

Litchfield May 21st 1820 Journal Mary A. Child

As it is one of the regulations of the school that every scholar shall keep a journal and feeling sensible that is very useful to write often I will make the attempt. I trust no one but my kind preceptress will see it who I am sure will not wish to expose me but will point out the faults and help me to improve. Arrived at Litchfield May 17th had a very pleasant ride as far as Hartford but from there unpleasant it being very rainy. Attended school Thursday Friday and Saturday. Sabbath-day was prevented from attending meeting by the unpleasantness of the weather but spend the time very agreeable in reading the Bible religious Facts and paradise lost.

Monday 22nd went into school this morning and heard Mr Brace read the rules of the school and was very much pleased with [Le?] heard some good advice from Miss pierce and hope I shall be enabled to follow it and improve my time as I ought

Tuesday 23rd Have felt today something like a stranger in a strange land and consequently a little cast down but think it would be extremely foolish to give up to such gloomy feelings and thus

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waste the precious opportunities of improvement I here enjoy Wednesday 24th Attended school today find that I am very deficient in knowledge but hope the more I discover my ignorance the more sensible I shall feel the importance in improving my time Thursday 25th Have taken a walk this evening and have been delighted with one of the finest prospects I ever saw. How can it be possible that a rational mind can contemplate such a scene without feeling convinced that there is a God of infinite wisdom power and goodness and that he is the Creator and preserver of all things. The fact that they can is enough to convince us of the entire alienation of the heart from God.

Friday 26th Have felt so unwell today and it being very rainy that I thought it was not best to go out to school. Have spent the time in reviewing Elements of useful knowledge Rhetoric and in writing.

Saturday 27th This morning was examined in history and heard some good advice from Miss Pierce. She told us that we were mortal that we were accountable beings that we should soon be angels in heaven or miserable in hell. O solemn thought how little do we realize how soon this change will come.

Sabbath 28th attended meeting today heard Mr. Beacher preach two

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excellent sermons but my treacherous memory retains but very little Text in the A.M. Genesis 28th 17th This is none other but the house of God and this is the gate of heaven. First he proved that it was the

house of God and that he met his true worshipers there to comfort and strengthen them and his enemies to condemn them. 2nd That it was the gate of heaven because the worship of God in his house is the most effectual means of preparing us for his worship in heaven. 3'd Considering the precious opportunities of worship in his house which we enjoy how do we ought to improve them. First by constant attention because it is appointed by God and every opportunity which presents we do not know but will be last. 2nd We must give dear attention because we are in the presence of a holy God who knows every thought of the heart and the motives that induce us to attend 3'd We should attend with gratitude to the worship of God considering the many mercies and blessings which he is daily bestowing upon us and the gracious offers of pardon and salvation through Jesus Christ 4th With humility feeling the infinite distance there is between a holy God and such sinful and polluted creatures 5th With meekness and love P.M. He preached from these words of the Psalms The wrath of man shall praise the and the remainder shalt thou restrain. How animating the thought that God overrules all events and

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that all things work together for good to them that love God that he can bring good out of all evil. Attended meeting this evening and heard one of Dr. Dwights sermons read. Text How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those that bring good tidings.

Tuesday 30th Hark: that solemn speaks the departure of a soul. How frequently are we admonished that we are mortal and yet how little do we feel the reality of it. When we are enjoying perfect health and surrounded with all the comforts and pleasures of life we live as though we thought it would always last. But when we hear of the ravages sickness and death are making one would think it was enough to convince us of the reality that we too must die. How soon our turn will come we know not. It becomes us therefore to live in constant preparation for death and to improve with diligence the few days allotted us here in this world.

June 1st News from my dear friend at home. What a favor to have friends who feel interested in my welfare and though separated from them do not forget or neglect me. Why am I not left as thousands are to the mercy of a senseless and unfeeling world and without home and without friends. Surely I have great cause of thankfulness to the giver of all good instead of murmuring at the few

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of the perplexities of life which have been allotted to me. Saturday 3'd This morning was examined in history find it a very pleasing and interesting study. Next Miss Pierce gave us some very good instruction. I fear I shall not have a heart to improve as I ought such precious opportunities. In the first place she mentioned some of

our most easily besetting sins. Then points out to us the pearl of great price and then directed us how to obtain it. She said we must not only forbear to do what God has expressly forbidden but we must strive to do all he has required knowing that the law of God extends to the thoughts and intents of the heart. She then asked us if we prayed to God for all our blessings or had thankful hearts for all his mercies or was sensible who it was that bestowed them all upon us and after enumerating some of the principle blessings with which we appeared to be favored she gave us a solemn charge to remember Him who bestowed them all upon us.

Sabbath June 4th Attended meeting to day heard Mr. Beacher preach Text Psalms 51st 21st Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. To introduce the subject he said that the real children of God did not at all times enjoy the presence of the Holy Spirit but that they were sometimes left to walk in

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darkness to make them feel more sensibly their dependance upon God. In proof of this he said that David who was undoubtedly a child Of God was left by the Holy Spirit at the time when he wrote these words almost to despair But it was always in consequence of sin. Then in the first place showed how we might know when the Holy Spirit was absent 2nd The consequences of his absence 3^d The [rominality?] of this absence Then closed with a solemn application of the subject went to meeting this evening heard a piece read upon the omnipresence of God. What a solemn truth and yet how little do we realize it.

Saturday 10th One month has elapsed since I left my home. The short time I have particularly allotted me for improvement will soon pass away and I fear I shall do no more than discover my ignorance without having and opportunity of curing it. Have today been favored with good instruction. Last Saturday our sins against God was pointed out. today our sins against our neighbor. In the first place we must treat our superiors with respect and attention and be always ready to listen to any advice they may give and not be stubborn and set in our own way. 2nd We must never treat those that we think inferior to us in any with haughtiness and disdain but consider who it is that makes us to differ 3rd We must treat our equals with kindness and affection [?] [?]

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Sabbath 11th have been favored with health and strength today sufficient to attend the public worship of God a great privilege indeed which I fear I do not sufficiently appreciate the true value Text Romans 9th 15th For he saith to Moses I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. The doctrine which arises from this text is that which is called the sovereignty of God. There is no doctrine which is more utterly opposed to the natural heart or that will awaken its

prejudices and resentments so quick as this. It is too humbling to think that God is all in all and that we are entirely dependant upon his almighty power. In discussing this subject he mentioned 1st what the sovereignty was not displayed in and endeavoured to remove all prejudices from the minds his humen against the doctrine. It was not in the discretion which God used in the creation of the world or the creation of man or in permitting him to fall from that blessed estate of happiness wherein he was at first created. It was not in suffering some of the angels to fall from their estate of holiness to an estate of endless misery in preserving some in their blessed estate forever. It was not in providing a Savior to rescue fallen man. It was not in bestowing so different capacities upon men or in ordering their circumstances in life so very different.

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2nd What the sovereignty of God is displayed in. It is displayed in that discretion which he uses in the discrimination of subjects on which he graciously bestows salvation leaving others to perish in their sin. How humiliating the thought that we are in such a lost and deplorable condition that nothing but the sovereign grace of God can redeem us. Humiliating as this doctrine is to the natural heart - it is the source of the greatest consolation to the true christian. He feels his own weakness and rejoices that God reigns and that he will order all things according to his own good will and pleasure. Sabbath 18th Attended meeting today at the Episcopal church heard an excelent sermon by Mr Jones from these words. Jesus saith unto his disciples if any man will come after me let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. In the first place he showed that every christian must deny himself and take up the cross of Christ. Secondly what the cross of Christ is Thirdly what it is to take up this cross and follow Christ. Then closed with an application of the subject. How little is the importance of this duty felt among most professed christians who instead of taking up the cross as Christ has commanded are almost wholly conformed to the world. How many hours of sweet communion with his covenant God does the christian lose by

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placing his affections so much upon the vanities of this world which at the best can afford so little enjoyment. Happy indeed will those be who deny themselves and take up the cross and follow Christ not fearing the scoffs and ridicules of the world but willing to bear any reproach for his sake for they shall receive an hundred fold in this life and in the world to come everlasting life. Text P.M. Ezekial 18th 30th Repent and turn yourselves from all your transgressions so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Saturday 24th Have this week been called to think of the proofs of the immortality of the soul by the light of nature a subject

of the greatest importance as we possess capacities of happiness and misery and suppose that our happiness or misery hereafter depends upon our actions here. I think they are sufficient to leave us without excuse and that the heathen nations who have no other light will be guilty before God. But how thankful ought we to be that we are not left to find out our way by this dim light but are favored with the revealed will of God and from time to time his instituted ordinances. But this will only serve to increase our guilt unless we improve them for our own good and for the glory of God by repenting of our sins and believing in Jesus Christ and living lives devoted to his service. When we compare our situation with that of heathen nations how does it ought to excite our gratitude to God for his favor to us and our pity

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for them and make us willing to throw in our mite for their relief.

Sabbath 25th Attended meeting this A.M. heard Mr. Beacher preach from 1 Corinthians 4th 7th For who maketh thee to differ another or what hast thou that Grace did not receive. He continued to explain the doctrine of election which he began the sabbath before last. He attempted to prove that there was nothing in the doctrine of election but what was consistent with reason and might be understood by that alone. But that the human heart was so strongly opposed to it that it would not examine it closely and impartially. The natural heart is too proud to give up the direction of all things to God and depend wholly on his free and sovereign grace--- PM was prevented from attending meeting by unfavorable weather. Monday 26th Six weeks today since I left home. Half the time of my intended stay at Litchfield is past. When I think of time I have been here and the improvement I have made the time seems extremely short and when I think of my dear friends at home and it seems almost an age since I have seen them and I cannot help fondly anticipating the hour when I shall meet them again. But as it is extremely uncertain whether I meet them all again I must not set too much upon it. –

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Saturday July 1st Have been favored with health sufficient to attend school this week which some of my companions have been deprived of this privilege and one to leave the school and go home. Yesterday attended a fast appointed on account of the low state of religion in this place and for the purpose of awakening the church and making them more active and engaged in the service of their Master. O may it not be a lost season but have the desired effect and not only be the means of animating the church but of awakening sinners and making them flock to Jesus as clouds and as doves to their windows.

Sabbath 2nd Attended meeting today. Text on the AM. Luke 13th chapter 6th 7th 8th 9th verses. He spoke also this parable a certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came and sought fruit thereon and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard. Behold these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig-tree and find none: cut it down why cumbereth it the ground and he answering said unto him Lord let it alone this year also till I shall dig about it and dung it And if it bear fruit, well: and if not then after that thou shall cut it down. This parable when it was spoken was addressed to the jewish nation or church as they did not turn from the evil of

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their ways and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and bring forth fruit to his glory the threatening was executed in the strictest manner. But is now applicable to all churches and nations. In discoursing upon this subject it was shown in the first place what this fruit is. It does not consist so much in the outward actions as in the affections of the heart. We must love God with all our heart. Not with that kind of reverence arising from a consciousness of his greatness or of our unworthiness but of friendship to him and cheerful acquiescence in his government and character in every respect and a patient endurance of whatever he sees fit in his holy providence to lay upon us. As faith is an exercise of the heart this is fruit that must be produced. Secondly the manner on which it produced. It is produced by the law as this is a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ by the gospel by his written and preached word and by his ordinances. These are all means of grace which we enjoy in order to make us bring forth fruit. And God has spared us year after year and come seeking fruit and what has he found. This is applicable first to the Church what fruit has he found among you. Have you loved God as you ought to love him have you offered him the sacrifice of your whole heart and all its affections and lived to his glory as a church of Christ ought to

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live. If you have not you have reason to fear you will be cut down as cumberers of the ground. Although you are called his Church he has no such partiality for the name as that he will spare it without it bring forth fault to his glory. Secondly it is applicable to unpenitent sinners what fruit has he found among you. Have you ever done one exclaim out of pure love to God and a desire to glorify his name. Have you ever exercised one right affection of heart toward him. If you have not you have great reason to fear you will be cut down for you have been found much spared much longer than the fig tree was. Lastly this subject ought to convince us of the folly and dan-

ger of delaying repentance. The consequences will certainly be fatal and we shall be left without excuses after so many warnings and invitations.

Text PM James 2nd 21st was not Abraham our father justified by works when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar. When the doctrine of salvation by faith was preached by the apostle it was a time when selfrighteousness was the whole dependance of the Jewish nation all other religion having become almost extinct.

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Friday 7th Attended a preparatory lecture heard a very appropriate discourse from Job 29th chapter 2nd verse. O that I were as in months past as in the days when God preserved me.

Sabbath 9th Heard M' Burch preach from Luke 18th 10-13

Two men went up into the temple to pray the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself God I thank Thee that I am not as other men are extortioners unjust adulterers or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week. I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican standing afar off would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven but smote upon his breast saying God be merciful to me a sinner. Text P.M. Galatians 1st 11th But I certify you brethren that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

Monday 10th Attended the funeral of a young woman who died very sudden after a short illness of three days. There was a discourse delivered upon the occasion by Mr Beacher. Text Ecclesiastes 9th 11th 12th I returned and saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong neither yet bread to the wise nor yet riches to men of understanding nor yet favor to men of skill but time and chance happeneth to them all. For man also knoweth not his time as the fishes that are taken in an evil net and as the birds that are caught in the snare so are the sons of

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men snared in an evil time when it falleth suddenly upon him.

Sabbath 16th Attended meeting today heard Mr Mason of Washington preach from Proverbs 17,16 Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom seeing he hath no heart to it. Text PM Romans 7th 12th Wherefore the law is holy and the commandment is holy and just and good.

Sabbath 23^d Was prevented from attending meeting by ill health but was informed the text was in Hebrews 12th chapter 1st verse Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with many witnesses let us lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset us and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Matthew 28th 19th Go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the

Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Sabbath 30th Text this AM 2nd Corinthians 1st 6th Are whether we be afflicted it is for your consolation and salvation which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted it is for your consolation and salvation.

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Sabbath 6th Chronicles II 32nd 25th But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefits done him for his heart was lifted up therefore there was wrath upon him and upon Judah and Jerusalem.

John 6th 27th Labour not for the meat that perishes but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life which the Son of man shall give unto you for him hath God the Father sealed.