel thankful. - And "Combe" was very beautiful indeed; the subject of the lesson was to prove that Death was a benevolent institution, which he has done very clearly. We are to write an abstract of this chapter for our Comp. on Thursday which to me, will not be a great task, for it is so beautiful I would like to be able to repeat every word of it. It has given me entirely new views of the subject of Death, & they are not only new, but very pleasant & happy ones. I have bought some cloth to night & intend to commence a large map of Palestine for my school room & if I have time, it will look very nice. - Had a very pleasant walk after school, & a slight sleigh ride with John May. - Wednesday 22nd - After the devotional exercises, I came



out to study my 'Combe' that I might have a good abstract. By making a violent effort, I was enabled to excite my organ of 'Concentrativeness', & by taking help of the lesson at a time succeeded tolerably well in making myself mistress of the chapter. The ideas it contains on the subject of Death, are so beautiful & I now think, so just, that I shall never regret the time I spent in studying it. —

Fanny has made up her mind to give up the study of Algebra, if Mr May is willing, & I know he will be, for he thinks we spend too large a proportion of our time on Mathematics. She is so delighted with the prospect of discontinuing any further acquaintance with the characters, Positive & Negative, that she has actually gone crazy with joy; she knocked over the chair in a paroxysm of joy; her Algebra received an impetus which, had it not been checked upon by the law of gravitation, & had it not met with some slight resistance in the sides of the house, would have sent it whirling round the world. She at last gave vent to her feelings in a peculiar kind of Catathrenics. — I have written so much to day that I feel really tired & weary, so journal. I must bid you farewell for to night.

Thursday 23<sup>d</sup>. I thought our lesson in 'Combe' to day was recited considerably, considering how beautiful it was. And what a queer answer Miss Sargent gave to her question; it was too hard to laugh, but I could not help it, when she asked if the Milleites did not



expect to be ——— but never mind, she is a very good girl, & we are none of us any too ready with correct answers. Mr May told us about his beloved Father's last sickness. He was certainly one of the few persons who obeyed all the organic laws. I do love to hear Mr May talk about him, "Combe must have had such a person as he was, in his mind, when he wrote that beautiful sentiment, where he speaks of the Moral Sentiments being so happily affected by the institution of death. "Conscientiousness, if thoroughly enlightened, perceives no infringement of justice in a guest satiated with enjoyment, being called on to retire from the banquet, to permit a stranger with a keener & more youthful appetite to partake".

This afternoon had another lesson in book-keeping; it makes me nervous to hear the girls say every minute "Mr May what did you say comes next." His patience endureth beyond, I fear, what his bodily frame will bear.

Friday 24th. Owing to some of my Ancestors disobedience to the organic laws, I was last night highly afflicted with severe pain, which prevented the healthy action of the mental faculties, & therefore I was not in a fit state to prepare my lessons. I did not attend school this morning, but I spent my time very profitably & pleasantly in reading "Jesus & his Biography". I was never more interested in reading any book in my life. I have taken some beautiful extracts from it, but when I get it



I shall certainly place it in my library. When speaking of Christ being tempted, the Author says "Matthew & Mark add that 'angels came, & ministered unto him'". The term Angel was by the means synonymous, in the Hebrew ~~in~~ use of the word, with a visible, personal, shape. Whate'er appeared at the moment to be an instrument in the hands of Providence was considered & spoken of as an Angel. There was great truth in this mode of thought & speech. All things are the Angels of Heaven to an eye that looks on all things in a religious light & from the true point. To a spirit, filled with the elevated consciousness of duty discharged, & self subduet, the universe puts on aspects of glory & loveliness, & no heaven, thronged with countless hosts of seraphs & sounding with celestial music, is one half so beautiful as this very world, in which we live, to such a spirit." He goes on in the same beautiful train of thought; I must try to get the book when I go home, for Cousin Cynthia to read. I am sure the Author must be possessed, in a great degree, of the spirit that dwelt in, & actuated Christ.

My class in Algebra were, I thought, rather lazy to day, but perhaps they appeared so to me, because I felt so stupid & dull myself. Miss Whitten has been teasing me to write something funny for the Experiment, but I cannot, & that is a sufficient reason. If I had anything else to do I would like to put in a stirring piece about the selfishness of the Normalites; they all like to hear



the paper read, but there is scarcely one who is at all willing to write a single line for it - I am sure it is no more than fair, that if they of the money share, that they should help the sweets prepare -

Saturday 25th. We had no reviews to day. As I took the Map of Palestine & come home & commenced my map, which is to decorate my school room. After recess I went into school & read our beloved teacher read a most excellent letter which was written to Washington, on the subject of slavery, conjuring him in the strongest yet kindest manner, to be just to himself, & to his fellow man, & not have his name go down to posterity tarnished with the awful stain of slavery. It seems this excellent epistle was sent back to England unanswered! I never reverence the character of this warrior as highly as some have thought I ought to do, & now, I like him still less. It is only a few days since, that Fanny & I had quite a controversy on the subject of his merits & demerits; I believe she at last came to the conclusion that my organ of Precedence is perfectly flat. - Mr May made some beautiful remarks after reading the letter, which I enjoyed exceedingly. I thought he was almost inspired. Mary & Electa, have spent the afternoon with us. Electa has been working with me on my map; I shall return the favor when



commenced here. We were so industrious that we accomplished a great deal. I worked so steadily for at least eight hours that I am fairly & entirely worn out, both body & mind, & shall go to bed right quick —

Sunday 25th — It has been a lovely day & I have enjoyed every moment. I have worked upon my map, studied my lesson in "School Master" which is very excellent as well as beautiful, & nearly finished the Biography of Jesus. Mr. May gives a lecture to night on Slavery which I should like to have heard had not my head ached so badly —

I should be happy to run in & see how they all do at home to night. I seem to think I see Cousin Pally sitting in the arm chair, & Willy near her listening to her interesting stories of Aunt Lang Syne. She is another of those "excellent of the earth" worthy to be ranked with the Father of Mr. May. I wonder if my friends at Westbrook ever send a wish or a thought after me. I sometimes think they have forgotten there is such a person as Martha, the dwarf, of the tribe of Benjamin. It is quite time brother Henry answered my letter, I fear he does not consider this saying of scripture, that "it is more blessed to give than receive"

Monday 27th This morning our beloved teacher read to us a very affecting account of one of the insane as related by Miss Dix. How happy must that woman feel when she considers how much she has done to lighten the miseries of this class of her fellow



beings. Did we not know her to be a person of undoubted veracity, we should hesitate to believe that the heart of man could become so callous to the sufferings of those around him. No one however hardened could listen to this tale as related by her, without having his heart moved with compassion & feeling that she is indeed an angel of Mercy sent to minister to the mind diseased. At one time, I had a strong prejudice against her, for I thought she made up stories to rouse the dormant mind; but since Mr May made me acquainted with her real character, I have not only respected, but, loved her. She may indeed be called the Elizabeth Frye of America. — Things at Normalty have gone on about as usual. I have turned over a new leaf in Algebra, for I found to my great surprise that there were some in my class who needed some other incitement beside the mere pleasure of learning. I requested each one to bring in on paper the amount performed that I might let Miss Tilden know how we were getting along. This, I know was appealing to their "love of approbation" but I could not well avoid it. Miss Cramer, in particular, has been quite remiss, but I will not judge her, for she has not been very well for a week or two past. — Fanny threatens to tell Mr May of me if I do not come to bed; & rather than have her bear the odium of being a tell tale I shall go.



Tuesday 28th. Another precious has gone, & gone forever. I often fear, indeed I know, I am not making the progress I ought. This thought grieves me; with such a Shepherd over me, who is constantly "pointing the way", I surely can have no excuse for not making clearly progress in wisdom & goodness.

To day in our "School Master" was enumerated the moral qualifications requisite for a teacher. Had I read this book a year since, I am sure I should not have thought of preparing myself for the office, for the standard set, is so high I shall <sup>never</sup> attain to it. But my blessed motto "Hope on hope ever" bids me take courage & faint not —

What a beautiful & affecting fact our beloved teacher related to us in the class. I wished all the world could hear it, & then I am sure they would be convinced that the Law of Love worketh miracles. I have long been aware that there is no heart however hardened, but can be melted in the furnace of Love.

I have got along finely in my Book keeping to day - have already fifteen or twenty documents on file. I like the plan of proceeding very much, & think it will be of great use to us.

To night, as we had no lessons to prepare for the morrow, I finished reading "The biography of Jesus." & I am happy to add that I think the perusal of it has made me, not only wiser, but better. —

Wednesday 29th. What a busy day this has been; we have "moved" & got all settled again. I suppose the New.



Yorkers would not consider it any thing, but for <sup>two</sup> <sup>affair</sup> young Normal girls to have such an important <sup>to</sup> accomplish all alone seemed really quite a circumstance. Electa's furniture arrived about noon & it was really amusing to see how we managed to set it up in the best style to make the most show. Oh the pride & vanity of this world. Mr Monroe was very kind, went to the store like any little errand boy, on the run, & procured for us some nails to put down our carpet. In the mean time I got some thread & we all went to work, sewed the pieces together & by puckering & stretching, made it match beautifully, so that our carpet now looks quite smart. — Fanny has been groaning about her composition which is to be handed in tomorrow. I tried to make her realize that she had one to prepare last Sunday, but sufficient to the day is the evil thereof, thought Fanny, it affects me rather differently, I hardly give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids till the heavy weight is removed,

To day Mr May commenced reading Mr Mann's Report. I believe I shall never see hear or write his name again without seeing Macedonia in my mind's eye & poor Mr May looking so anxious, & disappointed. The reading so far, was exceedingly interesting, particularly the account of teaching the dumb & deaf to talk, as practiced in Europe. — The Scripture readings were not as good as common, or at least, I did not enjoy them as much.



as usual. I feel somewhat tired & must go to rest.

Thursday March 1st. Only think, Spring has come again; how short this winter has been; time here flies on eagles wings; the term is just half gone; examination day is hastening on apace; I do dread it approach almost as I should the Cholera, but never mind "hope on hope ever".

Mr May has spent the day in Boston; we got along without him, & that was all. — This afternoon we worked very hard indeed, copying our notes, & assisting others to do the same.

I have felt very lame to day, owing, I suppose, to my great exertions of yesterday, in the way of housecleaning, & "moving", which, by the way, consisted in the main, in removing our couch, or pallet of straw from one apartment to another; I believe I strained some of the Dorsal muscles in shaking our carpet, for I am so stiff to night that I can scarcely move, I hope I shall feel better tomorrow, for we are to have the Binomial Theorem & I must be as bright as a lark. — How kind it was in Abby to go in all the mud & snow & rain away down to Mr Nelsons for those notes, she is really a good hearted child, even if she is somewhat impatient. — Mary L. bid us farewell to night. —

Friday 2nd We have had course — much company to day, but the strangers Miss Tilden expected did not arrive, which rejoices my heart; we do have something to be thankful for every day. She expected good time, we were to have upon the Binomial,



did not take place, for Mr May was not willing that  
our dearly beloved Caroline should teach it, after working  
so hard all the forenoon. I do not wonder that he should  
be thus watchful, for she is indeed so treasure, & I love her  
more & more every day. Notwithstanding my dullness in  
Mathematics, she has never once spoken even impatiently  
to me. — I do feel night happy to night for my class  
in Algebra, have done beautifully, & my plan succeeded finely.  
To night we all went to hear a lecture on Memories, or  
the Science of Memory. The lecturer possessed, a wonder-  
ful memory himself — but whether it is natural, or ac-  
quired is not altogether proved, to me at least. If it would  
assist us any in Ancient Geography, I would not value  
spending time & money to learn the Art. — By the way, I  
think it might be of advantage to us in the Spelling lesson,  
as what a display we made this afternoon, I missed two  
words beside epaulet, & was ashamed, not only of my-  
self, but the whole class. I shall surely study them af-  
ter this. — Eliza is now a member of our family circle.

Saturday 3d — Early this morning Abby came in &  
coolly informed us that a gentleman from New York was  
coming this forenoon to examine the school! Oh, thought  
I, there is surely no rest for the wicked, & said I, had these  
trials been made known to me, the name of Biddy would



never have been sounded through the halls & hills of  
Somerville; public schools, would have lost an efficient teacher  
& Mr May been spared the mortification of introducing me  
into Macedonia in the presence of that "Mann". Fortu-  
-nately we had breakfasted when the astounding news ar-  
-rived, & as soon as I heard it, I felt too, as if I had dined -  
-well, the school bell rang as usual & at the time ap-  
-pointed the said gent. was ushered in by Mr Towle; (the  
latter, has become quite a favorite with me) - The commen-  
-ced with Mental Arithmetic, Electer very kindly called  
on me, I went on with the question & performed it rightly  
but when I got through, I could not tell for the life of me  
whether I ought to come out cows or dollars. Next came  
Geometry, but I will <sup>not</sup> particularise, the reason can be easily  
guessed, " suffice it to say" we, as a whole performed very  
well, & to the entire satisfaction of the whiskeed looker on.  
It is my humble wish that no more "inspectors" will en-  
-ter our school this term, at any rate, let us have six  
weeks to get rested in. - This afternoon my time has  
been occupied in attending to my various domestic  
duties, & in entertaining company - Miss Tilden made us  
a very pleasant call, & she seemed very happy that her  
classes performed so well.

Sunday 4th. I arose about six this morning & have been



very busy all day - I don't know as I have spent  
an idle moment. It took me a great while to per-  
form that long sum in partial payment & after all  
could not get it like the answer in the book. Have  
studied all my lessons for the morrow & spent the  
remaining time in reading "Hare & the Christian char-  
acters", poetry &c. - I wanted to go to Mr. May's and  
return his books, but several things prevented.

It has been a lovely day, calm, warm & quite spring  
like. In a few weeks we shall be greeted with the merry  
songsters, & running brooks, & we shall hail their approach  
with joy; & I suppose, thought those poor mangled be-  
ings whose life has been terminated in such an awful  
manner at Washington! In an instant of time, horror &  
desolation of heart has been spread through many a  
family circle. We mourn, yes the whole nation, will  
mourn & deeply bemoan this accident, but yet they  
will calmly construct this horrid instrument, which  
has been most sacrilegiously called the "Peace Maker" &  
prepare ~~for~~ it for a work of death where it will send at  
one blow hundreds into eternity, & how different are the  
feelings caused by the latter! Oh inconsistent man. When  
will he be ready to practice the teachings of the blessed Jesus,  
who said, "Love your enemies."



Monday 5th. Well, I have been taught the "Binomial Theorem" to day, & oh dear - how discouraged Miss Tilden would be if she knew how little I can now tell about it. It seemed "very clear" as she went along with it but to night, two or three of us got together to see if we could do any thing with it, & we really did not know where to begin. According to my humble opinion it would be far better if Miss Tilden would give it to us, a part at a time & let us digest that well, & then go on to the rest. For so many different steps all at one lesson entirely confuses my diminutive brain. It was really some consolation to me that many of the class did not understand it, or rather could not put it in practice, any better than myself. Newton was indeed a genius, else he never would have discovered this.

I wanted to go to the lecture to night & hear Mr Branson one of the most remarkable men of the age, as Mr May calls him, but as I very carelessly burned a great hole in my pocket, I was obliged to stay at home & mend it, for I could not afford the time for both; but it seems the said gentleman did not arrive, & so they called on Mr May who, I understand gave them a discourse on Wills. I think I have heard the same, & can attest that Mr Branson even, would not have given a better. At school, the remainder of our class had a review in Geography.



& physiology, which "they say", went off very well. All the afternoon was spent in reading spelling & parsing. It seemed very pleasant to spend the afternoon in the school room, yet I regretted to have my algebra class lose their lesson, for I fear we shall not get to Generalization.

Tuesday 6th. How beautiful were the remarks this morning upon the passage of Scripture which was read, "He should love our neighbours as ourselves." Just so far, said our good teacher, as we love our fellow men & show true benevolence towards him, just so far do we love our God.

It is not expected that we should love our enemies as we do our friends - but we should have towards these a feeling of grief & sorrow, feel towards them as you would were they insane. We ask what is Religion, and we are told it is belief to & so. But let us go to Christ, & he will tell us, not that you must believe in this or that doctrine, but religion consists in doing right, in doing good, sacrificing our own pleasures & comfort, for the advancement of those around us; that we should not only point the way, but lead them to goodness which is God. I wish I could remember every word of it. — Things at school progressed as usual. I am sorry to say Mr Britt was not greeted by one or two girls as he ought to have been. He requested & more than requested, that no more knitting should be brought to school — yet one, if not more contin-



-used to knit through the whole lesson! I felt really ashamed of them; but let me take care that I am not sometimes inattentive. — This evening Miss Davis & Miss Phelps (the latter from Salem) called to see us. She leaves next week I must make time & get a budget of letters ready to send.

To day Mr. M. told us several horrid facts in the life of Napoleon, that I had never before heard of, & which really made me shudder — may the earth never again behold such enormities.

Wednesday 7th. — A happy day we have had, at school, & a warm afternoon at home. As I have the honor of being housekeeper this week I thought I would afford my household a dish of Flapjacks for tea, & as our accommodations are rather limited, the way they fried (to use a quaint expression) was slow, & my stock of patience was all worn out. Oh how I longed for my "Hathaway" that Cousin Nathan is to present me when I am — I was going to say married — but I suppose it will be tedious to mention the word at Normal; but if they think, referring to the State, both of Massachusetts & of single blessedness, that I am going to wait forty Years before entering the promised land, (the term here prescribed) they are entirely mistaken; but I will talk with Mr. May about this. — Electa has gone to hear that famous lecture on "Memories"; I intended to go, but my head ached right hard, so I must remain at home & endeavor to hear of Electa.

This morning we read the 23d chapter of Matthew. This passage, said our teacher, contains the most withering curse ever ut-



-tered by the lips of Man. It was aimed, not to the abandoned, not to the inmates of prisons or persons about to be sent there, but it was a reproof against the learned, the rich, the high standing, in a word, against the Clays the Washingtons, the Webster of those times. A young man, obscure as was Christ, his divine mission not in any degree admitted, his life in danger, thins to call before the eyes of the multitude, the sires of those who sat in high places, shows a degree of moral courage the world has never witnessed before or since. It is not to be supposed that it was uttered in a denunciatory or unathful tone, but with feelings deep & sorrowful - I liked the remarks exceedingly -

After recess we had a portion from the Mann's Report. It was very interesting & interspersed with flashes of wit. I was amused as well as astonished, when that account of the feather beds, as they are used in Holland & Germany, was read to us; but I hardly credit the story yet; my organ of "Wonder" is very small - L. says Fanny & Electa. -

Thursday 8th. - I want a letter "very bad indeed", as the Philadelphians say; Cousin Sarah ought to pay her debts, & as for brother Henry, I know not what excuse to frame for him. I shall send him a scolding soon. - We applied our Binomial to day, & I advised it; we are getting along finely, L. says Miss Tildes. - Geography was not so good.



for me back all the travels of Saint Paul, & it would require a system of Mnemonics to enable me to remember them all; & beside, our lesson was too long & by trying to get it all, I did not get any as it should be; Mr May gave us the same lesson over again; he looked sick to day, I wished I could have taken his place in book keeping, for I know he was suffering with a dreadful head ache.

Grandma made us a call to night, & she is as happy as a clam that her week is out in Model room; she has some queer stories to tell of her "experiences" there. Abby expected upon the same duties to day. May succeeds crown her efforts. It is now nearly 10 o'clock so to bed I must go.

Friday 4th. This forenoon our good Shepherd was not with us; he left us to attend an examination of a Normalites school. I had the pleasure of hearing his class in Geography & "Schoolmaster" both of which was recited very well indeed. We had a happy forenoon, notwithstanding our good teacher was not with us - We were happy this afternoon in having him again with us. After school he read me a letter from Mary Jones, which amused me very much. She has succeeded finely in her school, & they wish to engage her for the summer. She says all the lectures on teaching which she heard at Normalty, have been of little or no use to her, for she has been governed entirely by circumstances. — Tomorrow



Miss Selden is to review my class in Algebra. I do hope they will do well; however I have done my best, so I must have faith & leave the rest. This reminds me of my call on Miss Miriam. I went in there yesterday to get some milk. Before I started I asked the girls if they thought I should get some apples. ~~without~~ asking, they thought I might, so we all rubbed up our organs of Faith & I tied on Electa's great pocket & went on my way rejoicing. Well I bought my milk & was just coming out with my pocket empty, thinking how true it was that Faith ~~without~~ works was dead, when to my unbounded joy, the good lady said, wait a minute; she disappeared, & soon returned, bearing three apples, two of them were considerably gnawed by the rats (no exaggeration this), but it showed the power of Faith in a high degree; almost as marvellous as Fanny's story of the old woman in New York.

We review tomorrow in Geometry & I must study it. —

Sat. 10th. Had a nice time to day drawing on the black boards. — Miss Selden examined my class in Algebra for the first time. Oh how troubled I felt for fear they would not do well. After school she encouraged me by saying they did beautifully.

Electa & I, have passed this evening at Mr. May's & enjoyed it very much. He told us a little cir-



circumstance in his life which was exceedingly beautiful  
& touching. When he was about 4 years old he lost his  
little brother playmate about two years older than  
himself, & to whom he was tenderly attached. They  
were playing together one day & he fell on a sharp stick  
which cut an artery & he bled to death. He knew nothing  
about the nature of death, could not conceive why his  
brother would not speak to him. He went into the  
chamber where he was laid out & crawled upon the bed  
& tried to open his eyes & asked him most beseechingly  
to talk with him as he used to. He then put his arm  
under his brother's neck laid down beside him & cried  
him<sup>self</sup> to sleep, & here his Father found<sup>him</sup> with his dead brother  
on his arm! What a touching sight it must have been  
for that Parent, & yet how beautiful! After dinner he  
asked his Father if he might go again to Eldwood; he  
said he might, & here that little child spent the after-  
noon waiting for his brother to awake. When bed time  
came he cried & begged so bitterly to sleep with Eldwood  
that his Father consented & here they let him lay till he  
got asleep - He watched all the proceedings, & saw his  
Father put him into the coffin, & when he found they were  
going to carry him away never to return, his feelings  
were so intense that he became almost frantic. His



Uncle took him into the tomb, opened the coffin and there he leaned over it & kissed again & again his dear brother. He dreamed about him every night for weeks & used to long for the time to come that he might see & talk with Edward. The ceiling would open & he would come down with Angels & stay with him till morning & then towards morning he & the angels would go away. He would leave messages for his Father & Mother, which he joyfully delivered. I think this is the most beautiful story I ever heard. What a frank hearted person Mrs May is, I do like her very much.

Sunday 4th. Have been to church all day, for a wonder. Our beloved teacher preached both forenoon & afternoon. I think I should become quite a church going body were he to officiate for I know that whatever is said comes from the heart. How very sweetly the last hymn sounded, I enjoyed it more than any singing I ever heard. — I have just finished a mammoth epistle to send to Salem by Miss Phelps. I wish Mr May would take a letter for a composition next week, for I do want to write to Philadelphia so much, & I cannot seem to find time for both; I think I must ask him. As I never have secrets, I should not feel much hesitation to have him correct it. — I wanted to read the book I borrowed last night, but I have been so busy writing letters that I could not find a moment's time. — —



Sunday 12th. - At school things have gone on as usual. We were highly favored & exceedingly blessed with company to-day - a rarity indeed. Miss Minot's face looks quite familiar; I do not think she recognized me. The lady with her had a very sweet face, she resembled Mary Chase & striking, I could not help actually staring at her. Her revision in Ancient Geography was quite decent, for which I felt particularly thankful. - Had a call this evening from Miss Creamer & Oaks. Miss Oaks is a very lovely girl; I loved her the first moment I saw her; she is not only gentle, but sensible. And there is Miss Fletcher, one of the best of the earth. When that noisy affair occurred at school, I admired her answer to one of the <sup>ladies</sup>, who was inquisitive to know who were the leaders, 'Let each her sister's feelings hide, & show a sister's love.' I do not think she is appreciated by all of us as she ought to be. - Electa & Fanny have gone to the Lyceum to hear a lecture from Rev. George Ellis; As I had a faint recollection of his discourse at the Mechanic hall, I thought I should enjoy my time more to my satisfaction at home. Our lesson in 'School Master' for tomorrow is very fine indeed; <sup>what</sup> he says respecting children being driven to falsehoods by fear, is excellent. That indeed must be a bad system of family or school government which urges children to have recourse to falsehoods to avoid punishment. This I am sorry to say, I have seen done in more than one family or one school. But let me avoid it.



as I would a pestilence. It surely creates a moral disease, which is infinitely more to be feared than death even.

Tuesday 13th. We had a miserable lesson in Arithmetical progression. Yesterday we were all delighted with it, & to day when we come to apply our previous lesson we found <sup>it</sup> hard & difficult enough. But Miss Tilden was very kind, for she did not scold us one bit. She has never spoken even impatiently to me since my sojourn here; I do love her very much.

This afternoon we had a sing, & I had a compliment from Mr. Briet; "Miss Brady will excuse me for mis-calling her name for she is ever so good-natured". Was not this a compliment worth having? would I were worthy of it. - He did not take a lesson in book keeping, as Mr. May <sup>was</sup> called to the funeral of a friend in Concord. - Mary Ann Parker & self have been all engrossed this evening with our Algebra, & if we do not have a good lesson tomorrow it will not be for want of study; she is very good in Mathematics & is also a good girl. - The walking is perfectly horrible; it reminds me of the streets of Portland. I shall be rejoiced when we can go into the woods again, & have some pleasant walks. I hope to collect a great many flowers during the coming season, & make, if I can find time, some Floral books.

Wednesday 14th. A rainy day this has been, but I have enjoyed it much. The weather, I am happy to say, does not affect my spirits at all; indeed lowness of spirits is not a part of my composition.



- We had a very good Scripture reading: Then a lesson in drawing on the black-board. These, I think are very useful; but it proves to me more clearly than ever that I have no genius at all, for I can do nothing without a copy, cannot even make a broom stick. "Hope on - hope on." cheering words -

Mr May read us from Mr Mann's Report. It was exceedingly interesting to day - his description of the Scotch Schools, was amusing, interesting, novel, & graphic in the extreme. If I ever go to Scotland, the first place I shall visit will be one of their public schools. - I have taken a book from the library on Architecture which subject I wish to make myself Mistress of. Oh how much there is to learn -

Mr May said he saw a light in my chamber at eleven o'clock last night, he looked sad, & I was sorry he saw it because it grieved him, but I could not well avoid it.

That anecdote Mr May reads us from Miss Norcross composition was very striking indeed. It shows how quickly the minds of children will detect inconsistencies. I must get it as she related it for it worthy of preservation - Lucia made us a call this afternoon, & perfectly shocked us with an account of a conversation she this day heard, between a Father & child; actually insisting upon his child's fighting with his school-mates! Such things are deplorable indeed.

Thursday 15th. To day Electa was appointed housekeeper for the coming week; we have seen her qualifications as regards Geometry, Algebra &c



and now, we shall test her powers at making bread, puddings &c. "what every lady should be capable of doing - blue sticking though she may be." I must put this remark in quotation, for I believe it is borrowed from Mrs Fawcett, though I am not quite sure. I believe Mr May considers the art of making good bread, far preferable to that of getting out quadratic equations, & I am inclined to think he is half right - for who knows how soon any of us may be called to pay our debts to the State of Massachusetts & enter the State of Matrimony - In the last mentioned situation, there would doubtless be equations to solve, requiring previous knowledge & study, as much as that of school teaching, & I am not sure that it would not be a good idea to get up a school or a community for the purpose; then I think we should not hear of so many persons blundering into Matrimony.

We spent the whole afternoon in book keeping, as Mr Brier did not come, & had a very good time. What a capital recitation we had to day in Geometry; may we all be favored to do as well at examination, in presence of the board - the thoughts of the coming conflict causes a sigh; but we will hope for the best, & leave the rest -

Friday 10th - I feel somewhat tired to night, for as soon as school closed Fanny & self walked in all the morn to Mrs Wellingtons, where we stopped to tea, then paid for our wood & a bushel of potatoes. Mr W. said he would give us as many as we could or would carry home through the streets of Lexington; of course we would not let this golden offer



pass unimproved & so we quickly decided to take a bag of potatoes under our arms, which project was carried into execution. We met with one comen<sup>t</sup>ie adventure on our way home. Just before we got to the hok. store Fanny took the bag to "spell" me, & unluckily grasped it by the wrong end - when lo the string broke & - down went our potatoes in the mud & on the side walk!! Only think of the scene in the streets of Lexington! My risibilities were so much excited at the novelty of the sight, that it was some time before I was able to assist Fanny at all at her ingathering. Quite a number passed us as we were in the midst of our dilemma, but no doubt they thought we were collecting monies. For my part I was quite willing they should know the facts of the case, but Fanny's pride was on the alert, & for her sake I applied myself to the task & we were soon as happy as if nothing had happened. Notwithstanding I was so tired with carrying the bag, yet as soon as we unloaded at our home, I again started with Electa to hear a lecture on Memory; when we got there, <sup>five found</sup> the class so small that it was thought best not to go on - so we had our labor for our pains. At school things went on as happily as ever - I am ashamed to say that I missed a word in our spelling lesson; & when we do this Mr. May always looks sad. Took up Geometrical progression to day. Sat. 17<sup>th</sup>. Last night when Mr. M. said he would have a review in Geography to day, I could not help groaning in spirit, for we are, as a whole, so deficient in this study, that I anticipated a sorry time;



but instead of this, we had a delightful lesson; Mr May made it very interesting - explained the ebbing & flowing of the tides, the Gulf Stream &c; then we had a spirited exercise in meridians of longitude which was very useful indeed.

After recess listened to "Mr Mann's Report." That account of school has interested me more than any thing that has yet been read. His character is indeed a beautiful instance of untiring energy, benevolence, & self-sacrifice. Rarely indeed do we hear of persons donating, as he did, their time, talents, property, & life even, for the good of the poor & destitute. I have taken "copious" notes from the reading this forenoon which I must transfer to my extract book when time is afforded. This afternoon I took tea with the cottagers & as many times we had. After tea joined with the girls in a Cotillion. The movements appeared to my unsophisticated eye quite as disconcerting and able & as much like "foolishness" as was the preaching of Paul to Greeks. I could not help thinking, what would my dear, good, sensible, blessed, old Friendly Grandfather have said, had he been a living spectator of the scene. Oh how much I loved him, & how much attached he was to all us little ones. — Have been over Geometrical progression very carefully with Mary Ann Parker, & I do like it very much. Sunday 18th. When we rose this morning the snow was falling fast & the streets looked as if they were impassable for man or beast. Elected, however



ventured out to church with the intention of remaining all day. But she very kindly came home at noon in all the state & much to let me know that our beloved teacher gave them a sermon in the forenoon, & would probably occupy the pulpit in the afternoon also. Upon these considerations, I felt constrained to accompany her, & heard a most excellent discourse from this text "Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven &c." As soon as the text was named it forcibly reminded me of my visit at Brunswick, during my childish years, when I pronounced these same words of scripture to Cousin Nathan who I feared was wearing himself out in endeavoring to amass "bits of yellow dirt." It was quite a sermon for me at that age, though I must acknowledge it had quite a different meaning to me at that time, from what it now does. I do believe if I had remained there till this time I should long ere this, have become a Quaker preacher. How much we are influenced by the example of those around us; & as this is so true, how watchful should we be over our every word & action, lest we should cause one of these little ones to offend.

Monday 19th. To day we finished our Geometry, & now we shall have a nice time for a review before the term closes, which I intend to do very thoroughly. I have taken a box of those Geometrical blocks for the express benefit of my school.

How sadly Miss Tilden felt to day when she found Joanna no. left her class in Algebra. I can't conceive why she should wish



to do so, for she is excellent in Mathematics & does not need to spend half the time over these studies that I do. She has strangely altered since her acquaintance with that young Chandler. I do not know as I am correct in this particular, but at any rate, something has come "in the spirit of her dream", for she used to be the flower of our class, & now all her interest is gone. I feel very sorry, for with a little exertion she can do beautifully. I wish some kind friend would give her a few words of advice.

Was there ever any thing like our Spelling! Words & words every day. Some missed no less than eight words this afternoon! which caused our good teacher to look sorrowful & sad. The lesson in School Master was omitted for want of time. I did not much regret it, for the Authors plan of managing a school was quite too much like machinery to suit me, & as for that "Study hour" thing, I perfectly despise it. I had an excellent lesson from my class in Algebra & I think they are getting along finely. — I have been studying eight hours ever since school, & it is now nearly eleven. To properly prepare our recitations for each forenoon, out of school, requires more time than I can possibly find unless I sit up after tea — I hear to night that Mary Hopper is to leave us & enter upon the duties of a teacher, in the course of a very few weeks; we shall feel sad to have her leave us.



Tuesday 20th. We read this morning, the account of the crucifixion of Jesus. Whenever I hear, or read this account of "the Lamb brought to the slaughter", the whole scene appears most vividly before me. John, "the disciple whom Jesus loved", standing near, with Mary his Mother, whose agony of mind we can scarcely conceive; and the impetuous Peter afar off, denying that he had any knowledge of the person who was about to suffer on the Cross! I can never forgive Peter for doing & saying thus, even though he did go out & weep bitterly. The intense mental & bodily sufferings of the dear Jesus, are inconceivable. The sponge filled with vinegar & gall was presented to persons about to suffer on the Cross in order to stupefy them. This it seems was offered the blessed Jesus, but he refused it, for he wished not to shrink from suffering but rather to meet death & know its agonies, in the full possession of his reason. Simon was called upon to carry the cross; the reason of this, no doubt, was because Jesus was so feeble, so much exhausted with mental & bodily suffering that he was not able to bear it himself, as was the usual custom. His mental agony in the garden of Gethsemane was no doubt nearly as great as what he endured on the Cross. — After offering a petition to our ever present Father, Mr May related to us the circumstances relating to the death of his Mother, which was so touching that many eyes were filled with tears. Her bodily suf-



-feelings were most acute for days before her death; and she was so well acquainted with disease in all its various forms, that she was aware about how long her frame would be able to sustain it. She earnestly requested of the Physician & those who had the care of her, that they would administer nothing that would tend in the slightest degree, to weaken or impair her mind; for she wished to meet death in the entire possession of her faculties for she wanted to know what the event was, its sufferings & sensations; and she would frequently ask her friends if they perceived her mind to be at all impaired. The day before her death, she called her children around her, kissed them very affectionately, & said she should leave them the next forenoon. She ~~did~~ continue till the next day; & about 4 hours before her departure she asked to have her pillows adjusted, said she was going to sleep & should not again awake. Her last <sup>words</sup> were "I feel delightfully." She slept sweetly for nearly 4 hours & then ceased to breathe.

"It matters not when the righteous die, it matters not when the good depart." — This afternoon commenced our "Leger"; went slow & sure — I hear Cousin saying, "Matthe, come, it is quite time thou wast in bed; thy head will ache tomorrow; This familiar voice I cannot disobey, so to bed I must go."

Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup>. Did not have any readings to day, but spent our time drawing at the black boards. — My abstract was corrected to day, & I had the pleasure of hearing it pronounced "very good," which



quite repaid me for studying so long upon it. Mr May talked about his Father which I always like so much to hear. He had the same views of Death that Combe advanced. How I would like to have known & loved him. He had the pleasure of again listening to Mann's Report which is as interesting as a novel. How beautifully he describes every thing - his account of the way Geography is taught in Prussia was perfectly exquisite. When I make the tour of Europe I shall certainly "put myself out" to see these things with mine own eyes, for seeing is believing. I do not mean that this traveller would exaggerate intentionally, but his powers of utterance & description are so great, he can not altogether avoid putting upon them a handsome dress. I do sincerely hope he will never visit my school; if he should his organ of "Comparison" would be strangely excited.

We all had a presentiment that our teacher & lady, would make us a call *à la* apres midi, but we were disappointed. Have been studying Geometrical progression all this evening.

Thursday 22nd. Our beloved teacher has not been with us to day. Business of importance called him to Boston. About eleven we were favoured with the presence of Miss Pildens Mr Pillingham. When he was last here I thought him as cold as Greenland, but to day he seemed quite genial & I actually liked him very much. Fanny has to day much against her inclination, taken her place in the Model school; she says she shall utterly fail.



I cannot tell why she has such a dread of the school, for I am sure she will make an excellent teacher, for she has a very good faculty of making things plain & understandable. That school in my humble opinion is not a Model of good order by any means, & she need not feel at all discouraged if she does fail in quelling all those active spirits there assembled.

I have performed quite a feat this afternoon. Mr Bird quite unceremoniously called on me to sing the echo to "the game". I told <sup>him</sup> I could not sing it rightly, but for examples sake I went into the entry & tried, I sang the wrong echo & every girl laughed most heartily; they appeared to enjoy it so much I joined with them & a merry time we had. Mr Bird wished me to try again, so I mustered courage, imagined myself surrounded by a field of cabbage heads & strange as it may appear, echoed "first rate"; so said Mr Bird & so said the girls; however, it was all chance if I did get every note right, for my talent at singing is very small indeed. — Mr Tillinghast is to be with us tomorrow, so I must study my "Series", but I would much rather fail in that, than in Geography, but I hope to do well if it is only for Miss Tilders sake. Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>. Another week has nearly passed; in less than 4 weeks more I shall be at home, if nothing occurs more than I at present know. I do hope my friends will think it advisable for me to remain at Normality another term. I feel quite sure I need to come three years, & should like to do so, were it practicable. How lonely it will seem, if I should be favoured to return to find the most of our class no longer with us. How much I shall miss Fanny, I do hope my touching epistle to her good aunt Martha will have the effect desired; we have made one family to say, it would not seem like home without her. Electa is very kind & pleasant, but still Lydia is not Lucy if I may be allowed



to quote the words of friendly Neal. - If I am here next term I hope to be able to study Astronomy, Philosophy & Botany, beside drawing on the black board. Since hearing that Report the latter qualification seems entirely indispensable in a teacher. Another thing I must learn to print; for I now think I shall <sup>teach</sup> my little black class, from letters printed on the black board. - I believe the Bridgewater teacher was quite pleased with the class in Algebra, Rebecca Richardson in particular, as she is one of the best; A model for us all in every respect - I will except spelling however, but it does not seem half as hard for her to fail, as the rest of us, for she does try so hard. - Our Geometry lesson was very good considering it was on that day Proportion; I begin to like it this time going through. I do hope & trust, that I or no one else, will fail on that right angled triangle, examination day. Oh that word; would it could be annihilated for it makes me groan in spirit, let me meet it in what connection I will.

Tell my dear journal, thou hast been with me, through this term, in all my outgoings & incomings. As more conversations can I hold with thee at present. At some future time we will renew our acquaintance & talk of by gone days.  
Adieu

I have read large portions of your Journal - and all of them with pleasure. I wish I could inspire you with all the confidence I feel that you will be very successful as a teacher - that is - if you so obey the laws of health as to escape frequent headaches - I shall part from you with regret and yet I wish to see you at your work.







