

E. W. Clark

A Journal

1814-1826

MsJ
C552a

1814 Spent the principal part of this year at School during which time I read several interesting books on religious subjects by which means my attention was in some measure called up to attend to the things of religion, and in a measure reformed my outward conduct and attempted, secret prayer & did it all in my own strength.

1815 Left my fathers house in Peacham and went to Stanstead to be employed as a clerk in a store after which my seriousness in a great measure vanished away, being surrounded with temptations on every side.

1816 This year ^{was} is one of the most interesting of all my ^{life} ^{was} it is the year in which I hope my feet were taken from the horrible pit and mire of clay and placed upon the rock of ages.

In the month of May on attending conference my attention was somewhat called up to attend to the things of eternity but nothing very lasting. However during the summer season, there being a revival of religion in the town my attention

was from time to time very much arrested and
sometimes so strongly that I was constrained to
cry like the Publican God be merciful to me a
Sinner during which time the adversary presented
a thousand flattering temptations to my view
such as you are ~~going~~, there will be time enough
to attend to these things when you are more
advanced in life and you will lose all ^{the} pleasures
and enjoyments of this life and be neglected by
your companions and friends; to whose subtle
devices I was on the point of ~~complying~~ ^{yielding}
and banishing from my mind all serious thoughts.

While in this frame of mind I heard Mr W.
preach from these words "remember Lot's wife" the
sermon appeared peculiarly adapted to my case, in
which ~~the danger~~ he showed the danger of those
who had had their attention called up and were
settling down without any well grounded hope in
the saviour, and the importance of fleeing from
that place of destruction, the sermon made a
deep impression on my mind, and I went home
with a determination that I would serve the Lord
and attempted to pray but found no relief.

In about ~~two~~ weeks after I was led to
make known my feeling freely, to one of my
Christian friends which I had before kept concealed,
at which time he gave me some good instruction
soon after which I trust I was enabled to see
more clearly the depravity of my own heart to see
that all my ^{former} righteousness was as filthy rags
and that my whole life had been one continued
scene of transgression and that according to the
law of God which appeared holy just and good
I deserved to be forever banished from the
presence and favour of God. I trust I was also
led to see that I could do nothing of myself
and to give myself up to God surrendring
to ^{feel} willing that ^{he} should do with me as it
seemed good in his sight. If I am not
deceived I then felt that composure of mind
that joy and peace in believing which the
the world cannot give nor take away this
world and all its pleasures appeared as
nothing and vanity and I almost desired
to depart from this body of sin and be with Christ

Every thing appeared changed the bible appeared
a new book preaching Christians &c appeared
totally different the joy and consolation I then
took in conversing and meditating on heavenly
things is out of the power of language to describe.

I continued in this frame of mind for some
days after which I lost in some measure those
animating feelings and was led to doubt the
sincerity of my faith, I was not left however
wholly to despair but ventured to ^{offer} myself to the church
and accordingly on the 6th of October publicly
professed my faith in Christ and partook of
the Lords Supper the season appeared solemn and
interesting

The idea was suggested to me about
this time of ~~prosecuting~~ ^{ministering} for the great and imp-
ortant work of ~~preaching~~ ^{the ministry} ~~preaching~~ the Gospel to perishing
sinners, by a friend, I was very much surprised
at first, I told him however that I would
think of it, ^{my} mind was greatly agitated
with the subject for eight or ten months
at times my mind was very much divided

and I would feel very confident that it was my duty, and at other times, when I saw my own weakness and inability I would almost wish that I never had thought of such a thing. I trust I went often to the throne of grace for guidance and ~~assistance~~ direction, and I was enabled to come to the conclusion that by the existence of God I would devote myself to that great and important work.

1817 Removed from Stanstead to Peabham to commence my studies at the academy in that place, as to my spiritual concerns, the light of Gods countenance seemed at times to be withdrawn in some measure but as it was a time of refreshing among the people with whom I resided I was enabled in some measure to enjoy the consolation of the holy spirit and to feel a deep interest for the salvation of precious and immortal souls.

1818 Removed this year to Hampden Maine to pursue my studies at an institution newly established there, after ^{which} I at times enjoy^{ed} sensible communion with God but suffered my studies to occupy so much of my time as to destroy in a great measure many of the sweets of religion.

1819 Removed to Bangor where I spent a few months very pleasantly in the midst of many kind friends and by the advice ^{and} kindness of friends conducted to go to College accordingly removed to ~~Andover~~ Phillips Academy, where I was received with kindness. 1820 Received under the patronage of

The A. E. Society, and spent several months at Andover in the midst of preeminent privileges, where I sometimes enjoyed the comforts of religion and sometimes was almost entirely engrossed in the pursuit of literature. I here enjoyed much religious instruction and faithful admonition.

Sept 20 This day entered Dartmouth College where in all probability I shall be subjected to new temptations and more exposed to the baleful influence of an unhallowed ambition than I ever yet have been ~~may~~ the Lord grant me strength equal to my day.

24th Sabbath evening. Heard this day ^{three} solemn
and impressive sermons; but felt little
or nothing. I already begin to feel the dead-
ning influence of College; and the importance
of new resolutions and increasing faithfulness
may the Lord teach me ^{my} duty and en-
able me to perform it with delight.

Sept 21 ~~20~~ ^{past summer} During this ~~year~~, God has been
pleased to pour out his spirit upon
the College and vicinity. Fifteen or
sixteen members of College have become
hopefully pious. During this revival
I have enjoyed frequent communion
with God and my heart has been un-
usually drawn out in love and gra-
titude to God for the wonders which
he has here wrought. I have been
enabled to pray, at times, with fer-
vency with, and for ^{who are out of the work} my dear ^{and} classmates
and to converse with ^{them} upon the concerns
of their souls.

But only one of them gives evidence
that he has shared in the revival.
May he prove a blessing to the church
of Christ.

April 1822 Just returned from
Bennington Vt where I spent ^{the winter} very plea-
santly as an assistant in an Academy.
My mind is too much occupied
at present in my studies and in
preparation for Quarter day.

Sept^r 24th Just commenced my ^{year} third
in College with resolutions to be more
faithful in duty and to live more as
a stranger and pilgrim on the earth
than I have heretofore. May God
help me to keep these resolutions.

Jan'y 1st 1825

I have now been a member of the Theological Seminary Andover for nearly two months. I can look back and see a few bright spots in my college life, but I have now deeply to lament my unfaithfulness and the worldly and ambitious spirit by which I was so much influenced, while a member of College.

Since I have been a member of this sacred institution, my feelings have been more and more interested in the cause of Christ, to which the death of a dear sister has, I trust, in some measure contributed. I have been more deeply impressed than ever before, with the solemnity and importance of the great work I have in view. As I have now ^{just} commenced a new year, I have solemnly dedicated myself anew to the service of God, and resolved, by assistance from above, to devote myself more unreservedly to Christ and his cause than I ever yet have done. And I do now in the presence of the great Jehovah

Solemnly resolve, by divine assistance, to con-
secrate myself more entirely to the cause
of Christ, to be more watchful and active,
more faithful and heavenly minded,
more prayerful and less influenced by a
selfish and worldly spirit - in short to be
more humble and holy than I ever yet
have been. And I trust it is the sincere
prayer of my heart, that God would assist
me to keep these resolutions, without whom
assistance all my own efforts will be in
vain -

Sund^y 2^d Sabbath eve. Have again renewed
the dedication of myself to God - enjoyed
some comfort in prayer. Have been
reading Life of Martyn, which has
made me more sensible than ever how
much I am actuated by selfish and
worldly motives. O Lord subdue all
my corrupt affections, help me to
exercise more self denial, to live more
abstracted from self and the world, for
thy great name's sake -

April 17th 1825.

Sabbath eve. Enjoyed a sweet sabbath. was enabled in the morning to pray with considerable fervour. Enjoyed more than usual pleasure in the house of God and felt an earnest desire to be more holy. Commenced reading Brainerd's life, O that God would enable me to imitate the ~~life~~ spirit of that holy man. Felt unusual delight in prayer this evening, but O the corruption of my wicked heart. Resolve to review, every sabbath, my feelings and conduct for the past week and write down a statement of the same, if nothing special prevent. I long to be actively engaged in winning souls to Christ. O Lord prepare a habitation to preach Christ and him crucified. May I be willing to endure danger, fatigue and even death itself, if I can thereby promote thy glory and the salvation of souls -

Sabbath eve April 24th 1823

On reviewing the past week I find occa-
sion^{both} for humility and gratitude. I have
occasion to be humble for the sinful thoughts
and affection I have indulged, and to be
grateful not only for temporal blessings but
for a good degree of spiritual enjoyment.
The first part of the week while studying
some difficult passages of scripture, my
mind was much perplexed; doubts about
the sacred volume rushed upon ^{my} mind;
but God has been pleased to dispel them
and to give me ~~the~~ most overwhelming
and delightful evidence of the truth of
revelation. This has truly been a good
day to my soul. The ordinances of God's
house ~~have~~ this day have been ~~good~~ to
my soul. I have been permitted to hold
sweet communion with my Saviour at
his table and in secret prayer. My
heart this evening has been most delightfully
filled with love and gratitude to God, and
love to all men -

Sabbath June 19th 1825.

First Sabbath in the term. On reviewing
the past vacation, I find much occasion
for humiliation before God. I have at-
tempted a few times to say something for
God, but alas! with too little sense of
divine things. I have had some very
pleasant and I trust, profitable interviews
with Christian friends - have tried to say
something to an aged father about the concerns
of his soul - but alas! my barrenness, my
barrenness! My thoughts and feelings have
been too worldly, my prayers too languid.
I have done far too little to promote the
cause of Christ and my own growth
in grace. For the past week my feelings
have been rather cold, had a little com-
fort in prayer a few times. Have had some
enjoyment to day and this evening have been
to attend meeting at the Poor House, but was
rather cold and barren. May God enable
me to live more to his glory ^{than} than I ever yet
have done -

Sabbath eve June 26th

Have had but little spiritual enjoyment the past week. Have been troubled much with worldly thoughts and affections; but have felt I hope some sincere desires after holiness. O God help me to be more humble and faithful the ensuing week.

Sabbath evening July 8th

During the last week I have experienced some short seasons of dejection, but have also enjoyed some precious seasons of communion with God, when my heart seemed to be drawn out to him in an unusual degree. I have also felt at times a strong and ardent desire to preach the Gospel, and to be instrumental in saving precious souls. This morning while walking in the woods, my mind was in a sweet and delightful frame. All nature seemed to be speaking forth the praises of ^{its} creator; and I trust my heart joined with it. Went about 4 miles this evening

To attend a meeting. Remarked upon the
parable of the rich man and Lazarus,
felt considerable freedom, but far too little
compassion for souls. O that I had a heart
to weep with tears with perishing sinners.

Sunday evening July 17.

Have had during the last week some ^{hope} ~~of~~
I hope, of my dear Saviour. On Friday our Seminary
feet, exercised, I hope, some humility, some sorrow for
sin, but my thoughts were too much upon the
world and my affections too cold. To day felt at
times my heart drawn out in sweet love to Christ.
This evening went out to attend meeting and
spoke with a little feeling for souls. O Lord
quicken thy servant.

Sunday evening July 24th

Felt at times last week more than usual
anxiety for the spiritual improvement of my
fellow students, that God would increase the
piety of ~~my fellow~~ the members of this
Seminary. But alas! my lamps, my lamps.
When shall I feel once and for all like an immortal
being, who believes the truth and reality of Chris-
tianity —

Sabbath evening July 31st

Was most of the last in a cold and stupid frame - enjoyed but little comfort in prayer until Saturday evening, then while walk^{ing} out and contemplating the works of God and his word, a calm and heavenly peace pervaded my heart - all nature seemed to be praising its author and I longed to join with it. This morning passed with some fervour for Dart. College and felt I trust a sincere desire that God would revive his work in that ^{institution.} College.

Had sweet and delightful communion with God just before ~~the~~ meeting. Went to the house of God with my heart full of joy and peace and sat under the droppings of the sanctuary with some delight, ^{albeit} not so much as I have before felt. I feel I trust an increasing desire to be willing to deny myself, take up my cross and endure hardship as a good soldier. I feel held more closely to follow the footsteps of my dear Saviour -

August 7th Cannot look back with much
pleasure upon the past week. Have
been cold and formal in the duties of
religion, and experienced but little spirit-
ual enjoyment. I feel more and more
sensible ~~of the insufficiency~~ that the knowl-
edge merely acquired in the closet, can
never make a successful minister of
the Gospel. A minister's usefulness ex-
tends principally upon his active piety:
~~A minister~~ ^{He} must be a man of action
as well as of study.

Aug. 14th Attended meeting about 6 miles from
this place on Friday last. Experienced some
assistance and was enabled to speak with
some feeling. May God add his blessing.

Have felt, I trust, during the past week,
an ardent love to the truth and a longing
desire that it may universally prevail
to the destruction of all soul-destroying
errors. I have still reason to mourn over
my stupidity and want of zeal in the
cause of my divine Master -

Sabbath eve Aug. 21st

Enjoyed sweet communion with God this morning in secret prayer. In the hour of God in the A. M. was much troubled with wandering thoughts. In the P. M. listened with delight to the instructions of God's word.

Sabbath eve Sept 4th

Have had stronger desires than usual during the past ^{week} to be wholly devoted to God and prepared to promote his cause in the world. United with three of my classmates in a special prayer meeting. Our object is to pray for growth of grace in our ~~own~~ own hearts and the hearts of our brethren. May God add his blessing. Concluded a meeting Friday evening out of town and experienced some assistance of the Spirit. Listened, this day, with great delight to two pious, practical sermons from Rev Mr Dimick of Newburyport. May they have a lasting impression on my heart.

over serious

Sept 11th Have enjoyed during the last week
some sweet seasons of elevation. Have
been some struggle with flesh and sin.
I am now much interested in reading
Taylor's Holy Living. O God purify me from
all indwelling corruption and make
me a sweet temple for the holy Ghost to
dwell in -

Sept 25. Nothing very peculiar in my feelings
during the past week excepting rather an
unusual attachment ^{to} my brethren and
an ardent desire that brotherly love may
abound more and more among us. I have
this day been favoured with some precious
privileges - have enjoyed some of them very
much. The vacation commences this week,
may the spirit of God go with me wherever
I shall go and aid me in every duty I shall
be called to perform -

Jan 1st 1826 Sabbath eve.

I can look back upon the past year with
mingled emotion of pleasure and of pain. I
trust I have, in some measure, kept the resolutions
I formed at the commencement of the year. I have
had more spiritual enjoyment ^{during} than any previous

year of my life. I have indeed greater
progress, I trust, in the christian life, and do
more to promote the salvation of ~~the~~
souls. But I have occasion to exercise deep
repentance, that I have not improved the
distinguished privileges I have enjoyed no
better, and that I have done no more to promote
the salvation of souls. I spent the last vaca-
tion ⁱⁿ Boston in missionary labour among
the poor. Experienced I trust, in some measure,
the consolations of the Gospel, in my own heart,
while endeavouring to impart them to others.
During the present term have enjoyed some sweet
seasons of communion with God. Have of
late felt the special importance of daily repen-
tance. Have, this day, experienced, I trust, new
communion with my Saviour in his house
at his table. I trust I feel some gratitude for
the distinguished blessings of the past year
both temporal and spiritual. If I know
my own heart, it is my sincere desire, that
the year which has now commenced may
be more entirely devoted to God, than any
preceeding year of my life. O Lord grant this
desire of my heart, for Christ's sake -