

[Unnumbered page]
Four volumes of ancient History
Blair
Moral Philosophy
Chemistry
Natural Philosophy
Logick
Allison on taste
five volumes of Modern Europe
Coote's continuation
American History
Grammar
Arithmetick

3 Lecture in Blair
West India Isles -88 page-Islands - 95 page
Desideres informs of these [?] 59 - 773
Letter 13. 109 page. The continent of Europe

[p 1]

Today I have completed my fourteenth year and I am now called upon to review the past year and see if I have improved as I ought-Conscience says I have not, much of my time has been spent in idleness and in doing nothing which will please or be of service beyond the present hour-But I believe reflection has at last made me sensible of my faults and of the folly of mispending time and I shall try to correct them-I have commenced my fifteenth year with a new budget of resolutions which I hope perseverance will enable me to keep and not like my former ones "vanish like a dream, when man awake".-I am now fast sailing down the swift current of life and a few short days will find me anchored in that harbor where endless silence reigns and where I shall either feel the stings of a never dying conscience or perfect unbounded happiness thro' the ceaseless ages of Eternity let me then commence this new month and new Year with the firm resolve to correct my faults and strive to become both wiser and better not only as it respects this world but that which is to come.

Monday August 15, 1825

attended school today. did not miss in my lessons and for a wonder got my extra, the first time I

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*September-I feel different now.as it regards .E.E.P

I have got a whole day this term - Charles returned from New Haven this evening I think he has improved and grown very much. Mr. Darrow drank tea at our house Helen [?] has gone to meeting & I am left alone to muse on goneby pleasures. To day we chose seats. I had not independence enough to tell E.E.P. [Elizabeth Ellen Penny] I did not want to sit by her. I was obliged to sit by her. I do not love her. my heart and my friend=
=ship are wholly Amelia's. - I know E.E.P. loves me and I cannot bear to hurt her feelings by saying to her "I do not love you". Amelia [C. Benedict] loves R.H.C. [Rebecca H. Cooke] but I know she loves me better. "She is mine and I am hers," If she has faults (who has not?) they are secreted from my eyes. I have been prejudiced against E.E.P. but I have tried to overcome them but cannot succeed. once I did love her. yes. at the commencement of the term I did love her. too truly might she say.

"Oh: they who have lov'^d the fondest. the purest
Too often have wept o'er the dream they believ'^d
And the heart which has slumber'^d in friendship seem^{est}
Were happy indeed if 'twere never deceived"

I do not know whether I am deceitful in doing so or not. I will never betray her confidence. Oh no never

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I will do every thing but love her I cannot.

Teusday evening. - 16th

Cousin Jane'^s infant daughter died last evening it was but two weeks old. "just came to show how small a flow'r in paradise might bloom" - I never saw so small a corpse. attended its funeral this afternoon. Cousin Jane is very unwell she was not able to sit up and of course did not attend the funeral. Helen and myself attended the prayer meeting of the church this evening at the North School House. D^f. Beecher & Mr Smith both spoke. they described the draw backs the sinner has in approaching Christ and the excuses he forms for not casting himself uncondi=
=tionally into the arms of his Saviour who was standing ready and willing at all times to receive him. & that soon Christ will be weary & will say "I have call'^d and ye have refused I have stretched forth my arm and ye have dis=

=regarded it therefore I will mock at your calam=
=ity & laugh when your fear cometh. when you
desolation cometh as a whirlwind & your
fear like one who travelleth” - he then spoke of
the sinners gay and thoughtless companion
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who would point the finger of scorn because one
of their number bowed down with sins was going
to cast himself upon the mercy of his Redeemer
and cry at his feet for mercy. he then de=
=scribed the pleasures and allurements of
the world which the sinner appears to think
will compensate for an age of misery. & that
a few days of mingled pleasure and pain ~~will~~
are paramount to an age of unmixed happiness-
my eyes are very weak to night and my mind is
fast journeying to that distant city even to the
pleasant city of Nod. now I will tell you an
anecdote

1. There was a certain woman in South Street
whose name was Elisabeth. The same took boarders
2. And behold she even she went to sleep, and lo:
the girls said one unto another “we know she
has gone into a far country. even into the land
of Nod. therefore lets us take unto ourselves um=
=brellas made after certain curious workman=
ship. but one of us must journey and speak
unto Laura.
3. And lo! they lifted up their voices and cried
with a loud voice thrice “Laura Laura. Laura

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- where art thou? take unto thyself an umbrella
made after curious fashions.”-
4. Laura answer^d and said “Verily Verily I say unto
you. I even I will take an umbrella made with
divers colours”
 5. Then Amelia answer^d and said “How shall we
bring them home? shall we bring them in
the sight of the multitude and the spies of
the land?
 7. Then Laura lifted up her voice and said “Verily
Verily I say unto thee except we carry them we
shall be melted like lead even like unto hot
lead. for behold I say unto you those who
are independent shall be independent
still. and those who are squeamish shall be

- squeamish still"
8. "Marvel not I say unto you. we must walk still"
9. and they journey^d until they came to a certain store by the way side where they saw certain youths returning from the feast of Papila. & lo they felt merry even very merry
10. And lo! They lifted up their eyes and voices and laughed at us poor pilgrims travelling on the
- [p 6]
- road of learning
11. And they said one unto another "yonder they go laughing as they walk to the temple of science there to celebrate St. Patrick's birthday alas! poor paddies may they always be as happy as they now are."

Wednesday, August 17, 1825

Mr. Brace has permitted me to do the sums of yesterday afternoon as I was detained at home on account of the funeral. I am sorry to say that in the beginning of the afternoon I behaved very improperly. but I felt cross I have felt sick all day and that is all the apology I can offer. I do not think I can ever blame any one again for feeling irritable when they are sick. but by dint of perseverance I at last finished all the sums which were very hard and as a reward for my labour had sixty five credit marks. I also wrote two letters to Norwich to be sent by Aunt Williams. I had twenty five for both of them together. Cousin Laura Gibbs came this evening. E.E.P. has told me something "so horrid" I cannot hardly think it true "but impossibilities are constantly happening"

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Thursday Afternoon. 18.

The divisions were chosen over again last evening. I am in Harriet Ann's^s [Benedict]. it consists of Misses [Julia] Arnold [Emily] Bailey [Amelia] Benedict [Agnes R.] Dougall [Catharine S.] Lupton. [Zerviah Miner]. [Mary S.] Taylor. [Sophia] Taylor. [Laura Maria] Wolcott. I am afraid I shall lose my extra being in a division with so many lively girls. but as there is more honour in resisting temptation than there is in fleeing from it. I shall do my best in trying to overcome it— Aunt Williams left us for Norwich this morning if I get my diploma I shall see her again in twelve weeks. it will be with mixed emotions of pain and pleasure that I shall once more

behold the hills of my childhood ~~and~~ where are
the dreams of my earliest years.-many dear very
dear friends have gone to their long home. but many
are still left ⁸with whom I have walk'^d hand in hand
in many a frolic & whom I shall greet with
real heartfelt pleasure. Sisters have gone to
ride this afternoon. the gentlemen took tea at our
house. Helen and myself played battledoor until
dark and then we walk'^d up to the head of the street
and then returned home. it if was not for my health
I would not stir unto the street or walk any more
this summer. Helen says Miss Pierce told her not to
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walk with me home from school or at all, that
she could walk with Miss Wells [Abby A. Welles] if she wished to
walk with any one". Therefore H. ___ n walks
⁸with me when she chooses and at no other time-
I have some pride and submit I will not to the
caprice of any one. I have no one to walk with
and no one to whom I can pour forth my soul
I am forbidden to walk with _____ and I will
not with _____. I believe I am one of the
most unhappy beings on the face of the earth.
"But farewell to thee Hypo thou bud of the ^{night},

Betsey [Elizabeth Huntington Wolcott Jackson] has decided on going to the South &
then I shall be left still more alone. every
scholar in school hates me. I cannot get my
extra or walk across the room without a sneer
from either _____ or _____. But I make the best
of it & think it envy.- today because I felt
sick and was reclining my head. some
wit sent me this note "You look like one of
the Graces. as good humoured as the devil
did when he eat a grape the other day"
If the world hate me. I care not. if they love
me I am glad but it will be all the
same a hundred years hence-
[p 9]

Friday, August 19

I have been examined to day in the first and third
volumes of Modern Europe. Geography. Blair. American
History. Logick & Chemistry. I missed in several of them
in the evening it rained very hard. So I did not at=
=tend meeting. I wrote a story Miss Pierce had
given me called "Simeon Wilhelm."-

Saturday. 20.

It continues to rain very hard. The earth wants water very much and we should be very thankful. that "God giveth rain to the just and to the unjust altho' we are evil and unthankful Mr. Brace gave out as a subject for our division to write upon "The present condition of the Indians. compared to there former condition"- I examined the two Miss Conklin's [Isabela Conkling and Abigail Conkling] in Ancient History. I did not miss for a wonder. Dr. Beecher came in and spoke to the school. notwithstanding the rain. in the afternoon I read aloud to Sister Betsey. We enjoyed ourselves very much. I do not much think she will go on to the South in the fall. I hope not. Henry [Griswold Wolcott] and Mary [Francis Wolcott] have the hooping cough very bad. it does not seem as if Henry could [p 10]

not recover his breath. sometimes he coughs so hard.

Sunday. 21.

It has rained very hard to day. but I attended meeting Helen went in the forenoon. I also attended in the evening. I have delayed writing the sermons so long that I do not think I shall be able to write this week.

Monday. 22.

To day M.B.G. [Mary B. Gardiner] has given me an account of the greatest piece of meanness I every saw or heard of. she says S.L.B. [Sophronia L. Beebe] had four examinations last week she has been over with this term. "Philosophy. Chemistry. Paley. Logick"- For a few paltry credit marks. and for having the students" say she is a good scholar. She is willing to forfeit the esteem and respect of her classmates & gain the igdination of all. Those who kept the misses in Philosophy & Chemistry say she certainly did go over. and her classmates in the two other branches recollect it.

40

4

There S.L.B. can get 160 credit marks a week. which we cannot possibly get those would have me forty above her last week. we cannot tell Mr. B- [John P. Brace] for that would be as mean as she is. and so we must detest and despise her in silence. if last week was the first time I should not care. but it was done by her last winter. while striving [p 11]

for the prize and even so far back as last summer. Mr. B. would recollect if he would think

a moment. but sufficient of this. I have al=
=ready said enough of Sophronia Beebee to
remember her as an artful mean deceitful
lyeing girl. without one principle of honour
about her. hatred and despised by all her
classmates. detested by her whom she thinks
her best friend. this is her character & my op=
=inion, and if I live six years until I am twenty
I never shall think of her otherwise.

I went to ride on horseback this noon had an
excellent time. Poor Grove Catlin's sign post
has once more gone to its long home. but it
will probably again arise and draw the
weary traveller. I understand Mr. Catlin
has lost several pounds of flesh. Poor
man! as he did not eat any breakfast
or dinner to day. Mr & Mrs Habershaw from
Savannah. Mr Shaffer's friends arrived
to day. Elisabeth was acquainted with
them in Savannah. there are a great
many strangers in Litchfield at present
hear no sound save that of the [?]

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I think I never saw as many here before-
I have been very busy to day. cyphering. I
Went thro' Decimal Fractions this morning
and afternoon. I have had a delightful
walk this evening with Amelia. we
went up to Prospect Hill and saw the
sun finish his golden career: nature never
looked so grand to me before. & altho nature
had spread o'er the scene

“Her purest of crystal and brightest of green

“Twas that friend the beloved of my bosom was as”

which made each dear scene of enjoyment more dear

and who felt how the best charms of nature improve

“When we see them reflected from lips that we love”

In eleven weeks I shall bid Amelia fare=
-wel. we may never meet again. we may
never meet until we have crossed that
narrow isthmus which separates us from
Eternity. until we find ourselves at this
Judg^ement seat there to receive our final
sentence. Why must we part? But every
one must have their trials. I never knew
what parting was until Amelia & ~~me~~

I was done by her last winter. while striving
[p 13]

soon. we I-must part to meet no more-
I do not think ^{why Miss Laura} I ever enjoyed a walk
more than I have this. our hearts are
now more firmly knit to-gether than ever.
and neither the arts of ----- or the malice
of other enemies shall divide us with
Amelia and _____. I would travel the
world o'er. exposed to every vicissitude of
climate. "Oh I do love them fondly love them"
and in vain will the tongue of slander
try to reproach and hurt their fair fame-

Tuesday. 23

very pleasant day. Amelia and myself have
commenced cyphering in the rule of three
together. I have missed in every lesson
to day. quite unfortunate. Amelia and I
went to walk up to Prospect Hill and
afterwards went to meeting. Mr. Smith &
Dr. Beecher both spoke. Helen got angry
and would not go. It is a delightful
evening. it seems as if we ought to
enjoy it." The moon is riding high in the
blue heaven". Every leaf is at rest & I can
hear no sound save that of the distant
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flute. breathing a melancholy sadness
o'er the soul.-

Wednesday. 24

To day is holy-day. but I ~~am~~ have not
enjoyed it as much as much as I antic=
=ipated owing to the warmth of the sun
which prevented our walking. and I could
not take a ride on horseback. as our horse
was "engaged" ~~Mr. Lu~~ I therefore was
obliged to be contented with eating a=
=pples. swinging dancing the rope and
a simple ride with Elisabeth & Henry in
the chaise. Mr. Twining and Shaffer took
tea at our house but I preferred walk=
=ing to their company. the musical ex=
=amination was to night and I was
obliged to walk alone as far as the
head of the street. returned home. eat

supper and then went to walk with
sister Mary Ann [Wolcott Whitehead]. We had a serenade
about twelve last night. but sleep
had thrown such a spell upon me
that neither voices or music could awa=
=ken me.

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Thursday 25.

Nothing of importance happened to day.
But the evening of the 25 of August 1825
will never be forgotten by Laura or Amelia
“the two little children” - who suspected
any one “would care” I am sure we wanted
no one too - People should be rather
more careful what they do and say
if they do not want to be seen and heard.
I have this evening seen an example of
both true & false. politeness. It ^{is} pleasanter
to bear hate than indifference and I am
happy to say that I am contented with
the former at present. “People some=
=times know more about their neighbours
matters than they imagine”

Friday 26

Been very busy to day attending to my
studies. Drew an [smudge]
am going to paste it on my journal
sometime. understand there is to be
a ball next week. Miss Pierce has of
course forbidden all to go who are
[] enjoying it. this is the last to go if
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she had not in the first place because
I shall have no invitation. in the second
I shall have no inclination to go in
the third place if I had both an in=
=vitiation and an inclination I should
not go. for Papa and Mamma do not wish
me to go into company until I am least
fifteen ----- ~~allen~~ as usual we danced the
sundown. attended meeting &c &c &c

Saturday 27.

Was examined as usual in Ancient History
Dr. Beecher came in and spoke to us. in the

afternoon I took a book and went down to the river. but just as I had secured myself from the oxen the sun and the earwigs Sarah came running down to tell me that Cousins Mary & Thomas Huntington had come on & were at our house and wished to see me immediately. at any other time I should have been very glad to see them. but it appeared like one of the miseries of human life to be obliged to trudge up. Amelia & I went down to Love Grove before tea & there I am the []

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folly. after tea we went up to Prospect Hill- Sister Hannah [Huntington Wolcott Freeman] is going to spend the next winter at New York. I have no doubt she will enjoy herself extremely. We received a letter from Aunt Williams last evening. she is very well and is anticipating a great deal of pleasure

^ in my visit in the fall. But I am afraid she will not realise it if I do not improve very much.-I have heard a piece of bad news to day. "the rose of the bouquet" is going to wither in a few days! - We said last winter "in one more sun the fairest flow of our bouquet will wither". But Pshaw!

"There ne'er was a heart o'er which happiness show

But was soon left in desolate darkness alone"

Sunday 28

Heard the Reverend Dr. Beecher preach attended meeting in the evening

Monday 29

I was determined when I entered school this morning to get my extra. but temptation came and all my good resolutions vanished. it is a delightful evening. & I have been enjoying it. this is the last moon I

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shall probably ever enjoy with Amelia. but one more moon and we shall be walking with other friends and with them contemplate the sublimity of nature. Oh if ^{^by} any

spell our hands should dare

To make her disk our ample page

And write our thoughts our wishes there”
we should then tho’ absent be together & held
sweet converse.

Teusday 30

The morning was employed in writing a
dissertation upon the “Character of the Ind=
=ians & their present character compared
with their former.” For a wonder I wrote
quite a long one. this is the cyphering
week & I must try hard. - I cyphered this
afternoon. did all the sums. I was quite
provoked at first to think I was obliged to
cypher in Interest - but experience always
teaches me that my elders know more
then me altho’ I do not always acknow=
=ledge it. I believe I got sixteen by doing
the sum. I intended to have attended
meeting this evening. & came up s[street?]
[p 19]

Thursday. Sept. 1

Nothing of any consequence happened.

Friday. Sept. 2

To day I have been examined - we got out
very late this evening it being nearly eight.
I intended to have gone to meeting. but all
our family had gone but sister Mary Ann
and she wanted I should stay at home
with her. & it was well I did for I had not
been at home five minutes before Mr. Shaffer
Sherman Wilson & Foot came in- I was obli=
=ged to stay & exert my slender abilities in
entertaining them. - Helen went to meeting.

Saturday. 3

Zerviah called for me at seven this mor=
=ning to go and ride on horseback. we went
down south and went thro’ Pine Gove & came
up by Uncle Wolcott’s. we had a most de=
=lightful ride. we went about eight
miles and returned home about nine we
stopped several times. I think we shall
go again ere long. - Did not miss in
History. Dr. Beecher came in and spoke to the
school. evening went to walk.
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Sunday 4. I attended meeting as usual to day. There are eleven hundred & eighty nine chapters in the Bible and in order to get thro the Bible in a year we must read five chapters on the Sabbath on the Sabbath & two daily. Helen & I have commenced Dr. Smith pr= eached in the morning and Dr. Beecher in the ~~morning~~ evening afternoon. In the evening Amelia & myself went to hear Shrowder M – I did not like him at al. He was so every theatrical

120– 17– 1 1/4 1/8

grand

~~Sunday~~

Monday 5. Was spent as usual in ciphering and the evening in walking. –

Tuesday 6. Miss Pierce with Misses [Cynthia] Landon [Frances E.] Lothrop. Gardiner. [Anna Charlotte] Dering. [Lydia Ann] Thomas. Beebee [Margaret or Harriet M.] Clarke. [Henrietta S.] Mumford & Penny went to Wadsw= =orth's Tower. they intend returning tomorrow.

Miss Pierce did not wish them to go to the ball and so she took them out there. I should ~~go in~~ think riding would take their minds of from religion as much as dancing & so it is generally thought but I do not [p 21]

care “& it is not for me to judge”– Brother Huntington came last evening & spent the night with us. He started this morning for New York. He has entered into parner= =ship with Mr. Stone of Boston & he has gone on to purchase goods. I hope he will meet with good success. as much depends upon “the beginning”– Frederick is clerk in Mr. Stone's store. It is not generally thought to be beneficial for Brother's to be in the same store but I hope this will prove an exception. In the evening Amelia & I attended meeting at the N.S.H.—

Wednesday 7– The day has at last arri= =ved the great day of the long anticipa= =ted Ball – The young ladies who visited Wadsworth's Tower returned to day– they [missing] much

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are going– We had “an excellent time this

evening. Amelia Helen & myself went up to Mrs Goodwins & got their boarders with Dr. Sheldons & went down street – it will not need the assistance of writing to remember “this night” – We received a letter from Aunt Williams this evening. she says it is very sickly in Norwich now that Cousin Nancy has not been expected to live from one hour to another for more than a week & Cousin Emily is sick with the consumption at Woodstock. That family appear to have many trials. it is a fine family & they have many friends who sympathise with them–

Thursday 8. The ball is over– like every other ball it had its belles & beaux^s– the inco=
=p [page is torn]

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[top third of the page missing]

will [page is torn]

esteem of others. Every one has it–
went over to Mrs Reeves to this evening
I will not go there again this term if
I can help it.

Saturday 10– Quite a misfortune hap=
=pened last night. but perhaps it is for=
=tunate it happened. nevertheless it cau=
=sed me considerable pain at the time
for I cried all night about it – EEP [Elizabeth E. Penny]–
leaves Litchfield in a week or two – I shall

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[top half of page is torn] member
of the Christian church – Mary Ann
and myself went to walk before we went
to meeting this evening. Mr. Foot & Shaffer
joined us. we were very much surprised to
meet Mr. [Samuel] Glover & Mr. [Richard Ray] Ward two old students
in the office. there are several gentlemen
in town who formerly attended law
school. Mr. [Benjamin Huger] Rutledge. [George M.] Walburg. Glover
Ward & [John Milton Holley Jr.] Holly – it must be a very
pleasant & unexpected meeting–

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Monday 12. I have got my extra to day
and not missed in any of my lessons –
wrote a letter to Brother Frederick &

had 29 & 4 extra for it. Wrote a disser=
=tation this evening upon the faults of
the Romans. Mr. [John P.] Jackson with his brother
& sister left town to day. they are going
down to commencement. Mr. Shaffer. [Frederick Bronson] Br=
unson. Glover & [William] Gibson also went– Mr.
Jackson & Shaffer return– Sisters Mary
Ann & Hannah have gone to drink with
Misses Lord with afternoon – Amelia is angry
with me. I do not know what for. I am
sensible of doing any thing which deserve
it– it cannot be because I go with EEP –
should she be when this is perhaps the
last week we may ever spend to-gether
why was I not angry because she went
with R.H.C. I am sure I disliked her extre=
=mely “but the ways of mankind are
often hidden” – I think I have got the
best seat in school – to-morrow we
cipher & I must exert myself–

1099–

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Tuesday 13. Amelia has not spoken to me yet
I cannot conceive what reason she has for
behaving so. I am sure she will never find
a friend who loves her better or was more
willing to pardon the inequalities of her
temper. I should think Miss Lupton would
be the last person she would choose. Once
she loved EEP and wanted I should love
her. And now because I love her and go with
her the “last week” she is offended. It is
very embarrassing to meet her & her sister
two old scholars with whom I have walk^d
hand in hand for nearly three years to
meet them & not have “common politeness”
influence them to return my bow– Helen
goes with Sophia T–& she and Miss Reeve^s
boarders are the only ones I like well
enough to walk with from school –
Got my extra this morning. But lost it
this afternoon though I did not speak
a word– Attended meeting this even=
=ing at our school house. Dr. Beecher
spoke his text was Luke seventeenth–
thirty second– “Remember Lot’s wife

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he described the three great classes of persons who were now listening to him—the Christian the awakened sinner and the stupid – repentance is the first duty which God requires of man to receive them into favour. Repentance is hatred of sin From the fate of Lot's^s wife we proceed to see what would be our ~~state~~ fate and what fruit God requires of us. He requires of us the moral affections of the heart there is nothing morally good in the sight of God that does not proceed from a laudable motive. God requires supreme love “thou shalt love the Lord thy God” &c this love is a delightful affection of the heart not the fear of a slave but the affection the obedience of love – he then described the condition of the awakened sinner. “Unless ye repent ye shall all perish” True repentance for sin is necessary in order that we may be saved. No language can be more expressive than this “Unless ye repent &c” It tells us in direct terms what we can do what we must

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do and what will be the consequences if he we does not repent. The consequences will be alienation from God & utter destruction— Repentance is an undisguised fervent sorrow for sin. They are many who feel very sorry they have sinned or done any thing they should not. God says there is no peace to the wicked – Jesus has done sufficient and suffered enough for us to induce us to repent & turn from our evil ways. He has given up his life he has left the bosom of his father for us and we are so sinful and unworthy that we reject his invitation. He is constantly calling “Turn ye. Turn ye for why will you die”– But he has also said “My spirit shall not always strive with man” – he the course of the awakened sinner is like a meteor- when first it bursts from the sun it rushes proud in its own strength

far in the void of air ~~and~~ but by degrees.
The steady attraction of the sun impels
& draws it until it comes back to ~~its~~ the
sun. just so with the sinner he gets away
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from the world and its allurements
and for a while rushes along in the
strength of his resolutions “but as tem=
=ptation comes sin revives” and he goes
back to the world – He then went on
to describe the stupid sinner – There is
nothing in the manner of God that
will justify the sinner in thinking he
will clear the guilty. Nothing God has
said or done can justify sinners in thin=
=king God would let the incorrigible
pass unpunished. If in any case God
has pardoned the wicked without their
repenting he might have done it without
Christ’s suffering. There is nothing in
the sufferings of Christ or in the terms
of pardon or in the past providence
of God that would justify the finally
impenitent. The Most High did not
pardon the angels who kept not their
first estate – How much less a worm
of the dust. A creature of but yesterday
[p 30]

Reflect upon the different condition of the
Christian & the stupid when nature strikes
The Christian on his death bed is enabled
to say:

“O: glorious hour Oh! blessed abode
I shall be near & like my God”

But while the Christian is thus singing the
praises of his Reed^emer the sinner is crying
“The harvest is past the summer is ended.
& I am not saved” – soon I shall go to that
hell “where the worm dieth not & the
fire is not quenched”

returned home. Read my two chapters
in the Bible and retired to rest.

Wednesday 14. Arose very early and went to walk
it rained last night and nature looked beau=
=tifully–

“The lengthened night elapsed. The morning shine

serene in all her dewy beauty. bright.
Unfolding fair the last autumnal day.”–

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The dull routine of school affairs affords but
little to fill a journal.

“Forever running an enchanted round.
Passes the day deceitful. vain & void;
As fleets the vision o’er the formful brain:
This moment hurrying wild th’ impassion’d soul
The next in nothing lost– “

– Employed the morning & afternoon in ci=
=phering. I did not take my holy day. Helen
took hers and went to ride on horseback with
Miss Miner & [Catharine M. or Mary C. or Melissa B.] Adams.– After school I read in
“Lalla Rookh the veiled prophet”– I read it
when I was about ten and had almost
forgotten it. I never read anything so horrid.
I also read Mr. Brace’s monthly magazine.
The subject was “Love”– I liked it very much
as did my sisters also– I thought this was
an excellent idea for an unsuccessful lover.

“There are maidens in Scotland more lovely ^{by far}
Who would gladly be bride to the young Lochiuvan“
I should think Mr. B.– might have all his

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pieces published both poetry & prose. Sister
and every one say so. A number of the
gentlemen returned from N. Haven to day.
I think it is very strange they did not stay to
attend commencement & the ball. Mr Bronson
& Jackson sent us up a box of beautiful peaches
by Mr. Lewis– I suppose. Mr. J. will return to=
=morrow– Miss Pierce invited Helen & myself
to attend the ~~concert~~ of “musical examin=
=ation” this evening. we went & were grati=
=fied very much with the music– ~~we~~ came
home read my two chapters & then courted
the blessing of “sleep”.

Thursday. Aug-15. We had a serenade last
night about ten. I had not got to sleep– it
was most beautiful music. There were five
gentlemen & three flutes– I should think they
played almost an hour. how delightful
music sounds in the night “when every
leaf is at rest”.– attended school as

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usual. Parsed for a wonder. had five. Wrote a long letter to Maria but have not yet given it in – Joseph came this evening. I promised him in the spring I would give him my geranium this fall.

“I never nurs^d a tree or flow’r.”

But I was obliged to give it away or else see it wither –Mr. Walburg & Rutledge took tea at our home.

Friday 16. Had excellent success in my exam=
=inations. did not miss in any of them. Mr. Jackson returned this evening from New Haven. He spent it at our house. EEP^s brother Samuel came this eve. from New York with the mel=
=ancholy intelligence that her brother Walter was dangerously sick. she is going to leave tomorrow. Poor girl she feels very bad indeed. I have promised her I would write her a note this evening so I must close my Journal – there was no meeting this evening.

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Saturday 17. Mamma & Sister Elisabeth went to Hartford this morning and Charles return’d to the Lancasterian School at New Haven. & Elisabeth also left. I understand her brother is crazy & in the ho^spital ~~in~~ New York. They do not wish to have her know it until she gets home – She was so happy in her anticipated visit home and in seeing that brother who she has not seen for nearly two years. Now bereft of his reason it will almost break her heart- she wrote me a long affectionate note. I think it was the sweetest one I ever received. she speaks of her brother so beautifully and of her father & mother. I wrote her a long one last night – I am now left without a friend in school – “she who lov’d me once has fled” has left the companion of her childhood & the friend of her youth for the avowedly & openly immoral & profane – she is not offended or angry with me but I cannot bear to be treated with such pro=
=voking indifference by her – did not miss in

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Ancient History. Harriet Amelia & Miss Lupton

say they know I told Miss Pierce they swore—
& if I had I should have done it out of friend=
ship. They are “certain it was either Laura
Wolcott or Sophronia Beebee” – I told them
once it was not me ~~but~~ & if they cannot rest
satisfied without “an oath” they rest un=
satisfied– I am willing – I had fifty
four credit & seven extra for letter this week
I did not know as Friday was the night to
give in Journal & so I cannot give it in until
next week. Dr. Beecher came in & spoke to the
school “on the Eternity of God”– Helen has gone
up to Judge Gould’s with Zerviah Miner– I sup=
=pose to see George. Helen thinks he is perfection.
Sister Betsey has gone to ride with Mr. Jackson.
I have been writing a dissertation on the
character of Washington – & writing my
Journal. Betsey has just returned.

+++++

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Sunday. 18. Attended meeting all day &
heard Dr Beecher preach. also attended
in the evening and heard Mr. E. Beecher.
Monday. 19. Arose very early this morning &
took a walk before sunrise. Sisters Mary Ann
Hannah and Betsey went to Wadsworth’s
tower this morning with Mr. Jackson. They expect
to spend the night and return to-morrow
afternoon. Miss [Rachel] Baldwin has gone home to att=
=end her sister’s wedding. Papa gone to Wolcottville
And Mamma and Elizabeth to Hartford
so Helen & myself are left “Ladies at large” we
have received a good deal of good advice of
course – I am appointed to write again ~~for~~
the close of school – I cannot write possibly
I have lost all the good sense I ever had
which was a great deal – Helen has gone to
meeting and Papa has got company. I
have been employed in writing journal
and in copying off my dissertation –
Sisters will enjoy this evening very much.
The moon is shining very bright & the lake

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looks like a sheet of silver – I must remem=
=ber and get figures.

Tuesday. 20 – Sisters and Mr. J. returned this

afternoon. Helen and myself like good house=
=keepers rose at five and “attended to the con=
=cerns of the family” – M.A.H. & B. said they
could not imagine scarcely a more delightful
place – they described it to me & I believe I
have a pretty accurate idea of Monte Video.
They sailed on the lake by moonlight & to
add to the pleasure & beauty of the scene their
ears were refreshed by music – ~~on~~ the banks
of the lake south and west were lined
by beautiful trees. on the east were a few
superb trees and a cottage built in the
Gothic style. on the north was another
summer house overshadow^d by lofty elm
& behind it rose the lofty [^][^{wed?}] mountain at
the top of which was seen the tower
leaning in appearance against the starry
firmament. this was the view on the
lake by moonlight – From the top of the
tower (which is about seven feet Joseph said)
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they could very plainly distinguish the
houses in Hartford. the spires of nearly
thirty churches & they were informed that
in a [^]very clear day even the spire of South Farm
meeting house could be seen. they regretted
very much they did not carry our spy glass
they had one. but it was nothing compared
with ours. they could see Mount Tom in
Massachusetts & several ridges in New
York and Vermont. beneath them was
Mr. Wadsworth^s paradise – the Farmington
river meandering along (its banks lined with
a busy population) which in the distance
looked like a canal. I can imagine
exactly how it looks. but it would have
been much pleasanter to have been there.
I should have enjoyed being one of the
party very much. Mr. J. took tea
at out house. Mr. Lewis & Shaffer spent
the evening with us. Mr. L. has at
last begun to visit. poor soul! he has
been afraid too. before his hair grew out.
Helen & I attended meeting up at our
school house – Edward Beecher preached.
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Wednesday. 21. Holy day. had mine – I came nevertheless & ciphered all the afternoon – in the evening got figures. Mama & Elizabeth returned ~~this~~ from Hartford. Hannah has decided upon going to New York to spend the ensuing winter with Cousin Mary. She will enjoy herself extremely. I saw the death of Elizabeth Penny's brother mentioned in the paper ~~last night~~ this evening. she will feel it very much indeed. We received a letter from Aunt Williams. She mentioned the death of William Lathrop. he had just completed his collegiate education and attained the age of twenty one. he was a young man of promising talents & possessing every accomplishment which pleases. he has a widow's mother & one sister who will feel his loss very much and ^{has} also ^{left} a numerous family of relations who will sympathise with his afflicted mother and sister. – Instances of mortality are constantly occurring which should remind us of the precariousness of life and of the folly of attending to all sublimary things & of the motives we have “to work while the day lasteth” & preparing [p 40]

ourselves to meet the King of [Lessons ?].

Thursday. 22. Mrs Reeve's boarders are all of them very angry with me because I told them I thought they did wrong to speak about the condition of Jane Seymour's father to her – they said Jane need not talk so – Jane merely said that she heard some one say that they thought it is was shameful for Mrs. Reeve's young ladies to talk so loud after nine as they did last night.

I am certain that person can have no feelings who will wound a person by speaking of the unfortunate condition of their parents – I was determined to take her part tho' some I love were against me – Amelia was a pretty girl until Miss Lupton came. I wish she would follow the ~~com~~ example of Miss [Helen A.] Akin & leave town. Elisabeth Penny desired me to open the letters directed to her & if of any impor=

=tance forward them – there was one
came last night from Julia White a
young lady from Hartford. but as it
was merely an introduction to Miss
J. [Juliana Trumbull] Woodbrige. I did not send it –
parsed had four and a miss – I am
convinced I acted wrong. but as Mr. Brace
says I can always write feelings – I will
not give a minute account of mine –
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Only I will say. I did not do it out of
feelings of ill will to Mr. B. – I had no
other way to vent my spleen. but to miss
or lose my extra it ~~will~~^{would} be well if I had
had a fit of the gout. As Dr. Paley says
“a fit of the gout often cures the spleen”
went as far as the head of the street after
tea and then returned home and occupied
the evening in writing journal & in
reading “Marmion”.

3799 words

Friday. 23

Have not missed in any of my examinations
today except modern Europe in that miss
=sed half a quarter. I believe if I ever tried
I have to day. in the evening Mr. Rutledge
came and drank tea at our house. and
as he leaves town to-morrow he requested
to see me and so I was obliged to go in
to the room. I do not like to go in to the
room when we have company tho’ I know
it is my duty too, as Mamma wishes me
to improve my manners before next
winter. as she intends me to ~~go~~ be present
when we have company, tho’ not be con=
=sidered as having made by grand
entre– as I shall probably spend the
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ensuing summer at Hartford attending
M. Whittelsey’s school. – the next winter
perhaps I ever I shall go into company
as I shall then be fifteen – Cousin Jabez [Huntington]
came this evening also. Helen’s father and
brother Alexander. – When Mr. Rutledge
bid me good bye he said “Farewell Miss Laura.

I hope I shall visit you in six years and find you as gay and lively as you know are.”– I do not know what is the reason but every one appears to think I am so gay & thoughtless. but little they know Laura Wolcott if they think so – with the gay. I am the gayest & often feel so but my gaiety is more the result of former habits than of present feelings.

“Unthinking. idle. wild and young
I laugh’d and talk’d and danc’d & sung
and proud of health & freedom vain
Dream’d not of sorrow care or pain
concluding in those hours of glee
that all the world was made for me
Now folly’s gay pursuits are o’er
and I can laugh and sing no more
and now I think how said t’would be
Were this world only made for me.

Hannah goes on to New York in a fortnight.
We shall miss her very much next winter
by our fire side.

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Sunday. 25. Attended meeting in the morning and heard Dr. Beecher preach from Proverbs fifth chapter from the 11 to the 14th verse — “And thou mourn at last when thy flesh and body are consumed. And say how have I hated instruction and my heart despised reproof – and have not obeyed the voice of my teachers. not inclined my ear to them that instructed me. I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation. The temptations we have to sin are early implanted in our hearts and become as we advance in life so many habits – sin is an acknowledged preference of the world instead of Christ. the impenitent constantly show this in their amusements. company and conversation. “ The companions of the wise shall be wiser but the companion of fools shall be despised” Although we are born for the fall of Adam with a propensity to sin. still this does not excuse us. Christ has died as an atonement.

It is our duty & should be our pleasure to rep=
=ent “le^st we say at the last how have I hated
instruction & my heart despised reproof. I
was almost in all evil in the midst of the
congregation” The impenitent sinner is with
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out excuse first because his sin is volun=
=tary & second he sins with deliberation
after weighing and balancing the subject
he thnks it best to continue in his evil ways
flush^d with youth and hope. he looks for=
=ward to future years for repentance –
but let him remember that he is in the
hands ^{of} [^] ^{habit} & that each day & hour he strengthens
his grasp – We are dependa^ent upon Christ
for existence without his sustaining power
we could not live a moment. we should
even now” be mourning because of the
worm which dieth not& the fire which is
never quench^d even the most harden^d &
~~impenitent~~ stupid sinner who is now under
the precious sound of the gospel will now
at the last” when his desolation cometh
as a whirlwind & his fear as one that tra=
=velleth – the profligate will also mourn
when health & fortune are wasted away. &
nature lifts us the veil which screens [^] ^{him} from
a dreadful hereafter - & in hell he will
mourn that the day of grace is now
forever past.

In the afternoon the text was from
the psalms the 106 chapter 15 verse – “and
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[top half of page missing]

Monday [Torn]

Did not miss in any of my lessons & got
my extra ciph^{er}ed in the youth^{'s} arithmetic
most of the day. Mr. Brace gave Charlotte
Amelia & myself a very long sum in Iⁿterest
We did it – I was one of the four first last
week – the first time I have been this term
& I know see how easy it might have been
to have been so all the time – Mr. Sherman
went to Benvenue with Miss Lothrop & Beebee.
he spread his hankerchief on the on the rocks &
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[top half of page missing]

Mr. Brace gave us out two sums in [Tace?] and [Trete?] this morning. We cipher'^d this afternoon . I do not know how many I had. I did all the sums. I attended meeting this evening. tho' I rained very hard – Before we went Helen & myself made a most beautiful boquette & sent it with out compliments on to Mr. Jackson. he said it was the handsomest one he had seen this year. it was a most beautiful one– we had a very good meeting.

Rankin, Laura Maria Wolcott Diary 1825

Litchfield Female Academy Journals/Diaries

Archives Computer

C:\Documents and Settings\LHS\My Documents\Transcription\Female Academy\WolcottLMDiary.doc

Laura Maria Wolcott Rankin's diary summarizes life in Litchfield in 1825 through her experiences as a local student of the Litchfield Female Academy. The document includes gossip about various students (both Female Academy and Litchfield Law School); musings on female friendships; reports of births, deaths, marriages and illnesses of family members and friends; discussion of various leisure activities and rituals including riding, teas, balls and serenades; summaries of and comments on sermons of Lyman Beecher and others; mention her brother Charles Wolcott's Lancasterian education; examples of ethnic stereotypes; detailed reports of classroom activity.

Education—Ideas—Female

Education—Institutions—Litchfield Female Academy

Education—Institutions—Litchfield Law School

Religion—Theology

Religion--Institutions

Medicine--Disease

Society/Customs—Alcohol

Society/Customs—Childhood

Society/Customs—Courtship

Society/Customs—Family

Society/Customs—Leisure

Society/Customs—Reputation

Society/Customs—Life Cycles—Birth

Society/Customs—Life Cycles—Death